



**Non-governmental organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDARYSHE**

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PRESS RELEASE

The municipality of Prizren with public funds constructs sidewalks that obstruct the freedom of movement

EC Ma Ndryshe has realized the public performance on the square in front of the Post Office building in Prizren respectively "Freedom Monument", whereby they expressed the dissatisfaction of placing the obstacle in the middle of the pavement. In this public space of the historic center of the city, the intervention of the Municipality of Prizren with public funds instead of creating an accessible sidewalk for everyone has created an environment that prevents freedom of movement for all categories of society.

During the performance, with a mirror box one part of the obstacle is covered, located in the middle of the pavement. This way the path is reflected on both sides to achieve the optical effect that supposedly the passage is open.

The public performance was carried out after the residents' and EC's requests addressed in the Municipality of Prizren to remove the obstacle in question, but local authorities have so far not taken action in this regard, thus preventing the free movement of citizens.

The blockade of sidewalks in the city of Prizren during the recent years has been singled out as one of the main concerns of Prizren residents in EC's survey on urban planning.

In previous researches, EC has argued why planning and building should meet the needs of all categories of society and why built space should not have barriers to meet the needs of all people equally.

According to these studies, it turns out that the community is not included in the process of planning of construction interventions and identification of problems and needs. Therefore, the environment continues to be inaccessible, and the communities affected by these planning and construction activities, and in particular the PWD, continue to face barriers in the city. Those few efforts that are made to facilitate access are made just to cover-up, without taking into account all the rules that are part of AI 33/2007 or the needs of the community that will use that environment. Everywhere in the city semi-interventions can be perceived aimed at superficial fulfillment of the legal criteria, but not solving real problems. Municipal inspectors override these criteria during the monitoring of the implementation of this Administrative Instruction, giving the fault to the absence of workforce. This occurs in both cases, even when dealing with remedial works and new construction works, which should normally be in full compliance with the criteria of this administrative instruction.

"Inclusive Cities..." is a project of EC, which aims to articulate the needs of community groups and transform them into viable urban plans for the municipality of Prizren. Community groups which are working on this project are distributed in different neighbourhoods of the city.

OJQ EC Ma Ndryshe ~ Rr. Saraçët 5, Prizren ~ Bulevardi Nënë Tereza, H 30 B1 Nr. 5, Prishtinë
www.ecmandryshe.org ~ info@ecmandryshe.org ~ 038 224 967 & 029 222 771

Sincerely,
HajrullaCeku, EC Ma Ndryshe

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