

ATIFETE JAHJAGA

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Fourth President of the Republic of Kosovo

“In a world in which our values are constantly being challenged, we must stand together around ideals that define us.”

Advocate for decisive action to strengthen Kosovo’s democratic institutions and bolster sustainable economic growth. Resolute in the fight for an inclusive, fair, secure, and gender-equal society.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President, Republic of Kosovo: April 7, 2011 – April 7, 2016

Prishtina, Kosovo

Elected by the Parliament of Kosovo for a five-year mandate. First female and non-partisan candidate to be elected as President of the Republic of Kosovo; first female head of state in the modern Balkans; and the youngest female world leader to be elected to the highest office.

- **FOREIGN POLICY**

- Championed a global campaign to secure international recognition of Kosovo as an independent state. Obtained diplomatic recognition of Kosovo from 33 UN member states and 2 non-member nations.
- Engaged in bilateral meetings with 54 heads of state and participated in numerous international forums to create new bridges of cooperation between Kosovo and the international community.
- Consolidated unprecedented international support by promoting a peaceful and collaborative agenda in Kosovo and the Western Balkans; helped Kosovo become a vital contributor in global debates.

- **EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH**

- Leader of numerous national and regional initiatives to bring women to the forefront of Kosovo’s political, economic, and social life.
- Spearheaded development, educational, and leadership programs to empower underrepresented and marginalized women in the Balkans.
- Hosted the International Women’s Summit "Partnership for Change—Empowering Women," which brought together 200 leaders from Kosovo, Europe, North America, Africa, and the Middle East.
- Summit outcome led to the creation of the Pristina Principles, which affirm the rights of women to political participation and representation, economic resources, and access to security and justice.
- In coordination with USAID, negotiated and secured a 36 million USD donation directed towards the education of young Kosovar students. Provided Kosovo’s youth with financial opportunities to enroll in undergraduate and master studies in US universities that are part of the Transformational Leadership Program.
- Worked closely with former US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, to create a platform for female empowerment across globally renowned institutions. Awarded the title ‘Mary Jane Durnford Visiting Professor’ by the Albright Institute of Wellesley College.

- **SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

- Led institutional efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate survivors of sexual violence.
- Established the ‘National Council for Survivors of Sexual Violence During the War in Kosovo’, a coordinating body consisting of representatives of key ministries, civil society, and international partners to provide legal remedies to survivors of sexual violence during war.
- Achievements: mobilized public opinion in support of the socially stigmatized survivors of sexual violence; articulated a clear vision in order to guarantee survivors’ rights; created and put in place necessary legal infrastructure for the rehabilitation of survivors; and included Kosovo in global initiatives on prevention of sexual violence as a tool of war.

- **ETHNIC RECONCILIATION AND INCLUSION**

- Encouraged conciliatory dialogue among various ethnic, religious, and marginalized groups in

Kosovo.

- Led the ‘Consultative Council for Communities’, which strives to empower underrepresented communities in various fields like education, economic development, employment, and politics.
- Instituted three National Councils to ensure the inclusion of civil society, academia, and business community in conversations of national importance.
- Active proponent of Kosovo’s European and Euro-Atlantic agenda abroad, reconciliation and tolerance, and normalization of relations with neighboring countries.

- **EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

- Inaugurated the National Council for European Integration, a high-level coordination body that aims to build consensus on a European agenda through an inclusive and cross-party approach.
- The National Council successfully adopted the first Kosovo National Strategy for European Integration and ensured consensus with all Kosovar society actors involved in the process.
- Coordinated institutional efforts along with the National Council to accelerate the implementation of technical criteria to advance the dialogue on visa liberalization with the European Union.
- Ensured that Kosovo presented to the European Commission its final report on the fulfillment of the visa liberalization road map.

- **FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

- Created a collaborative partnership with the private sector to improve business practices that make Kosovo attractive to foreign investment.
- Negotiated and consolidated economic cooperation agreements with countries in 5 continents to stimulate Kosovo’s economic growth through a number of investment projects.
- Signed a 22-million-euro donation by Sheikha Bint Mubarak of the UAE for a Pediatric Surgical Hospital building within the University Clinical Center of Kosovo.

- **DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Successfully coordinated and mobilized mechanisms of justice through the Central Election Commission for a fair, democratic, and transparent electoral process in 2013 and 2014.
- Spearheaded dialogue and collaboration between political parties to solve the political and constitutional deadlock that paralyzed Kosovo after the parliamentary elections in 2014.
- Facilitated the establishment of a new Parliament and Government amid the crisis through transparent and intense meetings with leaders of parliamentary political parties.

- **ANTI-CORRUPTION**

- Established the National Anti-Corruption Council, with the purpose of coordinating the work and the activities of Kosovo’s institutions and independent agencies to prevent and fight corruption.
- Achieved an unprecedented 16% decrease in corruption in accordance with the improvement of the inter-institutional body.
- Described by the Anti-Corruption Agency as the best example of transparency and accountability that public officials should demonstrate.

SELECTED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES

2011:

- Columbia University, Harriman Institute. *World Leaders Forum*. Keynote Speaker (September 21).
- *Forum 2000 Conference of Waslav Havel*. Keynote Speaker: “Organized Crime in Modern Times.” Prague, Czech Republic (October 11).
- *Women Driving Economic Growth in South Eastern Europe*. Keynote Speaker. Zagreb, Croatia. (October 25).
- US State Department. *The Women in Public Service Project*. Opening Speaker. Washington DC, USA (December 15).

2012:

- Barnard College. *The Women in Public Service Project*. Keynote Address. New York, USA (September 25).
- *International Women Summit*. Opening Speaker: “Partnership for Change: Empowering Women.” Prishtina, Kosovo (October 4).
- *Women and Access to Resources Conference*. Keynote Speaker. Prishtina Kosovo (November 18).

2013:

- *16th Eurasian Economic Summit*. Keynote Address. Istanbul, Turkey (April 10).
- *Women's Leaders Session at the Eurasian Economic Summit*. Keynote Address. Istanbul, Turkey (April 10).
- Oxford University, Blavatnik School of Government. *Challenges of Government Conferences*. (April 22).
- *18th Central European Summit (President's Summit)*. "Growth Strategy for Post-Crisis Recovery." Bratislava, Slovakia (June 13).
- *Launch of Platform for Women Raped During the Kosovo War*. Keynote Speaker and Conference Chair. Prishtina, Kosovo (June 20).
- Durham University. *Fifth Bi-Annual Lecture*. Guest Speaker: "Post-Conflict Reconstruction and State-Building: Kosovo's Experience." Durham, UK (June 26).
- *National Crime Victim's Right Ceremony*. Keynote Address. Prishtina, Kosovo (October 21).

2014:

- United Nations. *Security Council Meeting on Kosovo*. New York, USA (May 27).
- *Women and Business Conference*. Keynote Address. Prishtina, Kosovo (June 3).
- *Clinton Global Initiative*. Award Speech after receiving the "Leadership in Public Service" Award. New York, USA (September 22).
- *Summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie*. Speech on the occasion of Kosovo's membership into the International Organization of La Francophonie. Dakar, Senegal (November 29).

2015:

- *World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa*. Guest Speaker. Amman, Jordan (May 22).
- Georgetown University. *Symposium on Women's Political Participation in Peace Processes*. Guest Speaker. Washington DC, USA (September 20).
- Columbia University. *World Leaders Forum*. Keynote Address. New York, USA (October 2).
- *Global Opportunities Conference*. Keynote Address. Chicago, USA (November 12).
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Guest Speaker. Chicago, USA (November 13).

2016:

- Foundation for the Wellbeing of the Society. Keynote Speaker: "Sexual Violence and Beyond". Valletta, Malta (March 28).
- *Women in Parliaments Global Summit*. Keynote Speaker: "Women in Politics: Prospects for the Future." Aman, Jordan (May 5).
- *Global Summit of Women*. Keynote Speaker. Warsaw, Poland (June 9).
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). *Women Participation in Conflict Resolution*. Guest Speaker. Vienna, Austria (June 30).

2017:

- Wellesley College, Albright Institute. *Globalization: Promises, Challenges, and a Path Forward*. Keynote Speaker and Mary Jane Durnford '59 Distinguished Visiting Professor. Wellesley, Massachusetts, USA (January 19).
- European College of Warsaw. Keynote Speaker: "Peace and Reconciliation As a Way of Rebuilding." Warsaw, Poland (May 15).
- *United Nation Conference in Prishtina*. "The United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict." Keynote Speaker. Prishtina, Kosovo (June 19).
- *World Alliance of Religion and Peace Summit*. Guest Speaker: "Peace and Peaceful Governance". Seoul, South Korea (September 25)

2018:

- *Women Peacemakers at Munich Security Conference*. Guest Speaker. Munich, Germany (February 15).
- Geoffrey Nice Foundation. *Political Expediency Behind International Criminal Courts in a Political and Legal Context*. Keynote Speaker. The Hague, Netherlands (February 25).
- Oxford University. *Women's Leadership Series*. Keynote Speaker. Oxford, UK (March 9).
- Dublin City University, Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction. Guest Speaker. Dublin, Ireland (April 7).
- International Convention Centre. *Global Summit of Women*. Guest Speaker. Sydney, Australia (April 26).
- Lithuanian Parliament. *Women Political Leaders Global Forum*. Keynote Speaker. (June 8)
- The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Providing justice for conflict-related sexual violence survivors: Challenges and the way forward*. Keynote Speaker. Prishtina, Kosovo (July 5).
- United Nations Foundation, Council of Women World Leaders. *Economic Development Through Women's Empowerment*. Guest Speaker. New York, USA (September 25).

2019:

- *Open debate on the Sexual Violence during Conflicts*. Debate Participant. United Nations Security Council. (April 23).
- Testimony on the crimes committed during the war in Kosovo. Speaker. Committee on the Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives in the American Congress. (May 1).
- *20th Anniversary of the NATO Humanitarian Intervention in Kosovo*. Initiator and Chairwoman. Pristina, Republic of Kosovo. (June 12).
- Testimony on the sexual violence crimes committed during the war in Kosovo. Foreign Affairs Commission of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of Italy. Rome, Italy. (June 26).
- Testimony on the sexual violence crimes committed during the war in Kosovo. The Parliamentary Commission on Femicide. Rome, Italy. (June 26).
- *“Women: Redefining Success”*. Global Summit of Women. Keynote Speaker. Basel, Switzerland. (July 4).
- International Conference of Women in Security, Peace and Justice. Keynote Speaker. Anchorage, Alaska (September 26).
- *“Bucking the Global Democratic Recession: A Way Forward”*. Warsaw Security Forum. Panelist. Warsaw, Poland. (October 2).
- *“Women in Politics - Leadership, Challenges, Opportunities”*. NDI-National Democratic Institute. (October 22).
- Women World Leaders Global Forum. Keynote Speaker. Reykjavik, Iceland. (November 19).
- UNWomen Leader for Gender Equality. (December 2).

2020:

- *Workshop on Gender Equality*. Guest Speaker. OSCE Mission in Kosovo. (January 30).
- *Warwick Economic Summit*. Panelist. Warwick University. (February 1).
- *Change of Perceptions for a Better Leadership*. Debate participant. Council of Women World Leaders. (February 14).
- *WEP – Women Empowerment Principles*. Keynote Speaker. KEDS and KESCO. (March 8).
- *The role of women police in response to the transnational threats*. Panelist. Kosovo Police. (March 9).
- *Krakov Model United Nations*. Keynote Speaker. United Nations Association Poland. (April 15).
- *Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security Discussion*. Discussion Participant. Georgetown University. (May 23).
- *Hikma Summit of International Relations*. Keynote Speaker. University of Bologna. (September 24).
- *Current Democracies and the need for involvement: Lessons learnt from Kosovo*. Conversationalist. Colorado State University. (October 6).
- *Women, Peace and Security in Kosovo*. Panelist. NATO/KFOR. (October 7).
- *SAGE-Supporting Advancement for Gender Equality*. Guest Speaker. NDI Nigeria. (November 10).
- *Global Crisis’ Impact on Democracies-Discussion with Secretary Albright*. Discussion participant. NDI. (December 15).

2021:

- *Kosovo-Serbia relations in contemporary times*. Keynote speaker. John Hopkins University. (January 15).
- *Women of Excellence*. Discussion Participant. Consulate of the Republic of Kosovo in Des Moines, Iowa. (February 16).
- *Advancing Women’s Rights Initiative*. Guest Speaker. Kosovo Women’s Network. (February 24).
- *Motivational Speeches with young people in rural schools of Kosovo*. Guest Speaker. (Throughout the entire year).
- *Role of Women and Girls in Security Institutions*. Panelist. Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo. (March 8).
- *Social Work during the Covid-19 pandemic: Challenges and Opportunities*. Panelist. Philosophical Department of the University of Prishtina. (March 23)
- *Promoting Women-owned Businesses in Kosovo - Field visits Initiative*. Republic of Kosovo. (Throughout the entire year).
- *Impact of Covid 19 pandemic*. Discussion. Qatar Economic Forum. (June 24).
- *In their own words - Voices of Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict Online Book*. Content contributor. UNWomen. (August 23).
- *SAGE-Supporting Advancement for Gender Equality*. Guest Speaker. NDI Nigeria. (September 15).
- *Young People in Politics*. Guest Speaker. Balkan Policy Research Group. (December 1).
- *Gender Based Sexual Violence During the Covid -19 pandemic*. Keynote speaker. Parliament of the United Kingdom. (December 16).

2022:

- *Impact of Covid - 19 in World Democracies*. Panelist. Vienna Congress Com- Sult 2022. (January 31).
- *Fighting gender based fake news*. Panelist. NDI Kosovo. (February 23).
- *Untapped Power: Leveraging Diversity and Inclusion Book Launch*. Keynote speaker. Georgetown University. (February 25).
- *Ten years after Pristina’s Principles*. Panelist. NDI Week of Women. (March 16).
- *Unspeakable Truths: Political Violence, Gender, and Reconciliation Symposium*. Guest Speaker. Dartmouth University. (April 14).
- Student Mentor and Career Adviser. Dartmouth University (April 1- June 1).
- *The Road to Resilience: Improving Global Supply Chains*. Panelist. Qatar Economic Forum. (June 21).

- *Trilogue Salzburg*. Panelist. Bertelsmann Stiftung. (August 16).
- *Women Transforming Security: Changing Peacekeeping*. Panelist. UNWomen Abu Dhabi. (September 8).
- *Woman's Forum*. Panelist. Presidency of the Republic of Kosovo. (October 22).
- *Women's Leadership in Politics*. Keynote Speaker. Yarmouk University. (December 5).
- *Women's Political Participation School*. Discussion Participant. USAID and NDI Jordan. (December 6).

2023:

- *World Economic Forum Davos*. Speaker. Switzerland. (January 17).
- *Law, Order and Migration*. Speaker. University of Pristina. Kosovo. (May 4).
- *Women, Peace, Security and the role of Parliaments*. Panelist. George C. Marshall Center. Berlin. (May 8).
- *International Cooperation in a Polarized World Trilogue Salzburg*. Panelist. Salzburg. (August, 23).

Montgomery Fellow and Visiting Professor: January 2nd- March 7th 2024 Dartmouth University,
Hanover, New Hampshire, USA

Founder and President, The Jahjaga Foundation: March 2018 - Present Prishtina, Kosovo

- Established *The Jahjaga Foundation*, a flagship institution for democratic development in Kosovo and the Balkan region.
- Launched regional projects in partnership with global organizations (e.g. UN Women) to address the stigma associated with survivors of sexual violence. Work to provide institutional channels of economic empowerment for survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse during the Kosovo War.
- Organized a three-day cooperation program to facilitate access to justice and empower victims of sexual violence during the Kosovo War. Estimated attendance: 300 people.
- Provide tools to promote the political participation of female leaders and young women in the Balkan region.
- Spearheaded the project “The Role of Media in Advancing Women's Participation in Government”, which seeks to empower female leaders and bolster the participation of women in Kosovar politics. Provided public speaking training to female leaders and offered guidance to journalists for gender-neutral reporting.
- Partnered with Women Without Borders to launch a two-year de-radicalization project via educational opportunities in Kosovo’s rural areas.

Dep. General Director and General Lt. Colonel, Kosovo Police: 2000 - 2011 Prishtina, Kosovo

- Served as a police officer since the establishment of the Kosovo Police in early 2000.
- Raised to the rank of General Lt. Colonel within the organization, progressing to responsibilities at a regional level and then to General Headquarters, an organization composed of 9000 sworn officers and approximately 1800 civilians.
- Served in different positions in the implementation of law and order: in the professional standards unit, human resources department, personnel and training department, administration of the Kosovo Police, and border police.
- Represented Kosovo’s institutions and the European Council (based in Strasbourg) as the national coordinator of rehabilitation programs that targeted human trafficking victims.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

Presidential Medal of the Declaration of Independence: 2018	Prishtina, Kosovo
Doctor of Law Honoris, University of Leicester: 2015	Leicester, United Kingdom
Leadership in Public Service Award, Clinton Global Initiative: 2014	New York, USA
Honorary Citizen, Panama City: 2014	Panama City, Panama
Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Francis: 2014	Prishtina, Kosovo
Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Durham: 2013	Durham, United Kingdom
Member, Council of Women Leaders: 2012	Washington DC, USA
Doctor Honoris Causa, Yarmouk University: 2022	Irbid, Jordan

EDUCATION

- Marshall Center:** March 2011 Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany
● Completed Senior Executive Seminar II: “Strengthening Counter Corruption Efforts”
- University of Virginia:** 2007 Virginia, USA
● Postgraduate Certification in Crime Science
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy:** March – June 2007 Virginia, USA
● Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar
- University of Leicester:** March 2007 Leicester, UK
● Postgraduate Program in Police Management and Penal Law.
- International Academy Bramshill of the NPIA:** October – December 2006 Bramshill, UK
● Completed the Female International Commanders Program.
● First All-Female Class
- European Centre for Security Studies “George Marshall”:** May 2006 Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany
● Completed the ‘Senior Executive Seminar Professional and Research Program’
- Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations:** August 2003 Geneva, Switzerland
● Postgraduate Certification on ‘Decision Making in a Democratic State’
- University of Prishtina:** 1996-2000 Prishtina, Kosovo
● Graduate in Law
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LANGUAGES

- Albanian (Native)
- English (Near-Native)
- Serbian (Near-Native)