

JANUARY 2026

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# NEWSLETTER



## Final conference of the "Break the Silence" project

The final conference of the project "Breaking the Silence: Combating Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence in Northern Kosovo" was held on January 27, 2026, at the EU House in North Mitrovica, with the support of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

Panelists, including representatives of relevant institutions, emphasized that cooperation among courts, prosecution offices, and the police is crucial for addressing this issue, along with the active participation of citizens through reporting cases of violence.



The conference presented the results of ACDC's research, which show that sexual harassment and gender-based violence represent a serious and systemic problem in northern Kosovo, yet remain significantly underreported, primarily due to a pronounced lack of trust among citizens, especially women, toward institutions. The research indicates a low level of case reporting, a strong fear of stigmatization, and the need to strengthen institutional responses and trust in competent authorities.



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## Three-Day Seminar on Combating Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence

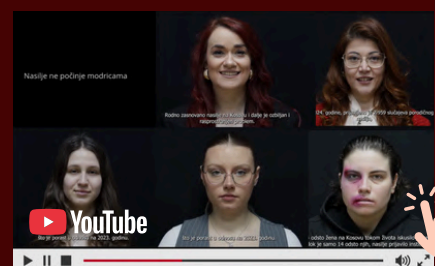
From January 28 to 30, 2026, ACDC organized a three-day seminar for representatives of the Prosecution Office and the Basic Court in Mitrovica, aimed at strengthening institutional coordination and improving responses in the prosecution of cases of sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

The seminar was led by Habit Hajredini, Director of the Office for Good Governance, in the role of trainer. During the working sessions, participants analyzed the legislative framework, judicial and prosecutorial practice, as well as key challenges in identifying and prosecuting these forms of violence, with a particular focus on victim protection and reporting mechanisms.

### Podcast and Video as Part of the “Breaking the Silence” Campaign

Within the “Breaking the Silence” project, a podcast was recorded at the Kontakt Plus studio, focusing on issues of sexual harassment, gender-based violence, fear and silence, as well as solidarity, empowerment, and opportunities for change. The guests of the podcast were Milica Stojanović Kostić and Ines Aljović Mihajlović, ACDC Program Officer and Project Manager.

During January, a video was also published, symbolically and emotionally highlighting that gender-based violence often remains invisible and unreported.







## Meeting of the Working Group for the Development of the Human Rights Program (2026–2031)

On January 20, a meeting of the Working Group for the development of the Program for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (2026–2031) and the Action Plan (2026–2028) was held in Pristina.

During the meeting, comments on the proposed working methodology were discussed, as well as their impact on the content of the Program and the dynamics of the further process, with a particular focus on improving the quality of the document and involving relevant stakeholders in the next phases of its development.

The event was organized with the support of UNMIK / OHCHR.

## Strengthening Legal Awareness Among Youth – Property and Social Rights

During January, ACDC organized a series of trainings for youth on property and social rights, as part of a program dedicated to strengthening legal awareness and civic knowledge among young people in northern Kosovo.

The goal of the training was to provide youth with practical knowledge and confidence to navigate legal frameworks related to property, social rights, and communication with relevant institutions in an informed and responsible manner. The activities were implemented with the support of ATRC.







### Youth for Environment and Cooperation – “Green Neighbors” Project

Together with partner organization Education Code, ACDC organized an introductory meeting with youth from North and South Mitrovica within the project “Green Neighbors – Youth for Environment and Coexistence.”

Through discussions on environmental challenges in the city and concrete opportunities for action, young people were encouraged to take an active role in environmental protection and strengthening intercommunity cooperation. The project is implemented by Education Code and ACDC, with the support of BOOST Balkans.

### International Visit

During January, a team from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kosovo visited institutions and civil society organizations in northern Kosovo. Dušan Radaković, Executive Director of ACDC, participated in meetings with local representatives and community members, during which challenges related to stability, economic development, and future prospects of local communities were discussed.



### Publication of ACDC Annual Report for 2025

In January, ACDC published its Annual Report for 2025, providing a comprehensive overview of the organization’s work during the previous year. The report covers key programs and activities in the areas of human rights protection, rule of law, youth activism, interethnic cooperation, and environmental protection, and is available on ACDC’s official website.



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### ACDC in the Media

Ines Aljović Mihajlović, ACDC’s Program Officer, spoke for RTK2 and Kosovo Online about the project “Breaking the Silence,” the research results, and the issue of sexual harassment.



Aleksandar Rapajić, ACDC’s Program Director, spoke for Kosovo Online about electoral irregularities and the importance of institutional accountability.

