

Dylberizm Bi-Annual Report 2023 - 2024

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Foreword

Dylberizm was born out of necessity. It emerged from the void left by the erasure of queer identities in Albanian culture and the refusal to accept queerness as an inherent part of our identity. In a landscape where our existence was consistently denied, Dylberizm was not just an invitation but a declaration: We have always been here, and we will **not be silenced!**

Rooted in the word “dylber” – the most enduring Albanian term for queer people, in Albanian culture, Dylberizm, hence the translation of “queerness”, is not just a platform – it is a movement that reclaims language, identity, and history. What began as a collective in 2018, operating entirely on a voluntary basis, has grown into a movement that challenges the social, political, and cultural systems that marginalize LGBTIQ+ individuals in Kosovo and beyond. It’s a space where queer stories are told, history is reclaimed, and activism is cultivated. In 2023, we solidified our mission, evolving into an NGO to cement our role in shaping public discourse, holding power to account, and fighting for a future where queerness is not only tolerated but celebrated.

Over the past two years, we have deepened our impact. Through Dylberizm.com, we've provided accurate, accessible information on LGBTIQ+ rights and history, addressing the gaps left by mainstream institutions. Our investigative journalism, interviews, and advocacy work challenged harmful narratives, holding public figures and the media accountable for hate speech and misinformation. Prishtina Queer Festival has flourished, becoming a living testament to our existence and a powerful celebration of defiance. The Festival has brought together thousands—community members and allies alike—resisting the forces that seek to divide us. Our educational initiatives, such as Mësonjëtorja – School of Queer Activism – have not only trained activists but forged the next generation of leaders who will continue to shape and redefine our struggle. These programs have equipped youth with the tools they need to advocate for LGBTIQ+ rights and engage in the democratization process through intersectional initiatives.

We continue to affirm a simple yet powerful fact: queerness in Albanian culture is not new. It has always existed and is woven into our songs of dylbera and ashikë, performed in oda by the most renowned rhapsodes. It lives in the folklore where crossing the rainbow means transforming one's gender, in the legacy of burrnesha, who were honored as heroes. Queerness is not foreign to us but an integral part of our heritage.

Dylberizm exists to reclaim, resist, and rebuild – to ensure that no queer person in Kosovo, in the diaspora, or beyond, grows up believing they are alone.

This report is not just a reflection of what we have done – it is a roadmap for what is to come.

The fight is far from over. The voices that seek to erase us, the systems that continue to harm us – they remain. But so do we. And we are louder, stronger, and more relentless than ever.

In solidarity,
Dylberizm

Dylberizm by the numbers

3,358,545 views across our digital platforms,
amplifying queer voices and stories to a wide audience.

1,932,317 online users reached,
raising awareness and encouraging
conversations on LGBTIQ+ issues.

3,454 participants were actively involved in
in our events, strengthening community ties
and fostering real-world activism.

Our Vision and Mission

Our Vision

We envision a Kosovo where queer individuals are not only safe and empowered but also recognized as vital contributors to a vibrant and inclusive society. A society where all individuals enjoy the same rights, access to services, and opportunities without facing discrimination.

Our Mission

Dylberizm is committed to empowering Kosovo's queer community by creating safe spaces for self-expression, activism, and political engagement. Our goal is to foster a society grounded in human rights, freedom, solidarity, and inclusivity, ensuring that queer voices are heard and valued at all levels of society.

Our Goal

Our Goal

We strive to cultivate a Kosovar society where queer individuals are safe, empowered, and celebrated as integral members and change-makers. For this purpose, we have pursued three ambitious strategic objectives:

- 1. Provide easy access to accurate, timely information on LGBTIQ+ rights, issues, and lived experiences, ensuring these narratives reach the public sphere,**
- 2. Reduce hate speech and combat anti-LGBTIQ+ propaganda in public discourse, fostering an inclusive environment for all,**
- 3. Empower youth to engage in the democratization process and advance LGBTIQ+ rights through intersectional activism and initiatives.**

The sections below detail our progress toward our objectives in 2023–2024.

Strategic Objective 1:

Ensuring Accessible and Accurate Information on LGBTIQ+ Rights and Issues in Kosovo

We prioritized providing reliable, accurate, and timely information on LGBTIQ+ rights, issues, and lived experiences, believing that visibility and advocacy began with accessible content. Dylberizm delivered high-quality content in Albanian, ensuring that the diverse narratives of Kosovo's queer community were both accessible and reflective of their lived realities.

Through our work, we reached **1,932,317 users** across various platforms, increasing awareness of LGBTIQ+ rights and issues. We provided a range of content, from educational pieces to personal stories, ensuring that LGBTIQ+ narratives were accessible and impactful. This diverse content empowered activists to use this information to advocate for change and drive meaningful discourse.

"Unlike many other media in Kosovo, Dylberizm has presented LGBTQ+ individuals not as an exotic "other" but as integral part of our society, by creating a safe space for queer individuals to share and therefore, allow meaningful discussions and narratives that concern real people."

Cristina Marí, journalist

Chronicle of Queer Resistance

Chronicle of Queer Resistance

Our Chronicle has archived 6 inspiring lives of Kosovo's queer activists documenting their journeys and impact from the early '70s onward. Their stories of courage, defiance, and resilience are now part of our collective history, ensuring that their legacy continues to inspire future generations.



Qerkica & Mustafa



Igballe Rogova



Arbër Selmani



Arlinda Morina



Arbër Nuhiu

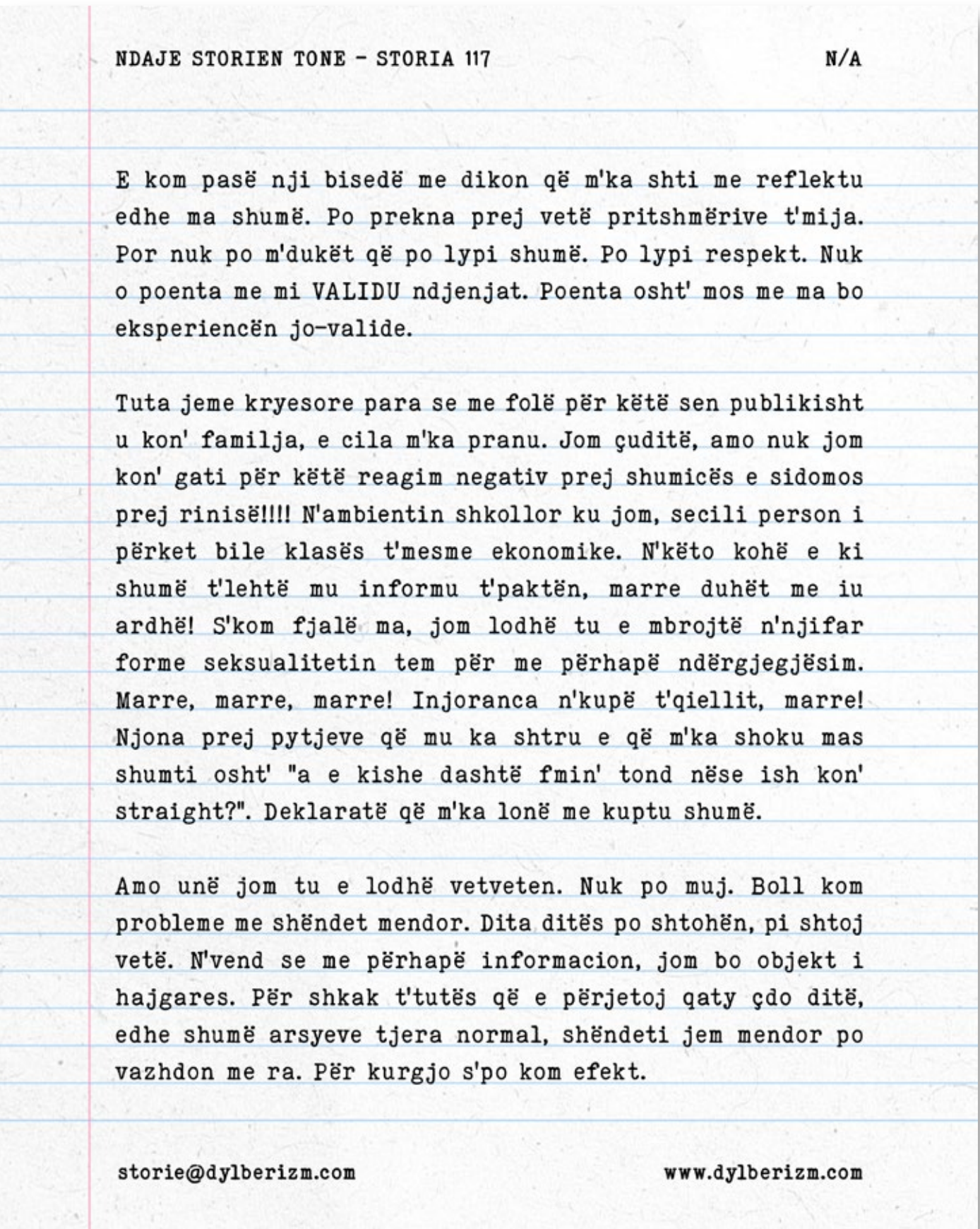
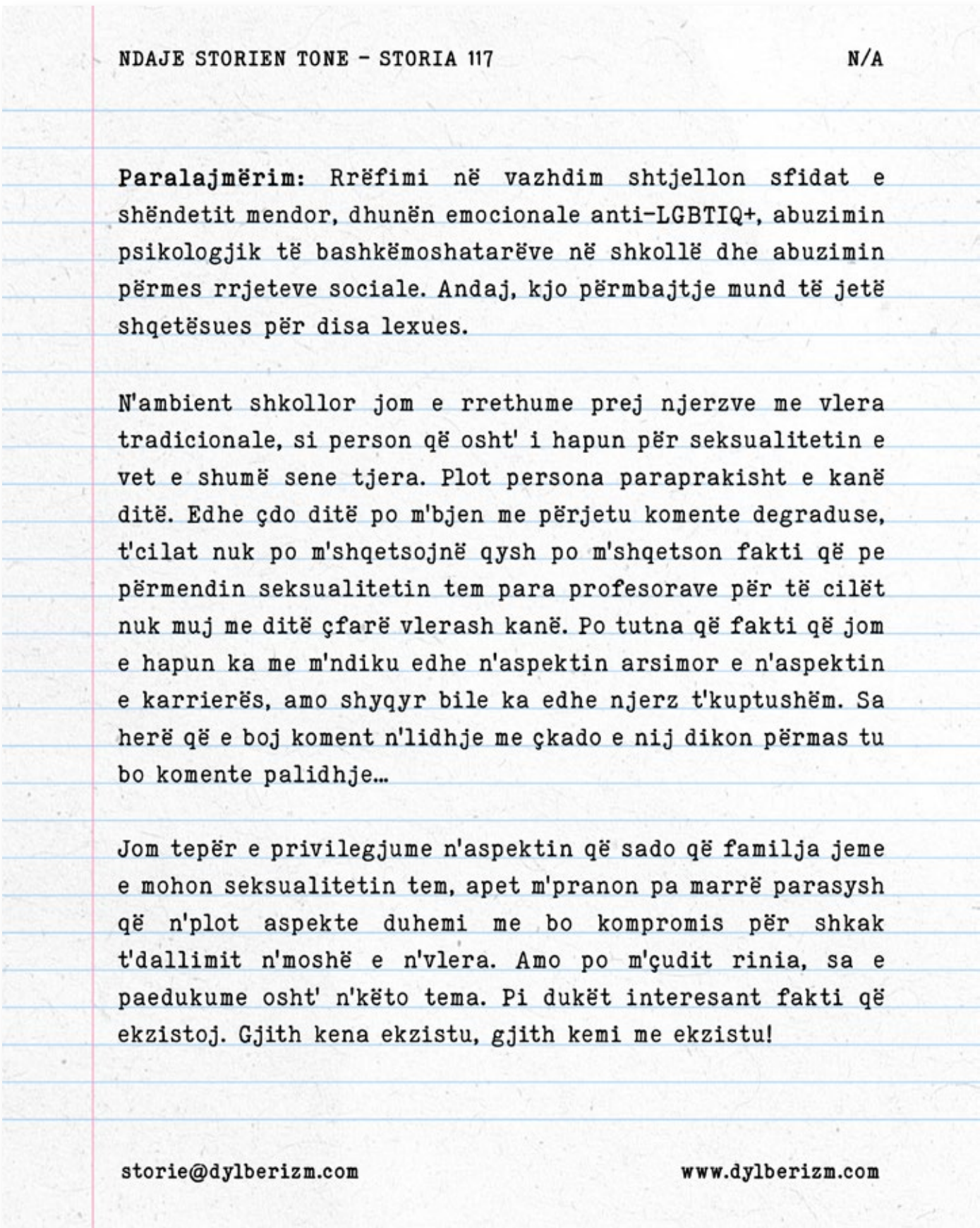
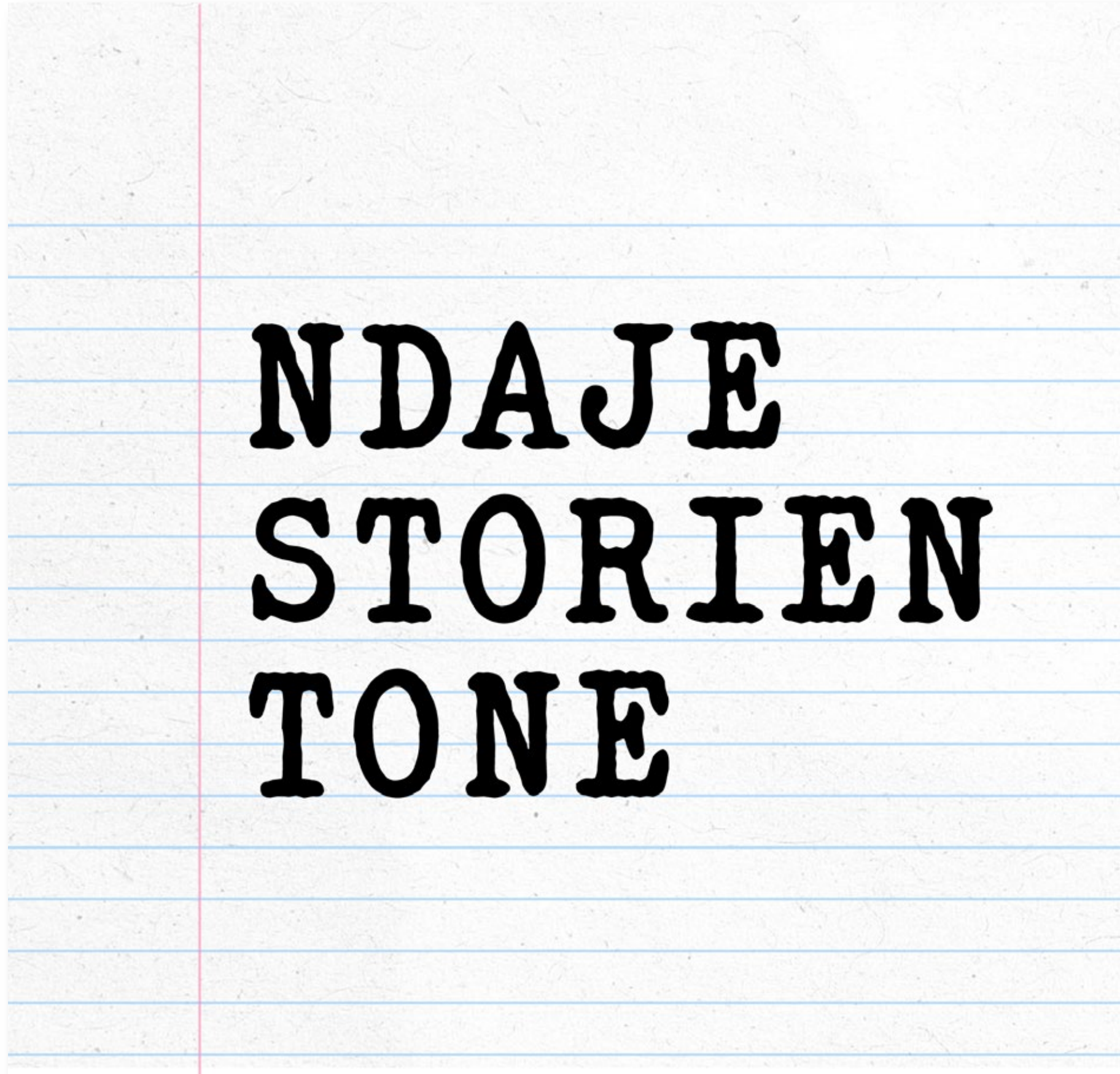


Myrvete Bajrami

Share Your Story

Share Your Story

Through our initiative Ndaje Storen Tone (**Share Your Story**), we collected and amplified narratives of identity, acceptance, mental health, family, coming out, and much more. With over **100 written testimonies** published on our platform, Dylberizm has provided a space for individuals to share their experiences and show their resistance. These stories have **offered** not only personal insights but also a collective sense of belonging and empowerment.



"First of all, I've been reading all the stories so far. I'm so happy! Dylberizm has become like my favorite monthly magazine that I can't wait to see come out. I've been overthinking to write my own story for a while now, but today I finally found the courage to do it."

**– a story from
a 21 year old lesbian woman**

"I want to thank this platform, which has given me a lot of courage and a lot of confidence that soon our community will achieve its legitimate rights in Albania and Kosovo as well."

**– a story from
a 21 year old gay man**

"One of the most powerful sections of Dylberizm is "Share your Story," with anonymous personal stories shared by individuals in the queer community who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, or even nonbinary people — and others under the great queer umbrella. And while sometimes they are raw testimonies about suffering and struggle, often they are a unique window into stories of pure love, self-acceptance and inspiring growth."

– Kosovo 2.0

What's the latest news?

What's the news?

We shared the latest developments in LGBTIQ+ rights from Kosovo, the region, and beyond, ensuring that our community stayed informed and empowered. These updates, ranging from victories to challenges, helped our followers stay engaged and active in advocating for LGBTIQ+ issues.

**OSHT' KOHA
NA ME E TREGU
STORJEN
TONË!**

KEMI QENË DHE DO T'JEMI

JAVA E KRENARISË
3-8 QERSHOR

DYL
BER
IZM

**HAPET JAVA E
KRENARISË
POR JO PËR
PRESIDENTEN
E KRYEMINISTRIN**

KEMI QENË DHE DO T'JEMI

JAVA E KRENARISË
3-8 QERSHOR

DYL
BER
IZM

**KOSOVA
PA PLAN
KOMBËTAR
TË VEPRIMIT
PËR PERSONAT
LGBTIQ+**

JAVA E KRENARISË
3-8 QERSHOR

DYL
BER
IZM

T'DU QASHTU QYSH JE! – PRISHTINA PRIDE 2023

LINK TO VIDEO

URIME KRENARIA



**GIMI, artisti kosovar që po sfidon
narrativën e identitetit kosovar**



Educational Hub

Our Educational Hub focused on translating queer terminologies and highlighting pivotal figures and events that have shaped global LGBTIQ+ history. These educational materials provided valuable resources for activists and allies alike, enabling them to better understand queer culture and history. Through this initiative, we strengthened the foundation for more informed and effective advocacy, ensuring that knowledge was accessible to those who needed it most.



Queer Calendar

We celebrated significant milestones in queer history, such as **Queer History Month, Transgender Awareness Week, and IDAHOBIT**, among others. By marking these important moments, we **honored** the LGBTIQ+ community's contributions and ensured that their history was **acknowledged** and **celebrated**. The **Queer Calendar** became a way to continually engage with the community and provide opportunities for reflection on the progress we've made and the challenges still ahead.



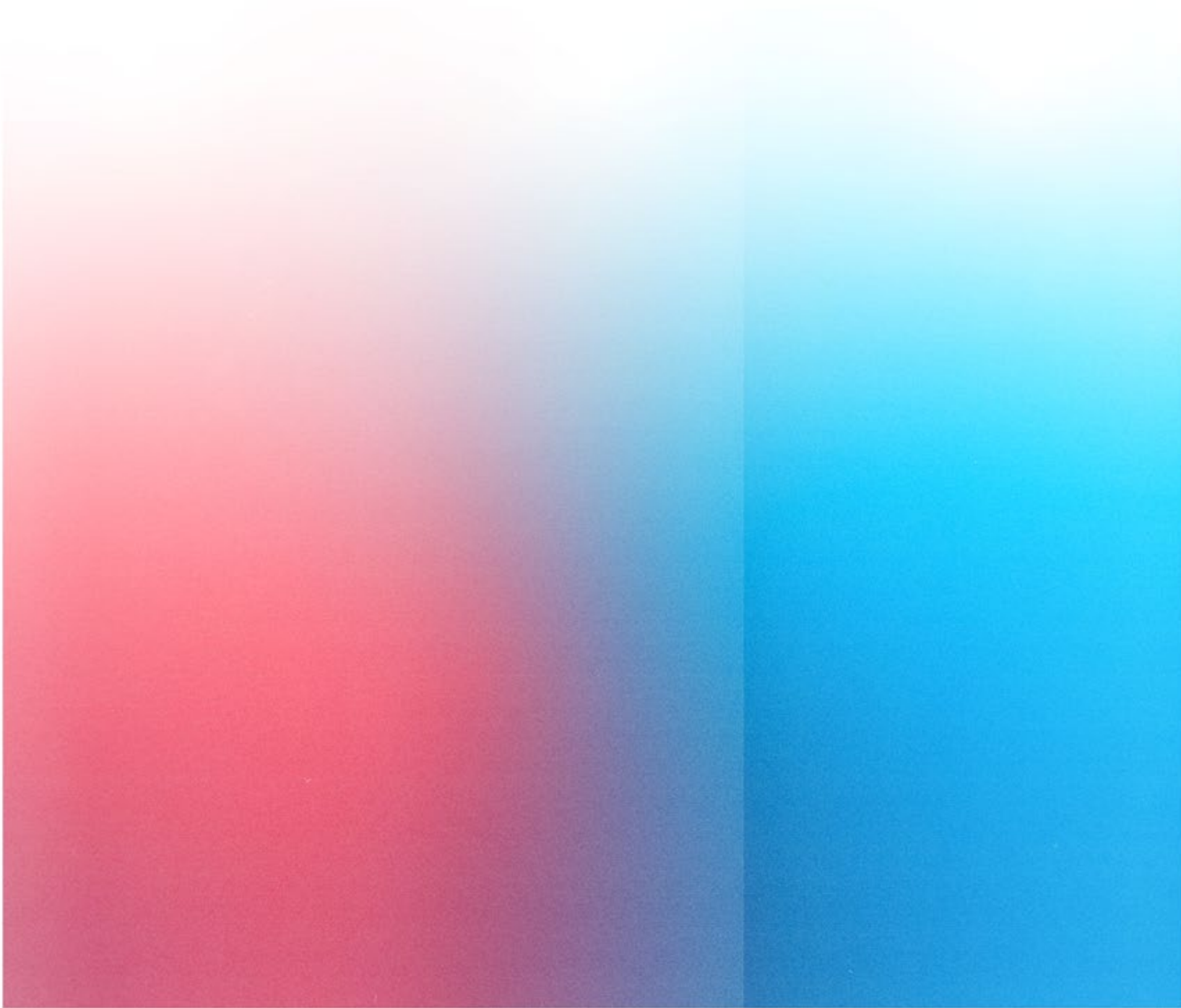
JAVA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
TRANSGJINOR

13-19
NËNTOR
2023

JAVA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
TRANSGJINOR

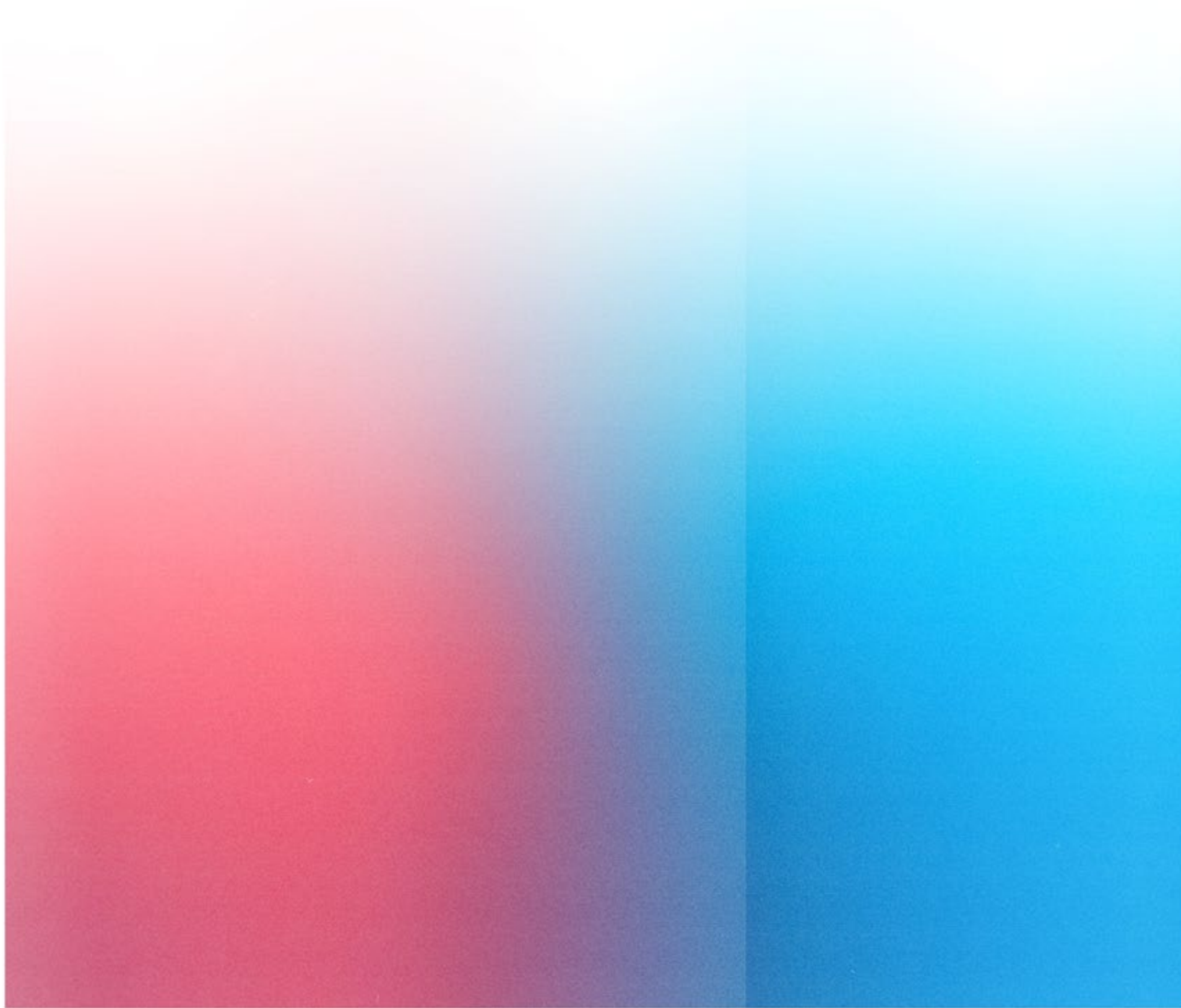
13-19
NËNTOR
2023

JAVA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
TRANSGJINOR



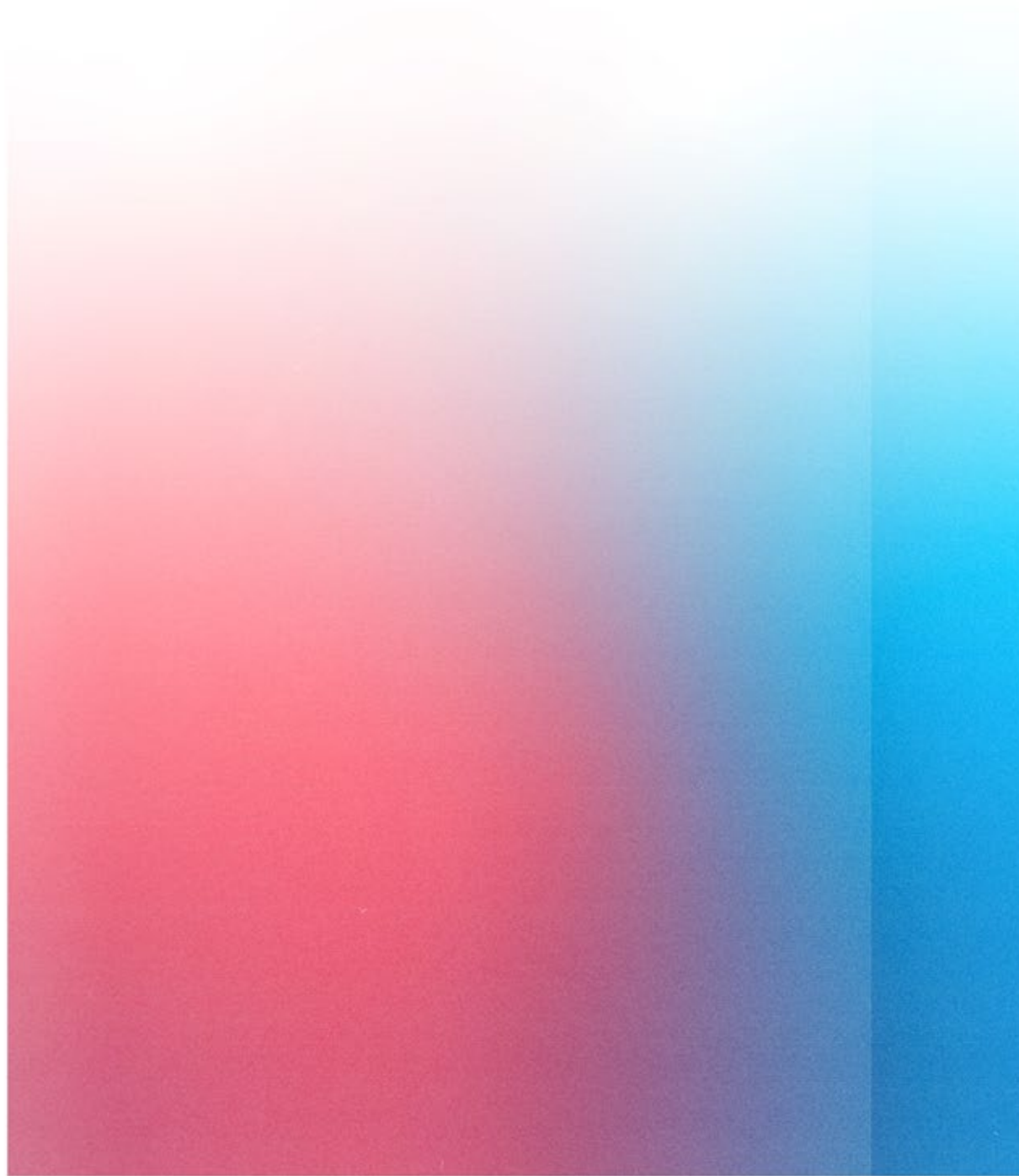
JAVA E NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT TRANSGJINOR

13-19 NËNTOR



JAVA E NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT TRANSGJINOR

13-19 NËNTOR



JAVA E NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT TRANSGJINOR

INTERSEKS
INTERSEKS
INTERSEKS

26
TETOR

DITA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
TË PERSONAVE INTERSEKS

DYL
BER
IZM

MARTINI

NJË ZË ARBËRESH PËR
PERSONAT INTERSEKS

DITA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
TË PERSONAVE INTERSEKS

DYL
BER
IZM



“JEMI TË HARRUAR”
ÇFARË DO TË THOTË TË JESH INTERSEKS?

DITA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
TË PERSONAVE INTERSEKS

DYL
BER
IZM

GENDERQUEER
GENDERFLUID
AGENDER
BIGENDER
NONCONFORMING

THEY
WE
ARE
HERE

10-16 KORRIK

**JAVA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
JO-BINAR**

DYLBERIZM

**JAVA E
NDËRGJEGJËSIMIT
JO-BINAR**

Kjo javë përdoret për të rritur ndërgjegjësimin dhe për të festuar diversitetin e identiteteve gjinore që ekzistojnë jashtë binarit tradicional gjinor. Kjo javë është gjithashtu mundësi që komuniteti Jo-binar të mbledhet dhe të ndajë përvojat dhe historitë e tyre, si dhe të krijojë një hapësirë për edukim dhe avokim.

Jo-binar është një term që përdoret për t'iu referuar një identiteti gjinor që nuk përshtatet në binarin gjinor të burrit dhe gruas. Pra, është një term ombrellë për çdo gjini që nuk bën pjesë në këto dy kategori.

Java u krijua si përgjigje e drejtpërdrejtë ndaj mungesës së njohjes dhe mirëkuptimit të njerëzve jobinarë. Kjo mungesë njohjeje është shpesh për shkak të dukshmërisë së kufizuar të njerëzve jobinarë në media, diskursin publik dhe shoqërinë e përgjithshme.

10-16 KORRIK

LEXO ARTIKULLIN E PLOTË

www.dylberizm.com

Prishtinë, Kosovo

2023 / 2024

ME

17 MAJ

DITA NDERKOMBËTARE
KUNDËR HOMOFOBISË,
TRANSFOBISË DHE BIFOBISË

DASHNI



#QËNDROJMË
BASHKË

DYL
BER
IZM

ME

17 MAJ

DITA NDERKOMBËTARE
KUNDËR HOMOFOBISË,
TRANSFOBISË DHE BIFOBISË

DASHNI



#QËNDROJMË
BASHKË

DYL
BER
IZM

ME

17 MAJ

DITA NDERKOMBËTARE
KUNDËR HOMOFOBISË,
TRANSFOBISË DHE BIFOBISË

DASHNI



#QËNDROJMË
BASHKË

DYL
BER
IZM

Transmetim

Transmetim

Our **TRANSmetim** initiative **provided** a dedicated space for trans voices, **highlighting** the experiences and struggles faced by the trans community. This initiative **shone a light** on the issues affecting trans individuals, **amplifying** their stories and **raising** awareness of the unique challenges they encounter. **Through this platform,** we **offered** visibility and **advocacy** for the trans community, ensuring their voices **were heard**.

transmetim

Rubrika
ma e re në
Dylberizm
Rubrika
ma e re në
Dylberizm
Rubrika
ma e re në
Dylberizm
Rubrika
ma e re në
Dylberizm

transmetim

DYLB3RIZM

TRANSmetim
osht' rubrika
ma e re në
Dylberizm që
sjell
perspektivën
trans prej
autorit trans
për çashtjet
trans.

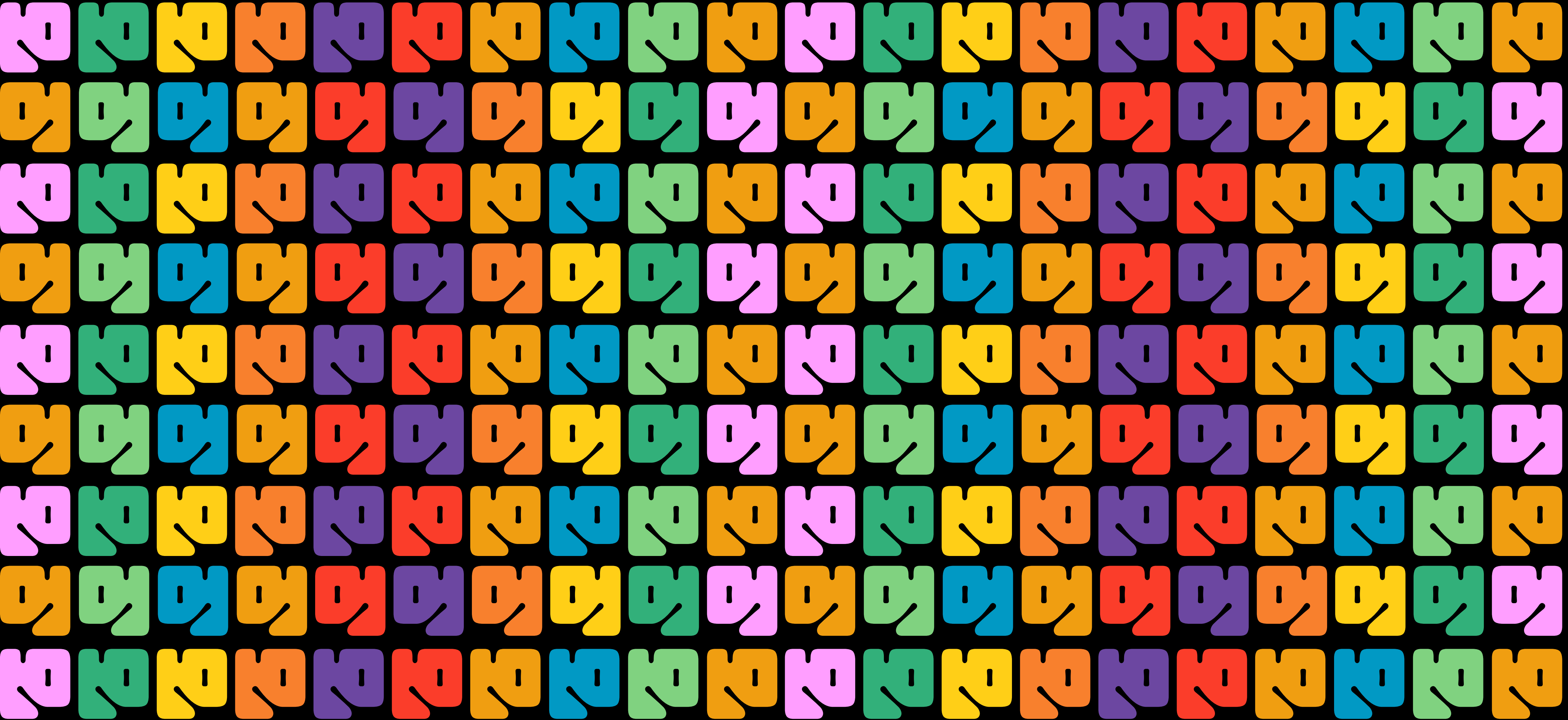
transmetim

DYLB3RIZM

Mainstreaming Diverse Queer Culture and Solidarity



**PRISHTINA
QUEER
FESTIVAL**



Prishtina Queer Festival

Through Prishtina Queer Festival, we successfully mainstreamed diverse queer culture and solidarity, bridging divides within and beyond the LGBTIQ+ community. The festival welcomed over 3,000 visitors from Kosovo, the region, the diaspora, and the EU. It became a meeting point for queer identities, fostering unity through the showcase of art, music, and activism.

From live concerts to performance art, film screenings, workshops, book launches, flea markets, street events, and music nights, every edition has been a testament to the power of queer expression and visibility.



"With the organization of Prishtina Queer Festival, Dylberizm presented films, discussions and art performances that show that actually, it's entirely possible to be dylber (queer) and embody one's culture and heritage."

– Noor Evers, journalist

"An event like this, in the center of Pristina would have been unthinkable even just 10 years ago. The festival posters had the acid colors and bombastic fonts one would expect to find on the posters of a contemporary art gallery in Berlin or Amsterdam."

– Gabriele Magro, journalist



Prishtina Queer Festival welcomed queer Albanian diaspora artists to perform in Kosovo for the first time, creating a space for connection, healing, and celebration.

"I truly don't have the words to explain how healing and beautiful it was to spend this weekend surrounded by my peers. Playing for Albanian queer people on Albanian soil is one of the memories that I will always carry with me until they lower my body to the ground"

– King Kovaci, an artist from Brussels



"This weekend was healing. Our Albanian queer community is so strong and resistant. Thank you Prishtina Queer Festival for making me feel loved and seen. We were all crying."

– Xhenisa, a DJ from Zurich



We have established a volunteer-based Awareness Team, which ensured bodily autonomy and safety protocols at the festival. Through proactive engagement, the team provided information on consent, ensured the participant's well-being and safety, and upheld community guidelines to foster respect and care.

Their presence at events created a secure, inclusive space with a zero-incident record, reinforcing community safety and respect.



**"Prishtina Queer Festival
you literally set the stage
on fire one performance
after the other. We all felt
the love in the air; what
you created was a surreal
experience for a lot of us."**

– Sofra LGBTQIA+ Collective

**"Today's street party was
the perfect ending to 3
days of incredibly intense
emotions. This weekend
undid years of trauma,
and we all agreed it was a
truly healing experience."**

– Edlira Meshau, workshop facilitator



PRISHTINA
QUEER FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER
6 7 8

PRISHTINA
QUEER FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER
6 7 8

PRISHTINA
QUEER FESTIVAL



PRISHTINA
QUEER FESTIVAL

6 SEP
13:00 - 15:00

SEPTEMBER
6 7 8

Workshop

by Edlira Meshau



QUEER IDENTITY
& SELF ACCEPTANCE

PRISHTINA
QUEER
FESTIVAL

*You don't need any previous experience,
the workshop will be held in Albanian

DYL
BER
IZM

PRISHTINA
QUEER FESTIVAL

8 SEP
13:00 - 16:00
KINO ARMATA

SEPTEMBER
6 7 8

Film Screenings

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
AND Q&A SESSION CURATED
BY QUEER LISBOA



PRISHTINA
QUEER
FESTIVAL

REPUBLIKAE KOSOVËS
MINISTRIE E KULTURËS, RINDO
KËSËTËS DHE TURIZMIT

British Embassy
Pristina

ARMATA

QUEER LISBOA

DYL
BER
IZM

PRISHTINA
QUEER FESTIVAL

8 SEP
16:00 - 23:00
KAFET E RAKISË

SEPTEMBER
6 7 8

Street Party
& Fleamarket

MIKI (Prishtina)
GIMI (Copenhagen)
SAHATI (Toronto)
KING KOVACI (Brussels)
XHENISA (Zürich)



PRISHTINA
QUEER
FESTIVAL

DYL
BER
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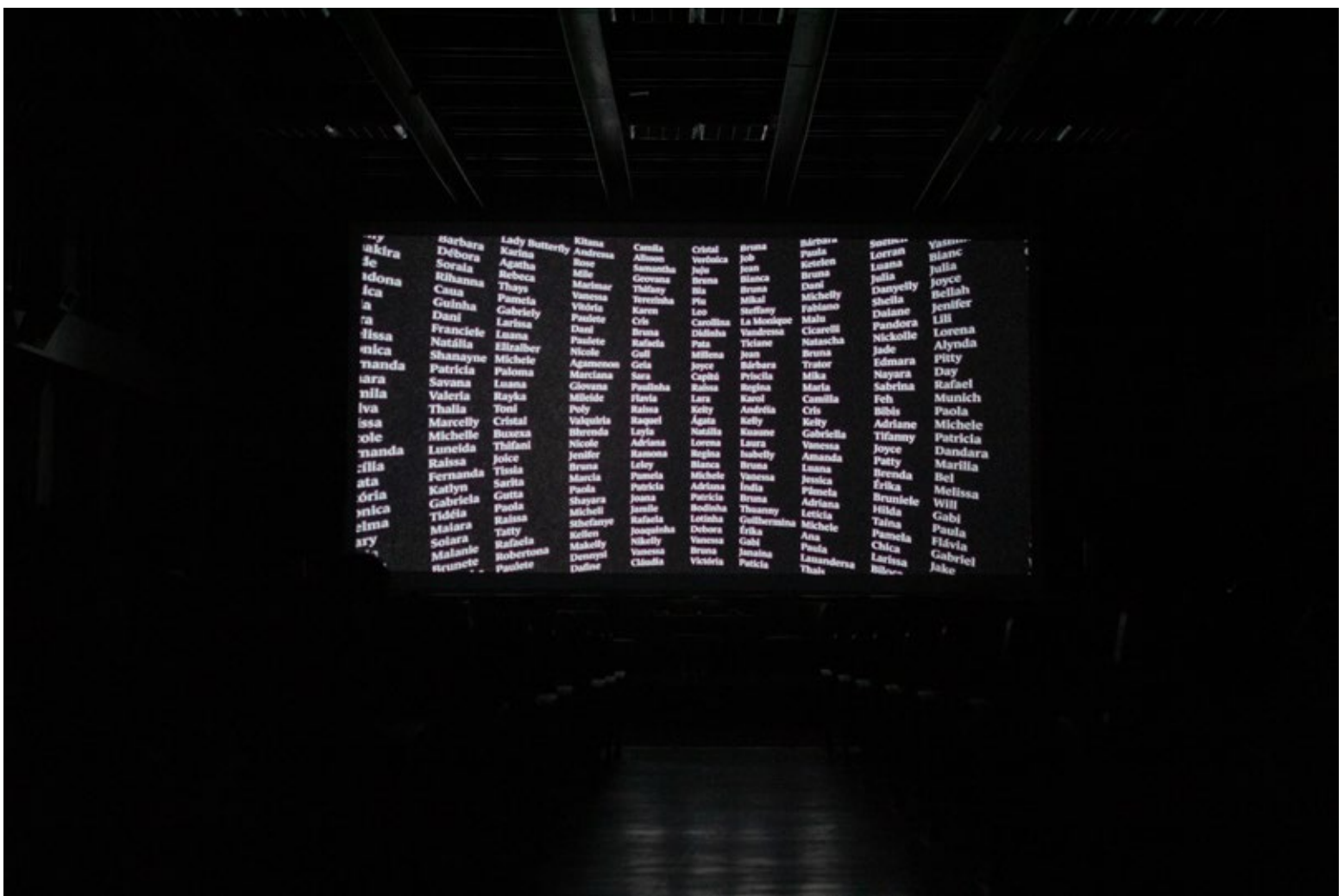
CEL
CENTRE FOR EQUALITY
AND LIBERTY KOSOVA

REPUBLIKAE KOSOVËS
MINISTRIE E KULTURËS, RINDO
KËSËTËS DHE TURIZMIT

PRISHTINA

British Embassy
Pristina

EUROPEAN
ENDOWMENT
DEMOCRACY





Prishtina Queer Festival On Tour

Prishtina Queer Festival On Tour

Prishtina Queer Festival extended Kosovo's queer culture beyond Prishtina, reaching new audiences in Tirana, Zurich, and Lisbon. In collaboration with our partners, 267 participants engaged with Kosovo's queer realities at film screenings in Tirana and Lisbon. Additionally, local drag artists made their international debut at a solidarity event in Zurich, raising funds for the festival's second edition.

Tirana
Zurich
Lisbon





Strategic Objective 2:

Accelerate the Reduction of Hate Speech and Anti-LGBTIQ+ Propaganda in Public Discourse

Hate speech and misinformation continue to fuel discrimination, but we are committed to pushing back.

Our work focused on the following key areas:

Tracking & Calling It Out

We monitored and documented LGBTIQ+ discourse across media, public and online spaces, exposing hate speech and demanding accountability from those responsible.

We initiated public debate on key political discourse regarding LGBTIQ+ rights in Kosovo through articles and actions that directly challenged anti-queer rhetoric. This included countering public figures' harmful narratives in parliament – such as that of an MP and Chair of the Human Rights Commission Duda Balje – by calling for her dismissal due to her open anti-queer stance. Additionally, we exposed false claims made by the Coalition for the Family regarding queer people and women, while educating the public on why inclusive terminologies like "Parent 1" and "Parent 2" pose no threat to families, but rather foster equality.



Karriera politike e Duda Baljes është ndërtuar në kauzën e mbrojtjes të dy identiteteve të cilat i përfaqëson: të drejtat e grave dhe të drejtat e pakicave etnike në Kosovë.

Mirëpo, Duda Balje, deputete, dhe kryetare e Komisionit për të Drejtat e Njeriut, Barazi Gjinore, për Persona të Pagjetur, Viktimat e Dhunës Seksuale të Luftës dhe Peticione, me deklaratat e saj na ka treguar shumë herë se është kundër të drejtave të personave LGBTQ+ dhe nuk i sheh të barabartë para ligjit si të gjithë qytetarët e tjerë të Republikës së Kosovës.

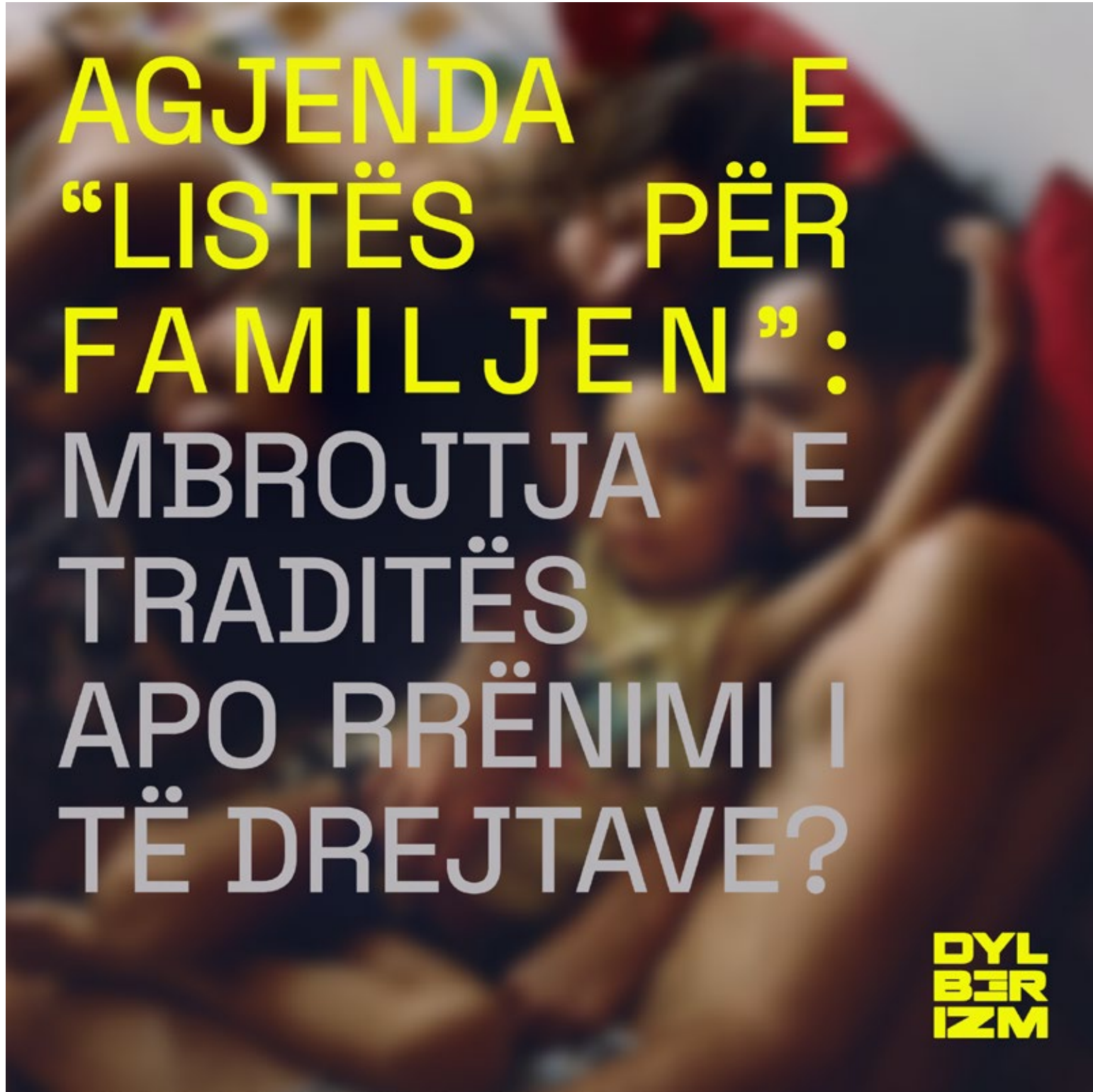
Pse mbrojtja e të drejtave të pakicave etnike, e jo të personave LGBTQ+, quhet hipokrizi, dhe pse Duda Balje është hipokrite?

Duda Balje përfaqëson komunitetin etnik boshnjak në Kosovë, komunitet i cili është pakicë i e që iu sigurohet përfaqësimi politik, dhe iu njihet identiteti dhe gjuha, e të cilët rrjedhimisht janë kundër etnocentrizmit nga i cili kanë vuajtur shumë pakica kombëtare nëpër botë nga mentaliteti shtypës i shumicës së privilegjuar.

Pra, etnocentrizmi ndan të njëjtat vlera me homofobinë, dhe Duda Balje nuk mund ta kundërshtojë etnocentrizmin, e në anën tjetër të përkrahë homofobinë.

Etnocentrizmi është një lloj paragjykimi që përfshin vëzhgimin dhe gjykimin e kulturave të ndryshme të botës përmes prizmit të një kulture të vetme.

Homofobia është tërësia e qëndrimeve dhe ndjenjave negative ndaj njerëzve që identifikohen ose perceptohen si lezbike, gej ose biseksualë.



Dorëheqja e Eman Rrahmanit dhe Visar Korenicës prej Lëvizjes Vetëvendosje e shpalos një zhvillim mjaft shqetësues në Kosovë – konkretizimin e një tendence që i përngjan të djathtës ekstreme – nën maskën e mbrojtjes së “vlerave familjare”. Subjekti i ri politik që sot i bon dy javë, “Lista për Familjen”, është formacion regresiv. Ai paraqet rreshtim kundër të drejtave bazike.

AGJENDA E “LISTËS PËR FAMILJEN”:
MBROJTJA E TRADITËS APO RRËNIMI I
TË DREJTAVE?



Kjo nismë i mbështet strukturat patriarkale që i jepin përparësi normave konservatore, me të vetmin synim për me i kontrollu identitetet personale dhe të drejtat riprodhuese nën pretekstin e ruajtjes së “shoqërisë së shëndoshë”. Në thelb, retorika e të djathtës tenton me i majtë në pushtet dinamikat shtypëse.

AGJENDA E “LISTËS PËR FAMILJEN”:
MBROJTJA E TRADITËS APO RRËNIMI I
TË DREJTAVE?



Shifting the Narrative

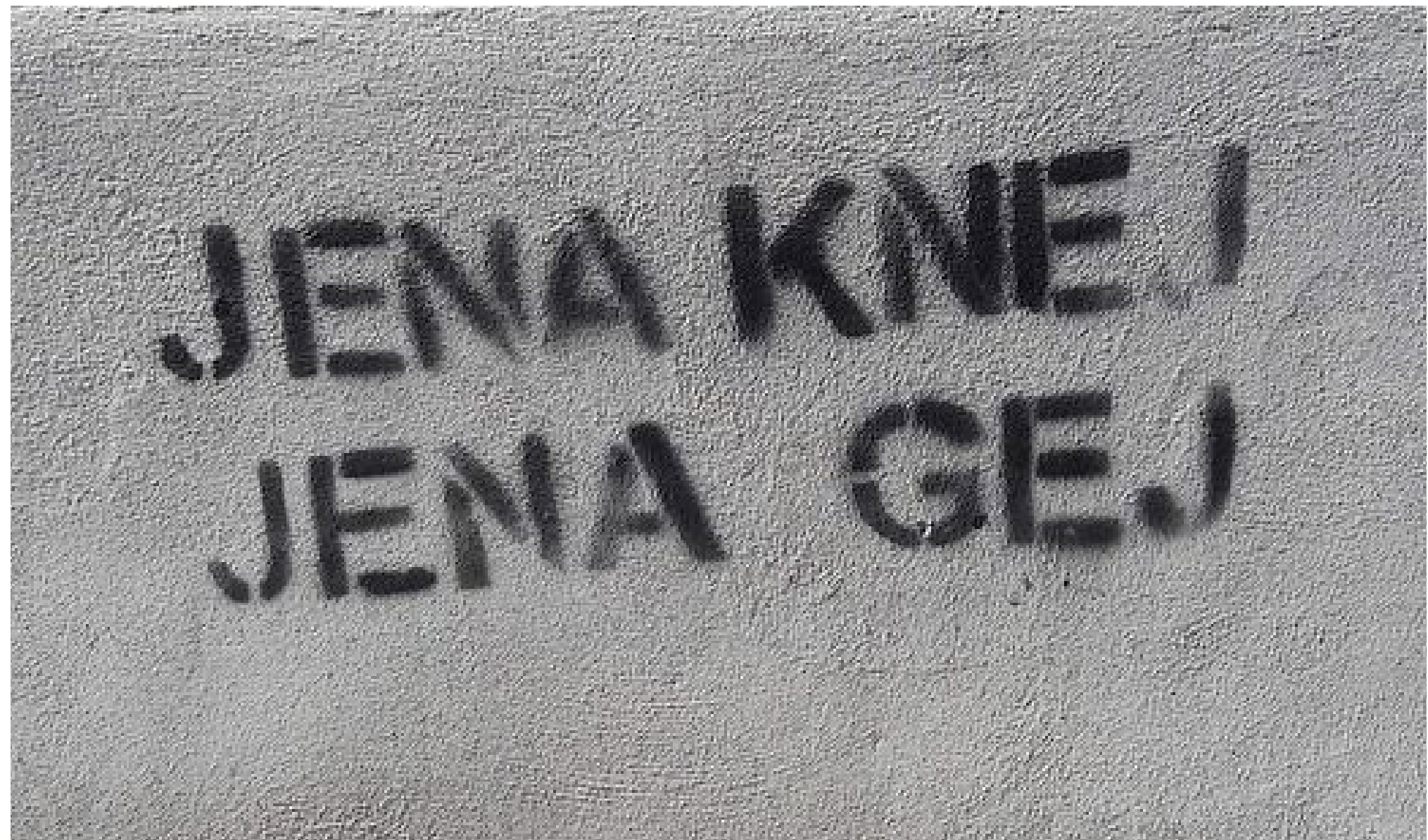
We mainstreamed positive stories of LGBTIQ+ lives and organized street actions to counter hostility, reclaim public space, and ensure queer voices were impossible to ignore.

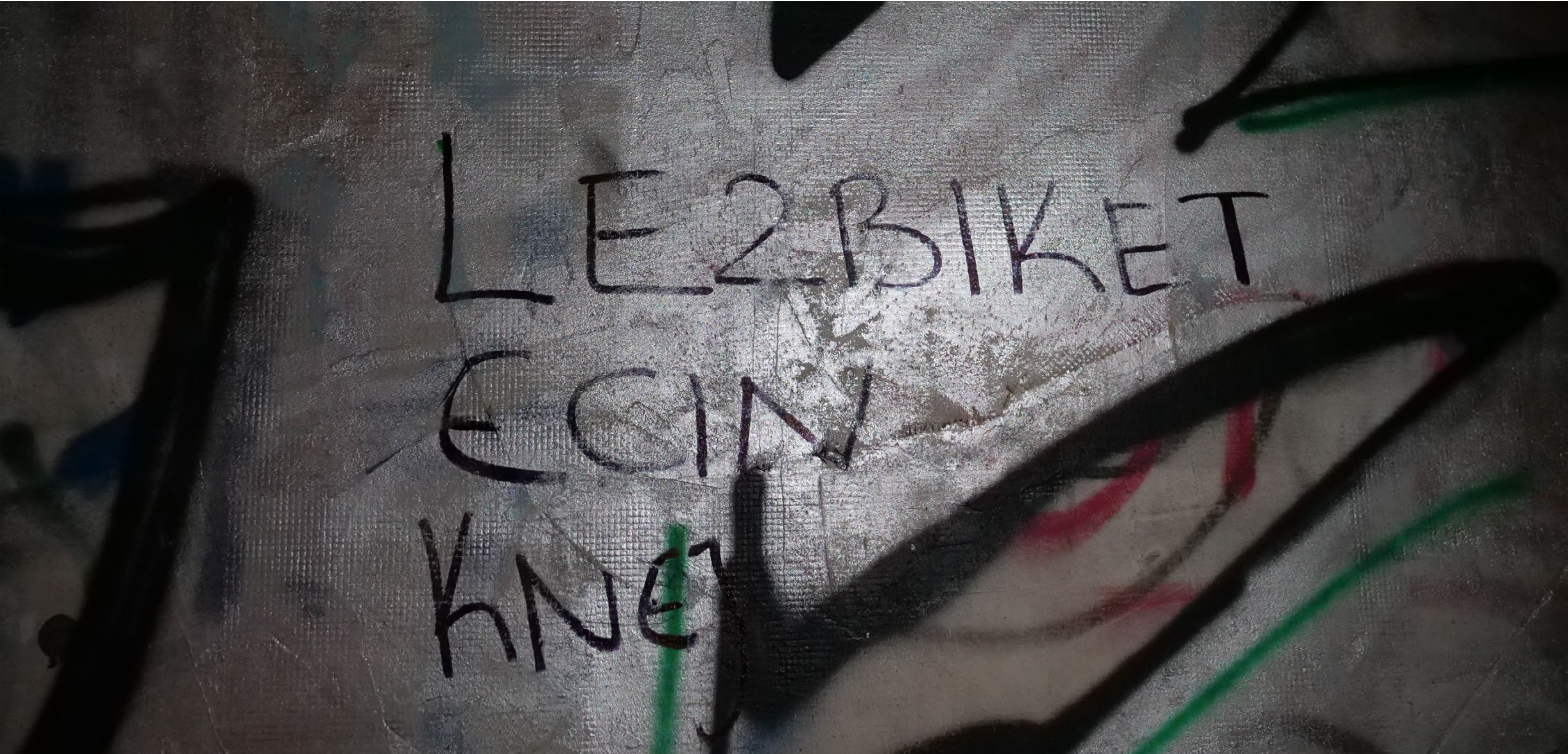


Prishtinë, Kosovo



2023 / 2024





"I have a lot of respect for Dylberizm. They gave me the opportunity to tell my story on their website. Because of my disability and complicated medical condition, it is very difficult for me to travel to Kosovo. I appreciate that they were open to making it accessible for me to participate in a virtual way."

– Lila Creativista, a drag artist and activist



Building Collective Power

Building Collective Power

Through strong partnerships and advocacy networks, we united voices to challenge anti-LGBTIQ+ rhetoric and drive real change.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, we brought the issue of establishing an LGBTIQ+ shelter in Kosovo to the forefront of public discourse by organizing the first-ever public event dedicated to this cause, successfully engaging the main stakeholders like the **Ministry of Justice, Council of Europe, LGBTIQ+ shelters in the region**, and the general public in critical conversations about the violence faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals and advocated for stronger support systems. On Human Rights Day, we concluded this effort by releasing an open letter to institutions, urging them to prioritize the shelter's establishment in **2025** and inviting **5 other queer NGOs** to sign in solidarity.

"A group of LGBTQ+ organisations appealed on Tuesday to Kosovo institutions, including the prime minister's office, the Justice Ministry and the municipality of Pristina, for the shelter to be built."

– BIRN





Dylberizm joined Linja e Jetës and 15 other NGOs in supporting the petition 'For a Kosovo Without Suicides' to push for a draft law on suicide prevention, helping collect 13,361 signatures over a four-month period. This petition marks the beginning of the process of drafting a law that will, for the first time, ensure that Kosovo has policies addressing suicide prevention.

Strategic Objective 3:

Encourage and enable youth to actively engage in democratization and advancing of LGBTIQ+ rights through intersectional initiatives

Empowering youth is essential for driving lasting change and building a sustainable future. Our approach focuses on:

Creating and implementing education and engagement programs that equip new activists with knowledge and tools to advocate effectively.

Mësonjëtorja

Mësonjëtorja

School of Queer Activism brought together **seven young people**, offering a safe space to share ideas on driving change through activism, culture, and art. The program explored the history of queer activism, women's rights, and other communities that have fought for social equality. **Three participants** joined the Dylberizm team for a three-month internship.

"Mësonjëtorja helped me understand that activism doesn't have to start big; it can start with just a story or an expression of concern about social problems. You never know what opportunities might come your way."

– participant

"Because it was an internship, I felt more confident about my job with the goal of improving myself. I came to improve myself, and that's what I did. After the internship at Dylberizm, I felt much more confident in the work I did, and it pushed me to apply for other jobs right away, and I got the first job I applied for :))))"

– intern





Building an enabling environment and network of support for youth and queer activists to foster leadership, resilience, and community-driven change.

A total of 187 participants joined our community-based activities, including discussions, workshops, screenings, and other events. These gatherings provided a space for learning, sharing experiences, and building a stronger, more connected community.

Our Young Activist Network, made up of former participants, has taken an active role in organizing street actions and various initiatives, amplifying queer voices in public spaces. Prishtina Queer Festival engaged 20 volunteers in its organizing, fostering collective ownership and shared responsibility in creating impactful events.

Through our We March Together at Pride initiative, we ensure that those who wish to participate in the Pride Parade but are unable to attend can still be represented. By opening our call to the community, we invite people to march alongside us, creating a visible and united front of love and solidarity. Over the past two years, 11 people have joined us in this way, reinforcing the message that Pride is for everyone and that no one is alone in their journey.



Reflections

These past two years have been anything but ordinary for us at Dylberizm. Evolving from an informal collective to a formal NGO was not merely a legal formality – it was a leap of faith into new frontiers. It came with new opportunities, alongside the pressure and responsibility of defending our communal spaces in a moment when those spaces were under constant attack. We didn't have the privilege of full-time positions, our funding was limited, and our energy was often stretched thin. Yet, what held us together was something deeper than any work schedule. It was our shared drive to build something that lasts. Something that is built collectively by us. Something that the next generation of activists can build upon. Dylberizm was born from that kind of commitment that insists on showing up, even when the odds feel too big.

There were moments of joy that reminded us why we do this. When thousands showed up for the Prishtina Queer Festival, when our posts resonated across the region and queer people wrote to say "this speaks to me", when someone found the courage to come out after reading one of our stories – that's when it all made sense.

Within, we've built a team culture that we're proud of, one that thrives on creativity, honesty, and care. We listen to each other. We push each other. We dream out loud together. But we've also hit limits, especially when it comes to space. For two years, we've worked from cafés, apartments, co-working spaces – anywhere we could gather. One of our next big steps is to create a physical home for Dylberizm. Not just another office but a space where our community can gather, heal, dream, and organize.

On the outside, our shared reality has been shifting. The rise of the global anti-gender movements and the spread of hate speech have created an urgent need for collective action. In Kosovo, the "Coalition for the Family" and its far-right allies have attacked queer and women's rights head-on. But even amid this hostility, we've stood our ground. We spoke out, quicker, louder. During the 2025 elections, Dylberizm became a leading voice against the normalization of hate. And we weren't alone – activists and allies across the country and beyond stood with us.

If this period has taught us anything, it's this: our work echoes far beyond borders. Our voice has reached the region, the diaspora, and a growing network of people who believe that queer liberation matters. We've become the most followed queer platform in the country – not for clout, but because our people recognize something real in what we do.

So, we look ahead with clear eyes and strong hearts. We are not here to fit in – we are here to reclaim and expand the space that belongs to us. We will continue to bring new people into this movement, and we will grow together. Above all, we are not even close to being done. We are just getting started.

– Dylberizm

Our
thanks to:

We are grateful for the numerous partners, allies, and community members who collaborated with us in advancing a more inclusive and just society. Over the past year, we worked alongside a diverse range of organizations, activists, and institutions, each playing a crucial role in helping us achieve our goals. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to...

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Dylberizm in socials

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Dylberizm
Bi-Annual Report
2023 & 2024

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