



**REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS - PRESIDENTI**  
**REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO - THE PRESIDENT**  
**REPUBLIKA KOSOVA - PREDSIEDNIK**

**EKIPI PËRGATITOR PËR THEMELIMIN E KOMISIONIT PËR TË VËRTETËN DHE PAJTIMIN**  
**PRIPREMNI TIM ZA OSNIVANJE KOMISIJE ZA ISTINU I POMIRENJE**  
**PREPARATORY TEAM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

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**DECLARATION OF THE PREPARATORY TEAM**  
**FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE**  
**TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

**Prishtinë/a, 30.08.2018**

Preparatory team for the establishment of the Truth and reconciliation Commission.  
In compliance with Articles 4 (1.2) of the Rules and Regulation of the work of the Preparatory Team for the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (July 12th 2018), at the meeting held on August 30, 2018, adopted the following:

## **DECLARATION OF THE PREPARATORY TEAM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

### **The initiative for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Kosovo**

Two decades after the last war in the Balkans, the time has come for a lasting peace. Coexistence and cooperation without replacing the narratives from the past is possible. This will be achieved by thriving for active involvement of all in the peace-building processes.

We, the people of Kosovo have suffered for too long the consequences of the violent past. Through the suffering we have learned how precious peace is.

Significant leaps have been made in dealing with the past in Kosovo. This has prepared the society to embark on the next big step, beginning a process of healing through truth-seeking. This will pave the way for future generations to build and maintain a lasting peace.

After consultations with the public, the President of Kosovo has taken the initiative to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Kosovo.

Truth and Reconciliation mechanisms around the world have helped societies to overcome the suffering and the divide caused by the wars and violence and to open a chapter of reconciliation, of building and maintaining peace. Truth and Reconciliation mechanisms do not replace justice but they do provide means for fair and equal treatment of all parties affected by violent conflicts.

Regardless of tangible achievements in building peace, communities in Kosovo continue to live divided, locked in their antagonistic views and interpretations of the past. The time has come for this to become the past.

### **The aim of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Kosovo**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Kosovo aims to document and establish facts of violations of human rights that took place during the recent violent past, restoring dignity of victims of all communities, contribute to societal transformation to prevent repetition of violations and abuses suffered.

## **Values and principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

- will respect human rights and dignity of all persons;
- has special focus on civilian victims: it protects, acknowledges and empowers them;
- Is composed of people of high integrity, selected by a transparent process following highest standard of professional ethics;
- is independent and its decisions are not politically influenced;
- will be accountable, responsive, accessible and open to all citizens of Kosovo and interested actors;
- prevents racism, sexism and gender discrimination during the process, in its work and in the outcomes of the process;
- will follow rigorous and methodical examination of facts and events of the past, in line with procedural fairness.

## **Preparatory work for establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

In order to establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a Preparatory Team was appointed by the President of Kosovo, which is composed of 9 members, with a majority from civil society but also a presence of the Office of the President of Kosovo, Kosovo Parliament and the Government of Kosovo.

The Preparatory Team will conduct public consultations, meetings with key political and civic stakeholders in Kosovo, in order to draft the necessary documents for the functionalization of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

## **Values and Principles of the Preparatory Team**

The Preparatory Team basis its work on four main values: inclusiveness, equality, integrity and transparency.

The Preparatory Team represents the interest of all communities living in Kosovo, equally.

The Team acts with transparency and integrity in establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Kosovo.

Prishtina, August 30, 2018