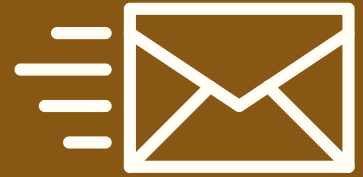


# NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2024



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### YOUTH CAMPS ACROSS KOSOVO

Two youth camps were held this month as part of the "Youth Empowered through Inclusive Schools and Societies (YESS)" project, funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund and implemented by UNICEF and IOM.

October 4-6, 2024 Bogë, Peje/Peć: The first camp engaged youth aged 13-18 in interactive language sessions in both Albanian and Serbian, utilizing the VOCUP methodology. Participants enjoyed team-building exercises, visited the Patriarchate of Peć, and connected through social games, fostering friendships and mutual cultural appreciation.





October 18–20, 2024, Gračanica/Graçanicë: The camp featured various interactive sessions, including VOCUP language workshops, where participants practiced Serbian and Albanian to foster inclusivity and cultural exchange. Additionally, they participated in first aid training to learn basic life-saving skills, while an educational visit to the archaeological site of Ulpiana offered insights into the region's rich history.



As the second in a series of youth camps across Kosovo, this event successfully equipped participants with the tools to become active contributors to a more inclusive and cohesive society. The journey to empower Kosovo's youth continues, with more camps to come in the upcoming months.





## YOUTH CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT



On October 23, NGO ACDC held a conference in North Mitrovica focused on promoting youth engagement in Human Rights Protection. The panelists included Ivana Rakić from the *Podrži me* Center and Miljana Vučinić from the Ombudsperson Institution. The conference highlighted efforts to empower youth from non-majority communities in northern Kosovo. Supported by the CDF and SIDA's Human Rightivism project, the event emphasized youth participation in advocacy and social inclusion.

## CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE DRAFT LAW ON PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION

On October 17, ACDC and YIHR Kosovo hosted a consultation meeting at Hotel Sirius in Pristina to discuss the Draft Law on Protection from Discrimination. This meeting gathered civil society members to address current challenges and offer feedback on aligning the law with international human rights standards, especially for protecting vulnerable and minority groups. The insights will contribute to upcoming legal amendments by the working group.





## #ECOUNTY - EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NORTHERN KOSOVO



With support from UNDP and in collaboration with Education Code, ACDC launched workshops on environmental justice that focused on environmental rights, sustainable practices, and legal frameworks, promoting collaboration among multiethnic communities to tackle environmental challenges together.



On October 1st, ACDC held an advocacy meeting in Leposavić to address key environmental justice issues, including local challenges and potential solutions.




### ACDC PUBLISHES ARTICLES ON WAR CRIMES MONITORING

NGO ACDC has published three new articles as part of the project "Facilitating InterEthnic 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

 [ENG](#)

 [SRB](#)

 [ALB](#)

### NEW PROJECT

This month, ACDC began a new project supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) aimed at enhancing legal protections and encouraging civic engagement for Kosovo's non-majority communities.

This project seeks to address legal and participatory gaps affecting non-majority communities in Kosovo.

## ODIHR TRAINING



Slobodan Stošić, ACDC Program Manager, participated in the ODIHR-organized training held from October 29 to 31 in Belgrade. The training focused on the use of new technologies in border control and migration management, specifically for human rights defenders working at international borders in South Eastern Europe.

## MEETING WITH U.S. DAS KASANOF



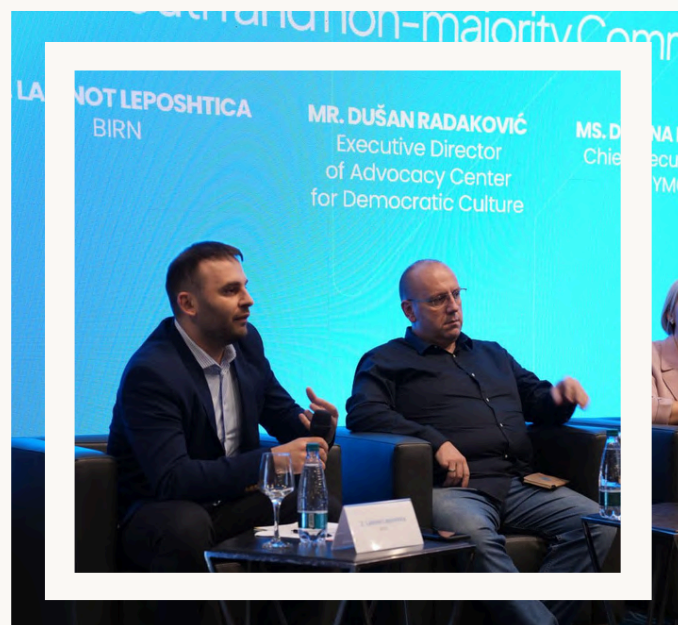
Aleksandar Rapajić, ACDC's Program Director, met with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Balkans, Alexander Kasanof, and other NGO representatives during his visit to Kosovo to discuss the political landscape, the situation in northern Kosovo, and community concerns.

## MOU WITH THE SOCIETY OF LAWYERS



On October 15, ACDC signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Society of Lawyers of KiM, aiming for collaborative actions in public policy, human rights, and rule of law initiatives.

## MEDIA PANEL



On October 16, ACDC Executive Director Dušan Radaković joined an ATRC-organized panel discussing the media's role in empowering women, youth, and vulnerable groups.





## PRESS RELEASES ON POLICE CONDUCT AND ACCOUNTABILITY



In October, ACDC issued press releases highlighting concerns regarding police conduct in Kosovo. Key issues included the detention of Serbian Democracy leader Aleksandar Arsenijević during a peaceful protest. Additionally, together with other NGOs, we called for accountability regarding the Kosovo Police's arrest and reported mistreatment of Miloš Subotić, a citizen of North Mitrovica, urging EULEX and international organizations to investigate and ensure transparency.

ACDC, along with Aktiv, CASA, NSI, and InTed, also called for the resignation of North Mitrovica Mayor Erden Atiq, criticizing his silence following the mistreatment of Subotić and his portrayal of civil society groups as adversarial. The organizations have called on EULEX and other international missions to take concrete steps in investigating this case and ensure police accountability.

To address these concerns, ACDC, alongside other civil society organizations, held a meeting with Kosovo Ombudsperson Naim Qelaj on October 31. Representatives raised issues regarding patterns of excessive force, verbal attacks by local and government officials on civil society members, and the urgent need for effective investigations.



### ACDC in Media

*Dušan Radaković, ACDC's Executive Director, spoke to Kosovo Online about UNMIK's report on the situation in Kosovo, presented during the United Nations Security Council session.*



*Dušan Radaković, ACDC's Executive Director, spoke on TV Most about the decline in public safety in northern Kosovo, focusing on the rise in incidents of sexual harassment targeting women.*



*Dušan Radaković, ACDC's Executive Director, appeared as a guest on the show Podglavlje on RTK 2, where he discussed promoting social cohesion in Kosovo.*

