

# Newspaper

## TO THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS

## WITH DISABILITIES OF KOSOVA

January / 2008

014

Year V - Monthly - www.lpkosova.com - tel: 028/ 533 996; 044 / 293-518, 063 - 853 88 24

Magazine to the rights of persons with disabilities

Welcome to our world

This non profitable magazine is published into 6 languages: attachment in Albanian language is distributed through daily newspaper (Koha Ditore), in Bosnian language through ( Alem) in Roma language( Yehkipe) and in Turkish language ( Jeni Donem). You can find English and Serbian version including the above-mentioned languages at our website [www.lpkosova.com](http://www.lpkosova.com) Volunteer cooperators of editorial office Diana Toska.



Donators:



"This project was funded through a U.S. Office Pristina grant. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the Author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of State."



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Swiss Cooperation Office Kosovo



OCTOBER- MONTH OF PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES

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## THE CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Kosovo, December 10, 2007

10 December -International Day on Human Rights was a good opportunity to draw attention of Kosovo public opinion in particular governmental officials on culture of human rights and respect for dignity in particular about disabled persons. NGO's gathered around Voluntary Promotional Program - Disability Mentoring Days have sent a message "Human Rights Belong to You" and this message was published by all media in Kosovo.

US Office and OSCE donated. European Council, Ministry of Health and Office for Good Governance supported by kind contributions.

Let us remind Article 1 of the Convention on Human Rights which states " Everyone is born free and with equal dignity". At birth and from the first days of the life, people enjoy their rights. Such rights are guaranteed, inalienable and regulated by different international documents.

International Human Rights Day  
December 2007

# HUMAN RIGHTS BELONG TO YOU

Free & Equal  
Freedom of Expression  
Education  
Integrity  
Accessibility  
Dignity  
Diversity  
Non - Discrimination

PROMOTIONAL VOLUNTARY PROGRAM DMD MULTIETHNIC NGOs PARTNERSHIP OF KOSOVA

osce  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Events in 2007

BONTONI and DIGNITY

" UNIVERZAL DESIGN"

RESPECT TO ALL WOMEN WORLDWIDE

# APPEAL- Help to help

Ferizaj, January 2008

Within NGO "Hendifer" it was established a workshop to produce and repair helping orthopedic tools. This workshop requires immediate assistance from institutions in order to continue with its functioning. Continuation of this workshop is of a particular importance, as it would save up Kosovo budget from buying such orthopedic tools from abroad, which are very expensive. This workshop facing crises is the only producer and the only exporter in the region.

This workshop offers a good program by producing more than 200 different orthopedic tools as: all kinds of wheel chairs for children and grown up people, hygienic wheelchairs, helping equipments for bathrooms, backrest for stairs and many other tiny equipment necessary for disabled persons.

This workshop was established in 2006 with the donation of World Bank and World Vision.



## PARALYMPIC! Planetary Sportive Spectacle

Beijing (China) 6-17 September 2008



Olympic and Paralympic Games will be organized at the highest level, while the opening ceremony of planetary sportive spectacle of persons with disabilities will take place on 6 September 2008.

In China, preparations for Olympic and Paralympic Games are lasting for almost six years. Now Chinese have already demonstrated the opening ceremony.

Preparations for Paralympic Games are almost completed. The opening and closing ceremony would highlight values of life under motto "Sky, Earth and Human Beings".

Within our entire planet, disabled sportiest are being trained to reach world records and gain as many golden medals as possible at Paralympic Games.

## CHILDREN'S EXIBITION

Pristine, 10 December 2007: - On International Day on Human Rights, students from special schools organized one-day exhibition by exhibiting their work. Mr. Hilmi Jashari, Acting Ombudsperson announced the exhibition opened and stressed the importance to protection of children's rights.



## PTK HELPS THE BILD PEOPLE

Pristine, 16 November 2007

Post and Telecommunication in Kosovo and Association of Blind People signed a memorandum of understanding, which obliges PTK to initially train and after hire certain blind individuals. This initiative was taken by Director General, Dr. Etrur Rustemaj with the only aim to integrate this category of people into Kosovo society.

Within different projects, PTK will continue to help disabled persons. Therefore, I appellate to other companies to follow the path of PTK, said Rustemaj in the end of this hopeful meeting.

President of Association of Blind People, Mr. Bujar Kadriu said that signing of this memorandum would enable at least 10 blind people to get employed at PTK.

"Initially 10 blind individuals will attend training at the training centre within PTK and then the same individuals will get employed at Call Centre. This would improve their difficult social family situation, said Mr.Bujar Kadriu.

( taken from PTK Magazine)



Mr. Bujar Kadriu (left) and Mr. Etrur Rustemaj

## AWARD FOR BYTIQI

Pristine, 25 December 2007: - Koha Group organized a traditional ceremony to promote the most successful sportiest in 2007. One of the best sportiest awarded was Daut Bytyqi, who beat a new world record in javelin-throwing at the IV World Championship for persons with disabilities in Rambouillet in 2005, where Kosovo was qualified to participate at the Paralympic Games in China 2008.



Daut Bytyqi, champion in Rambouillet



We wish to thank our donors for enabling us to be again with our readers in the beginning of this New Year, by publishing our magazine into six different languages and also keeping close relation to our readers through our web site: [www.lpkosova.com](http://www.lpkosova.com).

I would like to use this opportunity to remind you about Law against discrimination, which is the first law on human rights and should also be implemented in Kosovo. This law is of a very high importance to us as directly protects the rights and interests of persons with disabilities.

Therefore, we all together in a country, which is about to become independent should attempt to built and realize principles of "Universal Design".

We will cooperate with newly established institutions and find the easiest ways to exceed obstacles and create equal opportunities for all Kosovo citizens in particular for disabled persons.

Sincerely yours,  
Hilmnijeta Apuk,

## NATIONAL COUNCIL

We hope that Kosovo Government and newly elected Kosovo Prime Minister will support the National Council of Disabled Persons that functions within the Office of Prime Minister.

Further functioning of this council should be orientated in the direction of new principles of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and give a real dimension for preparation of conditions to be implemented in Kosovo.



*Detaj nga mbledhja*

## UNIVERSAL RIGHTS

The Office for Good Governance within the Office of Prime Minister through its monitoring and coordinating role with Ministries of Kosovo Government in particular in the course of activities in close cooperation with Units for Human rights established within each Ministry of Kosovo Government is making efforts to ensure that provided services and the quality of governance have affect in protection and realization of human rights for all Kosovo citizens. Particular attention should be given to vulnerable groups as persons with disabilities and women. These and also other groups with immediate acute needs were and will be priority in the policies of strategic planning of Kosovo Government and Office for Good Governance started drafting certain important documents in order to address such needs in adequate manner.

We are aware that human rights have an impact into entire Kosovo society and in this respect; their implementation into practice is responsibility of all of us in Kosovo, including non-governmental section.

As governmental institutions we will remain engaged and are obliged to work and ensure a better future to all people living in Kosovo, therefore, even the projects that should be realized in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities would enable that human rights in Kosovo be practiced with respect to universal equality, freedom and dignity of all Kosovo citizens.

Mr. Habit Hajredini, Director of Office for Good Governance

## XHEVAT ISLAMI

**(28.03.1949-23.08.2007)**

### Indefatigable warrior on human rights passed away

On 23 September 2007, the heart of greatest warrior of human rights, equality and multiethnic tolerance ceased beating. Despite difficulties and bad health condition, he did not give up until the last moments of his life and remained active in realization of his ideal, protection of human rights and freedoms, in particular protection of persons with disabilities rights.

Xhevat Islami had a characteristic personality: humanist and warrior, innovator of orthopedic tools, founder of NGO Hendifer in Ferizaj and Multiethnic Program DMD in Kosovo, co-operator of team of American Association for Disabled Persons (AAPD), worked in implementation of DMD Program, founder of

NGO Hendikos- was a sportsman, great leader, developed service system for needy, author of mobile library, kind and dear to all. He was a man that found solution and asked for responses. He left many results while he put a human stamp to his living time.

Xhevat Islami for a long period of time has contributed to improve the status of persons with disabilities. On his death, we lost the most active warrior on human rights.

We wish to thank him for cooperation and sincerity.

## IM MEMORIAM



# "UNIVERSAL DESIGN" LET US BUILT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Pristine, 14 February 2007

Three years in a row, on Valentines Day, known as the day of people in love different manifestations are organized in respect to dignity of persons with disabilities. But, the last manifestation was particular because of its subject full of sense "Universal Design".

What is "Universal Design"?

During 70's in the USA started realization of "Universal Design" principles or "Design for everyone" which currently is applied in all countries with determined standards and equal access for all people including persons with disabilities.

### The Course of manifestation

As there was ongoing debate on multidisciplinary subject, all media transmitted the poster with a message "Access for all". In this debate were present governmental representatives from Ministry for Spatial Planning, Ministry for Labor and Social Welfare, Office for Good Governance, US Office, and OSCE. The common conclusion was that in today's Kosovo there are different architectonic obstacles while

**Accessibility for everybody**

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construction and reconstruction of socially or private owned premises should offer equal access to the needs of users. In contrary, discrimination against persons with disabilities would continue.

"Universal design" which is a realized concept for development of equal opportunities in Kosovo should be initiated and increased through awareness raising, laws and other administrative measures.

This manifestation is a part of Voluntary Promotional Program DMD that promotes the human rights of persons with disabilities. The manifestation was funded by OSCE and organized by NGOs Little People of Kosovo and Hendifer in Ferizaj.

## RESPECT TO ALL WOMEN WORLDWIDE

Pristine, 8 March 2007

International Women's Day traditionally is celebrated with theatrical performance and open debate at National Theatre in Pristine. On that occasion, it was discussed gender equality and rights of women with or without disabilities.

In this discussion participated Mr. Per Oeyvind Semb from OSCE, who pointed out that it is necessary and of extreme importance to respect gender equality in private and public life.

"Acknowledging that life of woman with or without disabilities in the world is not easy at all, very often exposed to violence, exploited and left under mercy of society, captive of trafficking, very often her freedom of movement is limited as a result of patriarchal prejudices, high rate of mortality, poverty and analphabet are part of our every day life meantime the percentage of women in business and superior education is very low, however about powers we should not discuss at all.



Together with men, we could reach goals of 21 century, in which women with or without disabilities could get employed, become successful, independent, well informed and happy in family and society.

"Let us be a happy family and realize our human being

based on equality and non discrimination during 365 days of the year"- said Hiljminijeta Apuk.

Director of the Office for Good Governance, Mr. Habit Hajrullahu said that government is making efforts to advance position of women and develop gender equality within Kosovo society.

You could see campaign message "YOUR RIGHTS = MY RIGHTS in all TV channels (RTK, TV 21 and TV Most) also you could read it at daily newspapers, at billboards and even in shirts that were distributed during campaign. The main donors and organizers were OSCE, UNKT Kosovo Team, UN Volunteers, OHIR, US Office in Kosovo, and Office for Good Governance, the partners NGOs at DMD Multiethnic Program, Ministry of Health, NGOs Little People of Kosovo and Hendifer from Ferizaj.



# HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## OUR RIGHTS - TODAY AND FUTURE

Pristine, 23-30 April 2007

The campaign "Human Rights Week of Persons with Disabilities" was organized in accordance with needs of 10 % of population or 250.000 disabled citizens in Kosovo, who have ambitions to be treated equally with the rest of population. The aim of this campaign was to promote new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. US Office in Kosovo funded this campaign while NGO Partners at DMD Multiethnic Programming with support of Ministry of Health; Office organized it for Good Governance and PTK.

### Philately in affirmation of new Convention

The Human Rights Week for Disabled Persons opened with promotion of XXII postage-stamp series that is the one and the only of this kind in the world dedicated to Convention on the Rights



Mr. Lawrence Corwin spokesman from US Office Pristina

of Persons with Disabilities. The series consists of 4 postage stamps and an envelope. This is contributing in particular at world philately and human rights agenda. The authors of postage-stamp design are persons with disabilities.

Promotion of such postage stamps was supported by Mr. Joachim Rucker, Mr. Lawrence Corwin, Mr. Blerim Baruti, Hilmnijeta Apuk.

NGO Little People of Kosovo initiated the idea to this series of postage stamps.

### BONTON and DIGNITY

During campaign, a leaflet was published into three languages with motto "Boonton during communication with persons with disabilities: Our dignity= your dignity" and brief description of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whose authors were Hilmnijeta Apuk and Fazile Bungu.

At the end of the campaign, a press conference was held in which concluded joint recommendations taken during activities in Pristine, Ferizaj, Shtërpce, Elez Han, Mitrovica and Peja. By way of these recommendations, it was required from government to adopt adequate laws.

## PRESIDENT MET AMBASSADORS

Pristine, 1 June 2007

On International Children's Day, President of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu met children ambassadors. This multiethnic group presented credentials to the President with the message on children's rights.

### Promotion of children's rights

With invitation of PTK, Children Ambassadors participated at promotion of XXIV series of postage-stamps so called "laughing children" dedicated to 1 June- International Children's Day".

In Mitrovica, Peja, Ferizaj, Children Ambassadors met presidents of their municipalities and after holding children's assembly; they forwarded messages to the President of Kosovo. This was a good opportunity for children to get some more information about their



President Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu with children Ambassadors

rights.

This event was transmitted in all media into all languages and posters were put in all billboards in Kosovo.

This traditional manifestation was funded by US Office in Kosovo, OSCE and organized by NGO Partners at DMD Multiethnic Programming with support of Ministry of Health, NGO Little People of Kosovo and NGO Hendifer from Ferizaj. .



Children's Assembly



# OCTOBER- MONTH OF PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES

## Persons with disabilities may contribute in different professional fields

Pristine, 5 October 2007

The opening ceremony of one-month campaign "OCTOBER month of professional abilities" held in Pristine, brought together representatives of local and international institutions private and persons with disabilities that jointly supported promotion of professional abilities of persons with disabilities and employment possibility without discrimination.



Ms. Laura Hoxha from USA Office Pristina made opening remarks, Deputy Ambassador of OSCE in Kosovo - Mr. Markku Laamanen, Mr. Sadik Idriz - Minister of Health, Ms. Gjylnaze Novobrdaliu-Golja, representative of Ministry for Labor, Dr. Fadil Kryeziu Head of National Council. Ms. Violeta Krasniqi representative of the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo, Ms. Hilmijeta Apuk, representative of NGO Little People of Kosovo, Ms. Fazile Bungu, representative of NGO Hendifer.



Traditional one-month campaign "October month of professional abilities" aims to fight against poverty, reduce unemployment and combat against discrimination, which disabled persons face in their every day life. During campaign, new aims of Convention on the human rights of persons with disabilities were promoted, including its implementation in Kosovo.



### INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Campaign "October, month of professional abilities persons with disabilities" it's a new initiative initiated in the USA, aiming to eliminate barriers and increase opportunities or equal conditions for persons with disabilities to get employed in places where they live.

Even if it's impossible to determine a price for fundamental human rights, it was proven that safeguarding of conditions for persons with disabilities to live and work in harmony with their potential, represents a part of strong economy.

Almost in every country in the world, persons with disabilities face discrimination and high level of unemployment. Researches have shown that person with disabilities can be as effective as non disabled

individuals in performing their duties. Polling made in the USA in 2003 show that 80% of employers who have hired disabled persons allege that disabled persons have shown great results in their jobs and were less absent in their working places compared with non disabled employees.

### Activities during campaign

During this month in all places in Kosovo disabled persons performed 950 working days. 900 volunteers were involved in these activities as mentors to explain different jobs. For the period of this campaign, NGO Hendifer from Ferizaj, Shtërpce and Elez Han organized the highest number of working days.

Different companies, private employers, public institutions hired and paid for one day persons with disabilities and had possibilities to see their professional skills.

It should be emphasized that three years in row Kosovo Customs employed persons with disabilities within their offices in Kosovo territory.



Ms. Melissa Stone from OSCE and Mr. Habit Hajredini, Head of Office for Good Governance at press conference.



During October, Kosovo public had the opportunity to see posters in different media with motto "Non Discrimination".

The Office for Good Governance and National Council within the Office of Prime Minister organized a press conference regarding one-day employment of 30 persons with disabilities.

One month campaign "October, month of professional abilities" is part of year round program for promotion of human rights with motto- Volunteer Promoting Program of Disability Mentoring Days(DMD).

US Office Pristina and OSCE funded this campaign while NGO Partners supporting DMD Program, including support from Ministry of Health and Office for Good Governance.

With initiative of Handicapped and Disabled People of Kosovo, OSCE Mission in Kosovo funded professional trainings for persons with disabilities.

The aim of these trainings was to create equal approach for persons with disabilities in employment and their full integration into society.

The ceremony of awarding diplomas took place on 15 June 2007 at OSCE premises in Pristine. In his speech, Ambassador Werner Wnendt paid particular attention to society development of this category of citizens.



Valbona Sahiti( right) and Mehmet Kastrati employed at Economic Bank in Pristine after completion of trainings.

## DONATION from DANISH KFOR

Kosovo, August 2007

Danish KFOR distributed a contingent of assistance collected by Danish people, containing wheelchairs and other helping orthopedic equipments dedicated to persons with disabilities in Kosovo.



## KOSOVO EXPOSITION IN AMERICA

On the occasion of celebrating 50 anniversary of the establishment of Little People of America, an international exhibition performed by persons with disabilities from Kosovo was organized in Seattle, USA from 1 to 6 July 2007. In this manifestation, motto "New Kosovo initiative at DMD Program" author Ms. Hilmnijeta Apuk presented Kosovo.

Audience in the USA and other countries welcomed Kosovo exhibition. It promoted all rights of women with disabilities and raised awareness by representing different facts.

Dr. Paul Stiven Miller, Professor at Washington University and Mr. Andrew J.Imaprato, Director of Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) Program from Washington D.C highly appreciated Kosovo exhibition stressing that this is a good way to promote human rights at global plan.

Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth, PTK and Mama Cash funded Kosovo exhibition in USA.



## MOBILE LIBRARY



NGO Hendifer in co-operation with city library in Ferizaj established a mobile library with 560 books. Citizens have possibility to exchange books at disabled persons' addresses, which have no possibility to go to city libraries. Interested readers who need such service can contact Hendifer in Ferizaj.

## EXIBITION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Artistic exhibition of sculpture from Luvret Museum was opened at National Museum of Kosovo in Pristine from 8 March till mid April 2007. This exhibition was well-suited for blind visitors as description of works was made into Braille writing.

Office of Prime Minister, French Office and School for Blind People in Peja funded this exhibition.



## HUMANITY IN ACTION



By the end of last year, an exhibition opened at PTK Premises was highly appreciated to have had human character as collected financial means from selling pictures were dedicated to health treatment of author Bahrije Sahiti.

# CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

# YES!



- \* free & equal
- \* non - discrimination
- \* integrity
- \* accessibility
- \* dignity
- \* diversity



# 2008



**JANUARY**

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