



10 DECEMBER 2014

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Today, on Human Rights Day, the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) Kosovo would like to reiterate its unwavering support for the advancement of human rights and minority rights in Kosovo.

Kosovo maintains strong human rights legal framework (including at the constitutional level) adopted from international and regional human rights conventions. However, this legislation is not always adequately implemented, leading to the infringement of human rights of many citizens, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups and individuals. The application of this framework remains ineffective for several reasons: a lack of awareness of human rights issues, limited communication and cooperation between actors, and an absence of resources and knowledge.

Minority communities are among the most vulnerable to human rights abuses. Minority communities are still often victims of various human rights violations, such as through direct and indirect forms of discrimination. Although non-majority communities are guaranteed representation in the national government and municipal assemblies, their needs are frequently neglected. For example, they are particularly afflicted by high unemployment, a lack of access to social welfare and substandard housing. This has resulted in a surge in migration in recent months, which is still continuing, among all communities in Kosovo; however Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are disproportionately affected by this movement.¹

As an organisation dedicated to fighting for the human rights of all citizens of Kosovo, particularly those belonging to minority communities, ECMI Kosovo would like to call on government institutions and the international community to strengthen their efforts to respect, protect and fulfill human rights in Kosovo.

¹ For more information, please see: <http://www.ecmikosovo.org/?p=5847>

PRESS RELEASE

About ECMI Kosovo

ECMI Kosovo is the principal non-governmental organisation engaged with minority issues in Kosovo, with the overarching aim to develop inclusive, representative, community-sensitive institutions that support a stable multi-ethnic Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo contributes to the developing, strengthening and implementation of relevant legislation, supports the institutionalisation of communities-related governmental bodies, and enhances the capacity of civil society actors and the government to engage with one another in a constructive and sustainable way.