



MAPP Declaration People Living in Poverty and Social Exclusion Need More Decisive Steps

MAPP is an alliance of over 40 nongovernmental, nonpartisan and volunteer organizations, informal association of citizens, support groups, syndicates and individuals which are working in different fields and who joined their forces to underline and single out the problems which the citizens are facing as their common interest; working towards promotion of social justice and equality, participatory democracy and civic solidarity in order to provide responsibility and transparency in the work of the authorities, respective public institutions and governmental bodies when the implementation of the accepted international obligations and responsibilities are concerned.

MAPP activists and advocates from civil society organisations throughout the Republic of Macedonia joined allies from EAPN, in Bitola, from 26 to 28 September 2011, to launch the *MAPP Declaration on People Living in Poverty and Social Exclusion* and adopt the following resolution:

We join here together, strong in our shared commitment, to draw attention to the difficult conditions people face in the Republic of Macedonia, where the poverty and social exclusion continues to slowly but surely affect growing numbers of the population.

Macedonian Government and part of the general population obviously don't see poverty and social exclusion as a major problem, yet. There has been no coordinated and effective implementation of the adopted national strategies, yet. The capacity to respond seems diminished thus the perceived need to respond becomes weaker. In fact, Macedonian Government have ignored the obvious steps necessary to prevent people living in poverty and social exclusion from following the world trend model and benefiting of socially inclusive society. Now, with foreign donors support shrinking, conditions threaten to become more difficult.

The regional history and the current economic crisis contribute to the problem. Republic of Macedonia is a developing country, only a step away from the EU accession, yet more recently isolated by internal conflict.



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Working together here in Bitola, We, MAPP activists and advocates, believe the Macedonian Government can provide commendable response to help overcome this profound isolation, press on for better and more dignified standard of living, and take a decisive step in reforming those pieces of legislation that only increases the persisting challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalized social groups.

Therefore, we ask you inside and outside the Macedonian Parliament to support our efforts in addressing the following key areas of concern:

Social Protection

Problem	Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cutting the state budgets delegated to social protection ➤ Local partners are rarely recognized by the officials (associations of citizens, private endeavors, companies) as the potential givers of services ➤ Low quality of services offered in the area of social protection ➤ Lack in the programs for rehabilitation, re-socialization and prevention of specially vulnerable groups (drug and alcohol users, people living with post traumatic syndrome –members of the armed forces of RM and prisoners) ➤ Defining the sexual work as a penal? act ➤ Outdated list of diseases that are considered to provoke social risks in the Low of Social Protection ➤ Bad conditions of living for handicapped people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular and just division of the funds of social transfers towards the social benefit users ➤ Active inclusion, certification and co-financing the social partners for offering social services from the state budget ➤ Establishing an Institute for licensing all the profiles that offer social protection services ➤ Establishing of Centers for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Re-socialization of specially vulnerable groups (drug and alcohol users, people living with post traumatic syndrome – members of armed forces of RM and prisoners) with employment programs ➤ De-penalization of the sexual work ➤ Revision and amending of the list of diseases in the Law of Social Protection with inclusion of HIV and Hepatitis C ➤ Ratification of the Convention for Protection of the Rights of Handicapped People



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Health Protection

Problem	Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low access to free, functional and quality services for health protection on all levels ➤ Health workers and collaborators working with vulnerable social groups show lack of sensibility or sensibilization when working with them ➤ The rights of patients are not respected ➤ Flaws and setbacks in the provision of diagnosis, therapy and rehabilitation for life threatening diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opening the adequate services for primary and secondary health protection and care with special attention to services for long term and palliative care as well as adequate training and preparation of the patronage services/equips in the system ➤ Amending the already existing curricula for health workers with thematic units related to proper work with vulnerable groups ➤ Correct and effective application of the Law for Protection of Patient Rights, Law on Protection from All Forms of Discrimination and Law for Healthcare ➤ Providing continuous access to therapy and treatment for life threatening diseases by FZO

Gender Issues

Problem	Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of information and low public awareness for the issues related to gender equality ➤ Lack of knowledge related to gender violence in the public policies for combating the domestic violence ➤ Not recognizing the sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as basis for non-discrimination in the legislation and national public policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introducing the thorough sexual education in the regular educational process ➤ Insertion of gender component in the new national strategy for domestic violence ➤ Revision and amending of the Law on Protection against all Forms of Discrimination



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Unemployment

Problem	Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dissonance between the active measures for employment with the demands of the labor market ➤ Abuse of the labor of the vulnerable groups through offering non-dignifying and poorly paid working places by the employers ➤ Young qualified people are unemployed for a long periods of time (3 years and over) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strengthening of the capacities of the socio-economic council through inclusion of civic organizations and representatives of the group of unemployed people ➤ Introduction of measures for protection and control for realization of the rights for establishing work relationship/engagement for this category of people ➤ Decreasing the age level for pension from 64 for man and 62 for women to 62 for man and 60 for woman

For all levels of creation of policies and policy making

Problem	Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low inclusion of poor and socially excluded people in the public policies creation, implementation and evaluation processes for decreasing the poverty ➤ Weak transparency and accountability in spending of the stat budget in all areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is of essential importance to provide active inclusion and focus towards people that live in poverty and in social exclusion to all the levels of creation and policy making ➤ Making public the Revision reports connected with the spending of the state budget of the previous year



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