



**MULTI-ETHNIC  
CARAVAN**  
FOR PEACE AND  
COHABITATION

**Meetings  
in Prizren:  
Municipal and Religious Leaders**

**December 2024**

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## Foreword

The civil society initiative "Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation" includes 10 representatives from the Albanian and Serbian civil society communities, led by the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), based in Prishtina/Priština, and NGO Aktiv, based in North Mitrovica. This initiative is supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS).

The "Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation" aims to foster dialogue, understanding, and cooperation between different ethnic and religious communities, and to contribute to strengthening inter-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo.

A unique aspect of this initiative is the "Letters of Desires and Expectations," written by the Caravan participants. These letters express their hopes and visions for cohabitation and mutual respect between different ethnic groups. They serve as a basis for our discussions with mayors and religious leaders, and they also include suggestions for improving relations and cohabitation between ethnic communities.

We invite you to support the goals of this initiative in strengthening the foundations and building a multi-ethnic, democratic, and liberal society in Kosovo.

*Lulzim Peci*  
*Executive Director*  
*KIPRED*

*Miodrag Miličević*  
*Executive Director*  
*NGO AKTIV*

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## I. Introduction

The "Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Coexistence" fifth and final stop for the year 2024 was Prizren – which represents a historic centre of Kosovo for all ethnic and religious communities of Kosovo. The meetings included the Mayor of Prizren municipality, the local head of the Islamic Council, the local head of the Catholic Church and the vice-rector of the Bogoslovija of Serbian Orthodox Church.

Central to this endeavor are the "Wishes and Expectations Letters," which are thoughtfully composed by the participants of the caravan. These letters are more than mere formalities; they embody the sincere hopes and visions of their authors for a future where different ethnic groups live together in respect and peace. The letters are foundational to the dialogue process, guiding discussions with mayors and religious leaders. They contain insightful suggestions that are aimed at improving interethnic relations and enhancing daily cohabitation among communities.

Prior to the meetings, all members of the Caravan wrote "Letters of desires and expectations" to the key interlocutors in Prizren: Mayor Shaqir Totaj; local Head of Islamic Community – Valon ef. Ibrahim, Reverend Don Shan Zefi, Vicar of the Catholic Diocese Prizren-Pristina, and the Reverend Hieromonk Isidor of the Serbian Orthodox Church Seminary.

The following text outlines the key insights drawn from these important discussions, as well as the letters expressing the aspirations and expectations shared by the Caravan members.

### **Key takeaways from the meeting with the Mayor of Prizren**

Meeting with the Mayor of Prizren, 20 December 2024. Through the letters of desires and expectations, members of the Caravan expressed their desire for a greater role of municipality of Prizren in advancement of multi-ethnicity and tolerance, and have put forth concrete proposals for consideration.

Key proposals from the letters of desires and expectations addressed to the Mayor Totaj:

#### **Expectations for Cohabitation and Leadership:**

- The Mayor is recognized as playing a crucial role in shaping a community that is inclusive, welcoming, and respects all its members. His leadership is pivotal in inspiring policies and initiatives that celebrate cultural diversity and promote shared values.
- Active engagement with citizens and encouragement of dialogue among different ethnic groups is essential to build trust, ensure everyone feels heard, and cultivate a sense of unity.

#### **Community and Cultural Initiatives:**

- Emphasis on the importance of cherishing differences and ensuring that all individuals feel safe, valued, and that their identities are respected and safeguarded.
- Implementation of joint community projects, cultural exchanges, and open forums for dialogue as practical steps towards greater understanding and cooperation.
- Public addresses and community outreach efforts should reinforce the importance of tolerance, empathy, and mutual respect.

#### **Vision for the Future:**

- A strong vision for a Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation is wholeheartedly embraced, highlighting initiatives that emphasize common interests, reinforce feelings of safety, and showcase the strength gained from working together.

- Encouragement of inter-ethnic collaboration, support for educational programs focused on cultural awareness, and the facilitation of regular intercultural events to create an environment where everyone feels at home.

**Role of Municipal Leadership:**

- The Mayor's proactive stance can set a powerful example for others, demonstrating that through understanding, dialogue, and respect, a foundation for a future where all of Kosovo's communities thrive together can be laid.
- Consideration of inter-municipal cooperation in areas of multi-ethnicity, with the support of religious leaders, could include joint visits to community centers or settlements, joint actions to encourage peaceful cohabitation, and the development of joint projects.

**Promotion of Peace and Unity:**

- Proposals for initiatives such as establishing a cultural festival or a day dedicated to interethnic tolerance, which could involve various activities like performances, exhibitions, and dialogues that celebrate the city's diversity and promote unity.
- Suggestions for enhancing municipal policies to explicitly aim to enhance interethnic cohesion, including community project grants or scholarships for underrepresented groups.

The meeting commenced with a cordial welcome from Mayor Shaqir Totaj, who expressed appreciation for the initiative, deeming it essential for addressing current challenges. The primary topics outlined for discussion were interethnic relations in the Prizren Municipality and the Mayor's and the Municipality's relationships with religious leaders and communities.

Mayor Totaj illustrated the level of interethnic relations by highlighting the inclusion of the Turkish community's deputy mayor and the representation of five minority parties in the local governance. These elements contribute to Prizren's recognition as one of the best local governments in Kosovo according to various analyses. Mayor Totaj emphasized that in Prizren, interethnic relations are not viewed as achievements but as a norm, supported by a culture of individual and familial cooperation and coexistence.

He referenced a successful project involving student exchanges between Prizren and Novi Sad, which he strongly supported. The project allowed students from both cities to visit each other, fostering mutual understanding and debunking negative perceptions. Feedback from both student groups was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing surprise at the peaceful coexistence contrary to external narratives.

Discussing relations with the Orthodox Church, Mayor Totaj remarked that what is often perceived as courage is merely normalcy in Prizren. He noted that religious sites are considered cultural heritage rather than political issues. The municipality frequently facilitates visits to these religious sites, maintaining both institutional and individual-level contacts. He cited an example where he personally ensured the cleaning of a churchyard at the church's request, demonstrating commitment to supporting religious communities beyond contractual obligations.

Mayor Totaj spoke about Prizren's rich cultural activities, mentioning events like DokuFest and concerts, which highlight the city's vibrant cultural scene. He expressed an intent to continue building a shared future, emphasizing cooperation over politics. In response to questions about the Serbian community and the potential return of displaced Serbs, he noted that while there is a commission for the return of displaced persons, the actual desire to return is beyond the municipality's influence. However, the municipality actively supports the Serbian community's needs whenever possible.

In closing, Mayor Totaj advised focusing on the younger generation to improve interethnic and interfaith relations, pointing out that while older generations may harbor prejudices, the youth are more open and simply need proper guidance. He stressed the importance of avoiding problematic individuals in efforts to improve relations and suggested that learning each other's languages could enhance mutual understanding.

The meeting concluded on a high note, with Mayor Totaj receiving an award from the European Commission as the "Most Friendly Roma Mayor," following his successful integration of the Romani language as one of the official languages in Prizren Municipality. He reiterated that what is often considered bold is merely normal, affirming that fortune favors the bold.

This meeting highlighted the ongoing efforts and achievements of Prizren Municipality under Mayor Totaj's leadership in fostering an environment of mutual respect and collaboration among diverse communities.

### **Key takeaways from the meetings with religious leaders**

Key messages from the letters of expectations and desires addressed to the religious leaders were centered along the lines of further advocating understanding and coexistence between ethnic communities. Key proposals from the letters were the following:

#### *For the local Council of the Islamic Community*

##### Role of Religious Leadership:

- Religious leaders like Mr. Ibrahim are seen as crucial in promoting dialogue, empathy, and cooperation across cultural and religious lines. Their influence can create an environment where people from different backgrounds feel safe and valued.
- Encouragement to embrace the principles of tolerance and respect, which can help foster community engagement and mutual trust among diverse groups.

##### Importance of Interfaith Dialogue and Community Engagement:

- Advocacy for interfaith dialogues, joint community service projects, and cultural exchanges to bring together individuals from various ethnic and religious groups.
- Such initiatives are viewed as vital for highlighting shared values, demonstrating the importance of cooperation, and paving the way for a peaceful and inclusive community.

##### Promotion of Peace and Cohabitation:

- A vision for Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation is celebrated, with differences seen as enrichments rather than obstacles.
- Call for consistent outreach, intercultural events, and public addresses that emphasize compassion to ensure that everyone in the community feels included and at home.

##### Proposals for Interfaith Collaboration and Public Outreach:

- Suggestions for establishing platforms like a local interfaith council in Prizren to foster collaboration on issues of common concern among different religious communities.
- Proposals for incorporating messages of diversity and tolerance in religious practices and sermons, as well as engaging the community through social media campaigns and educational programs on tolerance.

##### Community and Youth Engagement:

- Initiatives aimed at youth and family engagement through workshops, cultural exchanges, and sports activities, where religious leaders can offer moral guidance and support.

- Joint charitable projects and community service activities to benefit the wider community, demonstrating the practical application of interfaith cooperation.

Long-term Goals for Harmonious Coexistence:

- Development of municipal policies and community projects that enhance interethnic cohesion and promote a multiethnic society.
- Encouragement for religious and community leaders to participate in joint actions that symbolize unity and inspire similar efforts across Kosovo.

Meeting with Imam Valon ef. Ibrahim, 20 December 2024. The meeting initiated with introductions by Valon ef. Ibrahim and the objectives of the group, focusing on promoting messages of peace and interethnic harmony among believers, and addressing interethnic relations and the relationships with the Catholic Church and the Serbian Orthodox Church, among other topics.

Imam Valon ef. Ibrahim shared that he maintains regular communications with other ethnic and religious communities, describing these interactions as very positive. He emphasized the religious communities' roles in contributing to improvements of communications and mentioned their participation at an event in Peja/Peć for the change of the KFOR Command, where interactions with other representatives were favorable.

Imam Ibrahim highlighted the inclusivity within the community that Catholics are perhaps respected sometimes even more than Muslims, underscoring the community's commitment to respect and inclusivity.

He also discussed his positive personal relationships with the local Orthodox priest, emphasizing that these relationships contribute to maintaining effective interfaith dialogue and cooperation. The Imam highlighted that the local Islamic Council issues circulars at least twice a year to all imams in the mosques of the Prizren municipality, instructing them to preach to their congregations about the importance of interethnic and interfaith tolerance and coexistence.

In his further comments, Imam Ibrahim mentioned that the Islamic Community of Prizren plans to initiate more inter-faith activities, not just those organized by OSCE, aiming to enhance efforts for inter-faith dialogue independently. He highlighted Prizren's unique characteristic of collaboration with all other religious communities, mentioning meetings held at the Seminary of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Prizren.

The Imam then discussed challenges that prevent them from engaging more deeply in various initiatives but expressed commitment to improving these efforts in 2025. He provided statistical data indicating that over 95% of Prizren's population is Albanian, with the remainder comprising Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, etc. Regarding the Muslim community, Prizren and its villages boast 102 mosques, with 40 active and two under restoration in the city alone.

The Madrasa in Prizren, a branch of Alaudin Madrasa in Prishtina, hosts regular lectures as part of the Islamic Community's educational efforts. Imam Ibrahim also mentioned ongoing efforts to ensure proper conduct across all mosques to avoid individual errors.

Addressing ethnic relations and their rehabilitation, he stressed the need for a positive approach. Comparing international relations, he noted that countries might have strained relations but maintain diplomatic communications. Regular contact is crucial; without it, misunderstandings and prejudices develop due to lack of knowledge about the other's thoughts.

He discussed the centralization of mosque activities and finances as directed by the central level of the Islamic Community and the potential for state funding to support these efforts. Property



issues were also mentioned, with the Islamic Community striving to reclaim properties that have been renamed and misappropriated, a process hindered by slow and ineffective legal systems.

Towards the meeting's conclusion, Imam Ibrahim reflected on the historical significance of his mosque, where the League of Prizren was held, pointing out the need to rethink the communist-era interpretations of these events, suggesting that these need to be clarified to better understand the past and improve future interethnic and interfaith relations.

*For the local Catholic Church:*

Enhancing Dialogue and Understanding:

- Emphasis on the Vicar's influential role in promoting dialogue, understanding, and respect among diverse ethnic and religious groups. His spiritual leadership is seen as pivotal in guiding the community toward recognizing and appreciating cultural diversity.
- Encouragement for the Vicar to foster an environment where all individuals feel safe, valued, and confident in their identity, with a focus on spiritual guidance to inspire compassion, empathy, and openness.

Interfaith and Community Initiatives:

- Advocacy for supporting interfaith gatherings, joint community initiatives, and cultural exchanges to help break down barriers and build trust among different groups. These efforts are expected to underline common values like solidarity and cooperation.
- Proposals for the Catholic Diocese to take a lead in hosting and organizing events that bring together people from various backgrounds to celebrate shared values and engage in mutual learning.

Promotion of Multi-Ethnic Cohabitation:

- A vision for Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation is celebrated as a source of collective strength, with ongoing efforts to foster understanding and unity through inclusive events, educational programs, and community projects.
- Suggestions for interfaith councils and regular dialogues to facilitate cooperation among religious leaders, which could also include discussions on the needs and concerns of different faith communities.

Long-Term Goals for Community Harmony:

- Calls for the Diocese to continue guiding the community toward harmony and mutual respect, setting an example of how faith can bridge cultural and ethnic divides.
- Interest in establishing a local interfaith council in Prizren to serve as a platform for collaborative initiatives, advising on the preservation of cultural heritage, and acting as a symbol of unity.

Educational and Outreach Efforts:

- Recommendations for educational initiatives targeting youth and families to promote awareness of Kosovo's diverse heritage and the importance of interfaith dialogue, potentially including school collaborations and public events.
- Utilization of media to amplify messages of peace and coexistence, reaching out to a broader audience to foster a deeper understanding of and commitment to multiethnic harmony.

Meeting with the Reverend Don Shan Zefi, Vicar of the Catholic Diocese Prizren-Pristina, 20 December 2024.

Don Zefi initiated the discussion by referencing the global reach of the Catholic Church, contrasting it with his own more localized influence in Prizren and the villages of Pristina. He highlighted the ancient civilization origins from Prizren, noting that the first Paleo-Christian church in the area dates back to the IVth century, with another from the 10th to 12th centuries. He also mentioned the very old educational complex in the area.

Regarding interethnic and interfaith relations, Don Zefi described them as generally good, not only between Catholics and Muslims but also with the Orthodox community. He noted that the people of Prizren traditionally spoke three languages: Albanian, Turkish, and Serbian. However, villagers from outside were less accepted, regardless of their ethnicity.

Illustrating his personal experiences, Don Zefi expressed that he often felt more honored and respected by Muslims than by his own Catholic congregants and was also well-respected by Serbs. He had good relations with the previous Orthodox bishop, Artemije, despite his nationalistic tendencies. As a policy, the Catholic Church has openly declared that Serbs should return to Kosovo, a stance that Don Zefi also personally supports.

In terms of relationships with the municipal government, he reported very positive interactions, having been friends with all the mayors of Prizren. He commented on the extensive nationalization of properties and the mayors' influence in returning some of these properties.

However, Don Zefi did mention some issues with proper representation of Catholics in the administration. He provided statistics indicating that there are currently about 1,500 Catholics in Prizren, down from 2,500-3,000 immediately post-war. The decrease was not due to poor treatment as Catholics but rather dissatisfaction with the general situation.

Nationally, the number of Catholics has halved from about 65,000 in 1999 to around 30,000 today. He attributed the emigration to a modern 'virtual world' mentality that values material wealth and external success over community life. During a sermon in Switzerland, he even told emigrants that they would not receive the Church's blessing if they left Kosovo and did not return.

Concluding, Don Zefi emphasized the importance of fostering good relations with others and believed strongly in Kosovo's recovery, which he argued should be driven by good relationships and appropriate investment priorities—favoring factories over just homes to stimulate economic growth. He also noted that between capitalism and socialism, the Catholic Church often leans more towards socialism, advocating for better wages and social support to keep young people in Kosovo.

In summary, Don Shan Zefi presented a deep commitment to his community, emphasizing the importance of history, education, and maintaining positive interfaith and interethnic relationships for the betterment of Kosovo's future

#### *For the local Serbian Orthodox Church:*

##### Emphasizing the Role of Religious Education and Leadership:

- The letters emphasize the unique and influential role of Reverend Hieromonk Isidor as an educator and spiritual guide within the seminary, highlighting his responsibility to foster understanding and tolerance among future generations. His position enables him to significantly influence the religious and cultural perspectives of the Serbian Orthodox community and broader society in Kosovo.

##### Promotion of Multi-Ethnic Cohabitation:

- There is a strong call for promoting dialogue, cultural exchanges, and community projects that include people from all ethnic backgrounds. Such initiatives are deemed essential for building trust and breaking down barriers between different communities in Kosovo.

##### Advocating for Interfaith and Intercultural Understanding:

- The writers urge the Reverend to use his teachings to emphasize the importance of unity, compassion, and cooperation. They suggest that through his leadership, the seminary can inspire others to look beyond ethnic and religious differences and focus on shared values.

#### Vision for Future Initiatives:

- The correspondents express a vision of Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation is celebrated and embraced. They advocate for continued efforts to foster understanding and mutual respect through interfaith gatherings, educational activities, and events that celebrate diverse traditions.

#### Encouragement of Specific Actions:

- Suggestions include the establishment of interfaith councils at the local level to facilitate cooperation among different religious groups and the creation of forums for discussing and addressing the needs of various religious communities.
- Proposals for community engagement through educational workshops, cultural exchanges, joint events, and religious and cultural festivals that bring together different communities.

#### Calls for Peace and Reconciliation Efforts:

- The letters reflect a collective desire for peace, tolerance, and understanding to be reinforced in every aspect of community life. The writers encourage the Reverend to continue guiding his community towards these goals, using his position to influence positive change and set an enduring example of interfaith harmony.

Meeting with Reverend Hieromonk Isidor of the Serbian Orthodox Church Seminary in Prizren, 20 December 2024. The meeting began with an introduction of the group and their objectives, focusing on gaining insights into the general situation of the ethnic/religious community and the specific circumstances of the Seminary, driven by a desire to address current challenges.

Hieromonk Isidor welcomed the group and introduced himself as the Deputy Rector of the Seminary, with Rector Teodosije as his superior. Reflecting on the 2004 events when the Seminary suffered damages, Isidor emphasized that while he was not present during those tumultuous times, such events should serve as a lesson. He remarked that every individual harbors a potential for destruction but also the strength to resist it. Destruction, according to Isidor, can erase centuries of history in days, and it is up to each individual to combat their destructive impulses.

Isidor continued by explaining that the reconstruction began when everything was burnt and destroyed, noting significant improvements since then. He warned against destructive nationalism, distinguishing it from a constructive patriotism that builds rather than destroys.

Despite not being born in Kosovo, Isidor feels a commitment to it, believing that people can live together harmoniously. Regarding relations with the local government, he noted that they had been generally good, although there had been a decline in the past four years. However, he specified that his personal interactions with Mayor Totaj were positive.

Isidor highlighted that Prizren has a longstanding tradition of respecting guests, with Mayor Totaj himself having visited the Seminary. However, he expressed concerns about the Serbian Orthodox Church's withdrawal from cooperation with some central institutions, particularly the Ministry of Culture, due to disagreements over how the Church was labeled on official plaques.

On the topic of the recent strain in relations with the local community, Isidor felt that the general political climate had influenced local attitudes, including incidents where individuals were stopped and searched for arms under suspicion of terrorism, an experience he personally faced.

Isidor lamented the decrease in interfaith activities and educational cooperation, such as sports games and organized school visits, which have become less frequent. He suggested that parental fears, influenced by media portrayals, might deter deeper interactions among children from different communities.

Discussing the Seminary's student body, Isidor mentioned current enrollment issues, including recognition problems with student IDs. He noted a decline in the student population, attributing it to parents' reluctance to send their children to the Seminary due to security fears.

In conclusion, Hieromonk Isidor called for a more human approach to inter-religious and inter-ethnic relationships, emphasizing natural interactions that move beyond superficial exchanges. He encouraged fostering genuine human connections, not because they are obligatory but out of a genuine desire to interact.

The meeting closed with Isidor expressing a need for more profound cultural appreciation and understanding, criticizing superficial celebrations that fail to foster true communal spirit. He underscored the importance of building a culture that genuinely embraces others, suggesting that true progress in community relations requires embracing each other's humanity.

## II. Conclusions and Commitments for Future Actions

### Conclusions

These conclusions reflect the results of the meetings in Prizren, where a solid fundament exists to further the inter-ethnic relations and advance the inter-faith cooperation.

### Interethnic and Interfaith Relations

- Prizren serves as a model of coexistence, where interethnic and interfaith collaboration is normalized rather than celebrated as an achievement.
- Positive relationships exist between ethnic and religious communities, as evidenced by initiatives like student exchanges, interfaith dialogues, and inclusive religious practices.
- Challenges persist, including diminished interfaith interactions, misunderstandings fueled by political tensions, and limited representation of certain groups in governance.

### Youth Engagement

- Youth represent the most open and adaptable demographic for fostering interethnic and interfaith harmony. Proper guidance and educational efforts targeting younger generations are essential.
- Language learning and cultural exchange can enhance mutual understanding among youth from diverse backgrounds.

### Cultural Heritage and Community Identity

- Religious and cultural sites in Prizren are considered integral to its identity, with significant efforts to preserve and respect them.
- Historical narratives and cultural heritage need to be better understood and shared to promote unity and mutual respect.

### Socioeconomic Concerns

- Emigration, particularly among young people, weakens community structures. Economic investment and better employment opportunities are critical to reversing this trend.

### **Institutional Cooperation**

- Collaboration between religious institutions and municipal authorities has been generally positive, although strained relations with some central institutions highlight a need for improved communication.
- Legal and administrative hurdles, such as property disputes and recognition of IDs of the students of the Seminary, hinder progress in improving cooperation.

### **Commitments for Future Actions**

These commitments reaffirm a collective dedication to further the current positive relations in Prizren, modeled by its own long diverse tradition, including examples from other municipalities in Kosovo. By focusing on dialogue, inclusivity, and shared progress, the meetings resulted in the following commitments.

#### **Enhancing Interfaith and Interethnic Dialogues**

- Increase opportunities for interfaith events, youth exchanges, and cultural activities that encourage understanding and cooperation between communities.
- Facilitate regular meetings between religious leaders and local government to address ongoing challenges and strengthen collaboration.

#### **Strengthening Youth Programs**

- Develop and support initiatives that engage youth in interethnic and interfaith activities, such as language learning programs, sports events, and cultural exchanges.
- Promote educational efforts that emphasize mutual respect, coexistence, and the value of cultural diversity.

#### **Preservation of Cultural and Religious Heritage**

- Advocate for increased funding and support for the maintenance and restoration of religious and cultural sites.
- Organize community workshops and events to raise awareness of the historical significance of these sites and their role in fostering unity.

#### **Economic and Social Development**

- Collaborate with municipal and international partners to attract investments in industries that create jobs and retain young talent.
- Work towards resolving property disputes and ensuring equitable representation of all communities in local administration.

#### **Improving Institutional Relationships**

- Address disagreements with central institutions through dialogue and mutual respect, seeking compromises that benefit all parties.
- Advocate for streamlined processes and legal reforms to resolve issues like property disputes and student ID recognition efficiently.

#### **Promoting Genuine Human Connections**

- Shift focus from symbolic gestures to meaningful interactions that build trust and understanding across communities.
- Encourage grassroots efforts to foster relationships beyond institutional frameworks, emphasizing humanity and shared values.

## Meetings in Prizren: Mayor and Religious Leaders



Mr. Shaqir Totaj,  
Mayor Municipality of Prizren  
December 20, 2024



Meeting with Mr. Valon ef. Ibrahim, Head of the Islamic Community in Prizren  
December 20, 2024



Meeting with Reverend Don Shan Zefi  
Vicar of the Diocese Prizren - Prishtina  
December 20th, 2024



Meeting with Reverend Hiermonk Isidor,  
Vice-Rector, Serbian Orthodox Church  
Seminary in Prizren,  
December 20, 2024



**MULTI-ETHNIC  
CARAVAN**  
FOR PEACE AND  
COHABITATION

# Letters of Desires and Expectations

Jovana Radosavljević, Ilir Deda, Dušan Radaković, Senad Sabović,  
Mentor Agani dhe Zoran Savić

Mr. Shaqir Totaj, Mayor  
Municipality of Prizren

December 2024

**Jovana Radosavljević, Executive Director  
New Social Initiative  
North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Mayor Totaj,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Jovana Radosavljević, and I serve as the Executive Director of the New Social Initiative, an NGO based in North Mitrovica dedicated to reconciliation and strengthening relationships between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians. I am writing to you as part of the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation, to share my expectations and hopes for fostering multi-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo, particularly in Prizren.

Your position as Mayor places you in a unique and vital role to shape a community that is welcoming, inclusive, and respectful of all its members. **By actively engaging with citizens, listening to their concerns, and encouraging dialogue among different ethnic groups, you can help build trust, ensure that everyone feels heard, and cultivate a sense of unity within Prizren.** Through your leadership, you have the opportunity to inspire policies and initiatives that celebrate our cultural diversity while promoting shared values.

**It is essential that we cherish our differences, ensure that all individuals feel safe, and valued and that their identity is respected and safeguarded.** Joint community projects, cultural exchanges, and open forums for dialogue can serve as practical steps toward greater



understanding and cooperation. Your public addresses and community outreach efforts can reinforce the importance of tolerance, empathy, and mutual respect.

Looking ahead, my vision is for a Kosovo in which multi-ethnic cohabitation is wholeheartedly embraced. **I hope to see initiatives that emphasize our common interests, reinforce feelings of safety, and highlight the strength we gain from working together.** Encouraging inter-ethnic collaboration, supporting educational programs focused on cultural awareness, and facilitating regular intercultural events will help create an environment where everyone in Prizren feels at home.

In conclusion, I respectfully encourage you to continue your efforts in building a peaceful, tolerant, and inclusive municipality. **Your leadership in Prizren can set a powerful example for others, showing that through understanding, dialogue, and respect, we can lay the groundwork for a future where all of Kosovo's communities thrive together.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With sincere respect,

Jovana Radosavljević

**Ilir Deda, Civil Society Activist  
Prishtina, Kosovo**

Dear Mayor Totaj,

I have been engaged and involved in some of the main issues for Kosovo and the Western Balkans for over two decades in various roles, including preservation and advancement of diversity in our country. I am also a member of the initiative Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation and I am writing in this capacity.

This initiative foresees, among others, for its members to write a letter of expectations focused on expectations of multiethnicity and multi-confessional cohabitation, which are also the fundamental values of our country. Regardless of the fact that in the last years there has been an a widening gap of mistrust between non-majority communities, especially the Serb community, with the central government – there are many actors in Kosovo who are a positive example during this period, such as you, and most municipal leaders who have played a significant role to keep trust with Serb community and the Serbian Orthodox Church. It is the local level leadership which has not allowed the deepening of the inter-ethnic divide.

Our initiative has held a series of meetings in other municipalities – such as Prishtina, Gracanica, Peja and Shterpce, including the leaders of the Islamic Community of Kosovo, the Dioceze Prizren-Prishtina and the Dioceze of Raska-Prizren, including the Protestant Church. We have seen an enormous good will and support for advancement of inter-ethnic relations and trust, including of

inter-religious mutual respect. I would like to single out the example of the Mayor of Pejë, Gazmend Muhaxheri, who has introduced an official day of interethnic tolerance celebrated annually under the municipality's umbrella and funding.

This demonstrated form of leadership presents a unique opportunity to consider inter-municipal cooperation in the area of multi-ethnicity, with the support of religious leaders. This could include joint visits to community centers or settlements, joint actions to encourage peaceful cohabitation and greater understanding, including development of joint projects. For example, an initiative of economic development partnership with the municipality of Strpce/Shterpce could be considered and developed.

I am of firm belief that the culture of peace can begin being created from the local level. In this respect, your insights and actions are of great importance, and I am looking forward to the discussions we as a group will have with you.

With sincere respect and appreciation,

Ilir Deda

**Dušan Radaković, Executive Director  
Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC)  
North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Mr. Totaj,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. We finalize the plans for the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation. My name is Dušan Radaković, Executive Director of the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC), and I am reaching out in the context of this initiative aimed at fostering stronger inter-ethnic cohabitation throughout Kosovo.

Prizren, as one of Kosovo's most diverse municipalities, plays a vital role in setting an example for how multi-ethnic communities can live and thrive together. The Multi-Ethnic Caravan seeks to explore and strengthen this potential by bringing together key stakeholders, such as yourself, to share expectations, ideas, and practical solutions for promoting mutual understanding and peace among different ethnic groups.

Given Prizren's unique position as a multicultural hub, we greatly admire your efforts to promote transparency and enhance good governance in the municipality. We are particularly interested in how the ongoing development of economic zones and the promotion of tourism can include all ethnic communities in Prizren.

- Any specific measures your administration is taking to promote cultural exchange and collaboration between communities?
- Steps being taken to address challenges related to education in minority languages, economic disparities, and equitable access to public services?
- How the municipality envisions strengthening its partnerships with civil society organizations in initiatives aimed at enhancing inter-ethnic relations?

Prizren unique cultural heritage and history as a hub for multi-ethnic coexistence could serve as a model for other municipalities across Kosovo. My vision for the future includes:

- Expanding opportunities for intercultural dialogue through municipal-supported programs and events.
- Enhancing economic development efforts that prioritize inclusive opportunities for all ethnic groups.

Could your office facilitate a discussion with representatives of all ethnic communities in Prizren to gather their perspectives on improving cohabitation? I deeply value your contribution to fostering peace and inclusivity in Kosovo. I am confident that your leadership will continue to inspire progress in this important journey. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas and to potentially working together toward our shared vision of harmony and cooperation.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this cause.

Warm regards,

Dušan Radaković

**Senad Šabović, Senior Adviser  
European Institute for Peace  
Brussels - Prishtina**

Honorable Mayor Totaj,

My name is Senad Šabović, and I am writing to you as a supporter of the project *Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation*. I serve as a senior advisor with the European Institute of Peace, focusing on the EU-facilitated Dialogue and the normalization process. My organization is part of a civil society coalition called the Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA), which seeks to provide tangible contributions in this domain. As a former OSCE Mission in Kosovo official and a professional in democratization and community rights, I have closely followed your leadership in Prizren. Your efforts to uphold and celebrate the city's multiethnic character have been exemplary.

Prizren holds a unique place in Kosovo's fabric. Its history, rich cultural heritage, and diverse population have made it a symbol of coexistence for centuries. This diversity is not just a historical legacy but a contemporary strength that should guide Kosovo as a whole. In these challenging times, when Kosovo's constitutional commitment to multiethnicity faces strains due to the stalled Dialogue and broader regional dynamics, Prizren can and should lead the way in demonstrating that diversity is a foundation for progress, not division.

Your tenure as Mayor has shown a deep understanding of the importance of interethnic cohesion and inclusive governance. The vibrant communities of Albanians, Bosniaks, Turks, Roma, Serbs, and others in Prizren serve as a testament to what Kosovo aspires to be—a truly multiethnic state that values and protects all its citizens equally.

The current context calls for further action to consolidate and celebrate this diversity. Allow me to suggest several ideas in this regard:

1. **Institutionalizing Interethnic Celebrations:** Prizren could establish an annual event or initiative dedicated to celebrating interethnic tolerance, akin to the Day of Interethnic Tolerance in Peja/Peć. This could involve cultural performances, art exhibitions, and public dialogues that highlight the city's diversity and bring communities together.
2. **Promoting Multiethnic Stories:** Publicizing the city's multiethnic success stories through social media campaigns, press releases, and community visits would serve as an inspiration for the rest of Kosovo. Engaging in such outreach in community languages can further reinforce inclusivity.
3. **Inter-Municipal Cooperation:** Initiating joint projects with municipalities across Kosovo—such as those in Gračanica, Kamenica, or Mitrovica—can strengthen interethnic relations and provide practical examples of collaboration. These projects could focus on youth, culture, or economic development, fostering trust and cohesion across communities.
4. **Policy Development for Cohesion:** Developing and promoting municipal policies that explicitly aim to enhance interethnic cohesion—such as grants for community projects or scholarships for underrepresented groups—would align with Kosovo's constitutional framework and set an example for other municipalities.

Honorable Mayor, I am confident that your leadership in this regard can create a ripple effect, not just in Prizren but across Kosovo. The colleagues from the European Institute of Peace, this project, and the KCA coalition are ready to provide tangible support to you and your team in executing such initiatives.

With great respect and appreciation,

Senad Šabović

**Mentor Agani, Senior Researcher**  
**Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development**  
**Prishtina, Kosovo**

Honorable Mayor, Mr. Totaj,

My name is Mentor Agani, and I am a Senior Researcher at KIPRED, The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development, as well as a Lecturer at the Dardania College in Prishtina. During the period 2003-2016, I was also lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina. I am writing this letter with the intention of expressing some of my expectations and desires regarding the inter-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo.

First of all, I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing it on my own, and on behalf of KIPRED, as well as of several other organizations with which we share a common commitment to fostering mutual respect and understanding between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo in general, and in the Municipality of Prizren in particular.

The project within which we are sending you these letters, "Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation," recognizes the key role that religious and municipal leaders and communities play in fostering peace, understanding, and reconciliation in the Kosovo's context. With this in mind, we would like to propose several initiatives that could be undertaken jointly by you, the other religious leaders in Prizren, as well as the municipal authorities, civil society organizations, and

local actors, in order to promote mutual respect and cooperation between Albanians and Serbs. Following is a list of the proposed initiatives.

1. **Joint cultural and educational programs**, such as festivals, workshops, and historical tours that highlight our shared cultural heritage and promote mutual respect. These could also include workshops in which Albanian and Serbian youngsters will discuss the opportunities for a number of them to start learning the native languages of one-another.
2. **Community-building projects**, where Albanians and Serbs participate in activities like public space improvements, neighborhood cleanups, or humanitarian initiatives that address the common needs of all citizens.
3. **Youth engagement and dialogue initiatives**, including sports events, artistic collaborations, and dialogue forums, designed to empower young people from both communities to work together and build lasting relationships.

Indeed, as one from the most important things, one of my primary hopes is to see the establishment of inclusive policy-making processes. It is crucial that all the communities feel represented and heard in taking of the decisions that affect their lives.

Certainly, platforms for dialogue would enable residents from diverse backgrounds to contribute their perspectives and ideas. This initiative would not only empower individuals but also foster trust and cooperation among ethnic groups.

We are convinced that the Municipality of Prizren can play a pivotal role in these initiatives by providing support, facilitating dialogue, and endorsing projects that encourage peaceful coexistence. We are ready to collaborate closely with your office and other local institutions to develop and implement these ideas.

I would be honored to meet with you and your team to further discuss these proposals and explore how we might work together for the benefit of all residents of Prizren. We are hopeful that these efforts can contribute to a more united and harmonious future for our municipality.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to work together for the good of our community.

With deep respect and best regards,

Mentor Agani,

**Zoran Savić, Project Coordinator**  
**NGO AKTIV**  
**North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Mayor Shaqir Totaj,

My name is Zoran Savić and I am a project coordinator in the non-governmental organization Aktiv from North Mitrovica. Although I was born in Pula, Croatia, I have actually lived in Mitrovica for over 30 years and I am actively involved in social life in Kosovo, both through work and cultural life, considering that I am also a musician, and I have participated in various inter-ethnic projects with musicians of Albanian nationality.

At the same time, for many years I worked as a journalist in the Kosovo Sever portal - KoSSev, and through this job I became even more familiar with the political and security situation in Kosovo. Even today, I collaborate with many Albanian journalists and editors, both project-wise and through jobs that are not related to the same.

Your position as mayor of Prizren can help a lot in promoting messages of peace and unity. Therefore, I am looking forward for your support in organizing inter-ethnic dialogues and community service projects that involve different ethnic groups working together.

In this spirit, I hope for a future where multi-ethnic cohabitation becomes the norm in Kosovo. I envision communities where ethnic differences are embraced as strengths rather than sources of division. To this end, you might focus on creating sustainable programs that educate on cultural diversity and tolerance, support joint community projects, and ensure equal representation of all ethnic groups in local governance.

Therefore, I encourage you to actively participate in creating a peaceful and inclusive community by supporting inter-ethnic initiatives, advocating for policies that guarantee equal opportunities for everyone, and fostering open and respectful dialogue between various ethnic groups.

I conclude this letter on a hopeful note, envisioning a future where our united efforts cultivate a genuinely harmonious and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo. I am certain that with our shared dedication, we can achieve remarkable progress toward this worthy goal.

Zoran Savić



## Letters of Desires and Expectations

Jovana Radosavljević, Ilir Deda, Dušan Radaković, Senad Sabović,  
Mentor Agani dhe Zoran Savić



Mr. Valon ef. Ibrahim  
Head of the Islamic Community  
Prizren

December 2024

**Jovana Radosavljević, Executive Director  
New Social Initiative  
North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Poštovani gospodine ef. Ibrahim, i,

Nadam se da vas ovo pismo zatiče u dobrom zdravlju i raspoloženju. Moje ime je Jovana Radosavljević i izvršna sam direktorka organizacije Nova Društvena Inicijativa, nevladine organizacije sa sedištem u Severnoj Mitrovici, posvećene promovisanju pomirenja i razumevanja između kosovskih Srba i kosovskih Albanaca. Pišem vam u okviru inicijative „Multietnički karavan za mir i suživot“ kako bih podelila svoja očekivanja i nade za negovanje multietničkog suživota na Kosovu, posebno u Prizrenu.

Vaša pozicija kao lidera Islamske zajednice u Prizrenu stavlja vas u jedinstvenu i uticajnu ulogu da podstičete dijalog, empatiju i saradnju preko kulturnih i verskih granica. **Prihvatanjem principa tolerancije i poštovanja, možete pomoći u stvaranju atmosfere gde se ljudi različitih pozadina osećaju sigurno, cenjeno i zaštićeno u svom identitetu.** Vaše vođstvo i smernice imaju moć da inspirišu članove zajednice da se uključe u razgovore i aktivnosti koje premošćuju podele i jačaju uzajamno poverenje.

**Ključno je da negujemo našu raznolikost i razvijamo okruženje u kojem se poštuju svačija uverenja, tradicije i kulturno nasleđe. Ohrabrujem vas da podržite i pokrenete međureligijske dijaloge, zajedničke projekte u službi zajednice i kulturne razmene koje okupljaju pojedince iz različitih etničkih grupa. Takvi naponi mogu istaći naše zajedničke vrednosti, pokazati značaj saradnje i otvoriti put ka mirnom i inkluzivnom Prizrenu.**

Gledajući u budućnost, zamišljam Kosovo gde se multietnički suživot slavi, a razlike doživljavaju kao bogatstvo, a ne prepreke. **Sa vašim vođstvom, Islamska zajednica u Prizrenu može igrati ključnu ulogu u oblikovanju harmoničnijeg, tolerantnijeg i kohezivnijeg društva.** Kroz doslednu saradnju, međukulturne događaje i naglašavanje saosećanja u vašim javnim obraćanjima, možete pomoći da se osigura da se svi u Prizrenu osećaju kao kod kuće.

Na kraju, s poštovanjem vas ohrabrujem da nastavite svoje napore u izgradnji mirne, inkluzivne i razumevajuće zajednice. **Vaša nepokolebljiva posvećenost promovisanju poštovanja i jedinstva može postaviti snažan primer za druge, doprinoseći budućnosti u kojoj sve zajednice na Kosovu žive skladno i s međusobnim poštovanjem.**

Hvala vam na vašem vremenu i pažnji.

S iskrenim poštovanjem,

Jovana Radosavljević

**Ilir Deda, Civil Society Activist  
Prishtina, Kosovo**

Honorable Imam Ibrahim,imi,

I have been engaged and involved in some of the main issues for Kosovo and the Western Balkans for over two decades in various roles, including preservation and advancement of diversity in our country. I am also a member of the initiative Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation and I am writing in this capacity.

This initiative foresees, among others, for its members to write a letter of expectations focused on expectations of multiethnicity and multi-confessional cohabitation, which are also the fundamental values of our country. The Islamic Community of Kosovo has a central role, and I would like to stress the deep appreciation for all the positive engagement done so far in various forums of inter-faith dialogue, cooperation and exchanges.

Greater contribution to a joint sense of multiethnicity and tolerance is of significant importance, especially in Prizren where some of the most treasured religious heritage sites are centered. We in this initiative believe that stressing multiethnicity, tolerance and greater understanding as a value should be stressed at every opportunity.

Inter-faith dialogue and greater understanding is a modern form aiming to advance cohabitation and inter-religious harmony. Although we live in times when harmony is not valued, I believe Kosovo given its unique history, can establish inter-faith dialogue at the local municipal level, to begin creating the culture of peace. This forum would advance the mutual understanding between local religious leaders, including the understanding with local municipal authorities. It would also serve as a forum to discuss and address respective needs of each of the religious communities.

I am of strong belief that our deeds now will define and build the future of harmony, mutual respect and understanding.

With sincere respect,

Ilir Deda

**Dušan Radaković, Executive Director**  
**Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC)**  
**North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Mr. Ibrahim,imi,

I hope this letter finds you well. Please allow me to reaching out to you as we coordinate the efforts for the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation. My name is Dušan Radaković, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC). It is my pleasure to address you in this initiative aimed at strengthening inter-ethnic harmony and understanding throughout Kosovo.

The city of Prizren, with its rich tapestry of cultures and faiths, has long stood as a symbol of coexistence and unity. As a prominent leader in the Islamic Community of Prizren, your voice and guidance are instrumental in fostering mutual respect and collaboration among the different religious and ethnic groups in this historic municipality.

#### Expectations for Cohabitation

Religious institutions and their leaders hold a unique and profound ability to bridge divides and nurture shared values of peace and tolerance. With this in mind, I would like to ask:

- How do you see the role of the Islamic Community in promoting interfaith dialogue within Prizren?
- Could you share examples of recent initiatives or programs led by your community that have brought together people of diverse backgrounds?
- What opportunities do you see for greater collaboration between religious leaders and municipal authorities to enhance multi-ethnic relations in Prizren?

#### Desires for the Future

- As someone committed to advancing peace and unity, I hope for a future where:
- Faith-based organizations work in harmony to establish regular interfaith exchanges and events.
- Programs addressing youth education and engagement highlight the shared values among communities.

#### Call to Action

I kindly encourage you to consider organizing or co-hosting a dialogue session under the Caravan's framework. This session could focus on the spiritual and moral foundations of coexistence and be open to leaders and members of all faiths in Prizren.

Your leadership and dedication to the well-being of the community are greatly appreciated, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can work together to achieve the shared vision of peace and cohabitation. Thank you for your time and commitment to this important cause.

Warm regards,

Dušan Radaković

**Senad Šabović, Senior Adviser  
European Institute for Peace  
Brussels – Prishtina**

Honorable Valon ef. Ibrahim,imi,

My name is Senad Šabović, and I am writing to you as a supporter of the project *Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation*. I serve as a senior advisor with the European Institute of Peace, focusing on the EU-facilitated Dialogue and the normalization process in general. My organization is part of a civil society coalition called the Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA), which seeks to provide tangible contributions in this field.

Prizren is renowned for its unique diversity and rich cultural heritage, where various religious communities have coexisted for centuries. This makes the city a beacon of interfaith harmony and a critical example of how religious institutions can contribute to multiethnic and multicultural cohesion. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Islamic Community of Kosovo and your leadership for your efforts to promote understanding and tolerance, both within the Muslim community and in broader interfaith settings.

In the current climate, with rising tensions and a stalled normalization process, the role of religious communities in fostering dialogue and peace is more vital than ever. As a respected leader, your contributions can strengthen these efforts and reaffirm the principles of mutual respect and cooperation that are foundational to Kosovo's multiethnic character.

I would like to propose a few suggestions that could build on your excellent work in this regard:

1. **Establishment of a Local Interfaith Council:** Prizren, with its historical and cultural richness, is the perfect place to pilot an interfaith council. Such a council could serve as a platform for religious leaders to collaborate on issues of common concern, including the protection and rehabilitation of religious and cultural monuments. This initiative would demonstrate unity in preserving the shared heritage of all communities.
2. **Incorporating Messages of Diversity into Religious Practice:** Encouraging respect for ethnic and religious diversity through Jumu'ah sermons and community outreach initiatives would be a powerful way to engage your congregation and promote tolerance.
3. **Joint Actions with Religious and Community Leaders:** Initiating joint visits with leaders of other religious communities to multiethnic neighborhoods, cultural sites, and community centers could symbolize unity and inspire similar actions across Kosovo.
4. **Promoting Interfaith Dialogue on Social Media:** Highlighting shared values and promoting messages of peace and understanding through social media platforms could amplify the reach of your initiatives and engage younger generations.
5. **Educational Programs on Tolerance:** Collaborating with schools, cultural organizations, and youth groups to deliver educational sessions on the importance of religious and ethnic diversity can build long-term societal cohesion.

Your leadership and the Islamic Community's commitment to interfaith dialogue are crucial not only for Prizren but for Kosovo as a whole. These efforts not only protect the rich heritage of this region but also send a strong message that Prizren stands as a model of unity and coexistence in challenging times.

Rest assured, Honorable Valon ef. Ibrahim,imi, that my colleagues from the European Institute of Peace, from this project, as well as the mentioned KCA coalition, are ready to support you in

implementing these ideas or any other initiatives you envision to further strengthen tolerance and understanding in our society.

With great respect and appreciation,

Senad Šabović

**Mentor Agani, Senior Researcher  
Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development  
Prishtina, Kosovo**

Honorable Imam, Valon Efendi Ibrahim,imi,

My name is Mentor Agani, and I am a Senior Researcher at KIPRED, The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development, as well as a Lecturer at the Dardania College in Prishtina. During the period 2003-2016, I was also lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina. I am writing this letter with the intention of expressing some of my expectations and desires regarding the inter-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo.

First of all, I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing it on my own, and on behalf of KIPRED, as well as of several other organizations with which we share a common commitment to fostering mutual respect and understanding between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo in general, and in the Municipality of Prizren in particular.

The project within which we are sending you these letters, “Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation,” recognizes the key role that religious and municipal leaders and communities play in fostering peace, understanding, and reconciliation in the Kosovo’s context. With this in mind, we would like to propose several initiatives that could be undertaken jointly by you, the other religious leaders in Prizren, as well as the municipal authorities, civil society organizations, and local actors, in order to promote mutual respect and cooperation between Albanians and Serbs. Following is a list of the proposed initiatives.

1. **Interfaith Dialogues and Public Discussions:** Organizing regular interfaith dialogues, where religious leaders from the Islamic, Catholic, and Orthodox communities can engage in open and constructive discussions about shared values, spiritual wisdom, and how faith can be a bridge to peace.
2. **Joint Charitable and Community Service Projects:** Bringing together Albanians and Serbs from various religious backgrounds to work on charitable initiatives that benefit the wider community—such as supporting vulnerable families, improving public spaces, providing humanitarian assistance, and so forth.
3. **Youth and Family Engagement Programs:** Creating opportunities for young people and families from all backgrounds to participate in joint workshops, cultural exchanges, and sports activities. Here, the religious leaders can play a significant role in shaping the programs, and in offering moral guidance and support.
4. **Public Interfaith Celebrations and Cultural Events:** Organizing joint festivals or events that celebrate the cultural and religious diversity of Prizren, where members of the community can learn about and appreciate each other’s traditions. Such events, endorsed and supported by religious leaders, could include workshops in which Albanian and Serbian youngsters will discuss the opportunities for a number of them to start learning the native languages of one-another.
5. **Joint Statements and Appeals for Peace:** A united appeal for peace and reconciliation from all religious leaders in Prizren could have a profound impact on the community. By issuing joint statements or participating in shared public prayers or reflections, religious leaders can set a powerful example, encouraging all citizens to embrace tolerance, respect, and cooperation as essential elements of their everyday lives.

We believe that, through collaboration with the Islamic Community, the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, as well as municipal authorities, and civil society and local actors, these initiatives can make a tangible difference in improving relations between Albanians and Serbs. Your leadership as the head of the Islamic Community would be essential in guiding and promoting these efforts.

I would be honored to meet with you to discuss these ideas further and explore how we can work together to implement them as well as to look for new ones. We are eager to contribute to building a more peaceful, harmonious future for all the people of Prizren regardless of their ethnic and religious background.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you and the opportunity to collaborate on these important initiatives.

With deep respect and warm regards,

Mentor Agani



**Zoran Savić, Project Coordinator**  
**NGO AKTIV**  
**North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Valon ef. Ibrahim, i,

My name is Zoran Savić and I am a project coordinator in the non-governmental organization Aktiv from North Mitrovica. Although I was born in Pula, Croatia, I have actually lived in Mitrovica for over 30 years and I am actively involved in social life in Kosovo, both through work and cultural life, considering that I am also a musician, and I have participated in various inter-ethnic projects with musicians of Albanian nationality.

At the same time, for many years I worked as a journalist in the Kosovo Sever portal - KoSSev, and through this job I became even more familiar with the political, security and religious situation in Kosovo. Even today, I collaborate with many Albanian journalists and editors, both project-wise and through jobs that are not related to the same.

Your leadership as the head of the Islamic Community in Prizren can greatly promote inter-ethnic harmony. Encouraging dialogue and cooperation between different religious and ethnic groups can help bridge divides. I urge you to support community programs and joint service projects that bring people from diverse backgrounds together. Your sermons and public addresses can emphasize unity, tolerance, and respect for all. Therefore, I am looking forward for your support in organizing inter-ethnic dialogues and community service projects that involve different religious groups working together.

In this spirit, I hope for a future where multi-ethnic religious cohabitation becomes the norm in Kosovo. I envision communities where religious differences are embraced as strengths rather than sources of division. To this end, you might focus on creating sustainable programs that educate on religious diversity and tolerance, support joint community projects, and ensure equal representation of all religious groups in local governance..

I conclude this letter on a hopeful note, envisioning a future where our united efforts cultivate a genuinely harmonious and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo. I am certain that with our shared dedication, we can achieve remarkable progress toward this worthy goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zoran Savić



## Letters of Desires and Expectations

Jovana Radosavljević, Ilir Deda, Dušan Radaković, Senad Sabović,  
Mentor Agani dhe Zoran Savić

The Reverend Don Shan Zefi  
Vicar of the Catholic Diocese Prizren-Pristina  
Prizren

December 2024

**Jovana Radosavljević, Executive Director  
New Social Initiative  
North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Reverend Don Zefi,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Jovana Radosavljević, and I am the Executive Director of the New Social Initiative, an NGO based in North Mitrovica dedicated to fostering reconciliation and understanding between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians. I write to you as part of the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation, to share my expectations and hopes for strengthening multi-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo, particularly within the Prizren-Prishtina area.

Your role as Vicar of the Catholic Diocese places you in a position of great influence and responsibility. **By encouraging dialogue, understanding, and respect among people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds, you can help create a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and confident in their identity.** Your spiritual leadership can inspire compassion, empathy, and openness, guiding individuals to recognize and appreciate the richness of our diverse society.

**It is essential that we cherish our differences while ensuring that the dignity and identity of all individuals are safeguarded.** Supporting interfaith gatherings, joint community initiatives, and cultural exchanges can contribute to breaking down barriers and building trust. Through these efforts, the Catholic Diocese can highlight common values, such as love for one's neighbor, solidarity, and cooperation, which transcend our differences.

Looking to the future, I envision a Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation is not only a possibility but a source of collective strength. **I hope to see ongoing efforts to foster understanding and unity through inclusive events, educational programs, and shared community projects.** By cultivating an environment rooted in tolerance and respect, we can ensure that everyone feels at home, regardless of their background.

In conclusion, I respectfully encourage you to continue your efforts in guiding your community toward greater harmony and mutual respect. **Your leadership and dedication can set an example of how faith and good will can bring us closer together, paving the way for a peaceful and inclusive future for all people in Kosovo.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With sincere respect,

Jovana Radosavljević

**Ilir Deda, Civil Society Activist  
Prishtina, Kosovo**

Honorable Reverend Don Shan Zefi,

I have been engaged and involved in some of the main issues for Kosovo and the Western Balkans for over two decades in various roles, including preservation and advancement of diversity in our country. I am also a member of the initiative Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation and I am writing in this capacity.

This initiative foresees, among others, for its members to write a letter of expectations focused on expectations of multiethnicity and multi-confessional cohabitation, which are also the fundamental values of our country. The Catholic Church has a significant, and I would like to stress the deep appreciation for all the positive engagement done so far in various forums of inter-faith dialogue, cooperation and exchanges.

Greater contribution to a joint sense of multiethnicity and tolerance is of significant importance, especially in Prizren where some of the most treasured religious heritage sites are centered. We in this initiative believe that stressing multiethnicity, tolerance and greater understanding as a value should be stressed at every opportunity.

Inter-faith dialogue and greater understanding is a modern form aiming to advance cohabitation and inter-religious harmony. Although we live in times when harmony is not valued, I believe Kosovo given its unique history, can establish inter-faith dialogue at the local municipal level, to begin creating the culture of peace. This forum would advance the mutual understanding between local religious leaders, including the understanding with local municipal authorities. It would also serve as a forum to discuss and address respective needs of each of the religious communities.

I am of strong belief that our deeds now will define and build the future of harmony, mutual respect and understanding.

With sincere respect,

Ilir Deda

**Dušan Radaković, Executive Director  
Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC)  
North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Reverend Don Shan Zefi,

I trust this letter finds you well. We coordinate efforts for the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation. My name is Dušan Radaković, and I am the Executive Director of the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC). It is with deep respect and admiration for your leadership within the Catholic Diocese that I write to invite your participation and share our aspirations for fostering harmony among communities in Kosovo.

Your role as Vicar within the Diocese is instrumental in guiding the faithful and serving as a bridge between diverse communities. The Catholic Church's longstanding commitment to peace and reconciliation is an inspiration to us all, particularly in regions as historically diverse as Prizren and Prishtina.

#### Expectations for Cohabitation

As a key spiritual leader, your insights and actions can significantly impact interfaith and interethnic understanding. With this in mind, I would like to ask:

- How does the Diocese currently engage with other faith communities to promote mutual respect and understanding?
- What initiatives or programs do you believe can be further developed to deepen collaboration between communities in Prizren and Prishtina?
- In what ways can the Catholic Church's teachings on love and peace inspire practical actions toward unity in Kosovo?

#### Desires for the Future

- Strengthened interfaith dialogue and joint initiatives among the Catholic Church, other religious communities, and local authorities.
- Educational and cultural programs that bring young people from different backgrounds together to learn about shared values and histories.
- The Catholic Diocese continuing to lead by example in fostering peace, compassion, and solidarity in Kosovo.

We would be honored to have your active participation in the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation. Your voice and leadership are vital to our efforts to build bridges between communities. Additionally, we would welcome the opportunity to organize a joint event with the Diocese to celebrate the shared values that unite us.

Your work as a Vicar of the Catholic Diocese is deeply valued, and I believe that together, we can contribute to a more peaceful and inclusive future for Kosovo. Thank you for considering this invitation, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can collaborate to achieve these important goals.

With great respect and warm regards,

Dušan Radaković

**Senad Šabović, Senior Adviser  
European Institute for Peace  
Brussels – Prishtina**

Honorable Reverend Don Shan Zefi,

My name is Senad Šabović, and I am writing to you as a supporter of the project *Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation*. I serve as a senior advisor with the European Institute of Peace, focusing on the EU-facilitated Dialogue and the normalization process. My organization is part of a civil society coalition called the Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA), which aims to provide tangible contributions to fostering interethnic understanding and cooperation in Kosovo.

Prizren holds a unique and critical place in Kosovo's identity as the diversity capital of the country. Its deep-rooted history of coexistence among different ethnic and religious communities makes it an inspiration and a model for other regions. In this regard, the Catholic Diocese, under your leadership, has been exemplary in promoting values of tolerance, understanding, and unity. I commend your engagement in interfaith dialogue and your efforts to bridge divides through cooperation with leaders of other faiths.

However, as you are aware, Kosovo is facing increasing challenges to its constitutional commitment to multiethnicity. This makes it all the more urgent for religious institutions and their leaders to actively reaffirm and strengthen these principles. In this context, I would like to propose a few suggestions that could further build on the Catholic Church's significant contributions in this field:

1. **Formation of a Local Interfaith Council:** Prizren's vibrant diversity makes it the ideal place to pilot a council that brings together leaders of different faiths. This body could advise local and national institutions, as well as international donors, on the preservation of religious and cultural heritage sites, and it could act as a platform for collaborative interfaith initiatives.
2. **Promoting Messages of Peace and Coexistence:** Highlighting the Holy Bible's teachings of love, compassion, and understanding in your sermons and community engagements could further inspire believers to embrace diversity and unity.
3. **Joint Religious and Community Visits:** Collaborative visits with leaders of other religious institutions to multiethnic neighborhoods, cultural landmarks, or community centers could be a visible and powerful demonstration of solidarity and shared commitment to peace.
4. **Outreach Through Media:** Leveraging social media and other communication channels to share the Diocese's interfaith initiatives and messages of unity could amplify your work and reach a broader audience, especially the youth.
5. **Educational Initiatives:** Collaborating with schools, youth groups, and other organizations to promote awareness of Kosovo's rich multiethnic heritage and the importance of interfaith dialogue would contribute to long-term social cohesion.

Your leadership and the Diocese's contributions are essential in maintaining Prizren's role as a symbol of diversity and peaceful coexistence. By continuing and expanding these initiatives, the Catholic Church can help inspire others across Kosovo to embrace and celebrate the country's multiethnic identity.

Rest assured, Reverend Don Shan Zefi, that my colleagues from the European Institute of Peace, this project, and the KCA coalition are ready to support you in implementing these or any other initiatives that strengthen interfaith understanding and multiethnic collaboration in Prizren and beyond.

With great respect and appreciation,

Senad Šabović

**Mentor Agani, Senior Researcher**  
**Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development**  
**Prishtina, Kosovo**

Reverend Vicar, Don Shan Zefi,

My name is Mentor Agani, and I am a Senior Researcher at KIPRED, The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development, as well as a Lecturer at the Dardania College in Prishtina. During the period 2003-2016, I was also lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina. I am writing this letter with the intention of expressing some of my expectations and desires regarding the inter-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo.

First of all, I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing it on my own, and on behalf of KIPRED, as well as of several other organizations with which we share a common commitment to fostering mutual respect and understanding between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo in general, and in the Municipality of Peja in particular.

The project within which we are sending you these letters, “Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation,” recognizes the key role that religious and municipal leaders and communities play in fostering peace, understanding, and reconciliation in the Kosovo’s context. With this in mind, we would like to propose several initiatives that could be undertaken jointly by you, the other religious leaders in Prizren, as well as the municipal authorities, civil society organizations, and local actors, in order to promote mutual respect and cooperation between Albanians and Serbs. Following is a list of the proposed initiatives.

1. **Interfaith dialogues**, where religious leaders from the Catholic, Orthodox, and Muslim communities can come together to discuss shared values, common concerns, and the promotion of peace and tolerance.
2. **Community service projects**, where members of all faiths work side by side on charitable activities that benefit the local population, fostering unity through acts of service.
3. **Youth and family engagement programs**, which would involve educational workshops, cultural exchanges, and joint events that bring families and young people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.
4. **Joint religious and cultural festivals**, celebrating the diverse religious traditions of the community. This could involve shared events during major religious holidays, art exhibits, and music performances that highlight common spiritual values.
5. **Peacebuilding workshops**, where religious leaders and community members are trained in conflict resolution, mediation, and peacebuilding strategies to equip them with the tools to manage tensions and promote understanding within the community. These can also include workshops in which Albanian and Serbian youngsters will discuss the opportunities for a number of them to start learning the native languages of one-another.

We are confident that the Diocese of Prizren–Prishtina, as a respected and influential religious institution of Kosovo, can play a crucial role in these efforts. With your support and guidance, we believe that these initiatives can make a meaningful contribution to healing divisions and promoting harmony in our community.

We would be honored to meet with you to discuss these proposals in more detail and explore how we can collaborate with the Church in these efforts. We deeply value your leadership and



activities, and are eager to work together to create a more peaceful and inclusive future for Prizren.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss this further.

With great respect and warm regards,

Mentor Agani,

**Zoran Savić, Project Coordinator**  
**NGO AKTIV**  
**North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Reverend Don Shan Zefi,

My name is Zoran Savić and I am a project coordinator in the non-governmental organization Aktiv from North Mitrovica. Although I was born in Pula, Croatia, I have actually lived in Mitrovica for 30 years and I am actively involved in social life in Kosovo, both through work and cultural life, considering that I am also a musician, and I have participated in various inter-ethnic projects with musicians of Albanian nationality.

At the same time, for many years I worked as a journalist in the Kosovo Sever portal - KoSSev, and through this job I became even more familiar with the political, security and religious situation in Kosovo. Even today, I collaborate with many Albanian journalists and editors, both project-wise and through jobs that are not related to the same.

Your leadership as the Vicar of the Catholic Diocese Prizren - Prishtina can greatly promote inter-ethnic harmony. Encouraging dialogue and cooperation between different religious and ethnic groups can help bridge divides. I urge you to support community programs and joint service projects that bring people from diverse backgrounds together. Your sermons and public addresses can emphasize unity, tolerance, and respect for all. Therefore, I am looking forward for your support in organizing inter-ethnic dialogues and community service projects that involve different religious groups working together.

In this spirit, I hope for a future where multi-ethnic religious cohabitation becomes the norm in Kosovo. I envision communities where religious differences are embraced as strengths rather than sources of division. To this end, you might focus on creating sustainable programs that educate on religious diversity and tolerance, support joint community projects, and ensure equal representation of all religious groups in local governance.

Looking forward, I envision a Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation and religious tolerance is embraced. Regular interfaith meetings and intercultural initiatives can foster dialogue and cooperation.

I conclude this letter on a hopeful note, envisioning a future where our united efforts cultivate a genuinely harmonious and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo. I am certain that with our shared dedication, we can achieve remarkable progress toward this worthy goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zoran Savić



## Letters of Desires and Expectations

Jovana Radosavljević, Ilir Deda, Dušan Radaković, Senad Sabović,  
Mentor Agani dhe Zoran Savić

The Reverend Hieromonk Isidor  
Serbian Orthodox Church Seminary  
Prizren

December 2024

**Jovana Radosavljević, Executive Director  
New Social Initiative  
North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Reverend Hieromonk Isidor,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and peace. My name is Jovana Radosavljević, and I serve as the Executive Director of the New Social Initiative, based in North Mitrovica. As an Orthodox Christian and fellow member of the Serbian Orthodox community, I am deeply invested in the wellbeing and unity of our people, as well as in fostering understanding and reconciliation between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians. I write to you as part of the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation, to share my expectations and hopes for strengthening multi-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo, particularly within Prizren.

The Serbian Orthodox Church Seminary in Prizren carries profound historical and spiritual significance. Your role as a spiritual guide and educator places you in a unique position to shape future generations who will appreciate the importance of tolerance, respect, and understanding.

**It is essential that we cherish our religious and cultural heritage while ensuring that everyone's identity is safeguarded.** Initiatives that promote dialogue, cultural exchanges, and community projects involving people from all ethnic communities can build trust and break down barriers. As a respected spiritual leader, your teachings can emphasize the importance of unity, compassion, and cooperation, inspiring others to look beyond differences and focus on shared values.

Looking to the future, my vision is of a Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation is not only possible but wholeheartedly embraced. **I hope to see continued efforts to foster understanding and mutual regard through interfaith gatherings, educational activities, and events that celebrate our diverse traditions.** Such endeavors can help ensure that everyone in Prizren feels at home and that our communities learn from one another's experiences and perspectives.

In conclusion, I respectfully encourage you to continue guiding and inspiring those in your care to act as ambassadors of peace, tolerance, and understanding. **Your leadership within the Seminary can set an enduring example of how faith, compassion, and dialogue contribute to a future where all of Kosovo's communities coexist harmoniously and with mutual respect.**

Thank you for your time, and for your unwavering commitment to our shared faith and community.

With sincere respect,

Jovana Radosavljević

**Ilir Deda, Civil Society Activist  
Prishtina, Kosovo**

Honorable Reverend Hieromonk Isidor,

I have been engaged and involved in some of the main issues for Kosovo and the Western Balkans for over two decades in various roles, including preservation and advancement of diversity in our country. I am also a member of the initiative Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation and I am writing in this capacity.

This initiative foresees, among others, for its members to write a letter of expectations focused on expectations of multiethnicity and multi-confessional cohabitation, being fundamental values for Kosovo. I would like to stress the deep appreciation for all the positive engagement done so far in various forums of inter-faith dialogue, cooperation and exchanges.

I understand very much and respect the unique position of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo. Greater contribution to a joint sense of multiethnicity and tolerance is of significant importance, especially in Prizren where some of the most treasured religious heritage sites are centered. We in this initiative believe that stressing multiethnicity, tolerance and greater understanding as a value should be stressed at every opportunity.

Inter-faith dialogue and greater understanding is a modern form aiming to advance cohabitation and inter-religious harmony. Although we live in times when harmony is not valued, I believe Kosovo given its unique history, can establish inter-faith dialogue at the local municipal level, to begin creating the culture of peace. This forum would advance the mutual understanding between local religious leaders, including the understanding with local municipal authorities. It would also serve as a forum to discuss and address respective needs of each of the religious communities.

I am of strong belief that our deeds now will define and build the future of harmony, mutual respect and understanding.

With sincere respect,

Ilir Deda

**Dušan Radaković, Executive Director**  
**Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC)**  
**North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Reverend Hieromonk Isidor,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. We coordinate efforts for the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation. My name is Dušan Radaković, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC). It is with great honor and respect that I write to you, recognizing your spiritual and cultural contributions to fostering unity in our community.

The Bogoslovia in Prizren holds a special place in the history of Kosovo as a bastion of faith, education, and resilience. Your leadership is pivotal in promoting inter-ethnic and inter-religious understanding, particularly in a city as historically diverse and symbolically rich as Prizren.

#### Expectations for Cohabitation

As a spiritual leader and educator, your work can significantly influence hearts and minds, encouraging understanding and harmony across communities. With this in mind, I would like to ask:

- What role do you envision for the Bogoslovia in fostering dialogue and collaboration among different ethnic and religious groups in Prizren?
- Could you share examples of past or ongoing programs or initiatives within the Bogoslovia that promote coexistence and mutual respect?
- How can the Bogoslovia work more closely with other religious institutions and local authorities to build bridges across divides?

Looking ahead, I am inspired by the vision of:

- Prizren becoming a model city for interfaith dialogue and multi-ethnic collaboration in Kosovo and beyond.
- Educational and cultural exchanges facilitated by institutions like the Bogoslovia that allow young people from diverse backgrounds to learn about and appreciate one another's traditions and histories.
- The Bogoslovia playing an active role in fostering peace through community outreach and joint initiatives with other faith-based organizations.

I kindly encourage your participation in the Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation. Your insights and spiritual guidance would be invaluable to our efforts. Furthermore, we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on a joint event or dialogue hosted at the Bogoslovia, celebrating the shared values of tolerance and understanding.

Your dedication to spiritual leadership and education has a profound impact, and I sincerely hope we can work together to strengthen the bonds of peace and unity in our community. Thank you for considering this invitation, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can collectively contribute to a brighter and more harmonious future.

With great respect and warm regards,

Dušan Radaković

**Senad Šabović, Senior Adviser  
European Institute for Peace  
Brussels – Prishtina**

Honorable Reverend Hieromonk Isidor,

My name is Senad Šabović, and I am writing to you as a supporter of the project *Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation*. I serve as a senior advisor with the European Institute of Peace, focusing on the EU-facilitated Dialogue and the normalization process. My organization is part of a civil society coalition called the Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA), which seeks to provide tangible contributions to advancing multiethnic cooperation and understanding in Kosovo.

The city of Prizren holds an exceptional place in Kosovo's cultural and spiritual heritage. It is a living testament to the coexistence of diverse religious and ethnic communities, housing sacred sites cherished by all faiths. In this spirit, I would like to commend your leadership and the Serbian Orthodox Church's significant contributions to interfaith dialogue and initiatives fostering peaceful cohabitation. These efforts are more crucial than ever, as our society faces heightened tensions and challenges to multiethnic harmony.

I believe your work at the Bogoslovia in Prizren uniquely positions you to further strengthen interfaith cooperation and promote the principles of tolerance and respect that are so deeply rooted in your faith. Allow me to propose some suggestions that could build on your valuable efforts:

1. **Establishment of a Local Interfaith Council:** Prizren, as a microcosm of Kosovo's diversity, is the ideal location to pilot an interfaith council. This council could serve as a platform for religious leaders from all faiths to collaborate on initiatives such as the protection and rehabilitation of religious monuments, fostering mutual respect, and addressing shared challenges.
2. **Strengthening Interfaith Outreach:** Organizing joint visits with leaders of other faiths to multiethnic neighborhoods, cultural sites, or religious institutions would visibly affirm the commitment to coexistence and inspire similar actions throughout Kosovo.
3. **Incorporating Messages of Tolerance:** Emphasizing themes of diversity, peaceful coexistence, and mutual respect in your engagements with the faithful would reinforce the Church's role in promoting understanding and reconciliation.
4. **Advocating for Cultural Preservation:** Coordinating with institutions and donors on the preservation of Kosovo's religious and cultural heritage sites can symbolize unity in valuing the shared history of all communities.
5. **Community Engagement through Media:** Using social media and other communication channels to highlight interfaith initiatives, shared festivals, or commemorative events can reach broader audiences and build momentum for tolerance and cooperation.

The Serbian Orthodox Church's long-standing presence in Prizren, coupled with your leadership, is a cornerstone of Kosovo's multiethnic identity. Your efforts to foster dialogue and understanding among diverse communities have been and will remain vital to preserving the rich tapestry of our society.

Rest assured, Reverend Hieromonk, that my colleagues from the European Institute of Peace, this project, and the KCA coalition are ready to provide tangible support to you and your team in

implementing these or other initiatives you may consider valuable in strengthening multiethnic and interfaith cohesion.

With great respect and appreciation,

Senad Šabović



**Mentor Agani, Senior Researcher  
Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development  
Prishtina, Kosovo**

Reverend Hieromonk Isidor,

My name is Mentor Agani, and I am a Senior Researcher at KIPRED, The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development, as well as a Lecturer at the Dardania College in Prishtina. During the period 2003-2016, I was also lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina. I am writing this letter with the intention of expressing some of my expectations and desires regarding the inter-ethnic cohabitation in Kosovo.

First of all, I would like to express my hope that this letter will find you well. I am writing it on my own, and on behalf of KIPRED, and together with the letters of several other organizations with which we share a common commitment to fostering mutual respect and understanding between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo in general, and in the Municipality of Prizren in particular.

The project within which we are sending you these letters, “Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Cohabitation,” recognizes the key role that religious and municipal leaders and communities play in fostering peace, understanding, and reconciliation in the Kosovo’s context. With this in mind, we would like to propose several initiatives that could be undertaken jointly by you, the other religious leaders in Prizren, as well as the municipal authorities, civil society organizations, and local actors, in order to promote mutual respect and cooperation between Albanians and Serbs. Following is a list of the proposed initiatives.

1. **Interfaith Dialogues and Public Discussions:** Organizing regular interfaith dialogues, where religious leaders from the Islamic, Orthodox, and Catholic communities can engage in open and constructive discussions about shared values, spiritual wisdom, and how faith can be a bridge to peace.
2. **Joint Charitable and Community Service Projects:** Bringing together Albanians and Serbs from various religious backgrounds to work on charitable initiatives that benefit the wider community—such as supporting vulnerable families, improving public spaces, providing humanitarian assistance, and so forth.
3. **Public Interfaith Celebrations and Cultural Events:** Organizing joint festivals or events that celebrate the cultural and religious diversity of Prizren, where members of the community can learn about and appreciate each other’s traditions. Such events, endorsed and supported by religious leaders, could lead to organization of workshops in which Albanian and Serbian youngsters will discuss the opportunities for a number of them to start learning the native languages of one-another.
4. **Joint Statements and Appeals for Peace:** A united appeal for peace and reconciliation from all religious leaders in Prizren could have a profound impact on the community. By issuing joint statements or participating in shared public prayers or reflections, religious leaders can set a powerful example, encouraging all citizens to embrace tolerance, respect, and cooperation as essential elements of their everyday lives.

We believe that the Serbian Orthodox Church, as a respected institution with the ability to bring people together through faith, compassion and dialogue, can play an extremely important role in these efforts. We are confident that with your support and guidance, these initiatives will help to create a more peaceful and inclusive environment for all who live in Prizren.

We would be honored to meet with you to further discuss these ideas, as well as search for the new ones, and explore how we might collaborate to turn them into a reality. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that, together, we can build bridges between our communities and move toward a more peaceful future.

With deep respect and best regards,

Mentor Agani,

**Zoran Savić, Project Coordinator**  
**NGO AKTIV**  
**North Mitrovica, Kosovo**

Dear Reverend Hieromonk Isidor,

My name is Zoran Savić and I am a project coordinator in the non-governmental organization Aktiv from North Mitrovica. Although I was born in Pula, Croatia, I have actually lived in Mitrovica for 30 years and I am actively involved in social life in Kosovo, both through work and cultural life, considering that I am also a musician, and I have participated in various inter-ethnic projects with musicians of Albanian nationality.

At the same time, for many years I worked as a journalist in the Kosovo Sever portal - KoSSev, and through this job I became even more familiar with the political, security and religious situation in Kosovo.

The Serbian Orthodox Church has always been a cornerstone for the Serb community in Kosovo, providing spiritual guidance and support. Your leadership at Bogoslovia in Prizren places you in a crucial role in fostering inter-ethnic harmony. Encouraging dialogue and cooperation between different religious and ethnic groups can significantly enhance unity and mutual understanding in our communities. I urge you to support community programs and joint service projects that bring together people from diverse backgrounds. Your sermons and public addresses should continue to emphasize the importance of unity, tolerance, and respect for all.

In this spirit, I hope for a future where multi-ethnic religious cohabitation becomes the norm in Kosovo. I envision communities where religious differences are embraced as strengths rather than sources of division. To this end, you might focus on creating sustainable programs that educate on religious diversity and tolerance, support joint community projects, and ensure equal representation of all religious groups in local governance.

Looking forward, I envision a Kosovo where multi-ethnic cohabitation and religious tolerance is embraced. Regular interfaith meetings and intercultural initiatives can foster dialogue and cooperation.

I conclude this letter on a hopeful note, envisioning a future where our united efforts cultivate a genuinely harmonious and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo. I am certain that with our shared dedication, we can achieve remarkable progress toward this worthy goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zoran Savić