



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE



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Methodology, Education and Training Section  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Subject: 2015-2019 United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education.**

First of all, allow me to thank you for the fruitful discussion we had in your office few days ago.

Following our communication regarding the 2015-2019 United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education, the People's Advocate deems necessary that a priority area of intervention in the field of human rights for 2015-2019 is the protection of vulnerable categories, i.e. minorities, violated women, victims of human trafficking, persons with special needs, the poor, the LGBT community, and people affected by blood feud. During our work we have encountered violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the above mentioned vulnerable categories. Thus, we believe that awareness raising among Albanian central and local institutions, civil society, religious communities, the media and individuals for the preservation and cultivation of these rights and fundamental freedoms, should be a priority for the years to come.

We do also strongly believe that the empowerment of these vulnerable and marginalised individuals is an important element for the development of a society where fundamental rights and freedoms are observed.

For instance, as it regards the phenomenon of blood feud, more attention should be dedicated to this concerning issue that violates the most important human right i.e. the right to life and other freedoms due to the confinement of family members regardless of gender and age (e.g. freedom of movement, education, employment, health care, voting, freedom of association,

freedom of conscience and its expression, etc.). This requires a solid cooperation between public institutions and non-governmental organizations in order to prevent this phenomenon.

Moreover, as it concerns the Roma community, we have encountered different aspects of violation of their rights. And for this reasons, we have recommended to public institutions to undertake the necessary steps for their civil registration. Another important factor is related to their education, and for this public institutions and other actors should raise awareness among the community in order to stop the phenomenon of dropping out of school. Thus, their education and employment will strongly contribute in the empowerment of the community.

As it regards the LGBT community, in order to prevent discrimination and to cultivate the fundamentals of an open society when sexual orientation and identity is not seen with prejudice, public institutions and other entities should strengthen their protection against discrimination. Awareness raising among the general public, as well as non-discriminatory procedures during work recruitment steps or within the working place and the severe punishment of offenders, would have a strong impact in the empowerment of the LGBT community.

Another concern is the issue of victims of human trafficking, violated women and persons with special needs. We believe that prevention, detection and protection of victims, as well as prosecution of offenders should be strengthened in order to prevent their violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this aspect, a stronger cooperation between public responsible institutions and the civil society constitutes an important step to eradicate this violation of rights and to provide opportunities for the reintegration in the society.

Thanking you for your cooperation, we would like to let you know that the People's Advocate will strongly commit to its constitutional mandate in order to promote and protect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of individuals from unlawful or improper action or failure to act of the organs of public administration.

Sincerely,

Igli Totozani

People's Advocate

