

JOINT DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN KOSOVO ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

We, the leaders of religious communities in Kosovo, fully aware of our spiritual and social responsibility in fostering a culture of peace, respect, and human dignity, hereby express our deep concern regarding gender-based violence, which tragically continues to wound the spiritual and moral conscience of our society.

Gender-based violence is one of the gravest afflictions undermining the foundations of family life, the dignity of women, and the inviolability of human life. It is not merely a breach of the law, but a sin against love, and a distortion of the divine image reflected in every human being.

Statistics indicating that one in three women experiences physical or sexual violence are not only a social alarm but a moral call to action - for institutions, religious communities, families, and each of us individually. Too often, perpetrators escape justice, while victims silently bear the scars, the shame, and the burden of prejudice.

In light of our religious teachings, which affirm that every person is a creation of God and carries within themselves the dignity bestowed by Him, we firmly declare that no victim of violence bears guilt, nor is tarnished in the eyes of the Divine, nor should feel responsible for the crimes committed against them. Merciful God does not demand repentance from those unjustly wounded, but stands beside them, offering comfort, illumination, and strength to live with hope.

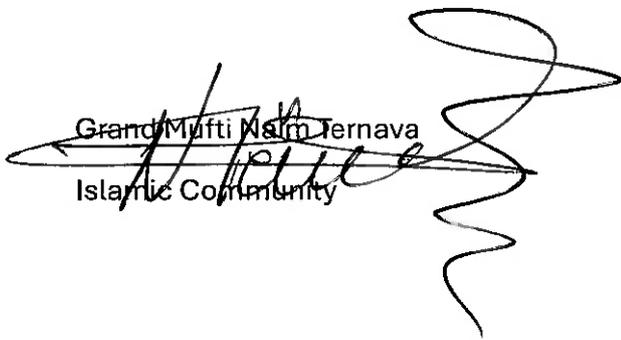
As spiritual leaders, we feel a sacred duty to stand by the victims and survivors of violence with open hearts, love, and care. We condemn all forms of violence, contempt, and exploitation that violate the dignity of women and men, girls and boys - children of the same land and of the same divine love. Accordingly, we affirm our united commitment to provide our full support to all victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

We also extend our support to all those working in the legal, social, and educational fields to build a fairer, safer, and more honourable environment for the women and men of our society.

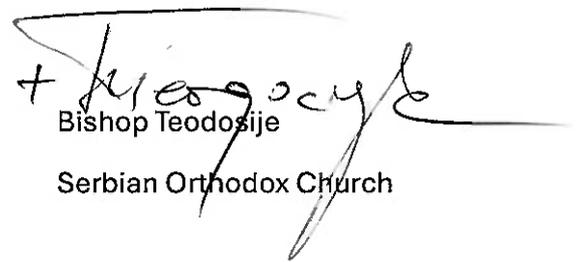
In the spirit of interfaith cooperation and human solidarity, we pledge - through our clergy, religious institutions, and faithful - to take joint steps towards education, awareness, and spiritual healing for those affected by this social wound. We invite every person of goodwill to join us in this act of love, so that together we may stand beside the victims, offering them respect, comfort, and hope.

Across all our faith traditions, prayer is the voice of the soul that glorifies God and seeks His justice, mercy, and healing. Our Lord, the Creator of all, hears the cry of the wounded and blesses those who rise to protect them. Therefore, we pray that He enlightens our minds and hearts, keeps us from the temptation of contempt, and guides us in love and mercy, strengthening us to be a voice for truth and human dignity within our society.

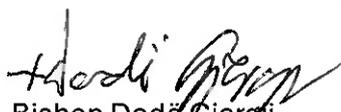
May God bless every effort aimed at protecting life, honouring women, and building a society where violence has no place, and where peace, justice, and love prevail.



Grand Mufti Naim Ternava
Islamic Community



+ Bishop Teodosije
Serbian Orthodox Church



Bishop Dodë Gjergji
Catholic Church



Mr Votim Demiri
Jewish Community

Pastor Driton Krasniqi
Protestant Evangelical Church

