

# Kosovo

## *Ethnicity in Kosovo*

### *Power relations*

*2008-2009:* Kosovo declared independence from Serbia on 17 February 2008. Albanians are the politically dominant demographic majority in Kosovo. 24 ethnic minority members are in the 120-seat Assembly, including 10 Kosovo Serbs and 14 members of other groups, including ethnic Turks, Gorani, and Roma and Ashkali (<sup>1748</sup>). This indicates that these groups are politically relevant. Official and societal discrimination persists against Kosovo Serbs and Roma in employment, education, social services, language use, freedom of movement, the right to return, and other basic rights (<sup>1749</sup>). Although the Serbs and Roma face widespread societal and economic discrimination, they are not politically discriminated. Due to the international pressure associated with the creation of the new state, the Albanian majority is obliged to formally include Serbs and other minorities in the political process. For instance, the Serbs are included in the current governing coalition, where two ethnic Serbs fill minister positions (<sup>1750</sup>). However, the Serbs in Northern Kosovo mostly boycott elections and only the Serbs in the rest of Kosovo have voter participation rates similar to Albanians (<sup>1751</sup>). This indicates that an alleged exclusion of the Serbs is rather voluntarily, because many ethnic Serbs do not accept Kosovo as an independent state and are still orientated towards Serbia wherefrom they get support (e.g. welfare). The Serbs are not coded as being self-exclusionist or regionally autonomous, despite the separatist tendencies of the Serbs in northern Kosovo, because these northern Serbs do not constitute the majority of Serbs in Kosovo, who are spread across the entire country.

Group sizes originate from the 2011 census, which however excluded the Serb minority in the North, and are thus, harmonized with the ethnic group sizes that were estimated in 1995.

<sup>1748</sup> [U.S. State Department, 2008-2009]

<sup>1749</sup> [U.S. State Department, 2008-2009]

<sup>1750</sup> [Republic of Kosovo Assembly, 2011]

<sup>1751</sup> [BBC, 2010]

*2010-2013:* No changes were evident in the power states of the ethnic groups in Kosovo. The Albanians continue to remain politically dominant while the other ethnic groups remain powerless. In the 2010 parliamentary elections, 100 seats were elected on the basis of national proportional representation. For the 20 minority reserved seats in the Kosovo parliament, 10 seats are reserved for Serbs, 4 seats for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, 3 seats for the Bosniaks, Montenegrins, Croats, Hungarians, 2 seats for the Turks, and 1 seat for the Gorans (<sup>1752</sup>).

<sup>1752</sup> [Election Guide, 2010]

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## *Political status of ethnic groups in Kosovo*

*From 2008 until 2013*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Albanians	0.9	DOMINANT
Serbs	0.053	POWERLESS
Bosniaks	0.016	POWERLESS
Roma	0.011	POWERLESS
Gorani	0.01	POWERLESS
Turks	0.004	POWERLESS



Figure 419: Political status of ethnic groups in Kosovo during 2008-2013.

## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Kosovo*

*From 2008 until 2013*

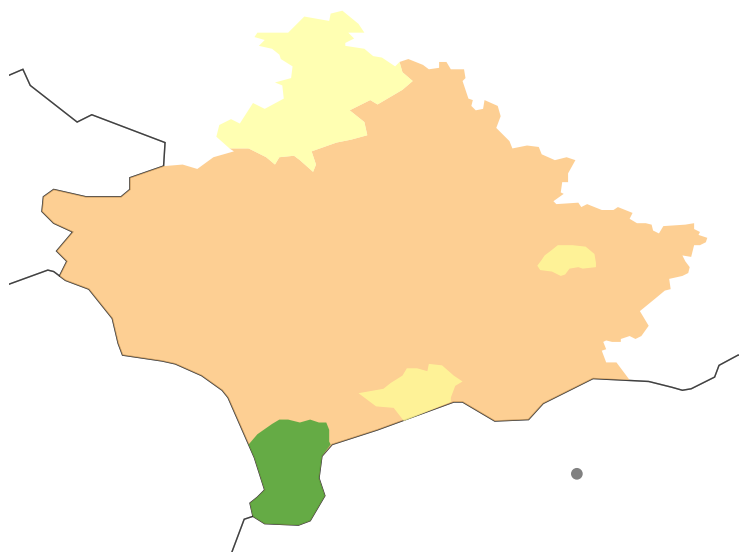


Figure 420: Map of ethnic groups in Kosovo during 2008-2013.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
Albanians	9774	Regional & urban
Serbs	1218	Regionally based
Gorani	441	Regionally based
Roma		Dispersed
Turks		Dispersed
Bosniaks		Dispersed

Table 125: List of ethnic groups in Kosovo during 2008-2013.