



**The Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe  
EC MA NDRYSHE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**EC conducted a public performance against the degradation of cultural heritage**

The degradation of the cultural heritage in Prizren has continued also in 2017 to be a worrying phenomenon. With the aim of raising citizens' awareness for the protection of cultural heritage, as well as the prompting the government and law enforcement institutions to implement the law, EC Ma Ndryshe has organized on Tuesday a performance titled "DON'T TOUCH IT! - cultural heritage!".

During the performance, stickers were placed on cultural heritage buildings that are under the protection of the law and those that are part of the architectural conservation area of the Historic Center of Prizren with a notice which describe that it is prohibited the demolition or any intervention in these buildings without the consent of the responsible authorities, and the sanctions envisaged by the legislation.

Parallel to this, on Tuesday there were also postcards distributed to spread the awareness about the lost values of cultural heritage in Prizren, which are sent by post to local and central institutions and to judicial institutions.

Through this activity it is intended to bring the attention once again on the phenomenon of demolition and destruction of cultural heritage in Prizren.

In the research "The Physical Condition of Cultural Monuments in Prizren" published by EC in November this year states that in 2016 according to the Conservation and Development Plan of the Historic Center were 122 monuments listed within this area and that by November of the 2017 31 monuments have been destroyed or have been irretrievably altered. Likewise, from the 388 traditional buildings in 2006, today exist only 155, indicating that 233 buildings or traditional structures of the city have been destroyed or have been altered.

Meanwhile, on April 2014, EC published the analysis "Laws are not Protecting the Historic Center", where the main recommendation was the adoption of laws through punishment, which would serve as a preventive measure against harming or the destruction of cultural heritage. Impunity would imply the inability of institutions to ensure the rule of law. Ec ma ndryshe states that only punishment through fines or imprisonment for the criminal offense "damage the cultural heritage" can save the Historic Center from complete destruction.

EC Ma Ndryshe has repeatedly reacted to the destruction of cultural monuments in Prizren, especially in the Historic Center of the city, and reiterates its position that this is the time that state institutions, especially the prosecution and courts, to act seriously for the full implementation of the legislation in relation to this protected area.

The project "Inclusive City...", 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 neighborhoods and villages of the city.

Sincerely,  
Edon Mullafetahu, EC Ma Ndryshe

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