



DECLARATION OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

MAPP is an association consisting of 92 volunteer nonpolitical nongovernmental organisations, nonformal civil society organisations, self-help groups, unions and individuals working in various fields and by joining their efforts they intend to point out the problems of mutual interest the citizens encounter, aiming at promotion of social equality and justice, participatory democracy and civil society solidarity, also on providing responsibility and accountability of the competent public institutions and governmental organs in regard to the undertaken international obligations and responsibilities.

The MAPP activists and representatives of civil society organisations from entire Republic of Macedonia, supported by our partners in EAPN, assembled in Skopje on 03rd June 2015 in order to review the third *Declaration on the People Living in Poverty and Social Exclusion*, prepared on the Third Conference in 2013 and dispatched to each political party in the Republic of Macedonia. On this Fourth Conference new requirements were set, due to the fact that the latest ones are more extensive, we have decided to hand in this Declaration to the political parties and the Macedonian Parliament.

We have assembled here, strongly committed to attract the public attention to the harsh conditions in which the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia live and the difficulties they are confronted with, where poverty and social exclusion gradually persists to affect the major portion of the population.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia and part of the general public are evidently unable to comprehend poverty and social exclusion as major problems in the country. The adopted national strategies, so far, have not been implemented in a coordinated and efficient way. In fact, the Macedonian Government has been ignoring the obvious steps necessary to be taken in order to prevent social exclusion and poverty in this country and to follow the world trend to use the benefits offered by the socially inclusive society. Currently, when foreign investments are reduced, we are not threatened by deteriorating or worsening the situation.

The regional history and the current economic crisis merely burden this setback. The Republic of Macedonia is a developing country, one step away of being admitted in the EU, nevertheless, it is an isolated country due to its inner conflict.

Working alongside activists and MAPP’s supporters, we promise that the Macedonian Government can provide a sound response which can help in overcoming this deep isolation, it will help in taking adequate steps essential for better and more dignified living conditions, as well as decisive actions in reforming certain parts of the legislation, which only increase the existing challenges the vulnerable and marginalized social groups face.

Hence, we require from You, including or excluding the Macedonian Government, to support our efforts to tackle with the following key fields which concern us:

Social protection

Problem	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cutting public budgets aimed for social protection ➤ Non recognizing social partners (civil society associations and private companies) as social service providers ➤ Poor quality of service offered in the area of social protection ➤ Shortage of programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and resocialisation of particularly vulnerable groups (drug and alcohol addicts, people suffering from post-traumatic stress-members of the security forces of R.M. and prisoners) ➤ Regarding sex work as crime ➤ Outdated list of diseases regarded as social risk in the Law on Social Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular and proper allocation of social transfers to social assistance beneficiaries ➤ Active inclusion, certification and co-financing by the state budget and the social partners in providing social services ➤ Forming an institute for licencing all profiles offering social protection services ➤ Forming centres for prevention, rehabilitation, and resocialisation of particularly vulnerable groups (drug and alcohol addicts, people suffering from post-traumatic syndrome-members of the security forces of R.M. and prisoners) offering employment programmes ➤ Depenalising sex work and recognizing it as working activity ➤ Reviewing and supplementing the list of diseases in the Law on Social

- **Lack of mechanisms to identify the persons exposed to social risk (creating databases of persons in social risk in local terms)**
- **Unallocated budget to implement the ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- **Low threshold of dignified life**
- **Subsidies in the public transport for the social assistance beneficiaries**
- **No subsidies or insufficient financial aid for children with no parental care accommodated in alternative care systems**
- **Delay of the regular payment of the social rights. Abolishing rights on the basis of money transfer via Western Union;**

Protection with HIV and Hepatitis C

- Introducing mechanisms for identifying individuals exposed to social risk (creating databases of people in social risk in local terms)
- Allocating a budget for the implementation of the ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Real increase of all cash benefits until they reach the threshold of adequate minimum income per citizen
- Free public transport for social assistance beneficiaries
- Support and promoting the former in the care for children without parents and parental care through subsidies and creating public-private partnership in the alternative care system
- Regular and prompt payment of the social rights and increasing the assets from cash benefits;
- To prolong/stop the law on fast transfer of funds and to prevent its retroactive usage;
- Priorities in employment should be given to the social assistance beneficiaries;

<p>Granting the right of one-off monetary aid in the course of political campaigns. Additional funds are required for necessary documentation in order to apply for the social rights; Long and complicated procedures to obtain personal identification documents of the so called “phantom people”. These states lead to violating fundamental human rights, including the health and social rights;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy shall not have any access to information on transaction accounts of social assistance beneficiaries; ➤ Consistent application of the Law on one-off financial aid; ➤ No monetary supplements to be instantly allotted to the most vulnerable categories immediately prior to political campaigns; ➤ Personal identification documents social rights should be free of charge obtaining of when applying for them
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Health protection

Problem	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poor access to free, quality and functional healthcare services at all levels ➤ Insufficient sensitization of medical workers and associates to work with vulnerable social groups ➤ Disrespect of patients’ rights ➤ Shortage and standstill in providing diagnoses, therapy and rehabilitation to life-threatening disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opening adequate services for primary and secondary healthcare with a certain emphasis on palliative and long-term care and recruitment of district health nursing services in the system ➤ Supplementing the already existing curricula for medical workers with units on adequate work with vulnerable groups ➤ Consistent and efficient modification of the Patients Rights Act, the Law on Protection from all forms of discrimination and the Law on Social Protection ➤ Obtaining continuous access to therapy and treatment of life-threatening disease by the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia

- **Lack of cooperation and coordination in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare at healthcare institutions**
- **Partial implementation of healthcare programmes for vulnerable groups by the Ministry of Health**
- **Shortage of medical worker teams in health institutions in the secondary health protection (with an emphasis on smaller towns in the Republic of Macedonia)**
- **Lack of information on the rights and programmes for the vulnerable groups in compliance with the legal framework in the field of health protection**
- **Delay of payment of social services to beneficiaries (sick leave, maternity leave etc.) by the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia**
- **Lack of TBC centres**
- **Restricted existing list of diagnoses included in the participation scheme (hemophilia and multiplex etc.)**
- Strengthening cooperation and coordination of healthcare institutions in the primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare
- Implementing healthcare programmes for vulnerable groups by the Ministry of Health
- Increase and strengthening medical worker teams in healthcare institutions in the secondary healthcare (with an emphasis on smaller towns in the Republic of Macedonia)
- Intensified information on the rights and programmes for the vulnerable groups in compliance with the legal regulation in the field of healthcare protection
- Determining an exact time framework to settle social services to beneficiaries (sick leave, maternity leave etc.) by the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia
- Opening TBC centres
- Expanding the existing list with diagnoses included in the participation scheme (hemophilia and multiplex etc.)
- The users of clinical and daily hospital treatment should be exempted from participation in the psychiatric institutions
- Inclusion in the healthcare protection of individuals impeded in obtaining

- **Participatory payment by users of clinic and daily hospital treatment in the psychiatric institutions**
- **Problem regarding ID issuance as well as problems arising with individuals impeded to verify their citizenship status in the Republic of Macedonia and their inclusion in the healthcare system**
- **Shortage of medical workers (Roma citizens);**
- **No full time doctors in the rural areas (the village of Mogorche in the Debar region);**
- **Cancer patients are not entirely exempted from the health participation scheme;**
- **Social assistance beneficiaries are unable to pay their health services;**
- **In the Shuto Orizari municipality there is no gynecological clinic;**
- **Difficult and complex access to specialist healthcare services (“My Medical Appointment”);**

- personal identification documents and those impeded to verify their citizenship status in the Republic of Macedonia
- Employment of medical workers of Roma nationality (in local terms);
- Employment of full time doctors in the rural areas (in the village of Mogorche, Debar region);
- Cancer patients to be entirely exempted from healthcare participation schemes;
- Exemption from healthcare participation schemes for social assistance beneficiaries;
- Urgent opening of gynecological clinic in the Shuto Orizari municipality;
- Reinstatement of the previous system of appointments and carrying out medical check ups;
- To check and improve the legal regulation on fulfilling the right to disability support pension for cancer patients;
- Simplified procedures to obtain personal identification documents of the “phantom persons” through services free of charge;

Gender/sex issues

Problem	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Being uninformed and the low level of public awareness on issues related to gender and sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction of comprehensive sexual education in the regular curricula

<p>equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Family and Domestic Violence Strategy is not operationalized ➤ Unable to recognize the sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as the basis for nondiscrimination in the legislation and the national public policies ➤ Shortage of certain forms for social protection of particular vulnerable groups (single parents, women from ethnic minorities and women from rural areas) ➤ No educational activities to promote the forms for social protection in rural areas ➤ Unemployment of women and their financial dependence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preparation and implementation of national action plans for the Family and Domestic Violence Strategy ➤ Revision and supplementation of the law on protection from all discrimination forms ➤ Introduction of new social protection forms for particular vulnerable groups ➤ Undertaking special information and educational activities to promote the social protection system in the rural areas ➤ Increasing the number of women included in the active employment programmes and measures.
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Unemployment

Problem	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discrepancy of the active employment measures with the labour market requirements ➤ The employers violate the labour of the vulnerable categories by offering undignified and poorly paid working posts ➤ Qualified young individuals are consistently unemployed ➤ Impeded employment of single parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strengthening the capacities of the socially-economic council by engaging civil society organisations and representatives of the unemployed ➤ Introducing measures for protection and control in realising the rights arising from the labor relations for this category ➤ Decrease of the retirement age limit from 64 years for men and 62 year for women to 62 years for men and 60 for women ➤ Greater inclusion of single parents in

- **Inadequate records system of the Employment Agency of Republic of Macedonia***

- **The National Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion is not implemented**

- **Violation of internship**

- **Inadequate information on the adverts for new working posts**

- **Not following the new employment trends**

- **The working posts for people with secondary vocation schools degrees are not represented in the work systematization**

the labour market

- Revising the records system of the Employment Agency of R.M* (should the citizen not be timely registered, they will be deleted from the records and does not have the right to a new register within a year, nevertheless, the number of the unemployed is denoted to have decreased)

- Creating conditions for comprehensive consistent implementation of the National strategy and providing funds from the RM's budget

- Creating new working posts prioritizing employment of interns

- Preceding the end of the calendar year, to advertise the vacant working posts for the next one

- Qualification, requalification and post-qualification in line with the new trends

- Greater representation of working posts for people with secondary vocational school degrees in the working systematisation

Youth poverty

Problem	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mistrust in the local institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cooperation between the young people and the local institutions (through youth councils, forums and debates) ➤ Better transparency and information

➤ **Being uninformed on the services offered by institutions and their work**

➤ **The young people are not included in the process of reaching decisions**

➤ **No will for living and increased level of dissatisfaction**

➤ **High percentage of unemployed young population. Lack of sports clubs and sports facilities for all sports**

➤ **Shortage of subsidies for public transport for the young people**

➤ **Emigrating from the country and the smaller towns for better life**

placement on the services offered and their work via the media, notifications, web pages, forums.

➤ Promotion of participatory involvement and inclusion of the young population in the process for reaching decision

➤ Promotion, incentives for employers to create new working posts in order to decrease the percentage of youth unemployment

➤ Opening sports clubs and sports facilities locally and their proper usage

➤ Public transport subsidies provided by the country

➤ Improving the climate and quality of life and providing adequate conditions able to meet the young people's needs in order to stay in their motherland

➤ Social benefits for social inclusion of the young population (discounts for cultural events)

➤ Adequate conditions and better subsidies provided by the country to the young population in order to get their own home

➤ Promoting crafts (campaigns, subsidies, new working posts)

➤ Providing appropriate working conditions and increased amount of the minimum wage

- **Shortage of quality living conditions provided by the local self-government or the country**
 - **The young population is short of social benefits (discounts for cultural events, public transport, discounts for services they use)**
 - **The young population can very rarely afford their own home**
 - **Shortage of conditions necessary to promote crafts**
 - **Poor salaries and inappropriate working conditions**
 - **Working in the gray market**
 - **Introducing the youth guarantee**
 - **Insufficient assets and difficult**
- Eradicating gray economy (work in the gray market)
 - Providing adequate conditions for implementation of the youth guarantee
 - Increasing financial assets for self-employment
 - Accepting nonformal education of Roma citizens
 - Opening youth centres in local terms and creating local strategies for the young population.

conditions to use the subsidies for self-employment

- Providing conditions and including young Roma citizens in the educational process and acknowledging nonformal education when being employed
- Lack of youth centres in local terms

In-work poverty

Problem	Requirement
➤ Low minimal salary	➤ Increasing the minimum wage for quality and normal life
➤ Exploiting workforce	➤ Payment of proportionate wages and respecting working hours
➤ Working in the gray market and not being registered by the employers	➤ Increased market inspection
➤ Inappropriate working conditions	➤ Providing adequate conditions for normal work and working in line with the Labor Law
➤ Violation of all human rights and the	➤ The country should increase the amount of financial assets for self-employment and support for the users in

<p>Labor Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low assets and subsidies for self-employment and inadequate support provided by the country 	<p>the first two years</p>
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Dignified old age

Problem	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The principle for transparency and informing retired people through the Pensioners' Associations is at the lowest possible level. The associations managements do not offer a wider and transparent process of meeting the membership interests, so as to feel as activists, united in a nonpolitical, nongovernmental organization. ➤ Disregarding the pensions amount, each month, 150 MKD is retained from their pensions, out of which 120 MKD are allocated to the Solidarity Fund and 30 MKD go for membership, assets that are mainly spent on account 417 – rewards for engaged pensioners– more precisely associations managements with two, three, four and even more terms of office ➤ Assets collected on the membership basis are not to be underestimated. If a single association has an annual income of 6.000.000 MKD and 2.500.000 MKD expenditure, what is done with the remaining assets? ➤ Use of spa treatments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The "Pensioner Plus" newsletter should be received by all pensioners. Transparency and information of pensioners should be carried out via notifications and fliers in the form of daily newspaper inserts. According to the statutes of these associations the term of office of the elected management members lasts for four years. ➤ Assets collected on the membership basis and are invested in certain retirement homes, daily centres – care services for the sick and weak pensioners. In order to bridge the gap by providing a continuous access to therapy and treatment of life-threatening diseases. ➤ No divergence per groups and terms of spouses-pensioners

At all levels reaching and creating policy

Problem	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poor inclusion of the poor and socially excluded people in creating, implementing and assessment of public policies in order to decrease poverty. ➤ Weak transparency and accountability on public budget expenditures in all areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is of significant importance to provide an active inclusion and focus on the people living in poverty and social exclusion, at all levels which reach and create policies. ➤ Providing public auditing report on the public budget in the previous year

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