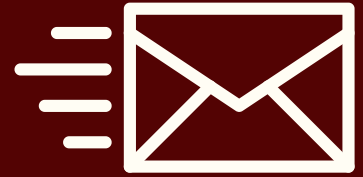


NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2024

This month's Newsletter features key updates, including the launch of initiatives focused on environmental justice and human rights, as well as upcoming youth camps. We have also commenced a door-to-door campaign for property rights awareness and continue to offer free legal aid services in North Mitrovica.

CONTRACT SIGNED WITH TRANSLATORS AND LEGAL ASSOCIATES IN MITROVICA/Ë

On September 3rd, ACDC's Executive Director, Dušan Radaković, signed a contract extension with 3 translators and 3 legal associates at the Basic Court of Mitrovica/ë. The signing was attended by Bekim Veliqi, Acting President of the Court, and Andrea Lako, Chief of Justice at UNMIK. This is part of the UNMIK-funded project "Supporting Access to Justice in Northern Kosovo", which aims to enhance judicial efficiency and reduce case backlogs through translation and legal services.



In September, ACDC published a call inviting young people aged 13-18 from various ethnic communities in Kosovo to participate in a series of youth camps as part of the "Youth Empowered through Inclusive Schools and Societies (YESS)" project, funded by the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund and implemented by UNICEF and IOM. The first camp will take place from October 4-6, 2024, in Pejë/Peć, with additional camps planned across different locations in Kosovo.

ACDC has two new projects starting this month:

EcoUnity: Empowering Women and Youth for Environmental Justice in Northern Kosovo



This initiative, implemented by ACDC and Education Code, aims to empower local communities, women and youth from multiethnic communities to advocate for environmental justice. Supported by UNDP (funding by UNDP Funding Windows), the project will foster leadership through educational workshops, advocacy meetings, and collaboration with SMEs to promote sustainable practices and environmental rights.

As part of the EcoUnity project initiative, advocacy meetings were held in North Mitrovica and Zubin Potok, addressing key environmental justice issues such as local challenges, potential solutions, and opportunities for cross-community collaboration.



Advancing human rights through outreach activities

Supported by UNMIK, this project focuses on improving access to justice and strengthening the efficiency, accountability, and human rights protection provided by judicial and law enforcement institutions in Kosovo. It also aims to close gaps in human rights enforcement by supporting the Ombudsman Institution (OIK) in its engagement with civil society and communities.

In the upcoming period, ACDC will be collaborating with the Ombudsman to facilitate a series of meetings across Kosovo addressing key community issues.

ACDC LAUNCHES DOOR-TO-DOOR PROPERTY RIGHTS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN NORTHERN KOSOVO

In September, NGO ACDC has launched a door-to-door campaign aimed at improving citizens' awareness of property registration procedures, legal aid availability, tax incentives, and associated benefits. Over the next four months, dedicated teams will visit households across municipalities and villages in the northern municipalities to distribute informational materials and provide guidance on property rights.

FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES

NGO ACDC continues to offer free legal aid services at our office located at Čika Jovina 3, North Mitrovica. We invite anyone facing challenges in exercising their rights in Kosovo to visit us for assistance. Our legal associates will provide free legal services, information, and advice, particularly for vulnerable groups.

ACDC PUBLISHES ARTICLES ON WAR CRIMES MONITORING

NGO ACDC has published four articles as part of the project "*Facilitating Inter-Ethnic Cooperation through Monitoring and Reporting on War Crime Cases.*" Led by Internews Kosova in partnership with ACDC, this initiative aims to contribute to transitional justice by documenting war crimes court hearings in Kosovo and raising awareness among both judicial institutions and the general public. You can read the articles on our website



This project is supported by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR KS), financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

In our ongoing commitment to advocate for human rights, NGO ACDC published a post on social media platforms emphasizing the rights enshrined in Kosovo's Constitution. This publication aims to inform citizens about their entitlement to protect their rights through the judicial system and underscores the responsibility of institutions to maintain dignity, even during criminal proceedings. This initiative is part of the #HumanRightivism project, implemented by the Community Development Fund (CDF) with support from the Swedish Embassy in Pristina.



PRESS RELEASE: DEMOCRACY IN ACTION COALITION URGES CEC PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

In collaboration with the Democracy in Action (DiA) coalition, ACDC signed a press release urging the CEC to ensure thorough preparations for smooth voting processes at Kosovo's diplomatic missions. The parliamentary elections on February 9, 2025, will introduce new in-person and mail-in voting options at 35 diplomatic missions for citizens abroad.



SRB



ENG



ALB

KEY MEETINGS

On September 12, ACDC's Program Director Dušan Radaković met with EU Ambassador Aivo Orav during his visit to Northern Kosovo, alongside other representatives from civil society and the Kosovo Serb community.



Additionally, on September 17, ACDC's Program Director, Aleksandar Rapajić, met with UNMIK's Special Representative, Caroline Ziadeh, in Mitrovica to discuss recent political, security, and economic developments with civil society, political actors, and community leaders.



ACDC in Media

Dušan Radaković, Executive Director of ACDC, recently spoke on RTS about the increasing challenges faced by the Serbian community in Northern Kosovo.



Dušan Radaković, Executive Director of ACDC, for Media Center Caglavica



Dušan Radaković, Executive Director of ACDC, for RTS



Ines Aljović Mihajlović, ACDC's Program Officer, appeared on the morning show on RTK2, where she shared more details about the upcoming camps and encouraged young people to apply.

