**The Use of Restorative Justice in Settling Blood Feuds in Albania**

 **Themes**

* Improving civil society
* Conflict resolution
* Restorative Justice (RJ)

**What is the Problem?**

-**Blood feuds** are still ongoing in parts of Albania

-They are settled via Kanun Law

***…Can this Be Overcome…***

**Restorative Justice Models**

* Mediation
* Working with **respected community members**/leaders
* Youth and general civil society awareness on the benefits of engaging in RJ initiatives

**Relevant RJ Legislation**

* Albanian Law on Mediation

**Impact & Outcome**

* **Restoration of community relations**
* **Conflict resolution without violence and/or vigilantism**
* **Criminality is no longer a ‘generational punishment’**

**Recommendations**

* **Create informational awareness campaigns**
* **Change the perception of stakeholders (victims and offenders)**
* **Move away from traditional Kanun laws and towards nuanced practices of reconciliation via RJ**

**Implications**

* Shift in cultural attitudes requires the population to understand the **benefit of engaging in such practice**s
* Pitch the idea: show the local community how engaging in RJ:
* 1) **provides them with greater economic opportunities** (they are no longer outcasted or stigmatized by others reducing their capability to engage in business affairs),
* 2) **increases their socialization** (they are no longer living in isolation or afraid to go to school for fear of revenge),
* 3) **changes their perception on cultural practices** (they begin to understand the difference in cultural phenomena that contribute to social wellbeing rather than customary responses to crime where generations inherit the deviance of prior offenders).