

**We are women and men who work  
together to achieve these goals.**

# DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

This statement summarizes the starting points of our ideas, our social aspirations, and the public strategy for our political engagement. Our primary goal is the advancement of public engagement for social development and the way out from a decade of poor state governance.

## I. CONTEXT

The Republic of Kosovo is the result of the people's efforts for freedom. We believe that equality between peoples and within peoples is the path to **peace, prosperity, and progress**. We consider that Kosovo's current difficulties with the Republic of Serbia are a consequence of the invasive past and the history of ethnic and developmental segregation, which caused the division between citizens and social groups. **Such regimes will not be repeated in Kosovo**. Our society that experienced them should be the guarantor of equal treatment of all its inhabitants.

Nevertheless, today, the Republic of Kosovo continues to be underdeveloped as a society, poor as an economy and not consolidated as a state. Its majority, the citizens, are politically repressed and economically exploited within a state that serves the interests of the minority that owns and controls most of the wealth.

Today, the state does not control the entire territory of the Republic. Its huge administration enables employment for clients, but not services for citizens. The political system enables electoral democracy, but reduces social legitimacy. The domestic market continues to have a large circulation of goods, but small accumulation of wealth. As a society, Kosovo's citizens live together formally, but are separated in reality. Generally, our republic remains a place where survival is possible, but well-being and coexistence are not.

We are committed to **change this situation**. Today, the citizens of the republic are the majority that has very little. Commitment to them and engagement with them is **an effort for the general interest**. The policies of incitement, impoverishment and exclusion must be replaced with **developmental, social-democratic policies** that will enable **domestic production, employment for all, and a fair distribution**.

## II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES



We are committed to **collective and individual freedom**, community of citizens, popular sovereignty, plural and solidary society, economic development, justice and social equality. At the same time and within this framework, we are committed to a political and economic system that neither discriminates nor privileges, **a society with gender equality, independent judiciary, functional administration, efficient healthcare and qualitative education**.



We believe that the people of Kosovo, as well as other peoples, have the right to self-determination, and **free determination of collective destiny**. In this regard, we are committed to the full and unobstructed implementation of this principle. For us, the referendum is the mechanism that must be affirmed for the free expression of

political will, but also for the **involvement of citizens in decision-making** on public affairs.



Our social-democratic response to the contemporary problems of the Republic and society consists of the belief in the primacy of political action through the democratic governance of the economic forces, by directing them **to the service of the common good**. We accept the concept of a market economy, aware of its ability to create a material basis that enables social welfare - but we refuse to accept the directives of 'the market' in social life.



For us, **freedom and equality** are inseparable. They are both a prerequisite and content of the well-being of the people and society. Freedom is achieved as a collective effort, but it is embodied as an individual value. General freedom enables and maintains personal freedom. Equality in treatment remains a condition of collective freedom and the exercise of individual freedom. Therefore, we are committed to building and **developing a just, equal and open society**. We are equally committed to defending media freedom and critical thinking, and to preserve and maintain the fundamental values of freedom and association where no citizen will be hostage to poverty, ignorance, and submission.



We are committed to the **dignity and well-being of the individual** by respecting his/her right to build his/her talent to the fullest. Our goal is the distribution of power, the encouragement of diversity and the support of the creativity of the citizen, the social groups and the whole society. It is the duty of the state to enable all citizens to achieve these ideals, by contributing to their communities and participating in decision-making that directly affects their lives.

### III. A CITIZENS, SECULAR, SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL REPUBLIC



We commit ourselves to a **democratic society**, sharing the belief that democracy must preserve the status of the principle, as a spirit of organization within us, and as governance in the institutions of the Republic. For us, it is the starting point and purpose. We do not reduce the development of democracy only through institutions, but we are committed to a full democracy, for democracy everywhere, even through development and cooperation with democratic social structures. Democracy as a value and concept is the most radical way to combat totalitarian mentality, as well as for the equitable redistribution of political weight, social mobility, opportunities and rights. For us, **democracy is involvement**, its form is the circle, thus, the division between the representative and the represented is also avoided. We are committed to having affirmative legal infrastructure and institutional behavior; to create opportunities and space for social progress and individual fulfillment, that is in no way restrictive and disciplined. At the same time, and in this regard, we are committed to balancing power between the legislative, executive and judiciary branches.



We are committed to a **citizens republic**, where everyone enjoys the same rights - where they live together in peace and where different cultures develop freely. **The Republic of Kosovo belongs to every citizen living in it:** it must, above all, be understood as the common space of individuals and social groups, regardless of their ethnic and cultural affiliation.



We are aware that the new century citizenship is built on the principle of norms and rules that govern a functional and progressive society. In this respect, we believe that the principle of ethnic unity on which our society is built and defined should be replaced by the principle of **the unity of values** - by promoting social unity through the beliefs, needs, talents and common goals of each citizen.



We see every generation **responsible for the fate of the common homeland** and its environment. Respecting these values of individual peace and social justice, we reject any prejudice or discrimination based on ethnicity, color, religion, age, disability, gender, or sexual orientation - by rejecting all forms of privileges and inequality.



By being aware that the journey for freedom and justice is never-ending, **we support human rights and transparent governance**, as well as the development of a sustainable economy that serves the needs of the citizen and enables the highest quality of public services. At all times, we will be upholding the right to freedom of expression, writing, prayer, association and voting, while **protecting the right of citizens** to enjoy privacy in their lives and homes. We believe that sovereignty belongs to citizens and that democratic power derives from them.



We are committed to the intervention in the social and economic structure in order to reevaluate the existing gender roles in the function of freedom, justice and social solidarity. **Without equality between men and women, there can be no question of a developed and advanced society.** Here, we will affirm transformational policies and open discussions in the Assembly of the Republic and in other inclusive forums, with the purpose of social awareness.

Gender equality is not achieved through consensus. Although indispensable, legal infrastructure is not enough if it does not interfere with everyday social practices. Gender equality in opportunities only, in the circumstances in which women in Kosovo work, only reproduces the conditions of inequality layered historically. It is the gender roles in society and family that need to be challenged and changed.



We are committed to a **secular republic**. Laicity enables and maintains coexistence. By excluding any kind of fundamentalism and religious and anti-religious stigmatism, **we respect the freedom of faith and conscience**. By devoting ourselves to a neutral state regulation over any religion, we consider that public space must take into account cultural and religious diversity - respecting the freedom of manifestation to the limits of guaranteeing the inviolability of fundamental rights in the service of cohesion, peace, integration, general interest and social emancipation.



We support the citizen's right to determine freely the form of governance that best suits his/her needs, by committing to the promotion of a social-democratic framework and program - to a wider governance by representing all ethnic and cultural characteristics of the Republic of Kosovo. We will be particularly committed to **promoting effective local governance**, understanding it as the main level from where all vital decisions for the society are made and where services to the citizen are offered in the most direct way possible.

## IV. SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PRINCIPLES



We are devoted to a **social and developmental republic**. We encourage a **sustainable economy** that empowers the processes of welfare production that develops the talents of the citizen and works on the goal of benefits for all - through the fair distribution of social assets and the developmental success. We are committed to the participation and **cooperation in industry and commerce** within a competitive environment, where the state enables freedom in the market, but also interferes and coordinates whenever this proves necessary. We will affirm scientific research and innovation by **encouraging the promotion of technology** to increase the well-being of the citizen.



We will work for a **partnership with the citizen** and social groups in all areas of life. We understand that freedom in the market and entrepreneurship is indispensable for economic development - but the free market itself does not allow the fair distribution of wealth. Therefore, **we support the fairest and widest possible distribution of social wealth**, by affirming the right of every citizen to social security and cultural activity. We are also committed to more efficient public services, and to variety and innovation by enabling equal access for all.



We are committed to the institutionalization of **social solidarity** and the **social economy**. An economy with a fair redistribution of wealth generates prosperity and creates sustainable development by boosting purchasing power that maintains employment for everyone in dignified conditions and personal security.



## V. COEXISTANCE/CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



We consider that the constitutional framework regulating the representation of minority communities in the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo (the model of 'guaranteed seats' in the Constitution of Kosovo) does not successfully address their situation and needs. Such an approach has originated in the constitutional definition of Kosovo as a 'multiethnic society composed of Albanians and other communities' (Article 3). Ten years later, the practical consequences of this definition emerged with the institutionalization of ethnic divisions in the new state. Moreover, the constitutional definition that only ethnic-based entities can participate in the electoral competition for political leadership has resulted in the nonintegration of neither communities nor political representatives of communities living in Kosovo .



Through our platform, we will be committed to ensuring that the competition for guaranteed seats in the Assembly of Kosovo will be possible for every representative of ethnic and cultural communities, by not allowing ethnicity to limit and define political representation. At the same time, we welcome and we will work together **to create political conditions for each member of the ethno-cultural community to politically engage with us** and thus to represent the interests of every community - whether through political engagement or election competition. We are committed to **reforming and improving the law on elections** in the country so that representatives of all communities will be able to engage in any of the political entities in Kosovo. For us, this represents a practical starting point for effective political and institutional integration of all communities, paving the way for sustainable economic and cultural coexistence, as well as for social peace.

We believe that such a reformist approach will encourage all political entities in the Republic of Kosovo to develop inclusive policies, being governed by a state-building logic that focuses on **the citizen as a summary of values and beliefs**, and not just as representatives of ethnicity.

## VI. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



We are committed to **international action** and **cooperation**, being aware of the interdependence of the citizen with the society, the state with the region and the region with the world. We believe that the citizen must be directly involved in the leadership of his/her community, devoted to empowering democratic processes and committed to a fair and representative system of the government - of effective parliamentary institutions, freedom of expression, decisions reached in the most direct practicable degree, and a fair voting system for all electoral levels.



The responsibility for justice and freedom cannot be isolated within national and state borders; We are committed to **combating poverty, oppression, hunger, ignorance, illness and aggression** wherever they appear - by promoting free exchange of ideas, people, goods and services.



We are committed to **cooperating with states, nations and other entities** to enable an **international peace order** and a stable common security system. Committed to achieving the highest democratic standards and **membership in the European Union and NATO**, we affirm our integrating values by being guided by these principles.



We will contribute to the **peace and reconciliation process** throughout the region and the peoples of the Balkans, always aware of the bloody past and the challenges of the future. We remain committed to maintaining a common social democracy by engaging in a constructive role in international organizations with the same goals and objectives.

These conditions of freedom and social justice are the responsibility of every citizen, as well as the duty of the state to defend and advance.

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PRISHTINA, **MAY 2018**