

To:

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Albin Kurti,
The Acting Minister of Finance, Mr. Hekuran Murati,
The Acting Minister of Labour, Family and the Values of the Liberation War, Mr. Andin Hoti,
The Acting Minister of Justice, Ms. Donika Gërvalla Schwarz,

Subject: Request for Sustainable Funding for Social Services

Date: 30 July 2027

From: Representatives of the Collegium of Directors of Health and Social Welfare, Gender Equality Officers, Centres for Social Work (CSWs), and the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN)

Following the joint discussions held on 23 July regarding the challenges in providing social services and practical approaches to planning and financing them through gender-responsive budgeting, we are writing to call on you to commit to taking concrete action to strengthen social services. To enable us to implement the legislation and standards currently in force for social services, thereby contributing to the wellbeing of the citizens of Kosovo, we urgently request your support.

Given that preparations are underway to identify and determine budgetary needs for the 2027 Draft Budget Law, we request that, through the General Grant:

- **The overall budget for social services be increased by an additional €3 million annually, on top of the current baseline.**
[Research](#) has shown that social services in Kosovo continue to face insufficient funding that is not based on the actual needs of citizens. This limits the capacity of CSWs and other institutions to fulfil their legal responsibilities and to manage cases effectively, including cases of domestic violence, violence against women and gender-based violence, as well as to meet citizens' needs for appropriate, quality social and family services.

This request is based on the existing legal framework and aims to ensure the full implementation of:

- [Law No. 08/L-255 on Social and Family Services](#);
- the Law on Prevention and Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Gender-based Violence;
- the State Protocol for the Treatment of Sexual Violence Cases; and
- the Administrative Instruction on establishing the minimum conditions for the establishment of social service institutions.

We call on the Government to increase annual funding for social services by an additional €3 million for all municipalities over the next three years through the General Grant allocated to municipalities. This amount should be added to the existing funding base of approximately €166

million, currently allocated across Kosovo's 38 municipalities for residential and social services, in line with municipal needs to ensure adequate social and family services for citizens in need.

The additional funding should be clearly allocated across the relevant budget categories and should provide for:

- the recruitment of an additional five (5) social service professionals in each CSW, alongside an increase in the authorised staffing levels and salary budget category to enable the recruitment of new staff;
- determining the required number of social service professionals through a clear formula with measurable indicators that takes into account population size, demographic structure, the number and complexity of cases, the municipality's geographical coverage, and the needs of vulnerable groups;
- dedicated funding for goods and services, including vehicles, equipment, furniture, toys and other materials necessary for the quality provision of services;
- increased funding under subsidies and transfers to support beneficiaries of social services;
- funding for capital investments, including the improvement and adaptation of CSW premises;
- increased funding for residential services for older persons and persons with disabilities;
- increased funding for emergency child protection services; and
- increased allocations to emergency funds, with a dedicated budget code within CSWs, to provide immediate assistance to victims of domestic violence while they remain at police stations or await placement in appropriate protection services.

The distribution of the additional funding among municipalities should be based on a fair and transparent formula, taking into account the number of residents, children without parental care, older persons, persons with disabilities, victims of violence and other beneficiaries of social services. The planning and expenditure of these funds should apply gender-responsive budgeting to ensure that financing responds to the different needs of women, men, girls and boys.

Furthermore, we request that the Government, and specifically the Ministry of Finance, include in the 2027 Legislative Plan amendments to [Law No. 03/L-049 on Local Government Finance](#), with the aim of establishing a Specific Grant for Social Services. This grant should be based on a clear, fair and needs-based formula, guaranteeing dedicated, predictable and sustainable funding for social services. Its establishment would provide a long-term solution to prevent social services from continuing to compete with other municipal priorities within the General Grant.

Drawing on more than 15 years of experience in public finance, the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) can provide technical expertise and assistance in developing the allocation formula and calculating the distribution of the additional €3 million among municipalities.