

Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) Furthers Advocacy Movement in Kosovo

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Success in Kosovo

Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) staff in our Kosovo office has been working hard to help organize an advocacy movement for people with intellectual disabilities. There are virtually no services, education or job opportunities, and most people with intellectual disabilities spend their lives at home, shunned by the community. But due to MDRI's work, that has begun to change.

Today, there are 4 peer support groups made up of people with intellectual disabilities who have joined forces to form "**Ne per Ne**" -meaning, "We for Ourselves." The groups meet weekly and are currently doing outreach to interest new members. Many in the group describe life before MDRI's work as lonely-most had no friends or social life. With MDRI's assistance, **Ne per Ne** members are putting together a book describing their experiences to educate families and the community and to provide hope to others with intellectual disabilities. Pictured above are **Zamira Hyseni**, Director of MDRI's Kosovo office; **Ardian Kabashi** and **Myzafer Bajrami**, Ne per Ne members.