



For: Mr. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo
From: Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection – KOMF
Date: 11 February 2020
Subject: Request

Dear Mr. Kurti,

The Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection - KOMF, congratulates you on your appointment as Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, wishing you a successful governance.

We were informed through the media, that with the division of ministries in the new government cabinet, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is divided into several ministries. Social transfers have been transferred to the Ministry of Finance, while the employment sector has been transferred to the Ministry of Economy, Employment, Trade, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Strategic Investments. Meanwhile, it is still unclear to which ministry the welfare and social services sector has been or will be transferred.

We believe that welfare and social services should be a priority and one of the main pillars of the government's program. Therefore this should also be reflected in the division of ministries as well. Specifically, KOMF's proposal is that the welfare and social services sectors should be transferred to the Ministry of Health, both in content and designation, turning it into the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

The main reasons for this proposal are:

- The state is responsible for social welfare, has overall responsibility for the organization of the provision of social and family services in Kosovo and It ensures that inhabitants of Kosovo have fair and equal access to social and family services without distinction of any kind. The state is obliged to provide social and family services based on the legislation in force and international human rights conventions.
- Social welfare remains one of the most underdeveloped, neglected and under-prioritized sectors in Kosovo. Recent data from the international researches and Child Protection Index, show a serious social welfare situation in Kosovo. 17% of Kosovo's population lives in poverty. 6.8% of children work in hazardous conditions to support their families. 61.4% of children suffered from psychological violence or physical punishment. Only 10% of children with disabilities benefit from social and family services. Many children without parental care, victims of abuse, need shelter and social services. Reports from institutions and organizations recommend an increased involvement of children in violations of the law, including violence, the consequences of which in some cases are fatal to the children themselves. Also, the average age of onset of drug use decreased from 21 to 16 years old.
- According to reports and studies in Kosovo, services between the health and social welfare sectors are not integrated. Given the great importance of an integrated service system, it is recommended that social and family services be integrated with health services. This can be done naturally and much easier if both of these sectors operate under one ministry. This also coincides with the organization of directorates at the municipal level, where the directorates of health and social welfare function as a single department

- Based on most EU countries, the social welfare sector is reflected in their government cabinets in both content and designation. Examples can be taken in countries such as Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Finland, etc., which have ministries of health and social affairs in their governments.

Taking into account the common interest of citizens to have access in social welfare, KOMF calls for the Prime Minister's attention that the sectors of welfare and social services to be transferred to the Ministry of Health, both in content and designation, turning it into the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, this is due to the importance and need for prioritization and development of this sector.

Note: The scope of social services institutions at the central level:

Welfare and social services are regulated mainly through these laws: Law No. 2004/32 on Family; Law No.02 / L-17 on Social and Family Services; Law No.06 / L-077 on Amending and Supplementing the Law No. 2004/32 on Family; Law No.04 / L-081 on Amending and Supplementing Law no. 02 / L-17 on Social and Family Services; Law No.03 / L-022 on Material Support to Families of Children with Permanent Disabilities; Law No.03 / L-182 on Protection from Domestic Violence; Law No.04 / L-218 on Preventing and Combating Trafficking with People and Protection of Victims of Trafficking, Law no. 6 / L-084 on Child Protection, etc.

Within the social welfare sector at the central level there are four (4) institutions of national character, which provide 24-hour services for some categories of citizens such as:

Special Institute in Shtime, Community Based Home for Children in Shtime, Home of Elderly People in Prishtina and the Shelter for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Lipjan.

Meanwhile, the mechanisms at the central level for social services are: General Council for Social and Family Services; Panel on Placement of Children for Foster Care and Adoption; National Committee for the Elimination of Serious Child Labor; Social Services Monitoring and Inspection Unit; Social Assistance Scheme Control and Oversight Unit.

In addition to the mandate to organize the provision of social services for the entire territory of Kosovo, the social welfare sector at the central level is responsible for inspecting and licensing institutions and organizations at the municipal level which provide social and family services, namely the Centers for Social Work (40 CSWs in 38 municipalities), Community Based Homes for Persons with Disabilities (12 houses in 12 municipalities), Community Based Homes for the Elderly (4 houses in 4 municipalities) and licensed organizations currently providing social services (35 NGOs).

Best regards,

Donjetë Kelmendi
Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection – KOMF

The Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection in Kosovo - KOMF, established in June 2011, is a coalition of 31 local and international non-governmental organizations working in the field of child protection. KOMF member organization are: Association for Social Training, Research and Advocacy –ASTRA, Action for Mothers and Children - AMC, Balkan Sunflowers Kosova, Childproof/CIPOF, Education Comes First – ECF, Initiative 6, Youth organization Akti – Ora, Organization for Children without Parental Care – OFAP, OPFAKKOS, Civil Rights Program – CRP/K, PL4Y International, Kosovo Education Center – KEC, Day Care Center PEMA, Center for the Protection of Victims and the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings – MVPT, Center for Advanced Studies – FIT, Kosovo Rehabilitation Center for Torture Survivors – KRCT, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages Kosovo, Hope and Home for Children Kosovo – SDSF, Patients' Rights Association Kosovo – PRAK, Association of Paraplegics and Paralyzed Children of Kosovo – HANDIKOS, Terre des hommes, The Ideas Partnership, VoRAE, World Vision, Public Organization for Local Initiatives and Supports – POLIS, Network of Peace Movement – NOPM, Social - Educational Center SOS Kindergarten dhe Nevo Koncepti.