

## **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS**

### ***Abstract:***

*The trend of increasing inclusion of non-governmental organizations in the domain of providing social services results from intense process of decentralization, altered realization of the role of the state in the social sector, followed by radical changes in the framework of the social service sector and sudden expansion of the non-governmental sector which is the starting point of this scientific research. Non-governmental organizations, through their actions toward local or centralized authorities and participation in social protection process, may significantly influence the structure of offered social services, so as to introduce certain specific services pursuant to recognized needs and requests of marginalized – socially excluded categories, and introduce improvements, particularly in the domain of organized measures for the local and wider social community, i.e. development of networks and forms of access to welfare of marginalized – socially excluded categories.*

*In the social sphere, the state does not have to and should not be the only organizer, financier and “producer” of services, and the exclusive actor in decision-making. The new understanding of the role of the state in the social sector includes more market, less state presence, as well as transferring a significant part of liability for satisfying social needs to the non-governmental sector. Fully taking into consideration the fact that in the social sphere the state should retain the functions in the domain of formulating politics, regulation and control, there is a requirement to ensure a growing significance of non-governmental organizations. In recent times, the role of non-governmental organizations is being affirmed, but there is still a lack of significant support to their functioning.*

*Connection between non-governmental organizations and the EU surroundings results in securing financial grants, which represent the main encouragement for developing these organizations and implementation of their projects in the domain of welfare for marginalized – socially excluded categories. However, non-governmental organizations have often not adjusted to local requirements, nor have they adequately used the local resources, insisting on their own autonomy and samples of social work in developed countries. For this reason, it should be enabled for the BiH expert, scientific and wider community to recognize the problems facing the marginalized – socially excluded categories. Based on the implemented*

*research, non-governmental organizations may more efficiently, rationally and effectively take adequate actions in promoting their social inclusion, for the purpose of protecting and insuring complete and equal exercise of human rights and basic freedoms of all marginalized categories for the purpose of honoring their dignity.*

*Considering that protecting basic human rights is a generally accepted approach in the EU countries, the center of attention is reserved for activities and efforts directed toward protecting and promoting human rights and improving the quality of life for marginalized – socially excluded categories so as to ensure adequate and available forms of financial, institutional, extra-institutional, professional and volunteering aid, whether centralized or organized at the local community level. The synergy of the non-governmental organizations and local communities indicates to improvement of social welfare for these categories. This ensures the starting assumptions for preventing the discrimination of marginalized – socially excluded categories, with special implementation of a wide spectrum of measures and activities in their social inclusion for protecting their basic human rights. The unfavorable social status and specificity of the lifestyle of marginalized – socially excluded categories, focuses the common action of all stakeholders toward the need to insure a dignified life and independence and enabling these categories to participate through action in the state and the society. The stated approach is a crucial contribution to protection of their human rights, which is reflected through advocating an inclusive society, availability of social rights, improved quality of life, intergenerational solidarity, preventing unfavorable environmental influences, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration and financial sustainability, as well as increasing diversification and further decentralization of social associations and social services. Due to insufficient social care for marginalized – socially excluded categories, and bearing in mind the fact that the categories comprise significant, specific, sensitive and vulnerable groups, it is extremely important to develop conscience on difficulties they are facing, especially since the care provided to such people in BiH society is insufficient.*

Finally, non-governmental organizations have to continuously manage their own development with the aim of ensuring constant expansion and improvement, because they have a special place in the social inclusion of marginalized – socially excluded categories for the purpose of building an inclusive platform for protecting their basic human rights. In this, connecting with the EU environment in the domain of transferring knowledge, experience and financial aid results in stronger participation in implementation of contemporary welfare models for these

categories based on the improvement of institutionalized forms of welfare, but also the deinstitutionalization of welfare for the purpose of establishing more humane conditions of life for this vulnerable population.

***Keywords: non-governmental organizations, social inclusion, social exclusion, human rights, marginalized categories, public policies***