



VOICE OF YOUTH

The Human Rights Youth Forum 2017



Dear reader,

On behalf of the World Youth Wave (WYW) I am honored to present you **Voice of Youth**, a set of recommendations which resulted from the project **Human Rights Youth Forum** that took place in Tirana, Albania, 13-15th August 2017.

Human Rights Youth Forum (#HRYF17) gathered 40 young people from Serbia and Albania. Its main aim was to educate young people on human rights protection as well as to empower them to react to human rights violation.

The main idea of #HRYF17 was to give young people a chance to speak up and voice their concerns and ideas. By providing young people adequate knowledge and relevant skills in the field of human rights, #HRYF17 contributed to personal development of each participant, who have become young multipliers capable of carrying out various follow-up activities in relation to human rights.

#HRYF17 is a part of the **Humans of Albania and Serbia** initiative, which emerged within the project of OSCE Mission to Serbia in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, “Enhancing Regional Connectivity among Serbia and Albania Youth Actors” around the idea of connectivity, co-operation and dialogue. You can read more about it here: www.youthumans.net.

We hope you will recognize the relevance of this document and join us in our quest to advocate for a better protection of human rights in the region of Serbia and Albania.

On behalf of the #HRYF17 project team,

Mila Lukić

Project Coordinator of #HRYF17

VOICE OF YOUTH

High social distance among peoples of Serbia and Albania is a fact that persists for years and has been confirmed through multiple researches. Despite the efforts of both countries to implement human rights education in the school curricula through civic education, there is still a gap that needs to be bridged by non-formal education. Effective human rights education not only provides knowledge about human rights and the operational mechanisms for protection, but also develops the skills needed to promote, defend and apply human rights in a daily life. Human rights education also fosters the attitudes and behaviors needed to uphold human rights for all members of society. In order to create an environment of equality and solidarity, youth empowerment is essential – especially with regards to topics of their direct concern, such as human rights and civic education.

The Voice of Youth represents a set of recommendations produced by 40 Human Rights Youth Forum young participants from Albania and Serbia, produced in August 2017, in Tirana, Albania. This document aims at putting emphasis on youth involvement in dealing with relevant global issues and decision-making. It is intended for relevant stakeholders in youth policy as it offers **concrete ideas for improvement of regional youth co-operation, with a focus on human rights education and empowerment of local communities and institutions.**



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To create tools and mechanisms to **raise awareness and promote good practices** and positive examples of **Serbia-Albania cooperation**, via media, social networks, and other available channels of communication.
2. To launch **twinning projects** that bring public school expertise from Serbia and Albania together with an aim of **sharing knowledge and good practices**.
3. To introduce **free-of-charge access to formal education** for all young people and provide more **structured training** carried out by youth workers and social workers to school teachers about using non-formal educational methods.
4. To develop and implement programs that allow young people to acquire **skills needed for the labor market**, such as analyzing information and critical thinking, problem-solving and strategic communication, teamwork and intercultural understanding.
5. To empower young people to implement **peacebuilding and conflict transformation activities** that enhance intercultural learning and interreligious dialogue through networking and experience exchange.
6. To support regional and local initiatives and youth-led projects that **combat discriminative and extremist narratives** (including hate speech) in online communities, providing a safe online space for self-expression of all young people in the region.
7. To create tools and mechanisms to more effectively **include minorities in public life** (social, political, economic, and cultural) and share best practices via media, social networks and other available channels of communication.
8. To advocate for improvement of (implementation of) legislation in Serbia and Albania on **accessibility for people with disabilities** in workplace, as well in regard to **rights of vulnerable youth** in employment/work context.
9. To continuously work on **changing the discriminatory perception of women** in Serbia and Albania by implementing online/offline campaigns that break stereotypes about gender roles and highlight women empowerment.
10. To initiate introduction of **classes about gender equality** within formal education, in order to prevent gender-based violence.

CONTACT



SVETSKI OMLADINSKI TALAS
WORLD YOUTH WAVE

www.worldyouthwave.org



www.youthumans.net



Disclaimer: The views herein expressed are solely those of the author and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and its partners.

The project Human Rights Youth Forum is implemented by CSOs World Youth Wave (Serbia), Union of Secondary Students of Serbia (Serbia), Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (Serbia), European Youth Association (Albania) and Mjaft! Movement (Albania) within the platform Humans of Albania and Serbia (www.youthumans.net), supported by the OSCE Mission to Serbia in partnership with the OSCE Presence in Albania, Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sports, Albanian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Albanian National Youth Service and National Youth Council of Serbia, in the framework of the project “Enhancing regional connectivity among Serbia and Albania youth actors”. Project is financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.