

The Government of the Republic of Serbia

The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Government of Kosovo

February 7th 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

In the Regional Conference "How well home countries take care of its invisible citizens", held from 30-31 January in Kraljevo, Serbia, that brought together 24 representatives of 12 relevant non governmental organisations from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, the participants discussed issues and problems that refugees/IDPs/returnees (repatriants) from EU face in the Region, as well as the solutions for these problems.

After the two-day discussion, the Conference participants came to conclusions, and recommendation, recommending measures and activities that the governments of the home countries have to undertake in order to protect and realise basic human rights of IDPs/refugees and returnees in the countries in the region.

The activities that the governments of the states should undertake urgently are as following:

It is necessary that the Government of the Republic of Serbia:

- Provide reopening of the office of the Kosovo Property Agency in Serbia, in order to provide easier access for IDPs in the realisation of their property rights and the rights in the privatization of enterprises in Kosovo.
- To start an initiative which supports both organized return and individual, supported by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Kosovo.
- To provide freedom and right to integration within the Republic of Serbia for IDPs, by creating transparent programs of integration.
- To make its attitude towards non-participation of Serbian community in work of Kosovo's institutions more flexible, and to insist on participation of Serbs and non-Albanians in local services' work in environments of particular importance for development and sustainability of return.
- To recommend and create more joint documents on sustainability of return to Kosovo, in order to offer solutions for concrete problems in a better and more efficient way.
- To insist on a mutual dialog with Kosovo institutions and services on all issues and in at all levels of authorities.

It is necessary that the Government of Kosovo:

- Provide security and freedom of movement for all members of minority communities and to support their return to Kosovo, by creating an atmosphere of trust in the Kosovo institutions and bodies of local authorities.
- To provide the right to use their mother tongue (full implementation of the Law on Official Languages) in all Kosovo institutions and to encourage the work of the Commission for Languages that was established on 21st March, 2007.
- Provide implementation of the decision 5-154, from 28 June 2005 on employment of members of the minority communities, which defines the percentage of the members of the minority communities that should be employed in the institutions and services of Kosovo.
- Provide equitable development of infrastructure in the whole territory of Kosovo, especially in the environments where the interest for the return has been increased.
- To provide and facilitate unobstructed reconstruction of religious and cultural objects, as well as to insist on building of understanding, tolerance and respect of religious affiliations of all Kosovo citizens.

It is necessary that the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Initiate the work of existing institutions that are suppose to support the return, removing inefficiency in work of those services by consequent and full application of laws and bylaws that refer to sustainability of return.
- To provide an adequate financial support to all levels of authorities and local services in the environments where there is a greater interest for return and where there is a significant percentage of realised return, and all that in order of sustainability of return.
- To undertake the concrete measures concerning influence on the local bodies of authorities to provide security of returnees and regarding identification of the perpetrators of criminal offences committed toward returnees.
- To create programs of economic assistance for returnees in the environments where there is a particular lack of employment opportunities.
- To influence all levels of the authorities to respect equality during the procedure of employment at the state institutions and to provide unobstructed access for all members of the returnee's community to the relevant state bodies.
- To demand equal implementation of the law in all cantons, especially in the environments where there is a higher percentage of returned, as well as to pressure local institutions of authorities to build trust of the returnee's community in their work by making their work more efficient and transparent.
- To adopt initiatives of the relevant NGOs for changing the Law on Social Welfare, the part that referees to deprived categories, which would encompass returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Prevent the segregation of pupils in schools on the basis of their national origin.
- To provide access for the representatives of the relevant NGOs to participate in the work of the Commission that makes decisions of importance for the returnees, in order of more efficient identifying and solving of the existing problems in the process of return.
- To ratify the European Declaration on Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

1. Forum of Non-Governmental Organisations - Kraljevo, Serbia
Radovan Milićević, Executive Manager
2. Humanitarian Law Centre - Kosovo
3. Women of Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Regional Centre of Civic Action LINGUA, Serbia
5. ESPO, Bosnia and Herzegovina
6. Kraljevo Centre for Human Rights, Serbia
7. Citizens' Association "Orhideja", Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Association of Returnees "Reintegration", Serbia
9. Citizens' Association "Imagine Serbia", Serbia

Forwarded to the:
International institutions and organisations