



COALITION OF NGO'S
FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Newsletter

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Member Organizations

Ai.Bi. – Associazione
Amici Dei Bambini

Association for Social
Training, Research and
Advocacy – ASTRA

Iniziativa 6

Center for Protection of
Victims and Prevention of
Trafficking in Human Be-
ings – PVPT

One to One Children's
Fund

One To One Kosova -
Qendra e Këshillimit për
Familje

Organizata Rinore Akti

Save the Children

Shpresa dhe Shtëpi për
Fëmijët Kosovë

Terre des hommes

World Vision

VISTA

SOS Fshatërat e Fëmijëve
Kosovë

OPFAKKOS "Prindi &
Fëmiju"

**Increase of the
number of member
organisations
is in process...**



Join with Us

KOMF is a joint and powerful voice of non-governmental organizations for child protection and child rights in Kosovo.

By Hamijet Dedolli - President KOMF -



Protection and provision of children's welfare is the duty of Kosovan society. Mandated institutions and civil society play a key role in protecting children and addressing violations of children's rights.

Non-governmental organizations working in the field of child protection in Kosovo, for the purpose of coordinating their efforts in protection of children, have undertaken to create the "Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection" (KOMF). Given the experience of NGO coalition members,

KOMF brings these values together to advocate on child protection and rights. Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection is a joint and powerful voice of non-governmental organizations on issues of child protection and advancement of children's rights in Kosovo. This is a very important step of NGOs towards enabling child protection in Kosovo.

Mission

The mission of Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection is the protection, respect, welfare and advancement of children's rights. This is accomplished through lobbying and advocacy for the promotion and development of children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Objectives

- Promote the adoption of laws and policies for children.
- Monitor the implementation of laws and national policies for children.
- Sensitize and mobilize relevant authorities in local and national level.
- Awareness raising of the general public on child protection issues without distinction.
- Increase participation of children and groups that are exposed to violations of the children rights.
- Provide spaces for the development of best practices in the field of children's rights.
- Strengthen the capacity of the coalition, particularly the strengthening of local organizations.



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The establishment of the Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection



Establishment of the Coalition was initially supported by Mario regional project, implemented in Kosovo by Terre des Hommes. Mario Project is a joint effort of the most influential organizations

in the field of child protection in Europe, which have created a common platform for advocacy to ensure better protection of children. This project along with objectives at European level, provides support to the creation of coalitions of NGOs in the field of child protection at the national level. This objective supports the initiating the establishment of the Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection.

Coalition-building efforts began in 2010, initially analyzing the need for the creation of a coalition which would be a common and powerful voice of NGOs to speak up about child protection issues in Kosovo. In June 2011 Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection was officially registered, composed of 14 non-governmental organizations with focus on the protection of children.

The project “Protection and Advancement of Child Rights in Kosovo”

The coalition began implementing the project “Protection and Promotion of Child Rights in Kosovo”, funded by UNICEF Office in Kosovo.

The project is focused on three main objectives:

Obj 1: Contributing to the advancement and monitoring of the legal framework, policies, national strategies and standards in relation to child protection and child rights.

Obj 2: Strengthening child protection in Kosovo, by advocating and lobbying for development of sustainable alternative forms for child protection.

Obj 3: Empowerment of Coalition of NGO's on Child Protection in reacting towards child rights violations and promotion of child rights.

Advocacy and harmonized lobbying of the coalition will be one of the strongest points of the coalition. KOMF will advocate to the Kosovo Government and ministries on implementing, monitoring and enforcing the adopted policies.

The purpose of the coalition is to promote positive changes based on international standards and best interests of the child. KOMF will closely cooperate with the Kosovo Parliament to contribute to the process of drafting and amending legislation on children.

KOMF will closely work with the Office of the Ombudsman, international agencies, diplomatic corps, civil society and media. Various backgrounds of Coalition's member organizations will ensure that the needs of different groups of children are addressed.

Coalition - a part of the Council for Protection and Justice for Children

Council for Protection and Justice for Children consists of representatives of relevant ministries and other institutions, established by a decision taken by the Prime Minister, dated 25.08.2011.

This council has a mandate to define the priorities and measures needed to be taken to improve the current situation regarding the Child protection and justice, as well as facilitating and monitoring the implementation of policies, programs and other approved measures dealing the Protection and Justice for Children in the central and local level.

According to the Decision for establishing the Council, the NGO Coalition for Child Protection is represented by one (1) member. KOMF will cooperate closely with the Council for Protection and Justice for Children; KOMF will advocate on various issues related to child protection and justice, based on the priorities that require certain situations; will inform the development and application of programs, such as difficulties and the results of the achievements and challenges relating to the Protection and Justice for Children.

Let us give abandoned children a family. In Kosovo, many children grow up without warmth of the family. Together we can build their future. Family is the only answer that offers warmth they need. Provide sanctuary to an abandoned child. The future is in your hands - Amici dei Bambini

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STATEMENT ON FOSTER CARE IN KOSOVO

Prishtina, 02 November - Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection (KOMF), held a workshop on "Development of foster care for children in Kosovo". The purpose of this workshop was to contribute towards the advancement of foster care as one of alternative forms of child protection. The workshop had broad participation of representatives from the Department of Social Welfare, representatives from the Centers for Social Work, Foster Care Organization Movement (OLF), KOMF member organizations, UNICEF, GIZ, etc.

Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection, considering primarily the best interest of the child and based on the findings of the workshop held on November 2, 2011, STATED that:

- Foster care as an alternative form of children without parental care must protect the best interests of all vulnerable groups of children without family care;
- Our efforts should focus on promotion, consolidation, strengthening and supporting the development of foster care based on the principles of the International Convention on the Child Rights;
- According to studies conducted, foster care as an alternative form of protection, has lower financial costs compared to other alternative forms of protection of children;



We recognize and appreciate the efforts and achievements to date undertaken by institutions and NGOs in the field of foster care development, but also we share our concern about the development dynamics of this process which is followed by limited results such as:

- Insufficient cooperation and coordination of activities after decentralization between institutions mandated on foster care development;
- The small number of foster families in Kosovo. Foster care is not covering most of the municipalities of Kosovo, it covers only 15 municipalities out of total 38 Kosovo municipalities;
- There is no categorization of foster care under the categories of children, regarding payments to foster families and their preliminary preparation;



- Payment for children in foster care despite their different needs (categories, age) is flat, also the payment is insufficient to cover the costs of caring for the child;
- Foster families do not receive any social or health benefit in the name of being a foster family and thereby endanger their stability.

Thus the current situation in the field of foster care requires prompt intervention and change through:

- Planning and implementation of advocacy activities by KOMF in terms of the Centers for Social Work and Directorates for Health and Social Welfare for the development of foster care;
- Organization of meetings/workshops for sensitizing municipalities which do not have foster families and presentation of best practices by municipalities that have developed foster care;
- Developing a strategy and action plan at the municipal level by the Centers for Social Work and Directorates for Health and Social Welfare for the promotion and development of foster care;
- Proportional geographic coverage of foster care in all municipalities. Each municipality should have at any time foster families willing to shelter children without parental care;
- Preparation and training of foster families according to categories that will accommodate children;
- Advocacy towards creating institutions for mitigating circumstances for foster families, exemption from municipal obligations, compensation of family health services and recognition of work experience;
- Design and implement the minimum standards of professional foster care service. This will contribute to improving the quality of services provided;
- Amend the Administrative Instruction (AI) no. 16/2004 on foster care. Administrative Instruction should categorize payments based on categories and age groups of children;
- After developing the funding formula and financial decentralization of the fees associated with social and Family Services (2013), advocacy activities should be directed to municipalities so that they may take appropriate actions to develop foster care.

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Training - one of the ways of strengthening KOMF

Prishtina, October - NGO members of the Coalition despite having demonstrated expertise and success in areas of operation, still insist to undertake activities in order to better operate as a coalition. Regarding this, within the project financed by UNICEF, two training courses were organized. Since KOMF, is primarily an advocacy coalition for child protection, selected training topics include "The implementation awareness raising campaigns" and "Advocacy to state institutions concerning the protection of children". Training for sensitizing campaigns and was supported by the World Vision organization (a member of KOMF) by bringing in foreign experts, aiming at exchanging the best practices regarding the implementation of the most productive campaigns. The modes of interaction in advocating among state institutions were applied to the second training KOMF.

Study Visit to Sofia

Prishtina, 21 - 23 November - Members of the Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection have attended a study visit to Sofia. This study visit was organized within the project "Mobilizing civil society in the Juvenile Justice System in Kosovo", a project implemented by Terre des Hommes, and funded by UNICEF and European Commission. The main purpose of the visit was to exchange experiences and building a network for further cooperation between the civil societies of both countries. Besides visits to institutions working in juvenile justice, meetings were held with the Coalition "National Network for Children" in Sofia, which functions since ten years.



Cooperation with the Assembly of Kosovo started

Prishtina, 02 December - Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection met with the group of Women MPs - GGD. Meeting was opened by MP Suzana Novobërdali who is also the chairman of the Committee on Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Petition. MP Suzan Novobërdali emphasized that although there is no specific law to protect children's rights, Kosovo respects the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Assembly, in particular GGD, is committed to provide legal and institutional support to categories, especially children who are affected by various forms of discrimination, violence or are left without family and without protection.



KOMF member organizations debriefed on the commitments and their role and also shared their views on the current situation of child protection. Representatives from KOMF stressed that child protection currently does not constitute a priority for institutions, considering the small budget allocated for that purpose. This then directly affects the non implementation of current strategies and policies designed to protect children and contributes to a non-developed system of child protection in Kosovo. NGO Coalition for Child Protection will collaborate and interact closely with the group of women MPs and parliamentary committees to provide professional expertise during the amendment of legislation dealing with child protection and also to support them in providing information from the field concerning the situation of children in monitoring the laws. This is just an initiative of the Coalition in cooperation with the Kosovo Assembly.

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