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About Praxis

Praxis is a national non-governmental organization (NGO), which aims to protect, improve and promote human rights of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and members of minorities (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian minorities). It was established in June 2004, as a continuation of the Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) Civil Rights Project, which NRC conducted in Serbia from 1997. Praxis took over the Project, determined to continue to protect the rights of target groups through legal remedies and by raising public awareness about the problems the displaced and the members of minorities face. Praxis' activities have so far been funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, European Union, Danish Refugee Council, US Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, OSCE, UNICEF and Catholic Relief Services.

Praxis currently employs 32 staff and operates from two offices, head office in Belgrade and a field office in Kraljevo. In order to reach out to the most vulnerable beneficiaries accommodated in collective centers, illegal Roma settlements and private accommodation, Praxis conducts legal mobile team visits throughout Serbia. Praxis cooperates closely with other relevant organizations in the region (NRC spin-offs CRP Kosovo, CRP Vukovar and CRP Sisak from Croatia, as well as Vasa prava, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Legal Centre, Montenegro, etc), with the aim of solving legal problems of the target groups in the region.

Vision

A just and fair society governed by the rule of law, in which basic human rights are respected and opportunities equal for all.

Mission

We provide free legal aid, information and counselling to the displaced and members of minorities. By campaigning and lobbying for the rights of our target groups, we work on removing systemic obstacles, improving their quality of life, reducing poverty and level of social vulnerability. We raise awareness of individuals and institutions regarding the target groups and help them exercise their basic human rights and integrate into society.

Our goals

By providing free legal assistance, information and counselling, as well as by lobbying and organizing awareness raising campaigns, Praxis aims to:

- Enable the displaced to access documents needed for exercising their basic human rights and reaching durable solutions, i.e. integration or return;
- Enable the members of minorities (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian) to access documents in order to exercise their basic human rights and thus reduce the number of legally invisible persons in Serbia;
- Protect the rights of the displaced in the country of origin related to: property repossession and reconstruction, compensation for occupied property, housing care, pension, etc;
- Protect rights of the displaced in the country of exile related to: IDP and refugee status, health care and social welfare, work, pension, education, etc;
- Protect the rights of victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) among the displaced;
- Contribute to removing systemic obstacles, which impede the displaced to exercise their basic human rights;
- Contribute to improving the quality of life, reducing poverty and level of social vulnerability of the displaced;
- Sensitise and educate state officers, Law students and general public about the problems the displaced encounter.