

ANNUAL REPORT OF CEL KOSOVA 2021

Acknowledgment

The Centre for Equality and Freedom in Kosovo (CEL Kosovo) would like to thank the Kosovo institutions at the local and central level, the Kosovo Police, the Ombudsperson Institution, local organizations, international organizations, embassies, media, activists and all other stakeholders for their cooperation and support in achieving the objectives of the organization and the implementation of activities during 2021 which contributed to improving the lives of LGBTI persons living in Kosovo. Furthermore, CEL Kosova would like to thank the members of the Assembly and its Board for providing the necessary support to CEL Kosova in improving its work and its contribution to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of Kosovo.

Disclaimer

This report is part of the project "Access to Justice for LGBTI People in the Western Balkans", funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, managed by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and implemented by CEL Kosovo. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Norwegian Helsinki Committee.

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Publication of the report

This report was prepared by Jeta Bakija, Executive Director of JB Consulting with the support of CEL Kosovo.

Table of content

About CEL Kosovo	4
Organizational structure	5
Assembly	6
Board	6
Achievements	7
Activities during 2021	8
Situational testing	9
The situation of LGBTI + persons during the COVID-19 pandemic	10
Legal support	11
Shelter	11
Psychological support	11
Internship program	12
Summer School "Gender and Sexuality"	13
Training with judges	14
Training with police officers and prosecutors	15
Workshop with students	16
Workshop with LGBTI+ persons	17
Discussion with trans women	18
As I Was Looking Above, I Could See Myself Underneath	19
'Through the Haze'	20
Articles published by CEL Kosova	21
Podcast stories	24
Campaigns	25
Interviews of the CEL Kosovo team	29
Joint activity	32
Protests / Reactions	36
Events / Meetings	38
Policy changes / System challenge	40
Channels of CEL Kosovo	42
Donors	43
Financial procedures	44
Audit report	45



About CEL Kosovo

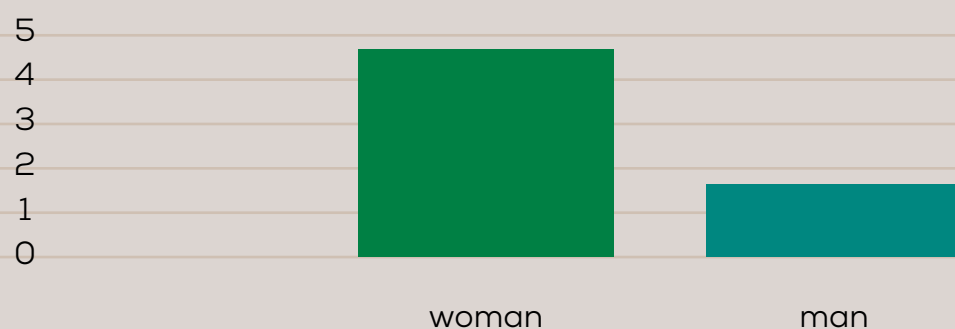
The Centre for Equality and Freedom of the LGBT community in Kosovo (CEL) was established in July 2013 with the aim of empowering LGBTI persons in Kosovo, preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, raising the awareness of the general population about LGBTI rights and advocating for equal rights and non-discrimination of LGBTI persons in Kosovo in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Kosovo. CEL Kosovo was established as a reaction to the constant discrimination, stigmatization and prejudice of Kosovar society towards LGBTI persons. The programs offered by CEL Kosovo are the Support Program, the Capacity Building Program and the Awareness Raising and Activism Program.

CEL Kosovo is considered to be a driving force towards the creation of a progressive, diverse and tolerant society in Kosovo to LGBTI persons and a motiva-

tor for changing traditional social constructs and a support system for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all. CEL Kosovo also strives to strengthen the legal framework for LGBTI persons in Kosovo as well as to increase their participation in relevant international and regional mechanisms and projects beneficial to the community and society at large. CEL Kosovo has managed to become one of the leading organizations and driving forces for the empowerment of LGBTI people in Kosovo by promoting and protecting LGBTI rights and working towards creating an inclusive society that advocates for equality and recognizes and respects diversity. CEL Kosovo's approach is for every person to be valued and treated with respect regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Organizational structure

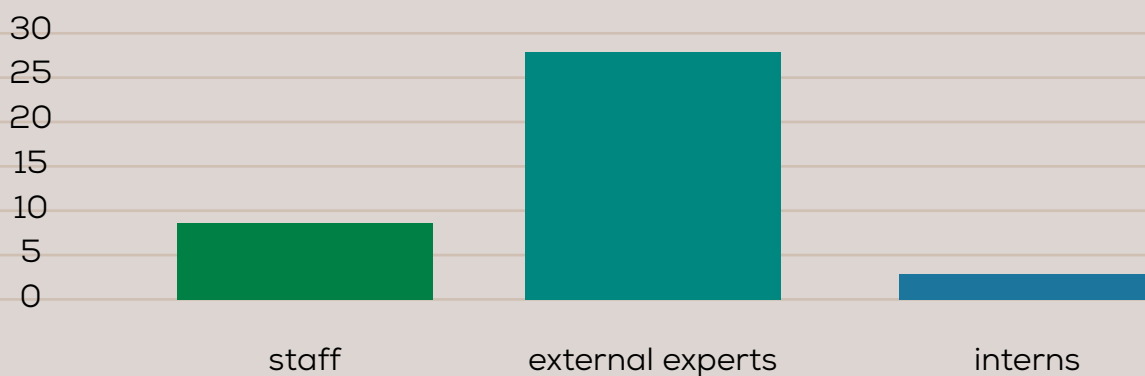
Members of the Assembly



Board members



People engaged by CEL Kosovo



Assembly

CEL Kosovo has an Assembly which is the highest governing body of the organization and consists of all members of the organization. The Assembly has the ultimate responsibility for the policies and financial affairs of the organization. In this context, the Assembly has the power to: a) elect and dismiss the Executive Director based on the proposal of the Board, b) to approve the Annual Report and Financial Report based on the proposal of the Board; c) approve the amendments and modifications of the statute, and d) decide on the merger, division or dissolution of CEL Kosovo. In addition, the Assembly may delegate any of its responsibilities to the Board and the Executive Director, by decision of a majority of its members, with the exception of responsibilities that are not delegated pursuant to Article 31.5 of Law No. 06/L-043 on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations in the Republic of Kosovo and paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the Statute.

Board

The Board of CEL Kosovo functions according to the responsibilities presented in the Statute of CEL Kosovo, which are:

- Proposing changes and modifications to the Statute and other rules and procedures of the organization, which are then approved by the Assembly;
- Selecting the Chairman of the Board;
- Proposing the Executive Director in the Assembly;
- Proposing the procedure for the election of the Executive Director;
- Monitoring the work of the Executive Director;
- Proposing rules of procedures and other organizational policies;
- Monitoring new policies proposed by the Executive Director;
- Reviewing the Annual Report and Financial Report prepared by the Executive Director and the proposal to the Assembly for approval;
- Based on a proposal submitted by each member of the Board, can award special certificates of merit to individuals who have contributed greatly to the work and development of CEL Kosovo.

Achievements

Nine (9) LGBTI+ persons benefited from a **safe living space** financed by CEL Kosovo projects.

More than **200 people** directly benefited from the organization of **trainings, seminars and conferences** during 2021.

More than **170,000 people** were reached directly and indirectly by the organization of **Pride Week 2021**.

383 psychological sessions were organized during 2021.

Out of **7 cases** of human rights violations reported to CEL Kosovo, **3** proceeded to the Kosovo Police.

The background of the page features several abstract orange elements. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange triangle. Scattered across the upper half are several thin, flowing orange lines that create a sense of movement. A single, solid orange oval is positioned on the left side, roughly in the middle vertically.

Activities during 2021

Situational testing



This report summarizes the results of the project "Beyond Laws" implemented by CEL Kosovo in 2020-2021, which aimed to better understand the socio-economic weaknesses of LGBT people in Kosovo, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic; identify the institutions that should mitigate them; test their ability to do so; and produce material that presents these results, useful for informing public policy as well as advocacy. In particular, the testing of Kosovo institutions was conducted through situational testing, an experimental method that aims to assess the real attitudes of public officials towards certain categories of individuals. More specifically, undercover

journalists approached institutions in Kosovo requesting specific services for LGBTI persons. Their interactions with public officials were recorded as a way to gather evidence of concrete cases of discrimination. The report is published on the website and social media of CEL Kosovo, which you can find [here](#).

The situation of LGBTI + persons during the COVID-19 pandemic



LGBTI+ PERSONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

December 2021



PERSONAT LGBTI+ GJATË PANDEMISË COVID-19

December 2021

CEL Kosovo published the report "The situation of LGBTI persons during the COVID-19 pandemic". The purpose of the report is to present the situation of LGBTI+ persons in Kosovo from March 2020, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, also known as coronavirus, caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome, coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

The report analyses the measures that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on LGBTI + persons; measurements and activities of relevant Kosovo institutions to protect VMGs, focusing on LGBTI+ persons, potential victims of any form of violence during isolation; strategies and activities of CEL Kosovo and other organizations in providing support to LGBTI+ persons during the isolation period until the end of 2020; the situation of LGBTI+ persons living at the time of the pandemic from their point of view; and the perspective of psychologists on the situation of LGBTI+ persons and the issues they faced during isolation.

The recommendations are based on the findings and will be addressed to relevant government institutions, organizations, potential donors, the media and other stakeholders. The report is published in English, Albanian and Serbian and can be found [here](#).

Legal support

Through the free legal aid services provided by CEL Kosovo, approximately 3 cases have been raised in the relevant institutions. Further, the legal expert also provided support to relevant human rights structures in implementing LGBTI+ policy changes, through participation in relevant government working groups, consultative meetings with human rights structures, and lobbying. Furthermore, the expert provided knowledge for making the most practical and accessible decisions for LGBTI+ persons and served as a link between them and the Government of Kosovo. Specifically, the legal expert provided the recommendation on the Civil Code and Civil Status. Information about free legal aid provided by a legal expert was disseminated to reach potential clients.

Shelter

The situation created due to government restrictions on preventing the spread of COVID-19 virus affected the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, increasing the number of victims of domestic violence; thus increasing the demand of LGBTI+ persons for help to provide a safe place to live. CEL Kosovo has provided support to LGBTI+ persons, victims of domestic violence, providing a safe place to live and covering rental costs.

Psychological support

Psychological support for LGBTI+ persons is provided by five (5) psychologists and psychiatrists. Psychological support includes: individual counselling sessions; online counselling sessions; group counselling sessions; sessions with parents, families and allies to increase acceptance and support for LGBTI+ persons; creating support groups for parents of LGBTI+ persons; and providing health information for LGBTI+ persons.



Information regarding psychological counselling provided by psychologists and psychiatrists was shared by CEL Kosovo in order to reach more people in need.

Internship program

A je queer edhe po don me bo praktikë?



**Praktikë 5 mujore (1 maj – 30 shtator)
me orar të shkurtuar dhe pagesë**

**Dërgoni CV dhe letër motivuese në
info@cel-ks.org deri më 30 mars**



Three (3) LGBTI+ persons have been selected to be part of the paid internship program for five (5) months and have been located in the offices of CEL Kosovo. The realization of this activity gave the opportunity to LGBTI+ persons to enter the labor market, increase their knowledge and capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights and, if possible, have a full-time job in the relevant organization.

Summer School "Gender and Sexuality"



Since 2015, CEL Kosovo, in cooperation with the University of Prishtina Program for Gender Studies and Research, has organized the Summer School "Gender and Sexuality", which is the only one in the region that covers the curriculum of studies on gender and sexuality and targets students and practitioners working in similar fields. The 2021 Summer School explored gender and sexuality as cultural and analytical categories, as well as principles of social, economic, and political structuring. During the training sessions, the issues presented and discussed by field professionals, Ms Luci and Ms Gusia, were: why sex is not binary, intersectionality theory, violence against women, feminism, gender studies and sexuality, representation, language, power and social science research, solidarity and inequality, reproduction and pandemic effect. Further, as guest lectures of the summer school were also Ms Mirishahe Sylja, Ms Liridona Sarinja, Ms Lirika Demiri and Ms Carolin Leutloff-Grandits.



The participants of the Summer School 2021 were awarded with a certificate of completion in a ceremony organized by CEL Kosovo.

Training with judges

Oliari dhe të tjerët v. Itali dhe Orlandi dhe të tjerët v. Itali - shtetet kanë obligim pozitiv për të siguruar njohje ligjore të çifteve të seksit të njejtë;

Vallianatos dhe Mylonas v Greqi dhe C.S dhe të tjerë v. Greqi - përjashtimi i çifteve të seksit të njejtë nga bashkimi civil përbën diskriminim;

Siegmund Karner v. Austri dhe Taddeucci dhe McCall v. Itali - çiftet e seksit të njejtë duhen të kenë të drejta socio-ekonomike të barabarta sikurse të drejtat në pronë, të drejta për rezidencë.

E.B. v. Francë dhe X dhe të tjerë v. Austri - çiftet e seksit të njejtë kanë të drejtë për adoptim qofshin të martuar apo në lidhje pa diskriminim direkt apo indirekt;

Ladele dhe McFarlane v. Mbretëria e Bashkuar - të gjithë personat e komunitetit kanë të drejtë për qasje të barabartë në shërbim (qoftë publike apo private);

MC dhe Ac v Rumani - në raste të sulmeve të dhunshme dhe të urrejtjes ndaj komunitetit LGBT është ngritur niveli i obligimit të zyrtarëve për t'i hetuar këto sulme efektivisht duke marrë parasysht orientimin seksual dhe identitetin gjinor.

X v. Maqedoni e Veriut - individët transgjinorë kanë të drejtë në njohjen e tyre gjinore në regjistra;

O.M. v. Hungari - gjatë shqiptimit dhe ekzekutimit të dënimit institucionet duhet të marrin vendime dhe veprime adekuate me cënueshmërinë e personave që i përkasin një minoriteti seksual

Participants (47)

Q Find a participant

- Info Cel (Me)
- Njormza Hashibeqiri (Host)
- GJIMSHIT GALUSHI
- Bujar (Interpreter)
- Adnan Isufi
- afrim.shala
- agim.kuci
- ajshe.balaj
- Alltmurseli
- anita.krasniqi
- azra.cakoli
- Bekim Avdimetaj
- besnik.pireva
- dragica.jakovljevic
- fatime.dermaku1

Invite Unmute Me Reclaim Host

Chat

The training with judges was organized and covered the following issues: the legal framework and how to gain trust, as well as identify, raise and handle cases of violation against LGBTIQ+ persons. The main focus of the training was hate speech and hate crimes and the prosecution of these violations, prevention of the use of hate speech and hate crimes, discrimination and prejudice against LGBTIQ+ persons. The main reference used by the trainer was the legal framework applicable in Kosovo which promotes and protects the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and the implementation by judges that contributes to the provision of equal opportunities and dignity for LGBTIQ+ persons living in Kosovo.

Training with police officers and prosecutors

Ligji i aplikueshëm në Kosovë: shembuj gjithëpërfshirës

- **Neni 24 i Kushtetutës së Kosovës, Barazia para Ligjit:**
 - Siguron mbrojtje për të gjithë para ligjit;
 - Mbulon mbrojtjen nga diskriminimi në bazë orientimit seksual, lindjes apo ndonjë statusi tjetër personal;
- **Neni 22 i Kushtetutës së Kosovës, Instrumentet ndërkombëtare:**
 - Instrumentet ndërkombëtare të të drejtave të njeriut drejtpërdrejtë të aplikueshme kanë prioritet mbi legjislacionin lokal;
- **Neni 53 i Kushtetutës së Kosovës, Interpretimi i të drejtave të njeriut:**
 - Duhet të jetë i harmonizuar me vendimet e GjEDNJ;
- **Neni 37 i Kushtetutës, E drejta e Martesës dhe Familjes:**
 - Nuk përcakton gjininë si kriter për martesë;
- **Ligji Nr. 05/L-021 për Mbrojtjen nga Diskriminimi:**
 - Parandalon diskriminimin në bazë të seksit, gjinisë, identitetit gjinor dhe orientimit seksual (Neni 1.1.);
 - Mbulon sektorin privat dhe publik (Neni 2.1);
- **Kodi Nr. 06/L-074 Penal i Kosovës:**
 - Nxitja e përcarjes dhe urrejtjes në bazë të orientimit seksual, identitetit gjinor apo karakteristikat tjera personale - vepër e dënueshme deri në 5 vjet burgim (Neni 141.1.);
 - Rrethanë për ashpërsimin e dënimit është nëse vepra penale është akt i urrejtjes, pra i urrejtjes, pra i urrejtjes (Neni 70.2.12);

Shembuj kufizues nga korniza ligjore në Kosovë

- Ligji për familje nuk e njeh bashkësinë apo marrëdhëniet e seksit të njëjtë;
- Ligji për Status Civil ka mungesë të dispozitave ligjore për ndryshim të gjinisë;
- Kodi Penal e parasheh vetëm orientimin seksual rrethanë rënduese në shqiptim të dënimit dhe përfshin identitetin gjinor apo seksual;

CEL

Teuta Selmanaj/...

Bujar

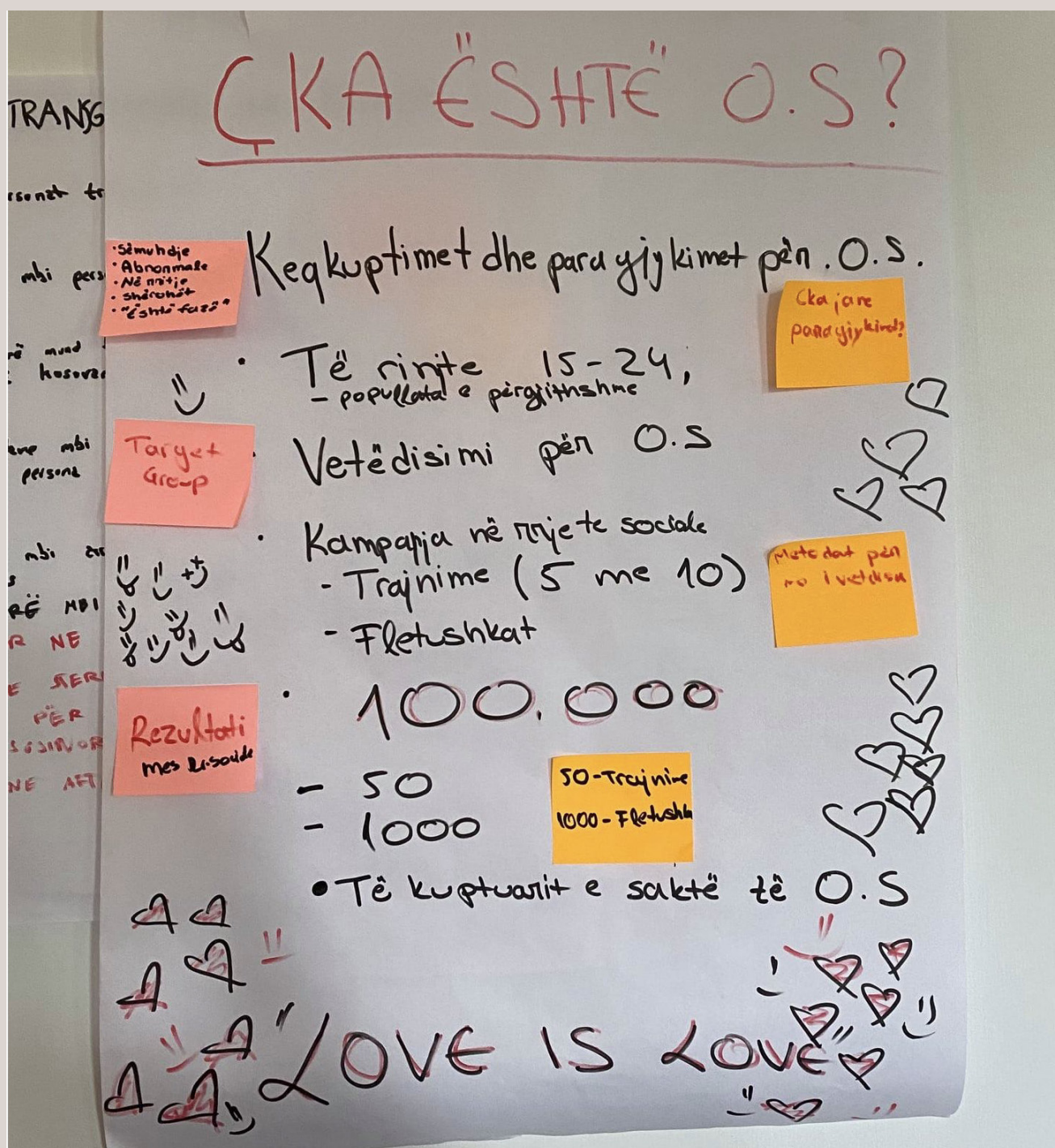
The training organized with police officers and prosecutors aimed to provide participants with information on the Kosovo legal framework that promotes and protects the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons. The main focus of the training was hate speech and the way police and prosecutors handle such cases when they are raised by victims, early detection and prevention of hate speech and hate crime, discrimination and prejudice against LGBTIQ+ persons. The main reference used by the trainer was the applicable legal framework in Kosovo which promotes and protects the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and the implementation by police officers and prosecutors that contributes to providing equal opportunities and dignity to LGBTIQ+ persons living in Kosovo.

Workshop with students



The workshop organized for social science students addressed the following issues: gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersectionality, language and hate crimes, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic especially on the well-being of LGBTQ+ persons. Further, students were also trained on how to develop and prepare project ideas, project management cycle, project activity planning, project time management, and risk management. Furthermore, through group work, participants identified issues that they considered problematic for LGBTQ+ persons and included every step from the development of project proposals to their implementation.

Workshop with LGBTI+ persons



The workshop organized for LGBTI+ people aimed to increase their capacities in soft skills, such as preparing project idea development, project management cycle, project activity planning, project time management and risk management. Among other things, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, mixed marriages, hate speech and hate crimes were discussed, as well as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on the well-being of LGBTIQ+ persons.

Discussion with trans women



Despite the recent progress of the transgender movement that has resulted in greater public awareness and significant legal gains, transgender women in particular continue to face discrimination, violence, and face difficulties in obtaining support from the health system. Therefore, CEL Kosova organized a panel discussion during the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence with the topic "Trans women are women". The purpose of the panel discussion was to raise awareness, promote advocacy efforts and exchange knowledge about trans women living in Kosovo. With a particular focus on socio-economic rights, civil rights, safety and health rights of transgender women, the panel was composed of transgender activists.

As I Was Looking Above, I Could See Myself Underneath



The documentary "As I Was Looking Above, I Could See Myself Underneath" addressed various problems faced by LGBTI+ people. "As I Was Looking Above, I Could See Myself Underneath" reveals intimate stories of LGBTQ people from Kosovo and their relentless search for a place that offers them space to be. A production of CEL Kosovo, with the support of: Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, Kosovo Foundation for Open Society, Municipality of Prishtina, art.1, International Queer & Migrant Film Festival, Unseen Films. The documentary can be found [here](#).

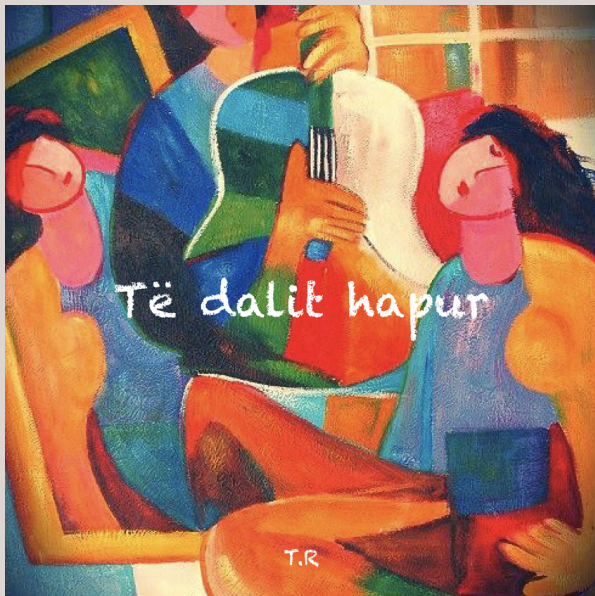
'Through the Haze'



'Through the Haze' is a theatrical play prepared by Valmir Krasniqi, which presents the journey of a young boy trying to discover his identity. The show presents the stages that a young queer usually goes through to discover their identity – from hiding in the closet to overcoming any social barriers to accepting and embracing every aspect of their identity.



**Articles
published
by CEL Kosova**



"Coming Out"

To mark the Coming Out Day, the article entitled "Coming Out" addresses this phenomenon and sheds light on the whole journey of discovering sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

The article provides information on how to safely come out, what to expect, and how to react when someone comes out to us.

"Gender (Non)Binary"

Gender (Non)Binary is the title of the article which explores how gender is a broad spectrum and can not be limited to the binary. The article shows how we grow up with the idea that gender is binary and every person is expected to fall into one of the categories: man or woman, but the reality of gender is much more complicated and not every person finds themselves in these categories.



"Another Self"

The article presents the situation where for queer persons being one-self is not socially acceptable, in fact it is something wrong. This article illustrates how queer people are subjected to misleading, prejudicial, and sometimes traumatic situations during the journey of finding themselves.

Annual Report of CEL Kosovo 2019 and 2020



The report covered information on the purpose of CEL Kosovo, its organizational structures, the Assembly and the Board, specific programs and activities, achievements during 2019 and 2020, donors, financial procedures and recommendations addressed to various stakeholders. The report was published on the website of CEL Kosovo and its social media in English, Albanian and Serbian and shared with donors and partners of CEL Kosovo.



Podcast stories

CEL Kosova published three (3) podcast stories dealing with issues related to LGBTI+ persons. The podcast stories were shared on the website of CEL Kosova and its social media.

The first podcast story captures a personal journey that treats bullying as a phenomenon that haunts us from early childhood to adulthood, focusing on the short-term and long-term consequences. A personal story of how an innocent child was labeled with derogatory and insulting names, as well as a call to parents to open their arms and hearts to the challenges of their children. You can find the podcast story [here](#).

The second podcast story is about abusing a queer person. For the first time, a queer person publicly shared a personal history of physical abuse in order to raise awareness and solidarity with all other victims, particularly of the LGBTIQ+ communities. You can find the podcast story [here](#).

The third podcast story, titled "Beyond Trauma," focuses on the bitter experiences of the past and how those experiences shape the way we think, act, and approach others. You can find the podcast story [here](#).

Campaigns

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

To mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, CEL Kosovo published a short video where politicians, ambassadors, artists, public figures and activists showed support for LGBTIQ + people and showed willingness to work towards promoting and protecting LGBTIQ +rights and guaranteeing equal rights for all. The video begins with the statement of Mr. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, who was followed by the Ambassador of the United States of America in Kosovo and other respected figures. The video has been shared on social networks and you can find it [here](#).

Together and Proud

CEL Kosovo organized a campaign where public figures were invited to share a message in support of the movement and LGBTI+ persons. Part of this campaign were politicians, ambassadors, artists and activists. The messages followed by their images were shared on the social networks of CEL Kosovo.

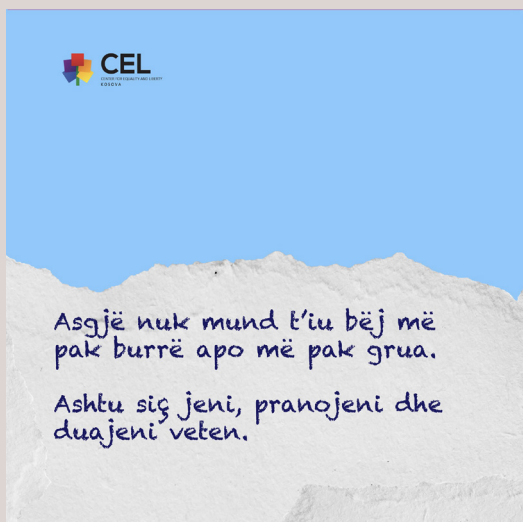
**photos in the following page*



International Coming Out Day

To mark the International Coming Out Day, CEL Kosovo supported the development of an artwork that had the concept "K is S", emphasizing the love between women in the past, which aimed to raise awareness of the existence of queer love in the past. The artwork conveys the message that just as in popular rhapsodic texts where songs are sung to men by other men, one cannot ignore the fact that women have felt for other women as well. Also, another purpose of this work was to give queer women space to be vocal as like all women in our past, not even queer women had a voice and their desires were suppressed by the patriarchal culture.

26



International Day of Transgender Visibility

To mark the International Day of Transgender Visibility, CEL Kosovo prepared an information campaign on transgender and gender non-conforming people. By illustrating the steps and procedures that transgender and gender non-conforming persons are usually subjected to in order for their physique to coincide with their gender identity, CEL Kosovo aimed to raise awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve justice for transgender and gender non-conforming persons.



Transgender Awareness Week

To mark Transgender Awareness Week, CEL Kosovo shared information about this week's history in order to raise awareness and knowledge about transgender and gender non-conforming people.



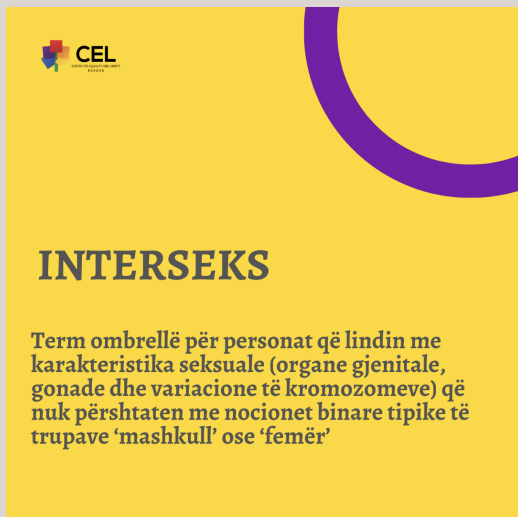
Asexual Awareness Week

To mark Asexual Awareness Week, CEL Kosovo shared information on asexual persons in order to increase the awareness and knowledge of the general public about asexual persons and to give voice to asexual persons.



International Pronouns Day

To mark the International Pronouns Day, CEL Kosovo aimed to normalize the respect and education for pronouns that different individuals prefer since referring people to the pronouns they define for themselves is essential to human dignity.



Intersex people

CEL Kosovo shared information about intersex persons in order to raise awareness and knowledge of the general public about intersex persons.



International Lesbian Day

To mark International Lesbian Day, CEL Kosovo published information aimed at celebrating and showing solidarity with all queer women, especially those from marginalized communities.



International Roma Day

On the International Roma Day, CEL Kosovo, in order to celebrate together with the Roma community their culture, shared information on awareness of the problems faced by Roma in Kosovo. The focus was on persons from the Roma community who also belong to the LGBTIQ+ communities, as the combination of these two identities leads to more difficulties, challenges and confrontation with double discrimination.



Interviews of the CEL Kosovo team

Blert Morina for Albanian Post:
My love should not be your problem.

Lend Mustafa for Kosovo 2.0:
Queer culture is cultivated in many colours.

Blert Morina for Albanian Post:
Politicians in Kosovo do not dare to mention the rights of the LGBTI+ community in their electoral campaigns.

Lend Mustafa for Shota:
**FOR THE "OTHER"
(UN)FORGOTTEN BETWEEN US.**

Blert Morina for Gazeta:
Where do men stand in the feminist movement in Kosovo?.

Dardan Hoti, ideator and researcher, and Aurela Kadriu, producer and researcher, were invited to the Express show on KTV with Erjona Gjikoili, to discover information about the process of making the documentary "As I Was Looking Above, I Could See Myself Underneath", directed by Ilir Hasanaj. Find the interview [here](#).

Blert Morina for Civil Rights
Defenders: Human Rights Stories:
**Challenges and Achievements in the
Western Balkans.**

Lend Mustafa for BIRN: **The
Kosovo Pride Parade hears calls
for freedom, equality.**

Blert Morina for Exit News: **Pristina
is washed with rainbow flags while
Kosovo celebrates the 5th Pride
Parade.**



Joint activity

Organization of Pride Week “Together and Proud”

To celebrate Pride Week, CEL Kosovo and the Centre for the Development of Social Groups as organizers in cooperation with the partners Civil Rights Defenders, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Kosovo and the Kosovo Centre for Gender Studies, organized activities to mark Pride Week. The purpose of Pride Week is to empower LGBTI+ people, as well as increase visibility in Kosovar society for different sexual orientations and gender identities.

The activities organized during the Pride Week are as follows:



Official opening in the Government Building



Unofficial opening for LGBTI+ people and allies to mark the start of Pride Week celebration



Conference “Civil Code and Inclusiveness: Same-Sex Marriages. Panel I: “Institutional Approach to the Draft Civil Code” and Panel II: International Perspectives on Same-Sex Marriage”.



Discussion: Lesbian, bisexual, trans and queer women in the LGBTI+ movement. The purpose of the discussion was to reveal the experiences of lesbian, bisexual, trans and queer women.



Movie night: "Holy Mess," which tells the story of a gay couple and their relationship with their homophobic families meeting for the first time over Christmas.



The performance "Are you a girl or a boy?!" revealed the experiences of LGBTI+ people influenced by those who believe that being different is wrong.



The drag show "Balkan Ballroom", was the final product of the five-day workshop held by CHER NOBYL // CAT JU-GRUVU from Berlin with Kosovar drag performers.



Panel discussion: Mental health during the pandemic.



"FLOWER, DON'T FORGET ME"

"Autostrada Biennale" in cooperation with the National Library of Kosovo "Pjetër Bogdani" and Manifesta 14 Prishtina, presented the artistic installation "Flowers, don't forget me 2020 - 2021" aimed at celebrating nonconformism - an incentive for a vision for change, an invitation to dream, a call for diversity.



Theatrical performance “I am a woman myself”.



The fifth Pride Parade march was organised in Kosovo, where hundreds of activists took the opportunity to demand greater equality and freedom for members of the LGBTI+ communities. The parade was held in Prishtina under the slogan “Together and Proud”.

International Women's Day



On International Women's Day, CEL Kosovo marched with other NGOs and activists for equal social, economic and political rights for women, focusing on lesbian, transgender, bisexual women, and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women.

Do not vote homophobes



CEL Kosovo became part of a campaign against candidates in the Kosovo Assembly who were asked in interviews about the rights of LGBTI+ persons and indicated that they would not promote and protect them under Kosovo law. In this campaign, all the names of the candidates for the Assembly of Kosovo and the names of the political parties they represent are listed and published in order for them to be aware that the legislation of Kosovo provides protection and guarantees rights for LGBTI+ persons.



Protests / Reactions

The attack against Lend Mustafa

In 2021, one of the LGBTI+ activists was attacked on the streets of Prishtina. Lend Mustafa was threatened with the words "I will kill you" by an unknown person in Prishtina square. Through the reaction on social networks, we demanded that such actions be condemned and that competent bodies, such as the Kosovo Police, fulfil their obligations in ensuring the well-being of LGBTI+ individuals

Elected Deputy Prime Minister

In 2021, Emilia Rexhepi was elected Deputy Prime Minister for Minority and Human Rights Issues. Ms Rexhepi, in the interview for Kallxo.com in 2019, when asked if she is for or against same-sex marriage, said that she is AGAINST. Considering the importance of the work of the Deputy Prime Minister for Minority and Human Rights Affairs in supporting and protecting LGBTI+ persons living in Kosovo, CEL Kosovo has responded by requesting that persons elected to official positions should be persons who respect Kosovo's legislation - including laws and provisions that protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of LGBTI+ persons in Kosovo. You can find the reaction [here](#).

Invitation to Kosovo leaders to work for the rights of LGBTI+ people

CEL Kosova invited the future leaders of the Kosovo Parliament to give priority to the problems and challenges of LGBTI+ persons, and their physical and psychological well-being. You can find the full article published on the social networks of CEL Kosova [here](#).

Violence against a lesbian woman in the Gjilan region

CEL Kosova reacted after reporting a violation against a lesbian woman in the Gjilan region. The case was reported to CEL Kosovo and the victim was provided with support and assistance, including a safe and free living space. The full reaction was published on the social networks of CEL Kosova and you can find it [here](#).



Events / Meetings

Forum for dialogue organized by the Institution of the Ombudsperson of Kosovo

The Institution of the Ombudsperson of Kosovo organized the first constitutive forum for dialogue between the Institution of the Ombudsperson in Kosovo and Civil Society Organizations, including CEL Kosovo. The purpose of the forum was to create a common cooperation platform to identify challenges and human rights violations as well as to develop joint activities for the promotion and protection of human rights in Kosovo.



Discussion panel "A different reality for LGBTIQ+ families in the Western Balkans and the region of Turkey"

Mr Blert Morina, Executive Director of CEL Kosova, was invited to participate in the panel discussion on "A different reality for LGBTIQ+ families in the Western Balkans and the region of Turkey." Mr Morina presented the situation of LGBTIQ+ persons in Kosovo and the work of CEL Kosova in achieving legal recognition of same-sex couples. You can find the discussion [here](#).



Meeting with Ms Vera Ora

Representatives of CEL Kosova were invited to an informal meeting with Ms Vera Ora, the mother of world-famous singer Rita Ora. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the issue of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Kosovo, with a special focus on the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons living in Kosovo and opportunities to improve the well-being of one of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Kosovo.



**Policy changes /
System challenge**

Working Group for Drafting the Concept Paper on Civil Status

The Office of Good Governance within the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo announced in April 2021 that the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs formally established the Working Group for the Drafting of the Concept Paper on Civil Status. Among the tasks of this working group will be the regulation of civil status procedures for transgender and gender non-conforming persons, which means the regulation of legal procedures for changing the name and gender marker. The working group in question was established on the basis of Regulation No. 09/2011 of the Government, Government Decision No. 20/20 on the Approval of the Guidelines for the Drafting of Concept Papers and the Manual for the Drafting of Concept Papers approved by the Secretary-General of OPM.

Reaction Letter on the Draft Civil Code

CEL Kosova and CSGD raised the issue of disregard for same-sex marriage in the Civil Code, although for several years these organizations have contributed with recommendations for the drafting of the document. The Working Group for Drafting the Concept Paper on Civil Status ignored all recommendations and ignored the contribution of CEL Kosova and CSGD in the drafting process. To address this issue, CEL Kosova and CSGD drafted a letter of concern which was also signed by their partners. You can find the full letter [here](#).

Members of the European Parliament address the Government of Kosovo, the Ministry of Justice, regarding same-sex partnerships

Members of the LGBTI Intergroup in the European Parliament, a cross-party group of MEPs working for equality for LGBTI people, sent a letter to the Minister of Justice regarding the Civil Code of Kosovo and the inclusion of same-sex partnerships. You can find the full letter [here](#).

Channels of CEL Kosovo

Publications of CEL Kosovo and information on organized activities are published on CEL Kosova website, Facebook page, Instagram and YouTube channel. All information is published in English and Albanian.



www.cel-ks.org/



Cel Kosovo



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CEL Kosova

Donors

Norwegian Helsinki Committee;

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Municipality of Prishtina;

ILGA-Europe;

Kosovo Civil Society Foundation – KCSF;

Swiss Cooperation Office;

Council of Europe.

Financial procedures

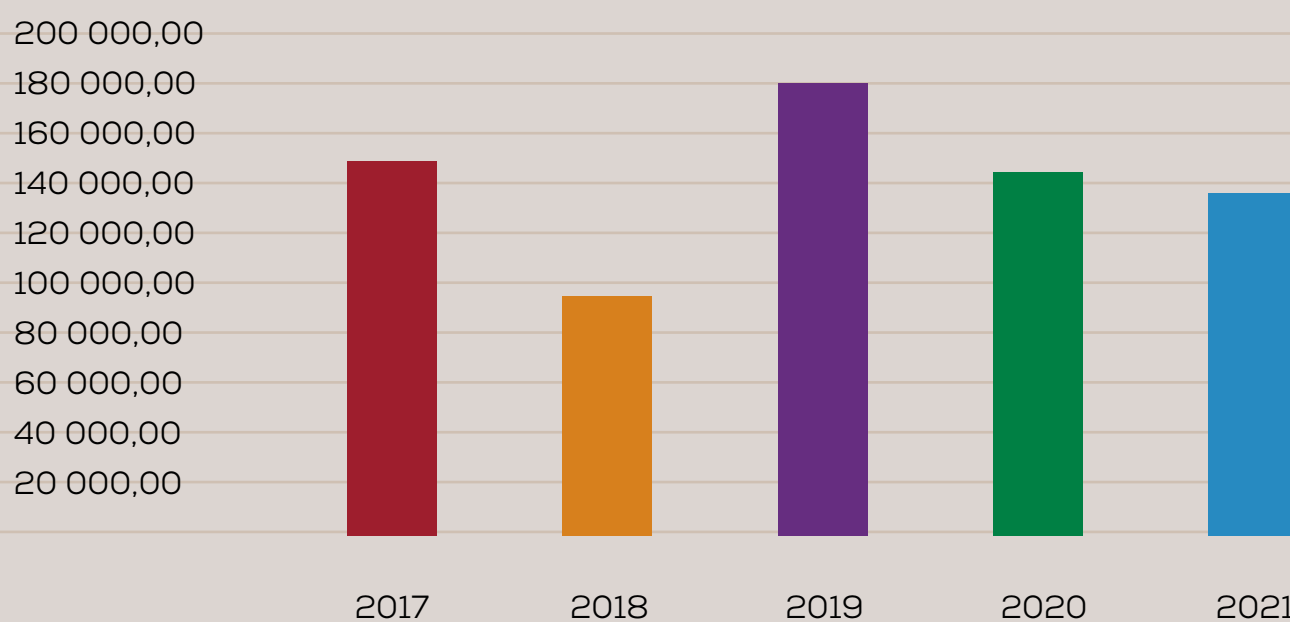
CEL Kosovo uses QuickBooks as accounting software to maintain its finances. QuickBooks is accounting software that CEL Kosovo uses to manage revenue and expenses and to keep track of the organization's financial health. The program is used to make invoices, pay bills, generate reports, and prepare for taxes. A professional company was engaged to train finance staff on how to use the program and consistently provides support when needed for the finance officer. CEL Kosovo has developed a document where the financial procedures are explained in detail.

The financial regulation has the following sections: 1) Financial management, 2) Budget of CEL Kosova, 3) Accounts of CEL Kosova, 4) Funds of CEL Kosova, 5) Maintenance of documentation of CEL Kosova, 6) Financial administration, 7) Purchase and maintenance of goods and services, 8) Expenses, 9) Asset register, 10) Payroll administration, 11) Travel and other expenses, 12) Overtime work, 13) Travel, 14) Regulation on the use of mobile phones, 15) Regulation on professional capacity building, 16) Regulations on conflict of interest, 17) Accounting, 18) Protection of information, 19) Annual financial statements and accounting data, 20) Procurement policies.

Audit report

The budget and annual expenditures of CEL Kosovo for 2021 divided by categories from 2017 to 2021 are presented in the chart below.

Annual budget



Expenditures by categories





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