



**Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDARYSHE**

7 August, Prizren

PRESS RELEASE

Cultural heritage, not park parking lots!

Today is finalized the initiative "Cultural heritage, not park parking lots" conceived by the participants of the School of Urban Activism within the project "Reclaiming the City". This initiative aims to highlight the problem of vehicle parking in the vicinity of cultural heritage sites (among others near the Sinan Pasha Mosque, near the Gani Tada Bridge, near the Archeological Museum etc.). This practice, apart from restricting the freedom of movement for the citizens, severely damages the image of the city in general and the cultural heritage buildings in particular. Parking in the vicinity of the perimeter of cultural heritage buildings hampers visions of heritage values, access to cultural facilities, and damages the cultural landscape. Consequently, this problem affects not only the citizens of Prizren but also the tourists and visitors of our city.

Regarding this issue, EC has intervened today on the "Vatra Shqiptare" road, which connects the Albanian League of Prizren Complex and the Marash Complex, by placing obstacles in the form of seats, which will replace the parked vehicles in this area. The "obstacle seats" express the revolt for the barriers that violate the freedom of movement and hinder the visibility of two important cultural heritage sites in Prizren as a result of the institutions' inaction against citizens who are parked in a prohibited place.

The idea for the artistic protest of parking lots near the cultural heritage sites was provided during Module 1 of the School of Urban Activism, held in the months April - May of this year, during which young participants of the school had the opportunity to be trained in the principles of urban activism. Regarding the message that this initiative tends to convey to the responsible institutions, including the Directorate of Public Services, the Directorate of Inspectorate and the Kosovo Police – Region South, on Friday, 03.08.2018, the participating students of the Cultural Activism School submitted a petition signed by 243 citizens.

This initiative will be followed by the next initiatives designed within the School of Urban Activism. Proposed actions address certain community issues in the city, and fall into different areas of focus on public spaces.

The Urban Activism School is part of the 'Reclaiming the City' project that specifically aims to advocate for the full enjoyment of the right over the city through a variety of activism platforms. Through the Urban Activism School, the project offers a platform for civic education and civic activism by transforming high school students into politically and socially active citizens.

The project "Reclaiming the City- City Right for Under-Represented Groups in Prizren" is financially supported by the National Endowment for Democracy.

NGO EC Ma Ndryshe
St. Saraqët, Nr. 5 - Prizren
Mother Theresa Boulevard, H 30 B1 Nr. 5, Prishtina
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771

Projekti "Rikthimi i qytetit - E Drejta mbi Qytetin për grupet e nënpërfaqësuar të komunitetit në Prizren" përkrahët financiarisht nga National Endowment for Democracy.

OJQ EC Ma Ndryshe

Rr. Saraçët, Nr. 5 - Prizren

Bulevardi Nënë Tereza, H 30 B1 Nr. 5, Prishtinë

www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org

+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771