SOS Children's Village
Albania

National Office

Tirana on 23.10.09

INVITATION FOR JOINT ADVOCACY
ALBANIAN YOUNGSTERS LEAVING CARE

Dear Sir/ Madam

SOS Children's Villages is an organization whose mission is to support children without parental care or at risk of losing it.
Main programs of SOS organization are: SOS Children's Village, SOS Youth Communities that offer care services for youngsters without parental care aged 14-18 years; SOS Family Strengthening Projects (currently three projects) supporting families that have few opportunities to take care of their children.

In the end of 2008, SOS Children's Villages undertook a research study on situation of youngsters leaving care. The situation of youngsters/ children leaving residential institutions at the age of 15 is extremely alarming.

Leaving care at an early age (15 year old) and affording life "on their own" without further support from relevant structures, with lack of appropriate accommodation, education or vocational training makes the life of these children more difficult and puts them in multiple risky situations.

Due to this fact, SOS Children's Villages is undertaking an advocacy campaign for the rights of young people leaving care under the motto "I MATTER". This campaign will be organized under the framework of a three year advocacy project supported by SOS Kinderdorf International.
Main activities for 2009 will be carried out during November – December and further activities will follow up on 2010-2011.

SOS Children's Villages is pleased to invite Albania Coalition against Trafficking (ACAT/BKTF) and other interested organizations or individual in a joint meeting regarding the topic.
Main goal of this meeting will be acknowledgment with the issue of youngsters leaving care; objectives of the project "I MATTER", common discussion and review of common interest to support this target group in order to advocate all together.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 29th, 14.00, in the SOS Children's Village, located in Sauk area.
SOS organization will provide the transport to the meeting place.

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Youngsters from SOS organization and other youngsters from youth organizations that support these cause, will be present in the meeting.
Our belief is that all together we can bring some changes to the life of children without parental care.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for further information,

With respect,
Teuta Shkenza,
National Director
SOS Children's Village

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