

## ~ Albanian Prison Ministry Update ~



Celebrating Christmas behind bars remains ambivalent



### Passing the Torch to Suela

After leading this organization for over 17 rewarding years, it is time for me to pass the torch. It has been a privilege to do this beautiful work, together with my committed and skilled Albanian colleagues and friends.

I'm happy to announce that our board has unanimously agreed that **Suela Xhixhi is our new CEO**, effective since December 2025. Suela has 14 years of experience within Shkbsh PFA as women's chaplain and social department manager.

Watching her dedication and vision over the years has given me full confidence that the organization's future is in capable hands. Thank you so much for your heartwarming support all these years in so many different ways. Without that support, we would not have been able to impact so many prisoners, their children, and their families.

I express my hope and expectation that you will continue to support Suela and Shkbsh PFA in living out **our mission**: sharing the Gospel with prisoners and their families and breaking the cycle of poverty and impossibility.

Note: I will continue working with Shkbsh PFA as senior advisor and dealing with fundraising.

### December has been a month with great impact

Our prison chaplains have been able to celebrate Christmas in all the prisons we serve. And with the help of our donors we were able to provide much-needed aid packages to hundreds of forgotten and isolated prisoners.

500 families all over Albania we provide for 4 months with food- and wood-parcels to help them through the cold winter.

The gratitude is immense, and offers us the possibility to tell them of the greatest gift of all: "Jesus coming to this world for our sake!"



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#### A word of the new Executive Director:

My name is Suela Xhixhi. I am a follower of Jesus Christ, married, and the mother of two boys, ages 12 and 10.

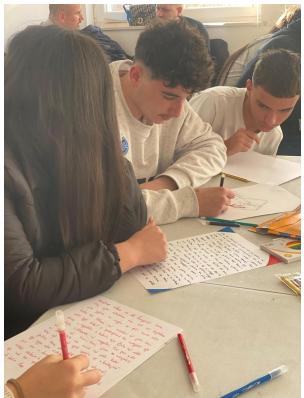
I joined the SHKBSH mission in 2012 as a prison chaplain for women. During the 10 years I worked with incarcerated women, I was amazed by the miracles of restoration in the lives of those who accepted Jesus and chose to follow His Word.

For another two years, I was involved in the social projects that SHKBSH carries out with the families and children of prisoners.

My involvement in both aspects of prison ministry has been a very precious and beautiful experience, because I have been able to see the whole picture of the work – a picture that comes together like a puzzle. Chaplains work with the inmates inside the cells, while project coordinators work with their families and children, all with the common purpose of restoring broken relationships, breaking the cycle of poverty, and above all, bringing the living hope of Jesus Christ and His life-changing power.

Today, in the new position I hold, I feel a great privilege and responsibility to lead the continuation of this divine mission.

I believe that by remaining in one accord, building on the positive example and experience of the former director, and with the grace of God, SHKBSH will continue its good work.



From Fatmir, our Dream Academy Coordinator:  
I want to tell you about our December seminar at Dream Academy, because what happened there really shows why your support matters.

One of the most powerful moments came during art therapy, led by a psychologist, you could see these young people processing trauma and finding their voice.

We had a special moment certifying five adolescents who completed their entire four-year journey with us. That's not just finishing a program, that's transformation and hope becoming real.

Let me share what they said. One told us Dream Academy filled a deep void and opened her eyes to possibilities she didn't know existed. Another said that during the darkest period of her life, we became her place of belonging, where she found support and hope.

This is what you're making possible. Because of you, these young people are building hope-filled futures.

## We Don't Need Millions

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### Thank you!

Our prison ministry is blessed with people, churches and organizations that support us in many ways. Thanks to this support we can continue "the good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ef.2:10).

On behalf of all staff of Shkbsh PFA, I wish you a blessed 2026 with prosperity and good health, and may God's face shine upon you.

Fred Westerink  
Shkbsh Prison Fellowship Albania  
Tirana

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