



YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

NARRATIVE REPORT

2020

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YIHR BiH
Narrative report

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Project Title: Youth Camps in Kozarac, Goražde and Stolac

Donor: CCFD-Terre Solidaire

Although faced with challenges regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (YIHR BiH) was able to successfully implement and realize all its planned activities, such as Camp Kozarac and both Schools of Different Memories. Moreover, YIHR BiH organized and held activities to raise our visibility, enhance our functions and help tackle some important issues in our society.

The point of these three schools is to start a conversation on themes that are being used to manipulate people in current Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this way we are empowering the youth to be the voice which will stop it. This year, participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina – due to COVID-19, the schools were restricted be on a national and not regional level – encountered themes that shape their society for the first time, or gained a different perspective on what they've previously heard. Moreover, the participants had the unique opportunity to socialize with their peers, thereby creating a community of youth fighting for the same cause, together.

This year we had three amazing groups of young people, in which discussions and reflections were very fruitful and intense, the groups showed great responsibility towards the program and have realized the point of it. We must say that we are more than satisfied with the realization of these schools.

How it went, from agendas to pictures, you will see in the continuation of this report.

CAMP KOZARAC

13 – 18 July 2020

The regional camp in Kozarac is a programme organised by YIHR BiH in collaboration with the Centre for Youth in Prijedor “KVART”. The objective of the camp is to give young people from all over the Balkan region an insight into the effects of the 1992-1995 war, its connection to World War II and new perspectives and narratives about these two wars. This year because of COVID-19 participants were from Bosnia and Herzegovina only. There were 17 participants from Prijedor, Maglaj, Breza, Sarajevo, Gračanica, Mostar and Donji Vakuf. Out of the participants 8 were female and 9 were male.

This year, the group of participants had a unique opportunity to visit different sites, such as the concentration camps from the 1992-1995 war (Keraterm, Omarska, Trnopolje), the DNA laboratory in Sanski Most, and Šušnjari, a significant symbol related to World War II, and many more.



Day one In Prijedor, the participants and coordinators got together in the office of the Centre for Youth “KVART” in Prijedor. The next stop was Kozarac; the organized transportation came and brought everyone to Kozarac. After everyone settled in their rooms, they sat in a circle and everyone introduced themselves, expressed their thoughts and expectations for the project. The two coordinators presented themselves, their organisations and the agenda of Camp Kozarac, and answered additional questions from participants.

Day two started with a lecture by Tamara Šmidling. She spoke about culture of remembrance and encouraged the first discussions between participants. Following this lecture, participants heard from Đorđe Mihovilović, a curator from Jasenovac Memory Centre, about Jasenovac, which is a concentration camp held by NDH – the Independent State of Croatia in World War II. Day two then continued with a visit to the museum “Kozara” on Mount Kozara, infamous for the battles fought in World War II. The visit was followed by a lecture about World War II. After the curator explained how the situation had escalated during World War II, the participants asked numerous questions. The curator also provided the information related to Kozara, Kozarac and Prijedor during World War II. The day ended with a reflection session with psychologist. In this reflection participants engaged in a deeper conversation and showed interest and trust towards the internal group, thus creating a productive working group and safe space for all questions that could interest them.



Day three started with the group travelling to one of the concentration camps located in and around the territory of Prijedor. First on the list was Keraterm. Teufik Kulašić, a survivor, talked to the participants about the conditions in the camp in which he, his friends, neighbours, relatives, etc. had been detained. The second concentration camp we visited was Omarska, also located near Prijedor. At Omarska, Edin Ramulić talked about the camp, its functions, crimes, etc. The last concentration camp scheduled on the agenda for day three was Trnopolje. At Trnopolje, a lecture was delivered by one of the victims who had been held and tortured at the camp, Fikret Alić, known also as the man shown on the TIME cover standing behind barbed wire. Then the participants, guided by Edin Ramulić, visited monuments of Prijedor where he explained their context and narrative. At the end of the day the participants watched a movie about youth activism in Prijedor and then Goran Zorić, executive director of KVART, gave a lecture about the role of activism in dealing with the past. The third day also ended with a reflection session with the psychologist where every participant gave their insights. The reflection was very productive again.



Day four of the camp started with a visit to Šušnjari Memorial Complex where Edin Ramulić gave the participants in depth knowledge about its role and significance in WWII. After this monument, the participants visited the DNA laboratory where ICMP employees and experts explained the laboratory and answered numerous questions. The day, as before, ended with reflections on what the participants had experienced and seen on this day.

Day five: The final day of the camp, began with the lecture on culture as a form of resistance to fascism, delivered by Darko Cvijetić, with whom the participants have spoken to even an hour longer than expected. Afterwards, Tanja Marković talked about modern fascism and how antifascism can function as a response to it. Our participants delivered fruitful discussions after both lectures, and as a reward for their excellent work the entire project and as well as supporting the local economy of the small place Kozarac, they have had a free time activity at the local swimming pool.

During Camp Kozarac young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina learned about what had happened in the past, the significance of remembrance, how it can affect society and how new generations build perspectives about the present and past societies. The participants demonstrated their potential to be the future ambassadors of spreading awareness about how our youth can be manipulated into an unconscious state of hatred towards any individual that is different from him or her. Our participants this year have shown great interest and engagement in these themes. It surprised us that almost every lecture and every reflection went over time, because the participants wanted to say everything they needed to say as well as listen to their peers. This year was one of the best teams in the history of Camp Kozarac, and we are greatly thankful for its outcome.

Below follow some comments about the Camp from the evaluations:

“This camp will be useful for future stories of reconciliation and dealing with the past. It is certainly worth looking at the other side of the story and I believe this camp will help everyone in this.”

“My horizons have widened and I will talk about these topics in my community.”

“I met young, ingenious people who have formed quality opinions and learned a lot from them. I got to know the events and places related to WWII and the last war in BiH. I didn’t know a lot of these things and for the formation of both my opinion and character it’s significant that I realized them.”

SCHOOL OF DIFFERENT MEMORIES: EAST BOSNIA

26-30 July 2020

From 26th to 30th July of 2020, fourteen participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina together with two coordinators participated in the School of Different Memories: East Bosnia and Podrinje. The participants came from Srebrenik, Goražde, Gradačac, Mostar, Zenica, Tuzla, Brčko, Banja Luka, Doboј, Kiseljak, Prijedor, Tešanj and Bugojno. Throughout the school program, the 14 participants had the opportunity to visit 15 different sites of war crimes and talk with 12 different lecturers. The main goal of the school is to give an opportunity to new generations to see the events from the last two wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina from a different perspective and to show them how different events are interpreted by direct witnesses, survivors and experts.



Day one: On the first day of the program, the participants opened the subject of World War II with a special reference to the views of the local community. The School visited the monument of Blessed Martyrs of the Drina, where they gained an insight into the events during World War II in East Bosnia. There, a historian from Goražde spoke more in depth about historical moments and their context in East Bosnia. After that, the participants got to introduce themselves to each other, and with the coordinators spoke about their expectations for the school.



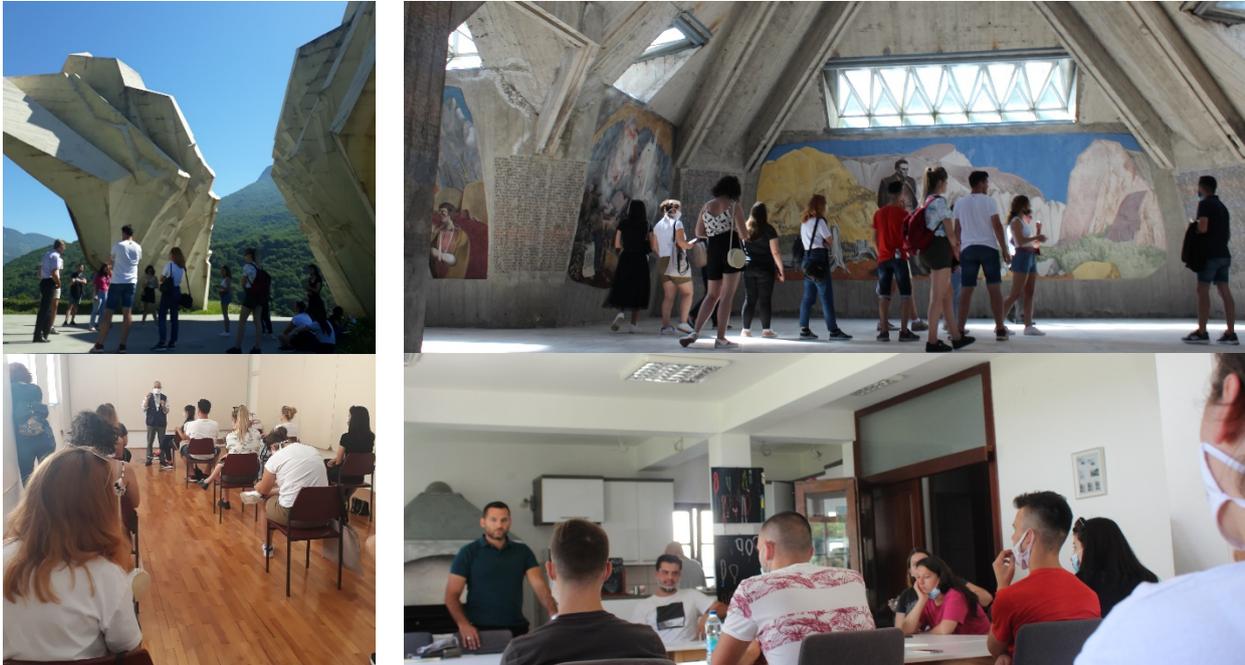


Day two: The second day of the School began with a visit to Višegrad, where the participants first heard a lecture on history of Višegrad from profesor Divna Vasić, about the famous Višegrad bridge and as well visited the Jewish cemetery. After that, they spoke to war camp survivor Jankica Samovuković. After the lecture, the participants visited two locations notorious for the burning of civilians during the last war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and discussed the war crimes committed in and around Višegrad during the last war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the current situation of Bosniaks in Višegrad. Day two ended with a projection of the movie “For Those Who Can Tell No Tales” showing the legacy of the wartime atrocities. The day ended with an in depth reflection on what they have seen and heard on day one.



Day three: On the third day of the program, the participants visited the National Park Sutjeska where they heard a lecture about events from World War II. After their visit to the National Park Sutjeska, they moved on to visit Foča, where the main focus of the discussion was demystification of war crimes and institutional narratives of those war crimes. The participants visited the Museum

of Old Herzegovina in Foča, the numerous war crimes sites, such as the sport hall Partisan and the prison building. In the museum they spoke with a war survivor who lost his family in the crime on Jošanica, a war crime that is not known about. Later on the participants spoke with Hikmet Krkalić who spoke about the present day situation in Foča. The day ended with a movie screening of documentary “Unforgiven”. After that, the participants had a reflection session.



Day four: The last day of the program, they visited Goražde where the topic of discussion was life under siege. They visited the historical site “Rovovi” where an ex commander spoke with them about the war in Goražde. One of the lecturers came from an informal activist group “Unmarked Places of War Crimes” and presented their work. After that, the participants visited the museum in Goražde where they saw objects that represent life under siege. After that, they had two more speakers, an female former soldier and a poet whose fight in war went by using art as a tool of surviving. The day ended with the movie projection “Heroes of the battle for the workers” and again, with a reflection. In this reflection the program was, as a whole, commented and evaluated on.





Reflections after each day of the program were productive, the participants openly shared their opinions on the narratives presented earlier within the program. Most of the participants were not even aware of the extent of events during the last two wars in that region but during the reflections, they said that through the School they had gained new insights and new information. The participants were open enough on every discussion, approximately half of the group had always something to say. On the last day, they have all had a consensus on why this is organized, and even after being emotionally exhausted, had the energy to show their gratitude for this experience. Overall, we could say that this year's School of Different Memories: East Bosnia and Podrinje was a great success, and offered the participants important understanding of past events and their importance for today's process of reconciliation.

Below follow some of the participant's comments from the evaluations:

"I will very well remember the advices from specific speakers which have left their trail and a path for me to follow. And next to that, all of this gained knowledge will be useful for my future work"

"Firstly, I cannot wait to process everything that I have seen these 4 days, starting with myself and then with my friends and colleagues, to tell them what they do not know about Eastern Bosnia and prove the importance of critical thinking on our narratives"

"I will try my best to talk about these themes with others, to actually influence people who are dear to me. Also, from now on I will think twice about every event that I hear from the war and about it's narrative."

"I plan on sharing this experience with my parents to see if I can make them see a different perspective and understand how things are really."

"This program has given me additional motivation for investing myself in the peace building process"

"This program taught me how to deal with trauma and processing emotions, understanding of our own and others."

“I have realized the importance of active listening, and from now on when I hear something I don’t like I will control myself and learn to communicate”

“After this project, I am coming back to my local community where I intend to introduce them to the side they do not know of, the crimes done and the consequences of war.”

SCHOOL OF DIFFERENT MEMORIES: STOLAC

26 – 31 August 2020

The School of Different Memories in Stolac brought together a group of 13 young people from different communities, who have different ethnic and religious backgrounds. This year we had participants from Sarajevo, Gračanica, Bihać, Srebrenica, Banja Luka, Mostar, Zenica and Tuzla. They visited various sites across Herzegovina connected to the 1992-1995 war and World War II. One of the main goals of the School is offer young people a deeper knowledge about past atrocities and therefore inspire a more nuanced narrative of the past.



Day one: The participants gathered in Sarajevo from where our bus set off on our journey to Stolac. Once we settled in at the hostel, we travelled to Radimlja, a historical sight specific for stećci, the medieval tombstones of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There, we held an introduction session in which the participants got the opportunity to learn about each other and set the rules of the school clear. The day finished with a group dinner and preparations for the next day.



Day two started off with a talk with the president of the Islamic community in Stolac about the town, the war and the local community. During the conversation, the participants asked questions about the relationship between different religious communities in Stolac. Next on the agenda was a talk about youth, activism and nationalism in Stolac and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The local

activists represented their youth organization called Third Shift. The last activity of the day was the departure for Prebilovci, where the group visited the famous church. Prebilovci is famous for having two tragic events occurring during World War II and the war in the 1990s. The day ended with a group reflection.



Day three: Day three was the most intense day regarding travel. First, we visited Ravno, where we talked to the local community, represented by municipality leaders who spoke about the situation in Ravno during the war. After Ravno, we travelled to Kruševo and Mostar, where the group had an opportunity to talk to Milo Pušić who was a member of the Croatian Defence Council in Kruševo. He talked about war times in that region, and shared his perspective of the war. At the end of the day, we talked to a camp victim from Mostar. The concentration camp victims opened up about their experiences during such a traumatic and difficult period, showing a different perspective. A general reflection at the end of the day allowed the participants to express their feelings about the new knowledge they had acquired.





Day four was all about the local community. We travelled to Orašlje, a place specific for having an identical crime be committed on the same date, in WWII war and previous Yugoslav War. We had the opportunity to talk to one of the survivors, who provided us with new information and understanding about Orašlje, a place where crimes were committed in 1943 and 1993. After that, we had the chance to talk to the local imam of Orašlje, who helped us understand the society in that local community as well as have insights about two schools under one roof, him being a parent of children going to such a school. In the afternoon, we visited the former Bone hospital in Stolac. The Bone hospital was converted into a concentration camp in 1993, and the participants had the opportunity to hear about horrifying events that had occurred in this building. At the end of the day, a reflection was held which turned out a bit more emotional than the previous ones, finally releasing all they had seen in Herzegovina.



Day five was the last day in Herzegovina, and we traveled back to Sarajevo. On our way back, we first visited Grabovica, a place near Jablanica, which is known for the crimes committed against Croat civilians by the Army of the Republic of BiH where a survivor talked about his family, and then Bradina, near Konjic, where Serb civilians had been killed by the Army of the Republic of BiH. At the end of the day, we commented on these two events, and finally held our last reflection regarding the entire school.

As a result of this year's Summer School, young people acquired new knowledge about WWII and the war in the 1990s. They broadened their perspectives and narratives, and they realized the importance of critical thinking. The group showed great interest in the theme, and all at the end had

the same thought: they were sad about how little they knew about the wars and the region before the School. A specific thing with this group was how gradually they gained confidence and trust, thus having in the first reflection only half of the group speak, and the next day, everyone started sharing their thoughts. This group also showed a great surprise in the moment of interest during lectures, asking our speakers amazing questions. Also, very specific moment that happened in this year's Herzegovina group, was that most of them who have just met in Stolac, have become and remain great friends, which is a phenomenon that we are seeing for the first time, an entire group forming close contact. This is indeed positive because it indicates the formation of a new network of likeminded young people, ready to make a change. Overall, this year's School of Different Memories in Herzegovina was successful, and we are happy with its outcome.

Below follow some of the participants' comments from the evaluations:

"As soon as I come home, I will talk to my father. This school made me realize how much I do not know, and I need to face what my family has done. By now I didn't have a need to know, but now I desperately want to find out."

"Information that I have received, which I hadn't known about earlier, I will continue sharing and somehow make people aware of crimes in the war."

"After this school I have a better understanding of different narratives, different backstories of people, of course their war experiences then their opinions on the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, now and in the future."

"We have shown each other how much we can understand and by working together we can fix certain things."

"I will cherish the information I've received, then work on seeing the difference between lies and the truth."

"The reflections made me see that the whole point is to work on one easy thing, our perception."

ANTIFA 2.0

In 2020, Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported by Rockefeller Brothers Fund, launched the "Antifa 2.0" program.

We are witnessing both global and local regressive forces whose voice of hatred and intolerance towards anyone who is different gets more and more present and loud. At a time of what can be identified as modern or fascism in contemporary forms, manifested through xenophobia, misogyny, sexism, Islamophobia and others, it is necessary to give a clear answer of anti-fascism.

We want to respond to the emergence of the strengthening of fascism and the ubiquity of modern manifestations of fascism through education and by giving a voice to young people.

Through the project "Antifa 2.0" we want to promote and advance anti-fascist values in order to be able to respond to the demands of modern forms of fascism.

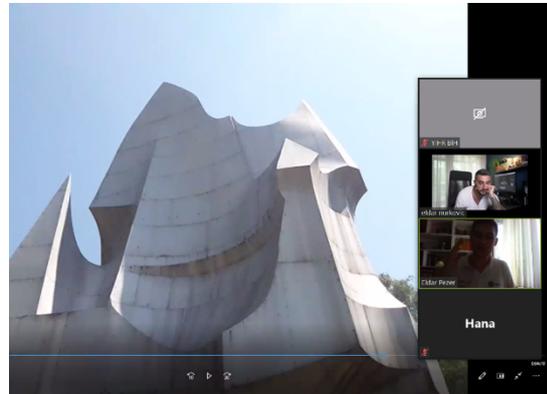
In the coming period, using the tools of culture, education and youth activism to respond to contemporary forms of fascism, we will strengthen the voices of young people from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina and remind the general public of the importance of social engagement of citizens as a democratic instrument in response to the dangers of historical revisionism.

The program "Antifa 2.0" provides young people with an opportunity to gain a voice and make an effort to strengthen the role of the individual as a resistance to contemporary forms of fascism. Moreover, the project seeks to influence the general public in Bosnia and Herzegovina and give a clear answer to fascism in the public space through the adequate use of various educational and artistic methods to

Program activities in 2020 consisted of:

- a) Photography masterclass and photo competition
- b) Radio-drama competition
- c) Educational exhibition
- d) Antifa academy

Photography masterclass was held in August with famous Bosnian photographer Eldar Nurković as lecturer. Participants had an opportunity to learn the “secrets of a trade” and got an insight into the technical and artistic approach to photography. With knowledge acquired, our participants were given a task to take photos which represent contemporary forms of fascism. Several of the participants’ work were selected to be part of educational exhibition.



Radio-drama competition was opened in August with dozens of applications arriving until September. A jury consisting of YIHR staff and experts Miralem Ovčina and Mirza Skenderagić selected radio drama *Ubice* by author Slaviša Radan as the winner and radio drama *Nadija* by author Srđan Ćurlić was selected as second place. The authors will have an opportunity to record their dramas in the studio of BH Radio 1.

The recorded radio-drama will be integral to the cultural promotion of the values of antifascism.

Educational exhibition, as part of project, will be opened as soon as the pandemic situation allows it.

The exhibition is a multimedia installation, consisting of audio, video, photography, etc., and functions as a travel through time. It first explores the rise and consequences of fascism of the 1930s and then takes the audience into the present and allows them to face the current dangers of contemporary fascism. The exhibition is educational and promotes reflection on antifascism belief-system which we need to nurture. Once it opens, the exhibition will travel around Bosnia and Herzegovina and reach wide number of young people and general public.

Antifa academy which was held online dealt with the concept and history of fascism and antifascism as well as their modern manifestations through history, sociology, political science and culture. Lecturers at the Academy are well-known university professors and public figures from the region. The lectures were as follows:

- Prof.dr. Dragan Markovina “Historical and sociological development of fascism and anti-fascism”
- Prof.dr. Nerzuk Ćurak “Development of anti-fascist values in society”
- Prof. dr. Husnija Kamberovic "Anti-Fascist Values in the Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina"
- Doc.dr. Srdjan Milosevic "Revival / revival of fascism in modern society and times of crisis"
- Nihad Kreševljaković "Modern response to anti-fascism."

SUPPRESSING HATE SPEECH THROUGH EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH

The project "Suppressing Hate Speech Through Empowerment of Youth" is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in BiH as part of the MATRA (Social Transformation) program. The project is implemented by the partner organizations Youth Initiative for Human Rights in BiH and Global Analytics.

The project is dedicated to the current topic, not only for BiH, but also for the whole world, given the speed of media development, especially in the online form. It is crucial, in addition to the need to educate young people and the public news, to initiate a broader discussion in the public space on this issue in order to better understand and regulate this area, which may be of particular importance to journalists.

Current legal solutions need to be harmonized in accordance with the needs of the current developments in technology where the large online space needs to be regulated in an adequate way, which would protect human rights to freedom of speech and expression but also regulate the legal framework for sanctioning hate speech. This requires a joint effort of government representatives, both executive and legislative, with the joint involvement of the non-governmental sector, journalists' associations and the competent regulatory bodies in the field of media. We want to make this effort through project activities.

The project will educate and train young people in the skills of critical thinking, media literacy, and hate speech with the aim of involving the general public in the fight against hate speech and extreme narratives. The project consists of various activities in which we want to advocate and promote freedom of expression as one of the basic foundations of a democratic society.

In 2020, two trainings were held for young journalists and students of journalism, communication and other related social sciences, where participants learned about investigative journalism, legislation related to journalism and hate speech, media literacy and fake news. Within the project, the participants will also have the opportunity for practical learning through the preparation of articles in investigative journalism and will, together with their mentors, work on the development of a media literacy and hate speech, intended for high school teachers to be distributed in the country. In addition, a significant segment of the project is research on current legislation in the field of media law and hate speech, based on which legal experts together with the project team of the YIHR BiH and partner organization Global Analytics will propose adequate legal measures to address this issue.

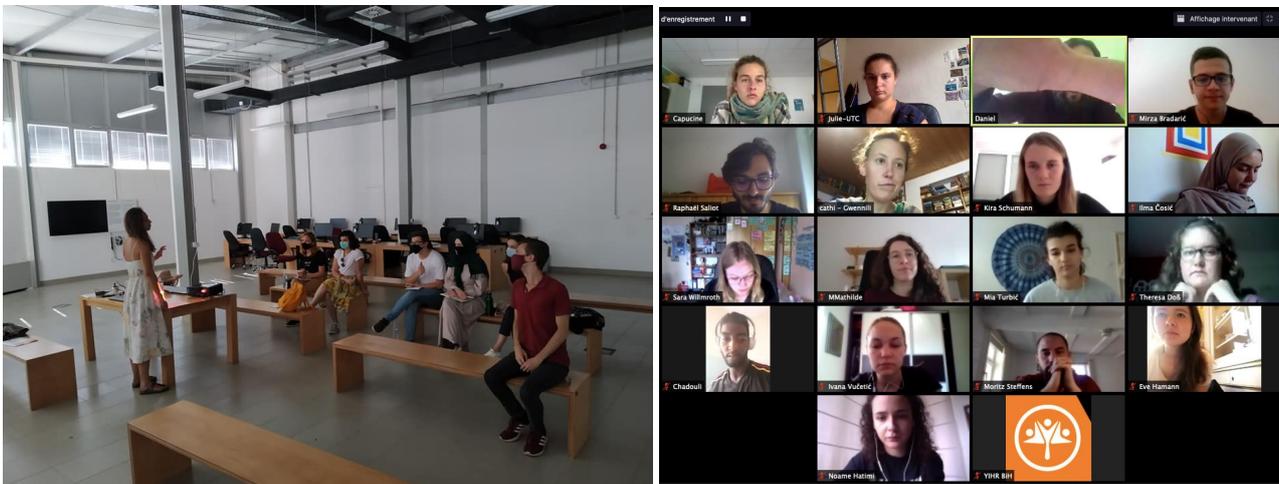


REMEMBER SREBRENICA

Remember Srebrenica is a transnational project implemented by the partner organizations "Une Terre Culturele" and "Association Gwennili" from France, "Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V." from Germany, the Franco-German Youth Organization and YIHR BiH. The project is dedicated to the memorialization of the genocide in Srebrenica through the creative engagement of young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, France and Germany. The "Remember Srebrenica" project is financially supported by the Franco-German Youth Office.

Participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Srebrenica Memorial Center as part of preparatory meetings. The visit served to motivate and inspire our participants with ideas for commemorating Srebrenica Genocide. During the remainder of the project, which was carried out online, young participants from all three countries learned about the Srebrenica genocide together and collaborated on content for the webpage.

The project product is a web page: <https://www.remembersrebrenica.com> which includes articles, videos, podcasts and art works all done by young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and France.



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION PROJECT (STaR BiH)

The STaR BiH project, which is funded by USAID, and implemented by Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, PRONI, Center for Peacebuilding CIM, Small Steps and YIHR BiH. In the second year of the project, YIHR BiH continued with implementing its activities which were mainly related to the importance and significance of culture and art in social transformation and reconciliation. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it presented, YIHR BiH successfully implemented its two main activities for the STaR BiH project, namely the Sarajevo Film Festival DocuCorner and a workshop dedicated to theater.

The STaR BiH manual can be found here: <https://www.karunacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BiH-STaR-Manual-Eng-Web.pdf>

Sarajevo Film Festival 2020 – SFF 2020

To accommodate for the epidemiological urgency, the number of participants was significantly reduced and YIHR BiH selected 20 participants to take part in its activities. Besides the participants that were in Sarajevo, 15 young people followed the program online.

Taking place from August 15 to August 20 in Sarajevo, the YIHR BiH SFF 2020 program was organized and conceptualized in a manner which gave the participants an opportunity to reach a thorough and in-depth understanding of the role that the arts, in particular film, can play in social transformation and reconciliation.

The YIHR BiH SFF 2020 program dealt with a multitude of themes, all of which were interlinked with the three various programs that SFF 2020 offered; Dealing with the Past, Human Rights Day and the Competition Program - Documentary Film. In addition to screening of films, the program included visits to two museums, namely the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the War Childhood Museum, in order to introduce the participants to institutional memorialization and how it differs from other forms of remembrance. Also, a workshop and artist talk with the director of *Let There be Colour* Ado Hasanović gave the participants a unique opportunity to discuss the question of the LGBTQ+ population in BiH and to discuss, more broadly, how films can contribute to raising awareness and generating changes in attitude and behavior among young people. Last but not least, the program included a visit to the Brodac Gallery which contained workshops and artist talks with Mak Hubjer (creative director at Brodac Gallery and contemporary artist) and with Benjamin Čengiđ (street and urban artist). These talks and workshops, in particular, gave the participants a unique possibility to talk to two young artists who are continuously and actively engaged in the betterment of their communities and society at large through art and culture, thereby inspiring and motivating the participants to actively engage in creating change in their own communities.

The following are some of the responses and comments from the written evaluations:

- “I have learned a lot about the arts, both through the different activities but also through the reflection sessions. The arts are very important because they provide us with a freedom to express our emotions. Also, the films have raised awareness about issues which go on in our society of which we were not aware before.”

- "I have learned how film can contribute to our understanding of others and it can encourage us to reflect. This program and the films we have seen have made me more conscious of our world."
- "I have learned that social transformation takes time and that in BiH and in general it is a long process."
- "Young people need these types of projects and this type of cultural ascension."
- "What I will bring with me from this program is that film as a medium is essential in addressing social issues and thereby begin the process of solving them."
- "It is very important that programs like these are held and they are actually something that has the greatest impact on social transformation."
- "The biggest impression I will carry with me is that there are people who understand me, that I am not alone."



MESS 2020 – Documentary Theater

Although the International Theater Festival MESS 2020 was realized in an online format, YIHR BiH decided to implement an offline program focused on theater. To accommodate for the epidemiological urgency, the number of participants was reduced and YIHR BiH selected 15 participants to take part in its activities. All selected participants arrived in Sarajevo for the program 2020 and they all engaged actively with the activities that were prepared.

Taking place from October 2 to October 6 in Sarajevo, the YIHR BiH MESS 2020 program was organized and conceptualized in a manner which gave the participants an opportunity to reach a thorough and in-depth understanding of the role that theater can play in social transformation and reconciliation. The program was conceptualized as a documentary theater workshop and was led by Oliver Jović, coordinator and selector for Mali MESS.

During the workshop, the participants first gained insight into different forms of documentary theater and what they entail; verbatim theater or theater of testimony were the main forms which were discussed. During this stage of the workshop, the participants therefore familiarized themselves with forms of documentary theater which would best suit the theme of the workshop, namely “Are we a tolerant society?” In addition, during this introductory part of the workshop, the participants also gained insight into how narratives are constructed dramaturgically; what narrative tools can be applied and for what purposes, for instance. Following these introductory phases of the workshop, the participants were divided into groups and were tasked with finding stories/narratives to tell, meaning examples from their own surroundings which could be transformed into a documentary theater performance. Interestingly, although documentary theater allows for the use of pre-existing documentary material (newspapers, interviews, journals, etc.) all groups chose to focus on personal experiences of some of the members of the group. Rather courageously, then, the young people chose to allow their own experiences with intolerance to take the stage. On the final day of the workshop, the young people gave a public performance and told six deeply engaging stories.

This workshop functioned as an indirect tool for interethnic socialization and collaboration; young people focused on themes and issues that engaged and concerned them all, regardless of their ethnic background. In addition, focusing on issues such as the ones presented in the stories above instead of directly engaging with stories of the past is perhaps a far more direct way of igniting social transformation. In short, through this workshop young people were given a safe space where to express themes and issues that they are preoccupied with, that they struggle with, and that they want to change. The documentary theater method, then, did not only provide the participants with moments of catharsis but it also allowed them to regain agency, to voice their concerns and to be heard.

The following are some of the responses and comments from the written evaluations:

- “For a long time, I have believed that if anything can transform our society it is art, especially theater. Art involved catharsis especially when it revolves around stories which we are usually silent about. Art is something that can and has to save us. We have to have more programs and projects which focus on culture and art.”
- “Art enables people to reflect about themselves and their actions. The biggest impression this workshop left on me is how it allowed me to connect with others on a deeper level and it allowed me to think about the person that I am.”
- “I have learned that this form of theater is perhaps the most optimal way of bringing some topics closer to the general public.”
- “The arts have a way of reaching people and evoking emotions in them that they did not even know they had. Theater is especially expressive in this sense because people are actually showing emotions on a stage and this perhaps encourages to reflect and perhaps even change their behavior.”
- “I learned a lot about theater and documentary theater. I also learned a lot about team work and tolerance.”



YOUTH ACTIVISM

Memorialization: The 6th of April

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we were unable to organize a walk Through Sarajevo as we did the year before, we created instead a video in which activists talk about antifa sights of the city of Sarajevo. Participants in the video: Ema Kurtović, Arnes Jelec, Renate Dujakovic, Ivana Vucetic, Maida Kesinovic, Enes Pašić, Ilma Čosić and Nadira Ćurulija.



The video can be seen on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAvsJnPhdxI&fbclid=IwAR3tRhNmGV8jmmFS-DOa0R2s2XWN79vh7NGjltPC3RN5mVvSFch9PaoFdSM>

Memorialization: Ahmići and Trusina

On the 16th of April, 1993 two massacres occurred from two different armies (the Army of Bosnia and Croatian council of defence), taking away dozens of innocent lives, to be exact – civilians. These horrendous acts of violence and crime had to be marked. Due to the COVID-19 spread, our activists used the opportunity to share the awareness online, since public space was too risky. We have used the materials from last year and spread on social media, reminding everyone of this day.

Memorialization: Bradina

From the 25th to the 27th of May, 1992 actions held by the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in coalition with the Croatian Defence Council resulted in the execution and murder of dozens of innocent Serbs on the territory of Konjic. This act was carried out with organization and obvious intentions. Activists from YIHR BiH decided to remember these innocent victims and show the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina that all innocent victims are the same, regardless of their nationality, religion or ethnic background. Sadly because of covid-19, travel was restricted so we have used visual materials of our visit last year, and spread on social media. Our activists gave a big input by sharing.

Memorialization: Tuzla, Kapija

The massacre in Tuzla was committed on the same day as the massacre in Bradina, showing once again that these acts of crime were executed with obvious intentions and revenge. During the war, Tuzla wasn't exposed to destruction or mass killings as some other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina were. Tuzla was seen as a safe zone, or free territory. However, the massacre that occurred on the 25th of May, 1995 left an unforgettable scar in the hearts of all associated with Bosnia and Herzegovina, but especially Tuzla. A grenade was shot in the heart of the city, where dozens of innocent, young people were massacred. Since the very massacre took place, on the 25th of May every year, people from all across the country come and honor the victims that lost their lives on that day. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, we have given attention to this day through social media, explaining what has happened and sharing the materials we had.

Memorialization: Dan bijelih traka, Prijedor

During the 1992/1995 war, Prijedor was one of the territories across Bosnia and Herzegovina that greatly suffered, especially in the sense of human lives and infrastructure. Prijedor was known for its three terrifying concentration camps: Omarska, Trnopolje and Keraterm. Thousands of non-Serbs went through these devastating facilities and thousands were killed during the war in, and around Prijedor. Men and women were killed and raped, children killed and taken away from their families, innocent citizens were tortured and persecuted. These crimes were carried out by the Army of Republika Srpska, and certain police forces associated with the mentioned army. This year, individuals and organizations from BiH have come together to commemorate this day with a special focus on the child victims. We have created a visual memorial on the Skenderija bridge in Sarajevo, where white white tapes were tied for the bridge, every tape having a name of a child which was a victim. Next to them, roses were placed. On the bridge there were lego dice with the names of the children and their age. Our activist were responsible for giving white tapes to passangers and tying them to their arms.



Memorialization: Srebrenica

The genocide in Srebrenica that happened in the month of July in 1995 is the biggest crime against humanity since WW2. More than 8.000 men and boys were slaughtered and murdered in the month of July in Srebrenica. This act against humanity and genocide left a huge scar and stain of modern history. Because of the weight of the act, every year, on the 11th of July, people from all around the world visit Srebrenica in order to pay tribute to the innocent victims and honour the survivors. Every year YIHR BiH visits the Memorial Centre in Potocari and pays tribute to the victims. This year, due to the pandemic we were not able to go to Srebrenica. Our activists went into public space in Sarajevo with the sign "Too young to remember, determined to never forget."



Memorialization: Kazani

Kazani is an inaccessible site on Mount Trebević where civilians were brought and killed during the siege of Sarajevo. Their bodies were thrown into a deep pit. The number of people killed at Kazani has not yet been officially determined. After the war, the remains of 23 victims, 15 of whom have been identified, were exhumed from the pit over the course of several excavations. YIHR BiH is aware that 25 years have passed since the commission of the crimes at Kazani, while the victims have not yet been honoured in a dignified manner and many citizens of the capital of our state are not familiar with the crime. This year, we went into the public space of Sarajevo, where many either do not know about the crime or deny it, and held two signs "Have you heard about Kazani?" and "Too young to remember, determined to never forget"



With regards to youth activism, 2020 was very challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Every event had to be reinvented and aligned with the epidemiological restrictions and rules. Nevertheless, our activist proved to be active and creative, bringing us one more productive year in our fight for human rights.