



6th November 2014

Mr. Hashim Thaçi
Prime Minister
Republic of Kosova

Dear Prime Minister,

The undersigned leaders of the “Platform of NGOs working with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities”, (hereafter referred to as “the Platform”), wish to raise concern at the recent increase in migration of citizens from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. We ask for an immediate response by the Government of Kosovo.

According to reports gathered by Platform members, more than 360 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families (amounting to 1700 individuals) have migrated from Kosovo, seeking a better future in Western European countries during the last few months. This is a continuing trend, with new families following suit every week.

The reasons for this phenomenon are many, including economic and social factors. In 2009, the Government of Kosovo introduced the Action Plan for the implementation of the “Strategy for integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo” that was approved in 2008 with the intent to improve, among other aspects, the economic, political and educational living conditions of these citizens. However, most of the actions foreseen in this Government of Kosovo strategy have either been minimally implemented or not implemented at all. Thus, the situation remains unchanged for most Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians.

Given the seriousness of the aforementioned situation, we urge you to take immediate actions:

- Invest in the proper implementation of the Strategy for Integration, especially when it comes to creating employment opportunities, and greater enjoyment of human rights;
- Implement a Government of Kosovo information campaign to inform people about the risks of illegal migration and human trafficking;
- Create a Task Force of relevant governmental institutions and NGOs working with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians to consider the aforementioned social crisis and propose more concrete actions.



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Platform of NGOs dealing with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian issues in Kosovo

Muhamet Arifi, Balkan Sunflowers

Adrian Zeqiri, European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo

Gëzim Hoti, Health For All

Bashkim Ibishi, Kosovo Agency for Advocacy and Development

Bekim Sylaj, Roma, Ashkali Documentation Centre

Isak Skenderaj, Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians

Electronic copies to:

Embassy of Switzerland in Kosovo

Embassy of Germany in Kosovo

Embassy of Hungary in Kosovo

Embassy of France in Kosovo

Ambassador to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo

EU Office in Kosovo

Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo

Office of the Good Governance