



YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
NISMA E TË RINJVE PËR TË DREJTAT E NJERIUT  
INICIJATIVA MLADIH ZA LJUDSKA PRAVA

# NEWSLETTER

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## JANUARY – JUNE 2023

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[www.yihr-ks.org](http://www.yihr-ks.org)





# Dearest Reader,



It's been a long and tiring half a year. But all of it was worth it! That's because of the meaningful abundant work that YIHR KS team does every day.

We are so thrilled to share this newsletter with all of you which summarizes what has been done during the period of January - June 2023. It highlights our remarkable journey and illuminates the successes and challenges in the field of human rights, dealing with the past, rule of law and youth empowerment.

Be prepared to be taken on a full journey of protests and powerful street actions, residential trainings, court visits, artwork production among others. We only hope you feel the rebellious activist spirit of YIHR KS in the name of justice, equality and human rights.

*With Love,*  
**YIHR KS Team**





# Meet

# Our

# New

# Interns



## Morea Pula

Morea Pula joined YIHR KS as an intern in June 2023. She is a first year law student at the University of Prishtina. At YIHR KS she is responsible for taking over tasks regarding mainly the “Youth for Justice” project. She is interested in exploring various fields of law, but she currently shows great interest in protection of human rights. Besides her internship at YIHR KS, Morea is currently engaged as a legal intern at the Israel Chamber of Commerce. She is also an active member of the community, involved in various youth activities that promote human rights, peacebuilding and youth integration.

Fun fact: Morea speaks German and French, and she is passionate about filmmaking.



## Errnesa Sylja

Errnesa joined YIHR KS in June of 2023 as an Intern. She's a second year law student in the University of Prishtina and a passionate individual driven by a deep-rooted desire to bring positive changes through the legal system. As she grew older, her admiration for legal principles intensified, inspiring her to pursue a career in law. She has taken part in different training workshops and volunteering projects. Errnesa joined YIHR to be part of the work regarding human rights and the rule of law.

Fun fact: Errnesa is incredibly passionate about writing, particularly the art of poetry, through which she navigates her emotions and imagination.



## Vigan Gërdovci

Vigan joined the YIHR KS team as an Intern in June 2023. He is a second-year law student at the University of Prishtina and actively participates in numerous training workshops, initiatives and internships. Vigan finds peace in the collaborative quest of change as a member of the YIHR team, devoting his efforts to defending human rights and promoting a just society. He reminds us that “everyone has the ability to construct a world that values justice and respects the rights of all”

Fun Fact: Vigan is like a walking Mary Poppins, except his bag isn't magical, it's just ridiculously well-prepared.



## Anna Richter

Anna joined YIHR KS in May 2023 for an internship of three months. Born and raised in Germany, Anna finished her bachelor's degree in intercultural communication at the University of Leipzig (Germany). Currently, she is enrolled in the East European Studies Programme at the University of Regensburg (Germany), where she focuses her studies on international and human rights law with a special emphasis on Southeast European countries. Since 2018, Anna has been working with young people from diverse backgrounds in the field of civic education. At YIHR KS, she will mainly work as an intern within the human rights and rule of law programme as well as help out in other projects. She regularly participates in workshops and seminars on non-formal education, human rights activism and youth empowerment.

Fun Fact: Her favorite Albanian word is ‘shkreptz’



## Andjelija Vucinic

Andjelija Vucinic was raised in Zubin Potok, and completed her high school education there. Currently residing in Mitrovica, she is a geography major at the Faculty of Natural Sciences while also taking part in business and management courses at MIU. She is an activist at the NGO Domovik in Mitrovica. Andjelija is a dedicated human rights activist and peacebuilder, having participated in Youth Exchange Program and Storytelling Workshops organized by YIHR KS. Her interests lie in peacebuilding and fostering community development, driven by her belief in a free, equal, and just society.

Fun Fact: She played volleyball for 5 years.



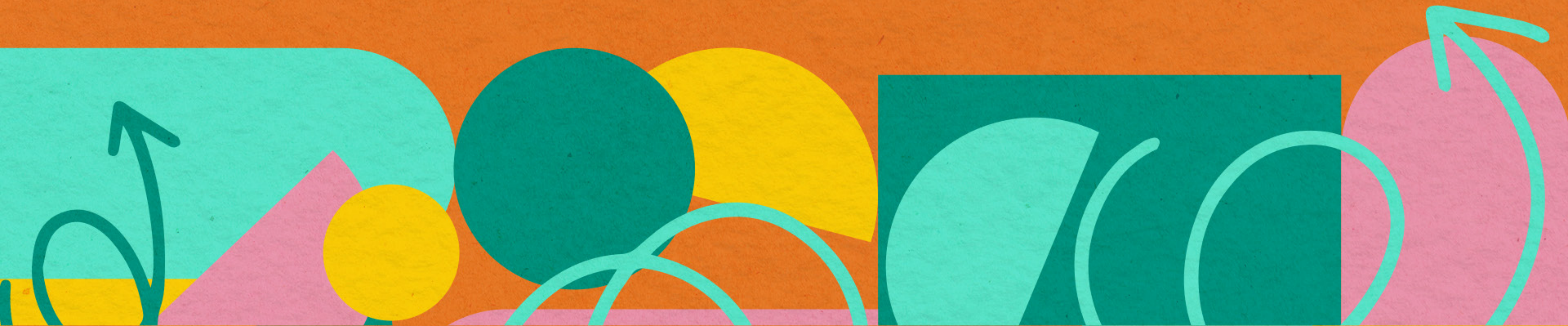
## Betina Imeri

Betina started her internship with YIHR KS in July 2023. She graduated from law school with a BA Thesis on “The Enjoyment of Human Rights through Environmental Protection”, and since then she has been engaged in human rights advocacy through civil society activism. Currently, she is pursuing a master's programme on Human Rights and Democracy in South East Europe. Growing up in an environment of diverse communities, she grew passionate about the human rights of marginalized groups, and among others, about environmental justice.

Fun Fact: Her favorite animal is goat.



# ACTIVITIES





# Civil Society Report on Human Rights in Kosovo in 2022

We are pleased to announce that the Human Rights Network (HRN) has officially published the fourth joint civil society Report on Human Rights in Kosovo in 2022.

In total 37 NGOs participated in the drafting of the report.

In the report, there are 163 recommendations directed to institutions for the improvement of the Human Rights Situation in Kosovo.

Find the published report in four languages (Albanian, Serbian, English and Romani) below:

ALB: <https://bit.ly/42WQ4LC>

SRB: <https://bit.ly/3ByCbYp>

ENG: <https://bit.ly/3pB0NNi>

ROMA: <https://bit.ly/3pMH9hC>







**The Human Rights Network (HRN) met the Prime Minister of Kosovo Albin Kurti to address the recommendations from the Civil Society Report on Human Rights 2022**





# Meeting with Afghani journalists at the Activism Hub, YIHR KS

This was a meaningful and productive meeting, where Afghani journalists who are refugees in Kosovo shared their personal histories and experiences as journalists and Afghani refugees. The meeting was initiated by the Association of Journalists of Kosovo represented by Xhemajl Rexha.

Public discourses on human rights in Afghanistan and Kosovo were discussed, while simultaneously, potential cooperation for future joint initiatives between YIHR KS and the journalists was encouraged and agreed upon.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with journalists in our fight for freedom of speech and improvement of the human rights situation.







1

# 3-Day Training On Capacity Building For Public Speaking & Lecturing On Human Rights

Ten law students from different universities, public and private, in Kosovo, had the opportunity to build their capacities in public speaking and lecturing on human rights, rule of law, and the justice system for elementary school students.

During the training, the participants were informed about and learned how to put into practice the Human Rights Education Program for Young People. Furthermore, they gained knowledge and skills on public speaking and lecturing to elementary school students about human rights and the Kosovo justice system.





# 2

## Human Rights Lectures in Elementary Schools

After the training on public speaking and lecturing on human rights, the 10 law students conducted a series of 15 lectures in targeted municipalities to provide young people with essential knowledge about their rights and access to justice.

Young primary school students had the opportunity to engage with court representatives and gain practical insights into court proceedings. By fostering experiential learning and meaningful discussions, these lectures and court visits empowered young individuals to actively participate in civic life and develop a heightened awareness of justice.

\*This activity was held within the framework of the “Youth Empowerment – Enhancing Rule of Law and Human Rights Education in Schools” project, which is supported by the EULEX Mission in Kosovo and is implemented by YIHR KS.





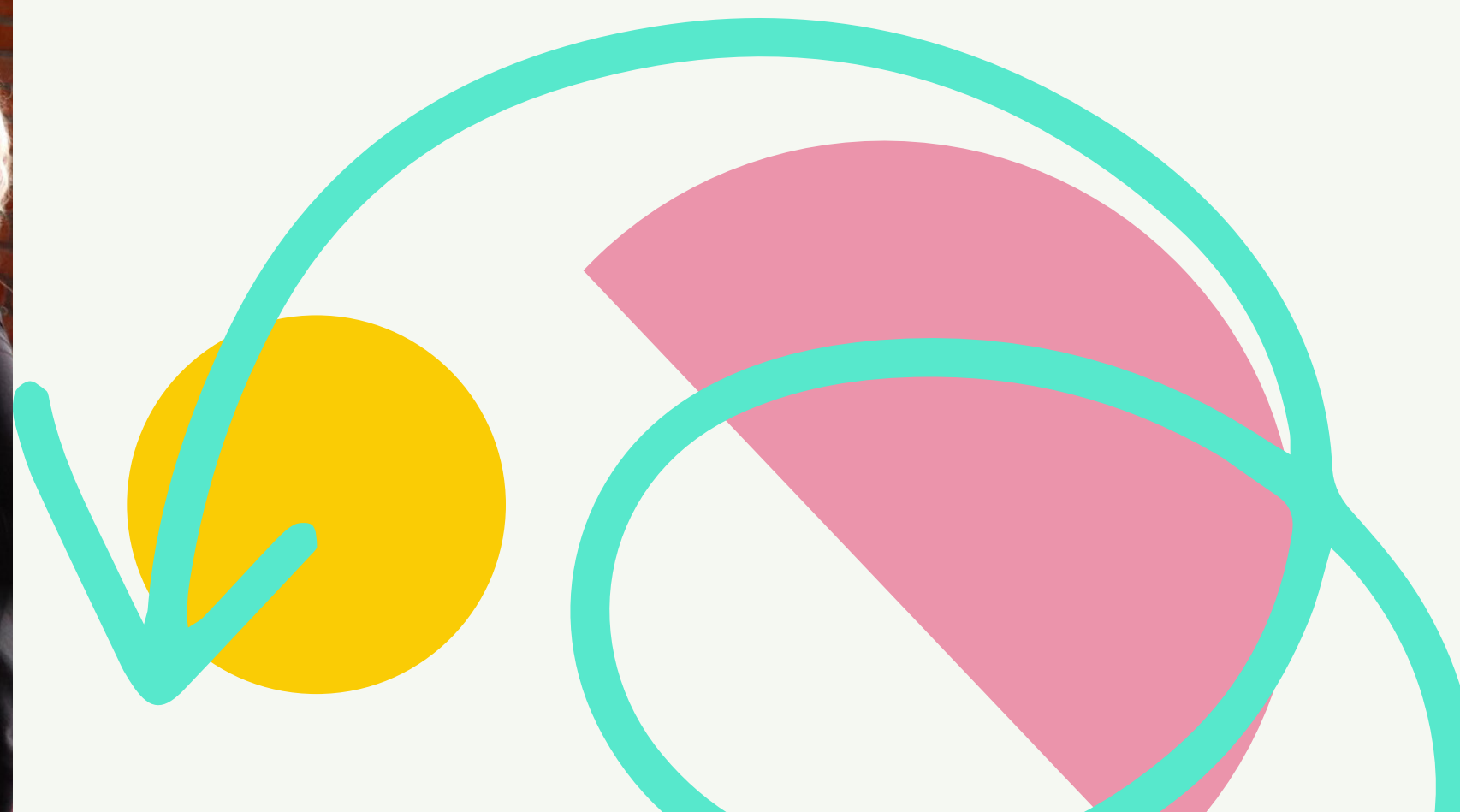


1

# Training with professors on Civic Education

15 primary school teachers from the municipalities of Fushe Kosova, Shtime, Vitia, Prishtina, and Prizren were part of a 5-day training on human rights, the justice system, and access to justice. These dedicated educators had the opportunity to dive into the practical aspects of teaching legal sections to their students and learn how to research and bring real-life cases to the classroom for discussions.

The training was designed based on the “Human Rights Education Program for Young People” manual, which was created by YIHR KS.





2

# Study visits with Civic Education teachers

With the 15 teachers from different regions of Kosovo, we visited the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo and the Ombudsman Institution.

During these visits, the teachers had the opportunity to refresh the knowledge acquired during their preliminary training, hearing first-hand about the work of these institutions as well as discussing topics regarding the rule of law and the function of legal mechanisms.

\*This activity was held within the framework of the “Youth Empowerment – Enhancing Rule of Law and Human Rights Education in Schools” project, which is supported by the EULEX Mission in Kosovo and is implemented by YIHR KS







# Living Library

Living Library brought activists Petar Đorđević and Lidija Masic from Mlada Aktivna Gračanica NGO to share insights from their personal experiences with activism with different communities and youth. Living Libraries bring practical experiences closer to the participating youth and promote the importance of activism, and different effective ways to have a greater impact.

\*This event is a part of the Reconciliation & Conflict Transformation Activity, implemented by Community Building Mitrovica and partners from New Social Initiative - Nova društvena inicijativa and Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Kosovo, and supported by the American people through USAID Kosovo.





# Peace Fellowship Program - 2nd Edition

Our 5 Peace Fellows from the K-Albanian and K-Serb community have successfully finished their 3-month Peace Fellowships at 5 different NGOs working in different fields related to dealing with the past, human rights, peacebuilding and reconciliation in Kosovo.

Throughout their fellowship each of them worked on a research project which will serve as an educational and informative tool for other youngsters in the future.

- Eneda Deliu worked as a Peace Fellow at NGO CBM & her research topic was: "The Role of Civil Society in Kosovo"
- Dimitrije Obrenović worked as a Peace Fellow at YIHR KS & his research topic was: "Reasons Preventing Youth in Kosovo from Cooperating"
- Andrea Todić worked as a Peace Fellow at VORAE & her research topic was "Integrating Children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Ethnic Communities in Kosovar Schools under the Serbian Education System"
- Eris Hasanaj worked as a Peace fellow at NGO AKTIV & his research topic was: "The Effect of the Berlin Process on the Freedom of Movement for Kosovo Youth"
- Agon Rexhepi worked as a Peace Fellow at Young Aktiv Gracanica & his research topic was "Parallel Education System in Serbian Municipalities in Kosovo"

We are extremely happy for this significant and successful cycle of the Peace Fellowship Program. YIHR KS is continuously dedicated to emphasizing and empowering youth's role in dealing with the past processes. We look forward to publishing our Peace Fellows' research projects for everyone to read!

\*This project is part of the Kosovo Youth Dialogue project implemented by YIHR KS and supported by USAID.







1

## Cohesion Circle Workshop

The Cohesion Circle Workshop gathered members from diverse ethnic communities to brainstorm and develop two new initiatives that will help promote cohesion and understanding across different ethnic communities. This workshop emphasizes collectivity, activist efforts and enthusiasm to explore new ideas and possibilities.

2

## Poetry + Concert Event: Cohesion Circle Initiative

The first initiative from the Cohesion Circle Workshop was the super successful Poetry + Concert Event in Pristina. The event brought together kids and grown-ups from all walks of life and a variety of ethnic backgrounds under the tunes of pleasant and exciting artists, reciting poetry and playing music.

Watch the video from the event here: [Facebook](#)

\*This event is a part of the Reconciliation & Conflict Transformation Activity, implemented by Community Building Mitrovica and partners from New Social Initiative - Nova društvena inicijativa and Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Kosovo, and supported by the American people through USAID Kosovo.



# Mock Trials – Gjilan & Mitrovica

Sixty law students from the region of Gjilan and Mitrovica participated in the Mock Trial, a 3-day simulation training. They learned more about the justice system and the role of judge, prosecutor and lawyer from one professional trainer and six facilitators in each of the sessions.

On the last day, all students had the opportunity to organize a simulated court session at the Basic Court of Gjilan and Basic Court of Mitrovica.

## National Mock Trial (2 editions)

Two National Mock Trials were organized during the January-June 2023 period. This activity is a three-day simulation training which gathers 30 students from all around Kosovo. One trainer and 6 facilitators held workshops, lectures and discussions regarding the justice system in Kosovo. This activity brings law students closer to the law professions they want to practice in the future through non-formal education and deeper understanding of human rights.

On the last day, all students organized and participated in a simulated court session at the Basic Court in Prishtina.

\*This activity is organized within the “Youth for Justice” project supported by the US State Department - INL.





# Artistic Competition for Young People

YIHR KS held an artistic competition aiming to portray the justice system and human rights in Kosovo creatively through the medium of photography and video.

This competition had 4 winners:



Bardha Goga and Ardit Jaha



Skifter Bytyqi



Rejhana Kojic

The evaluation of the applications was made by the evaluating panel consisting of two external individuals with expertise in the field and one YIHR KS representative.

The winning pieces can be accessed online through the “My Right” platform: <https://edrejtajem.org/lajme/>

\*This activity is implemented within the project “Youth for Justice” and is funded by the US Department of State - INL.





# 1 Storytelling Workshop

This workshop brought together 20 young people from different communities in a four-day residential training. During this workshop, they learned more about the storytelling technique. In particular, how this technique is beneficial for documenting war experiences, and in dealing with the past processes in general.

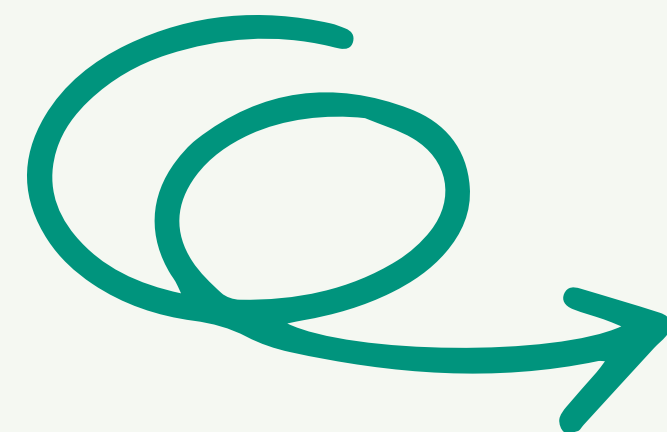
After this workshop, all the participants were encouraged to collect personal stories from the recent war in Kosovo, which will be published on our online website: The Virtual Museum of Refugees ([museumofrefugees-ks.org](http://museumofrefugees-ks.org)).

# 2 Storytelling Workshop - Day Trip

Together with the participants we travelled to places of cultural and historical importance in Kosovo. We visited multiple sites in Prizen and Gracanica and met local activists to hear more about local civic initiatives.

We finished the day inspired from the beautiful meaningful places and powerful stories we heard.

\*This activity is supported by NED.







# Youth Exchange Program - Reconciliation Intervention Grant

An incredible group of 6 young people with Shpat Bulica as their leader won the Reconciliation Intervention Grant as part of the fourth phase of the Youth Exchange Program (YEP). YEP gathers Kosovo-Serb and Kosovo-Albanian youth to work on dealing with the past.

The winning team implemented their project with 18 youngsters at the Activism Hub at the YIHR KS office spaces. Through interactive sessions full of games, discussions and painting, young Kosovo-Serbs and Kosovo-Albanians had the chance to come together, be with one another and connect.

The main goal of this project was to enhance unity and cooperation among youth through their shared interest and love for play and art! Watch the video to get a better feeling of the activity:

<https://www.facebook.com/YIHRKS/videos/103185892799173/>

We congratulate the whole project team for such a powerful and successful peace-building project!

\*This project is part of the Kosovo Youth Dialogue project implemented by YIHR KS and supported by USAID.



# THE FUTURE BEGINS BY KNOWING THE PAST



## The Future Begins By Knowing The Past

The month of March marks the beginning of numerous and systemic attacks on the civilian population of Kosovo by ex-Yugoslav forces, and in respect to the victims, YIHR KS commemorates the killings and massacres that occurred from the beginning of this month until the end of the war.

Check out the commemoration posts so far at the YIHR KS official Facebook or Instagram page!

[#TheFutureBegins](#) [#ByKnowingThePast](#)





# Peace Academy - Phase 1

We are delighted to announce that we had 11 lecturers and guest speakers, and more than 20 sessions of lectures, guest talks and discussions in the 1st phase of the Peace Academy!

The Peace Academy, the first of its kind in Kosovo, took its participants in a powerful educational journey to learn more deeply and theoretically about peacebuilding, reconciliation, conflict transformation and resilience.

The Academy, established by YIHR KS in partnership with Plan for Peace (UK) brought renowned scholars from prestigious world-leading universities alongside peacebuilding leading experts from Kosovo to nurture a new generation of peacemakers in Kosovo. Some of the universities include Dublin City University (Ireland), Columbia University (US), Graz University (Austria), Oxford Brookes University (UK), Nottingham University (UK), Ruhr University of Bochum (Germany), and Singidunum University (Serbia).

This is only Phase 1 of the Peace Academy, stay tuned to hear more about the 2nd phase of the academy!

\*Peace Academy is part of the 'Kosovo Youth Dialogue' project supported by USAID Kosovo.





# PROTESTS







# We March, We Don't Celebrate - International Women's Day

We protested from the Palace of Justice to the Government building for a life without violence for all girls and women.

This 8th of March, the feminist resistance echoed calls against the patriarchy that kills and against the state that remains silent!

Our fight for equality and freedom for all girls and women will continue!





# STREET ACTIONS







# 'Perfect Constitution, Perfectly Unfollowed' – Constitution Day

For the Constitution Day, YIHR KS presented the street performance of Mr. Clown in Power perfectly unfollowing the perfect Constitution of Kosovo.

Watch the performance here: [Facebook](#)

Who is Mr. Clown? He is the representative and embodiment of our decision makers and politicians in power who consistently fail to uphold the Constitution and protect human rights.

The disrespect towards our Constitution by those whose only job is to abide by it needs to stop now. Human rights violations, from identity-based discrimination, gender-based violence, femicide, queerphobia, and hate speech in public discourse, leave us all in a bad situation in Kosovo regarding human rights.

This performance served as a reminder of the reasons those in power hold these positions, and the responsibilities that come with said power. We demand that compliance with the Constitution and the protection of all human rights and freedoms be of highest priority and taken on with full seriousness by all institutions and decision-makers.

\*This activity is organized within the “Youth for Justice” project supported by the US State Department - INL.



# Placing of the Plaque - National Day of Missing Persons

YIHR KS organized a street action at the Ibrahim Rugova square in Pristina to mark the National Day of Missing Persons. The action aimed to bring attention to the agony of the families of the missing persons, who have been waiting for years to find out what happened to their loved ones.

As a symbolic gesture, YIHR KS placed a plaque at the Memorial of Persons of Enforced Disappearances during the last war in Kosovo. The plaque is intended to mark the memorial and what it represents. Since the memorial was put up, there has been no official marking to explain its purpose. This has resulted in years of institutional negligence towards the families of the missing persons.

The plaque that YIHR KS placed is in five languages, Albanian, Serbian, Roma, Turkish and English, and serves as a reminder of the more than 1600 people who are still missing since the last war in Kosovo. Through this action, we called upon our institutions to prioritize the enlightenment of the fate of the missing persons.

The plaque serves as a symbol of hope and solidarity for the families of the missing persons, and a reminder to the institutions that they cannot ignore their responsibility to seek the truth and provide closure to the families who have been waiting for more than 20 years.

\*This activity is supported by NED.





# 5 Minutes in the Darkness of Missing Persons

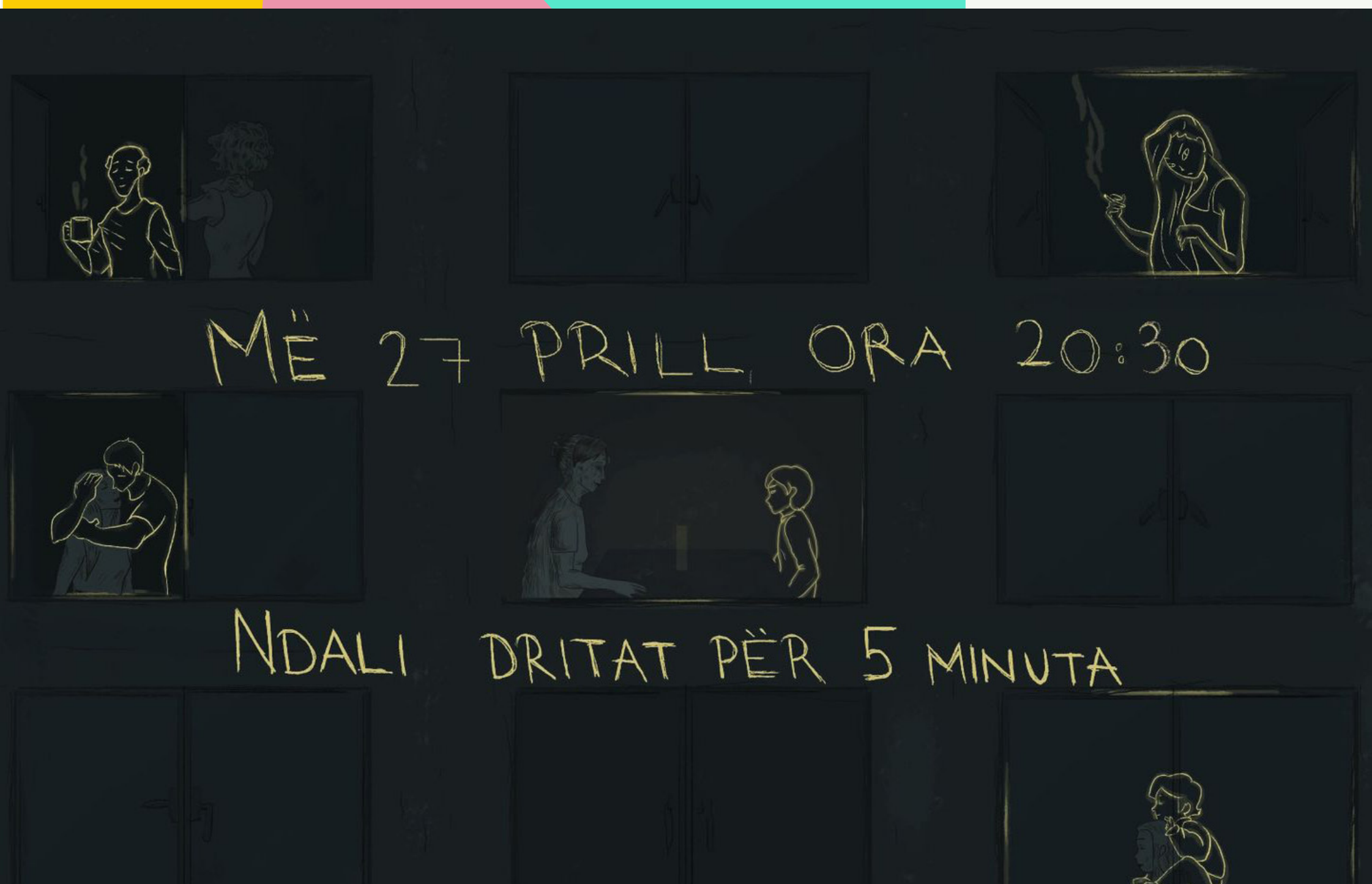
We marked the National Day of Missing Persons by turning off the lights for 5 minutes in our homes and city to solidarize with the darkness that relatives of missing persons have been feeling for more than 23 years now.

Watch the video: [Facebook](#)

We thank everyone deeply for joining our call for solidarity and we believe that together we conveyed a very powerful message to all.

We will not stop, and we will continue to search for and remember all the persons missing from the recent war in Kosovo until they return to their families and justice is achieved for them and their relatives.

\*This action is organized by Youth Initiative for Human Rights Kosovo, Missing Persons Resource Center, forumZFD - Kosovo, Integra, Humanitarian Law Center, Program





# Home Away From Home - International Day of Refugees

We marked the International Day of Refugees with the street action Home Away From Home. We put up a temporary installation showcasing multiple personal stories of refugees during the recent war in Kosovo.

These stories were taken from the Virtual Museum of Refugees. These and more personal refugee stories are available online:

[museumofrefugees-ks.org](https://museumofrefugees-ks.org).

\*This activity is supported by NED.





# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES







# Pride Week - Love You As You Are

YIHR KS co-organized another successful Prishtina Pride edition with CEL, CSGD & CRD during 5-10 June 2023.

Under the slogan “Love You As You Are” we wanted to convey a supportive message to everyone who is facing stress, anxiety, and depression which are direct consequences of systemic homophobia and transphobia from the state, society, and the family. We reminded everyone that they are not alone. Love, acceptance and building safe spaces, in addition to professional help is more than necessary, if not essential, for preventing and overcoming mental health challenges.

Make sure to check out Prishtina Pride official pages to learn more about the amazing diverse activities addressing the theme of mental health of LGBTQI+ persons among others!





# Mirëdita, Dobar Dan! Festival

This year was the tenth jubilee edition of the “Mirëdita, dobar dan!” festival, a unique cultural event that has been organized in Belgrade and Prishtina since 2014. This year the Festival was held in Prishtina during the dates of May 4 - 6. It presented the modern artistic, cultural, and social scene of Serbia and Kosovo while raising critical issues concerning both the past and the future in times that represent a great challenge for Kosovo and Serbian society.

Make sure to check out the Mirëdita, Dobar Dan official pages to learn more about the activities.





# STATEMENTS / REACTIONS







## Reaction to the derogatory language used by Deputy Valentina Bunjaku-Rexhepi during the session of the Assembly of Kosovo

The Human Rights Network (HRN) strongly condemns the derogatory language used yesterday, on June 22, 2023, during the session of the Assembly of Kosovo by Deputy Valentina Bunjaku-Rexhepi, who is also a member of the Committee on Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns.

In yesterday's session, during a discussion on public finances, the LDK Deputy Bunjaku-Rexhepi used the word "magjup" with the intention of demeaning Deputy Adnan Rustemi. The pejorative language used in the Assembly of Kosovo yesterday displays an offensive, insulting, and derogatory behavior of the deputy towards non-majority communities in Kosovo. This kind of approach is not only unacceptable but also harmful when it becomes part of public discourse by people's representatives.

HRN is concerned about the lack of reaction to such language from the Speaker of the Assembly of Kosovo, Mr. Konjufca, and other present deputies, which in a way legitimizes such jargon in an important public institution.

Furthermore, such practices of using discriminatory language and spreading hatred from the podium of the Assembly of Kosovo have become frequent, and such a practice is dangerous and has a long-term effect on the dignity and integrity of marginalized communities in Kosovo, and it may lead to further marginalization of certain groups or individuals.

HRN calls on the Speaker of the Parliament, Glauk Konjufca, to condemn the discriminatory language used in the Assembly of Kosovo during the next session, to take administrative measures against the respective deputy in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and at the same time, HRN calls on all deputies to raise awareness and stop discrimination, hate speech, and racism against non-majority communities and citizens of Kosovo.

### Member organizations of the Human Rights Network (HRN):

Youth Initiative for Human Rights Kosova (YIHR KS)  
Association of Paraplegics and Children with Paralysis in Kosovo (HANDIKOS)  
Center for Equality and Liberty - CEL Kosovo  
Kosovo Law Institute (KLI)  
Kosovo Center for Gender Studies (KGSC)  
New Social Initiative (NSI)  
Voice of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians (VORAE)

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Read the full statement here: [\(2\) Reagim ndaj gjuhës poshtëruese të përdorur... - Human Rights Network | Facebook](#)





# The Case of Klan Kosova

As member organizations of the Human Rights Network (HRN), we are extremely concerned by the recent decision of the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade (MINT), respectively the Business Registration Agency of Kosovo (BRAK), to suspend the business certificate of the Trading Company “Klan Kosova” LLC, part of which it is also the Klan Kosova public television.

Read the full statement here: [Rasti ndaj Klan Kosova Si... - Human Rights Network | Facebook](#)



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The Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade (MINT) announced on June 14, 2023 that it has submitted a criminal complaint to the Kosovo Police, Serious Crimes Department, against Klan Kosova and other officials from the Business Registration Agency on suspicions of misuse of official duty, as well as misuse of economic authorizations.

The Human Rights Network (HRN) considers this decision as a direct violation of freedom of expression and media. The Republic of Kosovo is a democratic state with a Constitution that guarantees human rights and freedoms, including that of freedom of expression and free press. The suspension of Klan Kosova's license without due process by court of law and based on legally unsubstantiated suspicions creates a dangerous anti-democratic precedent and suppresses basic rights such as freedom of expression.

The decision by MINT resembles an attempt to control the media and limit free speech. Therefore, we are very concerned about the message it conveys not only to Klan Kosova but to every other media in Kosovo. Free and independent media must conduct their work ethically and professionally. No government decision has competency or legal authority to interfere in this essential process for the functioning of a democratic society.

Human Rights Network strongly supports the freedom of media and expression, and stands in solidarity with all media institutions, and the journalists who perform an incomparable job on a daily basis exercising these freedoms.

A democratic society requires full functioning of law and order, and we appreciate every effort towards this. But the suspension of the work of a media outlet by the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade is anti-Constitutional and undermines human rights and democratic principles in Kosovo. We cannot, in any way, allow the creation of such intimidating and threatening precedents in regards to freedom of expression and freedom of the media. We call on Prime Minister Kurti to immediately cancel the decision of MINT and take immediate actions against Minister Rozeta Hajdari for these unacceptable actions towards the very fundamental democratic values.

### Human Rights Network members:

Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS)  
Association of Paraplegics and Paralyzed Children of Kosovo HANDIKOS  
Center for Equality and Liberty - Cel Kosovo  
Kosovo Law Institute (KLI)  
Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC)  
New Social Initiative - Nova društvena inicijativa (NSI)  
Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (VoRAE)



## Civil society demands immediate de-escalation of the situation in the north of Kosovo

Civil society is following with great concern the situation created in the north of the Republic of Kosovo after the decision of the four mayors elected in the municipalities in the north of the country to start work in their offices. Such an action has provoked reaction and violent protests in the four northern municipalities, where journalists, police and KFOR soldiers were the targets of the attacks.

As non-governmental organizations, we ask that stability, peace and security in the north of Kosovo be the main guide for all parties involved. All disputes must be resolved through dialogue, while violence and unilateral actions must cease immediately. We believe that the promotion and protection of peace and human rights for all citizens, and especially for the marginalized groups in Kosovo, have no alternative and must always be the priority of every decision-making process. Violence against citizens, public authorities, members of the international security forces as well as the media is a serious violation of human rights, order and security in Kosovo, and moreover hinders the process of peace and reconciliation.

From our fieldwork with citizens of the Serbian community and all other communities living in Kosovo, we are noticing the negative impact of the irresponsible actions of state actors in both Pristina and Belgrade, directly affecting the wider inter-ethnic relations in Kosovo. The consequences of the actions undertaken in the north of Kosovo affect all citizens of Kosovo, therefore the situation must be handled in a peaceful, careful and sensitive manner.

The well-being of all citizens should be the guide and starting point of every decision-making by public institutions. Civil society condemns any provocation, threat or intimidation by any party that only worsens the situation and does not bring concrete results in greater representation and respect for the rights of the communities living in Kosovo.

Civil society calls on the government of Kosovo and Serbian representatives in Kosovo to stop unilateral actions and make appropriate compromises to overcome the situation created in the north of Kosovo in full coordination with the international community and other parties focusing on dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

On the other hand, we call on the authorities in Serbia to stop their war-inciting rhetoric in Kosovo and to be constructive in reaching a peaceful solution through dialogue mediated by the European Union.

Peace and security are always the solution and the institutions in Kosovo should work immediately towards reducing the tension in the north and reaching a solution which would help in the greater integration of the Serbian community in Kosovo.

## Civil society demands immediate de-escalation of the situation in the north of Kosovo

Read the full statement here: [\(2\) Shoqëria... - Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo \(YIHR KS\) | Facebook](#)

**Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS) condemns the decision of KTV and TV debate KONFRONT for inviting Rrustem Mustafa, who was convicted for war crimes, to discuss the current proceedings before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. Rrustem Mustafa was the former commander of the Operational Area of Llap and member of the General Staff of KLA**

Read the full reaction here: <https://bit.ly/43Nfexi>





## YIHR KS Condemns Shooting Incident on the Bistrica Bridge and Calls for Justice and Accountability

Read the full reaction here: <https://yihr-ks.org/.../yihr-ks-condemns-shooting.../>



## Justice for Donjeta! Institutional responsibility for the case!

The decision of the Supreme Court on the release of Naser Pajazitaj, accused of murdering Donjeta Pajazitaj in November 2015, has created great concern and uncertainty in public opinion.

Read the full reaction here:(2) [Drejtësi... - Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo \(YIHR KS\) | Facebook](#)



**DREJTËSI PËR DONJETËN!**  
**Përgjegjësi institucionale për rastin!**



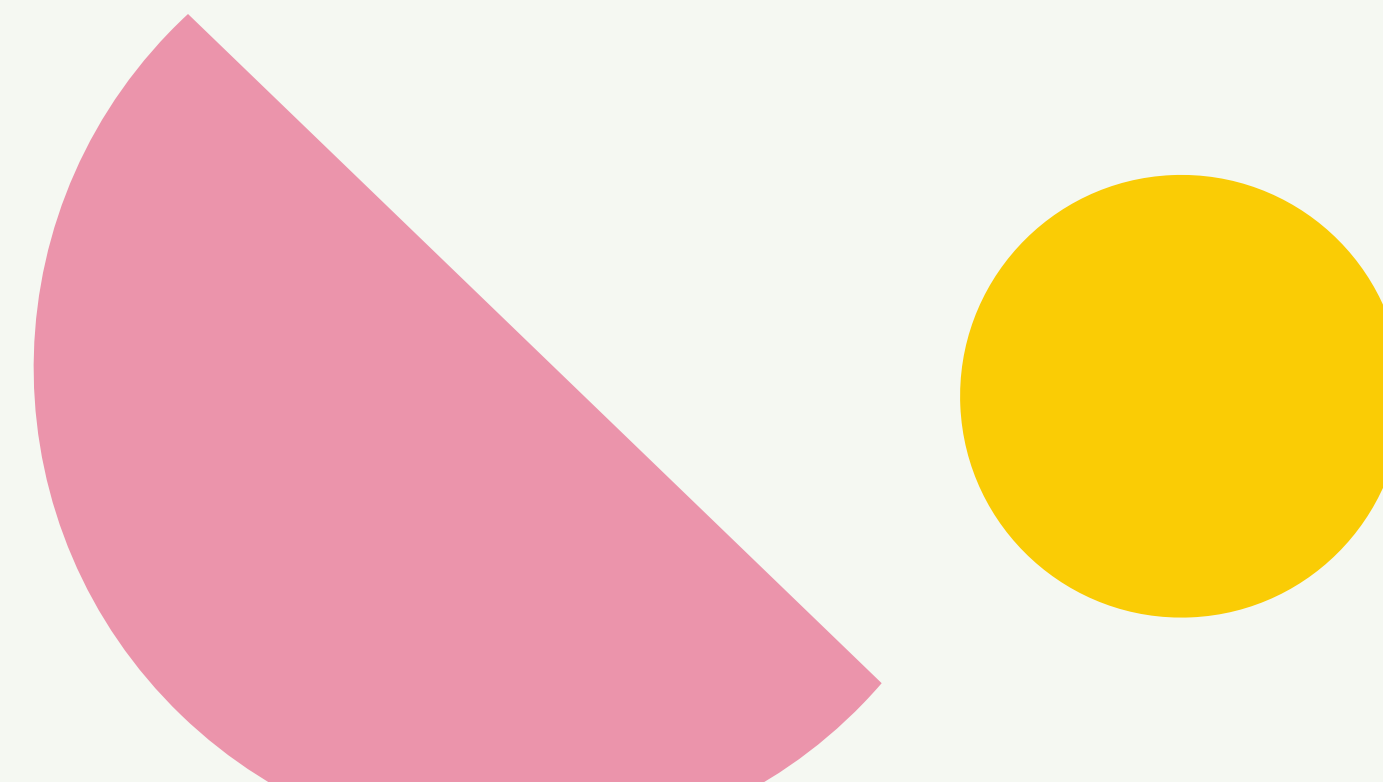


# The State Is Guilty For The Murder Of Sebahate Morina

The Constitutional Court issued its decision that found the Prosecutor's Office and the Police responsible for the violation of Sebahate Morina's right to life.

Read the full statement here:

[https://www.facebook.com/YIHRKS/posts/253648713673320?\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZU-Rh-1pd3p4On1EPBI4DMTySaTcJuLz2LHZn\\_clYI0uJAWBhprQAKLGAwVlp6hBsQfz5d\\_MQeZG-HvYbl96kIYIDOYR5G0yWvgtOP5-AftutPIQmHaQuhU0fSPB22SkRZMYkf-0WnDnlBe5T32O7xt\\_0&\\_tn\\_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/YIHRKS/posts/253648713673320?_cft__[0]=AZU-Rh-1pd3p4On1EPBI4DMTySaTcJuLz2LHZn_clYI0uJAWBhprQAKLGAwVlp6hBsQfz5d_MQeZG-HvYbl96kIYIDOYR5G0yWvgtOP5-AftutPIQmHaQuhU0fSPB22SkRZMYkf-0WnDnlBe5T32O7xt_0&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R)





# We Remember the Victims of the NATO Bombing

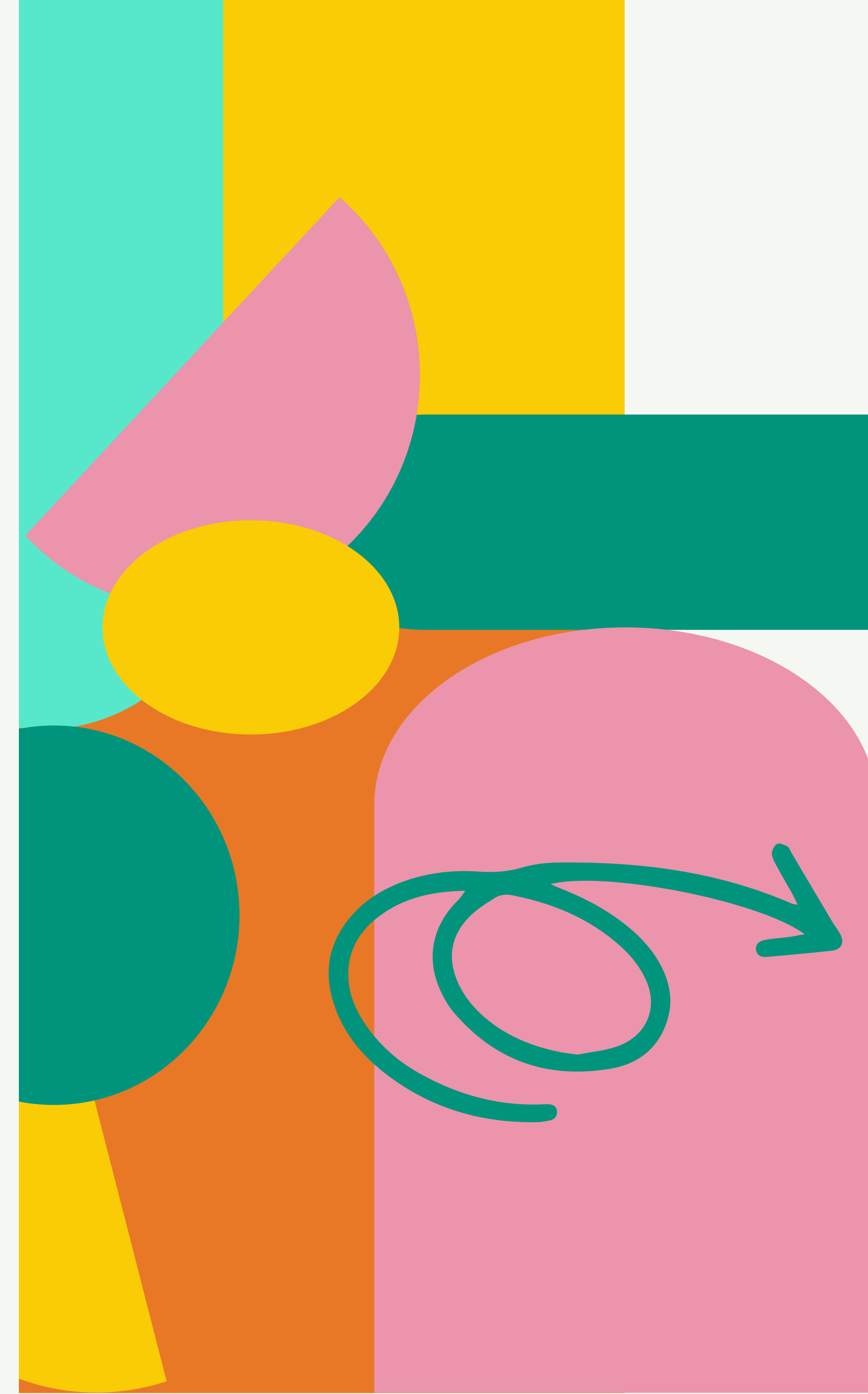
YIHR Srbija and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS) express respect for all victims of the NATO bombing on the anniversary of the event.

Read the full statement here: <https://www.facebook.com/YIHRKS/posts/247584540946404>

# The Right of People to Return to Their Homes Must be a Priority for the Governments of Kosovo and Serbia

On the occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the March 2004 violence in Kosovo, Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Kosovo and Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Serbia, are calling their governments to show sincere respect for all victims of ethnically motivated violence in order to start building societies where everyone has the right to live free and to feel safe.

Read the full statement here: <https://bit.ly/3mOcoq>







# The Press Council of Kosovo approves the complaint of YIHR KS

Read the full statement here:

<https://www.yihr-ks.org/en/the-press-council-of-kosovo-approves-the-complaint-of-yihr-ks-against-indeksonline/>

# Women's Voices For Peace in Serbia and Kosovo

On International Women's Day, civil society from Kosovo and Serbia are united in their calls for more women's voices to be heard in the normalisation process. The signatories also voiced their concerns about the failure to incorporate gender-specific considerations into the various dialogue agreements and, in particular, the Agreement on the path to normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia.

Read the full statement here:

<https://peacefulchange.org/news/womens-voices-for-peace/>



# Open Letter to RYCO: RYCO Must Stay Firmly Committed to Peace and Regional Co-operation

As a network that has been strongly dedicated to reconciliation in the region for almost 20 years, Youth Initiative for Human Rights urges RYCO to take immediate action against the RYCO youth representative from Serbia, Jagos Stojanovic, for his problematic statement, which directly undermines the principles of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region.

Read the full letter here: [\(2\) Open Letter... - Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo \(YIHR KS\) | Facebook](#)

## Not our heroes! The accused of war crimes should not be glorified!

On Sunday, we witnessed the disturbing statements of Prime Minister Albin Kurti on the commemoration of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of Oliver Ivanović. Prime Minister Kurti in his statement glorified the activity of Oliver Ivanović, highlighting him as a man who has worked for a stable future and a multi-ethnic Kosovo.

Read the full statement here: [\(2\) Nuk janë... - Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo \(YIHR KS\) | Facebook](#)







# 15 years imprisonment for the murderer of Hatije Dina

YIHR KS expresses its concern for the latest decision from the Basic Court in Prizren regarding the case of the murder of Hatije Dina by her husband, a case which was returned to retrial by the Supreme Court of Kosovo. In 2019, Hatije Dina was beaten to death by her husband, Ilir Haxhiaj. For the previously mentioned case, the Basic Court in Prizren has imposed a sentence of 15 years of imprisonment for the criminal sentence of “serious bodily injury”.

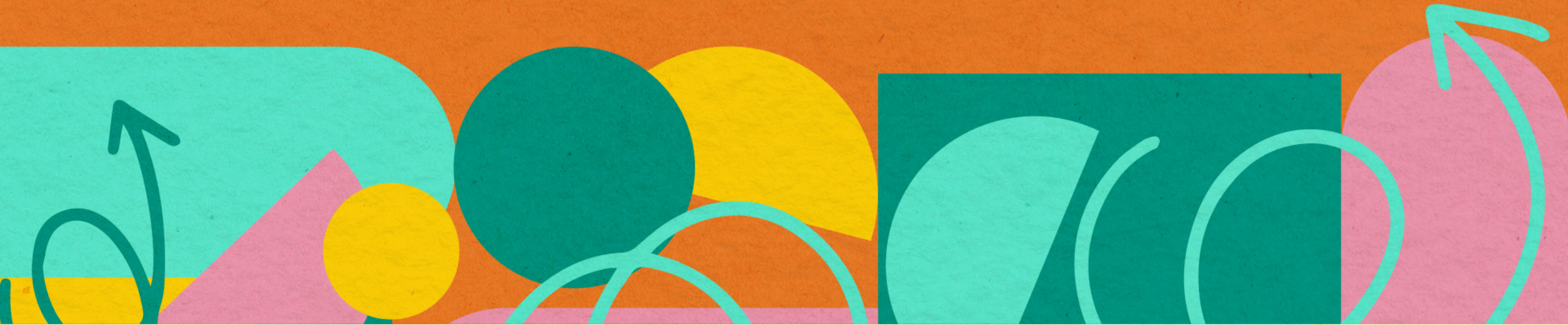
Read the full statement here: [\(2\) Reagim! 15... - Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo \(YIHR KS\) | Facebook](#)

**YIHR KS strongly condemns the attack on 2 injured people in Shtërpce, the 11 and 21 years old. We call on all relevant institutions of Kosovo to investigate the case in its entirety and take all necessary measures to bring justice to the victims and their families as soon as possible.**

Read the full statement here: [\(2\) YIHR KS... - Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo \(YIHR KS\) | Facebook](#)



# OPEN CALLS







# Youth Generation Peace Activists Network: Empowering Young Change - Makers from Kosovo and Serbia for Cross-Border Collaboration

The newest and largest regional activist network is here! The Generation Peace Activists Network has officially launched, and everyone is invited to become a part of it!

This network is a groundbreaking initiative which aims to foster positive change and meaningful collaboration between young activists from Kosovo and Serbia. This dynamic network will serve as a structured platform for communication, amplifying the voices of young activists and promoting cross-border efforts and initiatives, with a particular focus on grassroots-level engagement.

Join us and become a part of this amazing network, where you can benefit from many opportunities, such as: Youth Exchanges and Storytelling Workshops, Multimedia Exhibitions, Small Grant Schemes, Networking Events in Kosovo and Serbia and Internship Programs among others.

LINK: <https://forms.gle/r8tVUmdyaDXGaYvH8>



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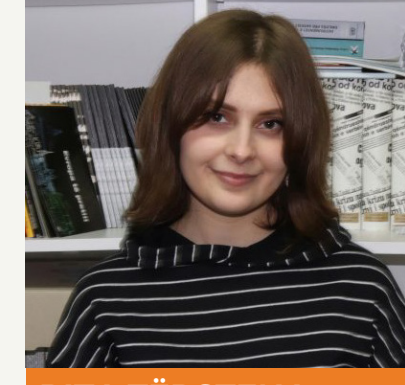
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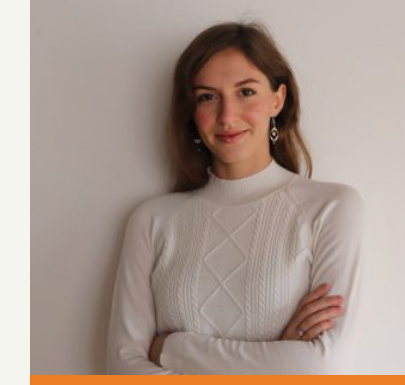
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