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Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina
July 2018
Humanity in Action is an international organization that educates, inspires and connects a network of university students and young professionals committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship in their own communities and around the world. Humanity in Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with governing and advisory boards in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States. Humanity in Action’s international headquarters is in New York City.

Humanity in Action has educated over 1,600 young leaders who now form a unique international community. The annual Humanity in Action Fellowship brings together more than 150 European and American university students and young professionals each summer in programs in Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, the United States and Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss, learn and research in international groups. Humanity in Action Fellows meet leading experts and activists to study historical and contemporary cases of institutional violations of human and minority rights.

Humanity in Action supports all Fellows financially for the duration of their programs, allowing for the merit-based selection of diverse applicants. Humanity in Action also provides professional development opportunities. It maintains an international network of students, young professionals, established leaders, experts and partners for which it organizes a range of educational and career opportunities, including seminars, workshops, study trips and fellowship positions at leading civic and political institutions, such as the European Parliament and the United States Congress. These opportunities encourage emerging leaders to develop their professional abilities and introduce established leaders to the ideas of the younger generation.

Humanity in Action’s network of leaders is a valuable resource to policy-makers, diplomats, educators, business leaders and civic-minded individuals and organizations. By the end of the decade, Humanity in Action will connect over 2,500 professionals working in all sectors, on a range of critical issues, in countries around the world.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The third Humanity in Action Fellowship in Sarajevo took place during a time of extraordinary challenges in post-conflict democratic transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The program delved deep into the topics of transitional justice, social, legal and economic transformation, and post-conflict ethnic-based identity politics. It added up diversity to the educational experiences and broadened the HIA program scope beyond Western Europe and the US. Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted 16 fellows, from 7 different countries (5 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 6 from the United States, 1 from Denmark, 1 from France, 1 from Germany, 1 from The Netherlands, and 1 from Poland). Although the bulk of the program took place in Sarajevo, HIA BiH organized several educational day-trips to Prijedor, Banja Luka, Srebrenica, Tuzla, Mostar, and Konjic. HIA’s ‘on site-based’ learning model allowed fellows to perceive connections among issues, people, and places in unanticipated ways.

Inspiring government officials, scholars and researchers, activists, policy analysts, and journalists, among others, gave lectures and presentations, bringing multiple perspectives to bear on outlined human rights issues. We hosted nearly 50 speakers, including high level guests like Dr. Jasminka Džumhur, Ombudsperson for Human Rights of BiH, Dr. Svetlana Broz, human rights activist and grand- daughter of ex-Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, Dr. Nicolas Moll, historian, and many others. The Sarajevo program started with a lecture by Professor Lamija Tanović, Chair of the Board of Directors of Humanity in Action in Bosnia, who spoke on a number of challenges she has observed in the Bosnian education system.

During the program, each Fellow had the opportunity to present a human rights-related topic which is personally important to them and relevant to the program, during a segment called Fellows’ Talks. The program ended with an “action week” resulting in three group civic campaigns on the topics of media literacy, boosting turnout among young voters, and artivism.

The Humanity in Action BiH Fellowship was designed as a platform for discussing these important issues. Specifically, the program in Sarajevo focused on questions related to human rights, diversity, pluralism, contemporary dynamics, and discourses currently pervading in local multicultural settings within BiH society. Our program, dense and intense from an intellectual and personal perspective, aimed to build trust and a sense of community among the participants foreign and domestic so that they make every effort to remain connected to and active in the HIA network.

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity provided by our supporters. Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina looks forward to the next year’s program, enlarging its Senior Fellow network, as well as creating more exchange among emerging leaders in all countries where Humanity in Action is operating and beyond.
Humanity in Action held its Ninth Annual International Conference in Strasbourg, July 5-8, 2018. The conference was generously hosted by the European Parliament, and focused on the European Union as the largest global peace project, and one of the European states’ primary mechanisms for economic, political, and cultural cooperation, and the advancement of fundamental rights.

The conference hosted 38 diverse speakers including keynote speeches, workshops, panel discussions and breakout sessions organized in order to explore topics of participants’ particular interest in further depth, and besides the European Parliament, comprised site visits to the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe. We are honored that Klaus Welle, Secretary General of the European Parliament, gave the opening keynote address, followed by Marietje Schaake, a Member of the European Parliament since 2009, and a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow.
Jamil Ahmed
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Jamil Ahmed is a graduating Senior at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, double majoring in Global History and Criminal Justice and as well as double minoring in Economics and Theatre Arts. Jamil is a founder of Students Without Borders, an organization dedicated towards advocating against human rights violations around the world. Jamil has been an active leader in his community and in his academic career, always wanting to give back to the people. He has served as a Delegate for two years in the United Nations Student Association, he has previously interned for National Archives and for the Office of Policy & Planning, and frequently performs in theatre plays at John Jay. Jamil volunteers at New York Cares during his free time and teaches Creative Writing and Debate at an after school program. After graduating from John Jay, Jamil will be pursuing his Masters in Economics in London.

Kathleen “Katie” Brown
Northeastern University

Katie Brown was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and will graduate from Northeastern University this May with a degree in economics. She spent a year and a half living in Kathmandu, Nepal working in communications at a prisoner’s rights organization, and later as an analyst at a microfinance research institution. During her undergrad, she also spent a semester in northern India conducting research on rural healthcare policy. Through these experiences, Katie has become passionate about the role of economic equity and empowerment in post-conflict communities. After completion of the Humanity in Action fellowship, Katie will begin a master’s degree in applied economic policy at the University of Antwerp in Belgium. She hopes to pursue a career in economic policy analysis with a particular emphasis on human rights in welfare policy.
Lucy Chin
Washington University

Lucy graduated from Washington University in May 2017 where she double majored in Global Health and American Culture Studies. While at WashU, she led GlobeMed, a student-run non-profit, and coordinated a tutoring and outreach program with a local area middle school. She also participated in the Civic Scholars program, through which she discovered her intersecting passions for education policy, intergroup dialogue, identity politics, and community development. Combining her interests, Lucy’s honors thesis assessed the impact of social justice education on St. Louis area high-schoolers. Since graduating, Lucy has continued to work at WashU where she supports Washington University students from low-income backgrounds. She balances direct program development and institutional research, which relate to her future aspirations of pursuing a dual degree in law and social work. In her free time, Lucy loves cooking and trying new restaurants, as well as doing yoga and exploring St. Louis’ rich museum scene.

Karen Lønne Christensen
University of Copenhagen

Born and raised in the happy little nation of Denmark, Karen has spent most of her adult life in the UK, pursuing first a degree in childcare, then a degree in English language and literature. She has also worked abroad on democratization projects in Zimbabwe and in the refugee camp Moria on Lesbos. Karen is very passionate about the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and is a consultant to the local municipality where she aims to improve the rate of family reunifications for unaccompanied minors. Karen is now pursuing a law degree at the University of Copenhagen. Karen works at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and hopes to pursue a Ph.D in the field of international human rights law. In her spare time, she volunteers and is a member of the board of Refugees Welcome Denmark and chairs the board of Retskraft – Copenhagen Journal of Legal Studies.
Lily Faust  
Emory University

Born and raised in California, Lily completed a double major in history and international studies at Emory University and an MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History at the University of Cambridge. She also spent a year abroad at the University of Oxford, and after completing her MPhil moved to London, to undertake work experiences at the U.S. embassy and a British charity. Lily has a particular interest in twentieth century Europe, with a focus on the history of the Holocaust, as well as U.S. foreign policy, racial justice, and the challenges to political institutions in the twenty-first century. In the future, Lily plans to pursue further study in the U.S. In her spare time, Lily enjoys travel, visiting art museums, fine dining, and hip-hop.

Gizem Gülcivan  
Goethe University Frankfurt

Gizem was born in the industrial city of Hanau, Germany as the child of Turkish migrants. She is a graduate student at Goethe University in Frankfurt, enrolled in Political Science. During her under-graduate studies she spend a semester at Istanbul University. Previous abroad projects as in Hong Kong (meeting with trafficking victims) settled her interest in migration and gender, especially the intersectional-feminist approach. Recently she started an internship at Café Milena, a space for migrant (refugee) women*. She coordinates workshops and excursions about legal rights, a critical reflection of the environment and simultaneously to practice language skills. In her free time, you can find Gizem in the kitchen trying a new (Pinterest-) recipe for cakes or bread, or alternatively start watching a new series, which actually doesn't fit in her time schedule. After her studies she plans to remain with political education, focusing on structural racism in Germany.
Amra Karčić
University of Sarajevo

Born and raised in Novi Pazar, Serbia, Amra completed her BA in English Language and Literature at the State University of Novi Pazar. She also holds an MA in African American literature, focusing on the Harlem Renaissance which she obtained from the Faculty of the Philosophy, University of Sarajevo. She also spent a semester abroad in Keene, New Hampshire, auditing classes related to the Holocaust and Genocide studies. She has work experience teaching English Language to elementary and high school students. Over the years she wrote for several overseas websites and blogs on a variety of topics. Her interests are human rights, literature, and she plans to pursue another MA related to democracy and human rights.

Ana Keleman
University of Banja Luka

Born and raised in Banja Luka, Ana is an excellent knowledge-seeking student. Ana graduated from high school in 2016 with above average marks, after which she started her studies at the Department of Psychology at the University of Banja Luka Faculty of Philosophy. During the last semester of her first year of studies, Ana volunteered at a safe line for children. During her spare time, Ana likes to read and spends her time attending numerous workshops. In the near future, Ana plans to finish her studies and proceed with her education, and eventually get a Ph.D in psychology.
Ceyda Keskindemir
VU University in Amsterdam

Ceyda Keskindemir (1992) will finish her Master in Clinical Psychology this summer. She was born and raised in the Netherlands and has a Turkish background. She is mostly interested in the following topics: diversity, identity, differences between majority and minority groups and their effect on psychological well-being. She participated in different international projects related to these topics during her studies (Israel/Palestine/Morocco), lived as an exchange student in Malaysia to study Arabic and Media for a semester, followed by a summer semester at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for a minor in Chicana/o studies.

Detmer Kremer
Bates College

Detmer Kremer was born and raised in rural Frisia, in the north of the Netherlands. After attending the United World College in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Detmer studied anthropology, gender studies, and religious studies at Bates College, where he also studied abroad in Samoa to focus on Indigenous modes of democracy and governance. After graduation he became a Quaker Voluntary Service fellow in Atlanta and worked in community outreach and family selection at Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. He also worked as a research intern and the indigenous rights non-profit Cultural Survival. He just finished his position as a Dean's Fellow at Yale-NUS College, and after the summer will start his M.A. in Human Rights at University College London.
Amra Mešić
University of Bihać

Amra was born and raised in Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where all her formal education took place, from elementary to high school, and now to University of Bihac, with exception of one semester spent on Erasmus in Lisbon, Portugal. Currently on her fourth year of Social Pedagogy, Amra is planning to pursue a MA in Inclusion. As a member of AIESEC Bihac, she attended seminars about human rights, post-conflict period in BIH, and youth exchanges. She also organized few humanitarian actions at faculty to help those in need. Amra volunteered at the International Relations office at the University of Bihac to promote the Erasmus program, and also at NGO’s Radost druženja and Zene sa Une, working with children with special needs and Roma children.

Matilda Ostow grew up in a community-housing complex alongside the train tracks in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 2017, she graduated Wesleyan University with a degree in Anthropology and Environmental Studies. Now based in Philadelphia, she is trying to figure out how best to contribute to the world. Interning on a storytelling and performance project that joined Philadelphia police officers and community members of color elucidated the healing that could come from sharing experiences of police brutality. She currently works at a private book restoration studio, fixing books that range from multi-generational family bibles to a journal that documented an 1842 whaling expedition. She also works with Books Through Bars, a volunteer-run organization that fills book requests from people who are currently incarcerated in the Pennsylvania-area. Attending a two-week oral history workshop this May, she hopes to compound her interests in storytelling, place-making, social justice, and critically-engaged ethnographical work.
Daria Powichrowska
Sciences Po Paris

Born and raised in the north of Poland, Daria Powichrowska is an undergraduate student at Sciences Po Paris, currently on an exchange year at University College London. Keen on meeting new people, Daria does not stop searching for new activities. She organised Polish Economic Forum in Paris, two TEDx conferences in Dijon and Broader Perspective Project in Kosovo, Albania, and Serbia. She also takes part in social actions, such as charity runs or summer camps for children from underprivileged families. Next year, she moves to Paris to pursue her master degree in Finance and Strategy at Sciences Po Paris. In her spare time, she travels to non-touristic countries, dances salsa and reads literature from the 19th century.

Đorde “Dole” Prolić
University of Banja Luka

Born and raised in Banja Luka, Đorde is a committed and hardworking student of psychology. During high school he volunteered at the NGO Red Cross Banja Luka, and is currently searching for a new place to continue volunteering. At his faculty he is a part of the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology and has above average marks. After being admitted to the Humanity in Action program, he went to a seminar at the Soft Skills Academy in order to acquire more personal and professional skills. Social justice, human and animal rights are something that he values immensely. In the future, Đorde plans to become a psychotherapist and get a Ph.D. in Psychology.
Born and raised in Paris, Romane is currently pursuing her master of social sciences at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Lyon. During her interdisciplinary (art, ‘hard sciences,’ and social sciences) bachelor, she studied how very different disciplines could complement each other to deepen our understanding of major issues. She spent a year at the University of California, Irvine. There she became interested in making documentaries and participated in a renovation project at the Manzanar Japanese Internment camp. Rich off this experience, she has worked as an intercultural youth work camp leader where she fostered dialogue through “No hate speech” activities. In the past year, she has studied political sciences and sociology of education in India and Norway. As a part of her engagement for the better integration of refugees, she has biked across France with 10 students and 10 asylum seekers to visit villages that have favorably welcomed refugees and citizen initiatives.

Mahir was born in 1992 in Bugojno. He finished elementary and high school in Donji Vakuf. His undergraduate studies were completed at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo, Department of Political Science. He recently completed a master’s degree on the same faculty, and the study courses included International Relations and Diplomacy. He is an activist in several of non-governmental organizations, and participated in several scientific research projects as a lower researcher. He participated in several national and regional conferences that dealt with issues of young people. His scientific research interests are in international relations, diplomacy, post-conflict societies, the Euro-Atlantic integration, social justice, and democracy. He is the author of several scientific papers. He has non-formal education through a variety of programs, such as Humanity in Action and FES BiH. He is a scholar and member of Education Builds B&H. Previously, he worked as a junior assistant for communications in the UNICEF mission in BiH. He is currently working at the University of Sarajevo as an associate for communications and public relations.
LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Some Thoughts on Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dr. Lamija Tanović, Humanity in Action BiH Board Chair

Dr. Tanović opened her lecture by providing an overview of history of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She discussed the consequences of the war in BiH and presented the current situation to the Fellows. Dr. Tanović explained the change in the country’s ethnic composition and its influences on the educational system. As someone who is intensively engaged in educational reforms, Dr. Tanović described and discussed the system of “two schools under one roof”, emphasizing the further ethnic divisions emerging from this form of education. She expressed her personal discontent with the way how the Bosnian constitution is incorporated in the Dayton Peace Accords and later discussed the role of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the end of her lecture, Dr. Tanović opened the floor for questions.

Non-verbal Communication Workshop
Ira Adilagić, Human Rights Activist and Alma Mujanović, HIA Senior Fellow

Ms Adilagić and Ms Mujanović started their interactive workshop by talking to each other using solely sign language and other means of non-verbal communication. After a couple of minutes, they invited the Fellows to join them in this kind of communication. The aim of this small experiment was to show that we can always partly understand each other by using some means of non-verbal communication. After the introduction, Ira and Alma explained how much we use this kind of communication in everyday life without even realizing it. Ira also pointed out and explained how some means of non-verbal communication are different across the globe, and emphasized importance of being familiar with culture of certain country in order not to be misunderstood. Later on, the Fellows were engaged in very fruitful discussion about their own opinions on non-verbal communication, differences in communication based on gender, culture and context. Fellows played several games and were given different tasks to improve their non-verbal communication skills.
Introduction to the BiH Political System: the Challenges of Consociational Democracy
Dr. Dženeta Karabegović, International Burch University

After a brief overview of the history of the country, Dr. Karabegović started the explanation of today’s political system of the country with the conclusions of the 1991 Census, followed by different theoretical concepts of methods of ethnic conflict regulation. Dr Karabegović particularly focused on the differences between majoritarian and consociational democracies, and the challenges faced by the latter. She ended the lecture with emphasizing the importance of transitional justice, and a Q&A session with the Fellows.

Bosnia and Herzegovina 23 Years after Dayton- An (Un)Pacified Country at the Crossroads
Dr. Dennis Gratz, Attorney-at-Law/Sarajevo School of Science and Technology

Dr. Gratz, a member of Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, spoke about post-Dayton period and challenges Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing since 1995. He thoroughly explained the functioning of the political system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dr. Gratz provided an overview of political and social events happening over the past 23 years leading to the status quo Bosnia is having today. He discussed possibilities of positive changes within the system that is often in favour of ethno-national narratives. He emphasized the importance of formation of stronger political alliances advocating for active citizenship and pushing the path toward the EU and NATO. Dr. Gratz closed his lecture by discussing the upcoming general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and opened the floor for the Fellows’ questions.

Rendering Justice from Afar: Local Perceptions of the Role of the ICTY in Prosecuting War Crimes
Almir Alić, Registry Liaison, Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals

Mr Alić started his lecture with an introduction to the background of war crimes that took place in former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. He explained the reasons for establishing a court such as the ICTY, and later explained the work that has been done since it was established. Mr Alić explained the important role the court has played in giving a voice to the many victims of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and securing fair trials with objective and systematic approach to every case. He gave important statistics on the work of the ICTY, and later explained the last stage in the work of the ICTY since its closing in 2017, the handing of responsibility to domestic courts. In his conclusion, Mr. Alić spoke about denial of crimes and the role of ICTY in the important process of transitional justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
How Dayton's Incentives and the West's Stability Fixation Impede BiH's Development into a Real Democracy
Kurt Bassuener, Senior Associate, Democratization Policy Council

Mr. Bassuener talked about the legacy of the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the position of the country today. Speaking specifically about the Dayton Agreement, he explained that the purpose of signing this treaty was to stop the war, but not to be the very core of governing the country for more than 20 years. Mr. Bassuener stated that entire political system is designed around the interests of the signing parties of the agreement, which is ultimately preventing the country from moving forward. When talking about future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Bassuener looked back on the year 2005, when after a series of successful reforms, the international community and Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo announced that they are stepping back and handing more responsibilities to policy makers in BiH. The decision was made under the assumption that the country would be able to progress under its own power and proved to be wrong. He concluded the lecture elaborating his vision and views on what are next steps that need to be done for putting Bosnia and Herzegovina on a secure track toward the EU and NATO. The lecture ended with a Q&A session.

Establishing a Secular State in a Multiconfessional Society
Dr. Dino Abazović, University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Science

Dr. Abazović, who specializes in sociology of religion, started his lecture by introducing basic principles of secularism. He briefly presented the three main features of modern societies: the fragmentation of societies and social life, disappearance of the community, and a growth of bureaucracies, as well as its increasing rationalization. Dr. Abazović explained three different models of accommodating relations between state and religion focusing especially in multiconfessional societies. He later moved on to explain how these can be applied to the Bosnian society and talked more about religious rights and feelings and how they can be incorporated and protected in Bosnia and only by the laws of the state. Dr. Abazović noted that we are witnessing an increasing influence of religion and emphasized the need for proper actions from both the state and organized religions to properly address secularism within a multiconfessional society.
Interaction of Culture and Human Rights
Emina Ganić, Sarajevo Film Academy

Ms. Ganić started her lecture by giving another meaning to the war in Bosnia, stating it was also a cultural war which she further explained by giving an example of the Vijećnica, the most important library in the entire country and a symbol of knowledge, being one of the first objects targeted by the aggressor. She later focused on the intersection of culture and human rights, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She argued that culture is very strong during periods of war as a result of humanism and it is important tool for citizens who are oppressed to show they are still humans as they were before the war. Ms. Ganić believes it is a way for people, despite almost impossible conditions, to be creators which helps them to keep their dignity. She talked about the Sarajevo Film Festival, one of the most important film festivals on Balkan started during the siege of the Bosnian capital. The festival was organized with the help of many internationally acclaimed artists, for instance Susan Sontag, and was an important symbol of victory of humanism over the barbarity the citizens were put through in the besieged city. Ms Ganić pointed out the example of graffiti made by Dutchbat in Srebrenica, being incredibly demeaning towards Bosnian women, which triggered Šejla Kamerić to make one of her best and the most known work, “Bosnian Girl”. Since she started the lecture by asking the Fellows what they think about specific pieces of art she was showing, she concluded it by repeating the same question, which resulted in change of opinions.

Artivism Workshop
Ivana Kešić, CIVITAS BiH

Through a highly interactive two-hour workshop, Ms. Kešić introduced the participants to the history and types of social movements since the 60's until today. The workshop was dedicated to artivism - socially engaged art as a form of public action and advocating for a change. The participants worked on recognizing the types and structure of social movements through a case study. At the end of the session, the participants had the opportunity to create their own art - three performances with the use of artistic expression.
Mosaic of Human Rights in BiH: Attainable, Segregated or Denied?
Dr. Jasminka Džumhur, Ombudsperson for Human Rights of BiH

Dr. Džumhur spoke to the Fellows about the work of Human Rights Ombudsmen office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, from its establishing back in 2006 until today. She thoroughly explained the duties, responsibilities, and powers an Ombudsperson has. She also spoke about the legal framework for work of the office being enshrined by Annexes IV and VI of the General Framework Agreement on Peace in BiH. More than half of cases and complaints Dr. Džumhur is handling are related to political rights, while the rest of complaints are mostly in connection with the slow judiciary and administrative system. Dr. Džumhur emphasized the importance of special reports made by the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman, written with the purpose of drawing attention to the manipulation or abuse of vulnerable groups. Reports are done on the national and gender structure of employees in the police and security agencies in BiH, on the status of persons with disabilities, threats against journalist, rights of the LGBTQ population and several other topics. Dr. Džumhur later opened the floor for a Q&A session.

Civil Courage in Times of War and Peace
Dr. Svetlana Broz, GARIWO

Dr. Svetlana Broz set off her lecture by explaining the work of GARIWO, its mission and work that has been done since 2001, when the organization was established. She talked about reasons why she dedicated her life to campaigning for the development of civil courage and promoting importance of individual bravery in difficult life situations and rather dangerous times. Dr. Broz emphasized the importance of civil courage as it overcomes every single division while pinpointing the importance of humanity and the fact that we are all human beings. She gave several examples of extraordinary individuals who saved many lives because they possessed civil courage. For instance, she mentioned Duško Kondor, a man who was not afraid to testify about war crimes against perpetrators who were very powerful political figures at that time which eventually led to his murder, or an example of a teacher from Belgrade who saved an entire Jewish population in school where he worked by assigning them different identities in the school’s records. For Dr. Broz, civil courage in times of war and peace is essential for people to think beyond their ethnic groups and to think about citizenship and society in whole.
Communication Workshop
Dijana Duvnjak, Foundation 787

Ms Duvnjak held a workshop on the improvement of communication skills and healthy interaction in both a professional and a private environment. She explained that understanding our own communication is crucial for better decision making and building of our network. Ms Duvnjak emphasized the importance of good communication for delivering the best outcome possible out of every life situation. She shared her knowledge about different techniques aimed at improving active listening, addressing issues properly, and replying politely even when the situation may ask for a different reaction. Ms Duvnjak explained the difference between passive, assertive and aggressive behaviour, and later talked about body language and how it can improve our everyday communication. Once again she emphasized the importance of understanding our own behaviour and knowing how we interact with other people, because in the end people always remember how we made them feel.

Perspectives on Segregated Education in BiH
Nerin Dizdar, Human Rights Activist

Mr Dizdar started his lecture with an introduction of the very beginnings of segregated education in post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina. He explained how first forms of divided education appeared in municipalities where ethnic cleansing took place resulting in the exile of one or more ethnic groups. He elaborated that the first system of segregated schools was established as people were returning to their homes. Since this was shortly after war, the environment was still very fragile and the system of “Two schools under one roof” was established. This means that children of different ethnic groups attend separate classes. Although this was meant to be only a first step toward normal education, the system still exists and it seems that it will not change in the near future. Mr Dizdar provided insight into the reasons for still having this system in some municipalities, and stated that it is in the interest of ruling parties and keeping the status quo. He explained that keeping this form of education is key in strengthening the voting basis of nationalistic parties. Later he addressed how this system of schooling is not new and wasn't invented in Bosnia, but it is a very undemocratic principle that needs to be changed as soon as possible. Fellows were engaged in a lively discussion throughout the entire lecture and asked many questions, as divided education is a serious problem of the Bosnian society.
Media Literacy in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dr. Anida Sokol and Sanela Hodžić, Mediacentar Sarajevo

After speaking about the activities of Mediacentar Sarajevo, Dr. Sokol and Ms Hodžić presented the legislative framework, regulatory bodies, and different types of media in the country. They emphasized that some of the main challenges the media face are lack of plurality of news, financial unsustainability, and political pressure. They then proceeded to discuss the topic and importance of media and information literacy, as well as the subject of fake news, and steps to identify them.

Lecture on Voting among Youth
Dario Jovanović, Coalition for Free and Fair Elections "Under the Magnifier"

Mr Jovanović spoke to the Fellows about the election process in BiH. He explained the work of the “Under the Magnifier” Coalition, and stated that securing fair elections was the most important reason for its establishing. Mr Jovanović stated that core values the coalition is based on are principles of legality, impartiality and complete transparency in the electoral processes in BiH. He provided insight into the work of the Coalition, focusing on election observation, conducting studies, and preparing of comparative analyses, educating first time voters, and advocating for prevention of frauds and manipulations which occur during the elections, as well as for freedom of choice and objective reporting on the election process. Mr Jovanović gave multiple examples of different kind of attempts to manipulate the elections, from trying to vote with illegal documents to serious and systematic attempts of fraud.
Creative Writing Workshop
Lejla Šarčević

Ms Lejla Šarčević held a workshop on creative writing process. She explained what she is doing in her job as an investigative researcher and shared her knowledge on how to make stories more innovative, fresh, yet very informative. Ms Šarčević looked back on her previous experiences as a cinematographer and reflected on how that helped her in making her stories be more creative in a very serious environment such is investigative journalism. She showed some of her own stories, including her work on the Panama Papers. In the examples she pinpointed what she exactly did to make her stories better and taught Fellows some techniques together with giving valuable advice and suggestions how to improve their own storytelling.

Panel Discussion on LGBT Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dr. Damir Banović, Liam Isić and Vladana Vasić

Dr. Banović, a senior teaching assistant at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law together with Liam Isić and Vladana Vasić from the Sarajevo Open Center talked about position and rights of LGBT population in BiH. The panel was moderated by 2018 HIA Sarajevo Fellow Romane Rozencwajg. Dr. Banović focused on LGBT rights from a legal perspective, presenting specifics about the family laws in both entities and the Brčko District, and the slow progress that has been made over the previous years. He explained that although the constitution prohibits discrimination, sexual orientation and gender identity are not on the list of protected categories. Vladana Vasić from Sarajevo Open Center spoke to the Fellows about legal work they have been doing to promote human rights of LGBT population and their efforts to incorporate them into the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also spoke about very specifics examples of violence toward LGBT population coming from supporters of right party wing as well from the Student Union of University of Sarajevo. Liam Isić talked about lack of education and stated that within the LGBT population, transgender people face discrimination the most.
Civil Society Initiatives in BiH
Darko Brkan, Association “Why Not?”

Mr Brkan is the president of NGO “Why Not?”, an organization established as a youth peace organization with mission to secure safe, active and effective BiH society that is revolving around citizens as individuals, which is difficult given that the system is based around constituencies. He talked about culture of protests in Bosnia and elaborated why they are regularly failing to achieve their goal. He looked back on the 2014 protests, which he described as strategic catastrophe while at the same time reflecting on the role his NGO played in these protests. Mr Brkan later discussed the role and the state of civil society in BiH in the past two decades, after which he opened the Q&A session.

Youth Social Entrepreneurship in BiH
Dr. Samira Nuhanović, Independent Researcher

Dr. Nuhanović talked about the importance of youth entrepreneurship in BiH. She explained how this approach is relatively new in our society. Dr. Nuhanović argued that young people in BiH are still living in some sort of illusion where the only good job is the one that is funded by the state. In her opinion, young people need to turn to entrepreneurship to create their own opportunities, rather than wait for the state to secure them a steady income. Later she gave examples of some success stories of young people who created jobs for themselves. For instance, a young woman, law graduate who could not find a job, who with the help of the organization where Dr. Nuhanović worked at the time, opened a cleaning service that now employs five other people. Dr. Nuhanović concluded her lecture with the message that constant work on themselves is crucial for young people if they want to progress together with expanding our boundaries whenever we can.
**Lecture on Genetics and Ethnicity**  
Dr. Damir Marjanović, Rector and Professor at International Burch University

Dr. Marjanović is an expert in the field of forensic genetics and former Minister of Education and Science in the Sarajevo Canton. Today he serves as a Rector and Professor at the International Burch University. He spoke to the fellows about links between genetics and ethnicity in the context of Bosnian society. Dr. Marjanović thoroughly explained how the dominant theories trying to prove that people in BiH of different ethnic background have completely different genetic material are not true, and later further elaborated on that from a scientific point of view. Fellows had many questions and enjoyed a very productive and lively discussion with Dr. Marjanović, stating how it was very interesting to hear a scientific approach to the topic.

**Workshop: Media Activism and Social Networks**  
Mirza Ajnadžić, journalist

Mr Ajnadžić, a journalist with vast experience as a researcher and video documentarist talked about his beginnings in storytelling. He argued that today it is very difficult to write an article that people will read from the beginning until the end, because we are living in a world where everything is one click away and where our attention is never fully present. Mr Ajnadžić discussed how this changed his own perspective and approach toward effective storytelling that delivers the message to a broader audience. One of the approaches he turns to the most is video documentating. Example of effective storytelling Mr. Ajnadžić mentioned was "Happy", a short video telling the story about a small local village called Željezno Polje that has been completely destroyed during the 2014 floods and out of scope of politicians and all sorts of aids. He pinpointed that different approach his team and himself used in making of a video was the reason why the video was so successful and resulted in aid finally coming to the inhabitants of Željezno Polje. Later, Mr Ajnadžić opened the floor for discussion and shared tips on different strategies of using social networks as tools of promoting one’s cause.
Ms Telalović discussed the Dayton Peace Agreement and its provisions in the context of promotion and protection of human rights in the Bosnian society. She stressed that the amendment of the constitution is indispensable, so that all Bosnians can apply for any position in the country. She argues that diversity should be the most predominant value and it should be nurtured. Currently, in the light of the BH constitution, only Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats can hold certain high public office positions in BiH. Members of any other minorities are excluded from that level of political representation. Ms Telalović pointed out the need for active citizenship, which is the best way for bringing social and political change in BiH. She argued that everyone has ownership of the process of reforming Bosnia, but people do not believe that the overall reform is possible. In her opinion, people are not trying hard enough to change the status quo, but they remain active in its support.

Mr Jugo talked about the exhumation of mass graves as an ongoing process in BiH, where bodies from 52 mass graves have been already exhumed. He spoke about the process itself, the identification, and exhumation in the laboratories where victims' age and sex are determined, and comparison between the DNA of victims and their relatives. It is a lengthy process since the state of the bodies makes the identification of victims more difficult. Mr Jugo stressed the importance of exhumations with the goal of alleviating uncertainty and letting family members close a painful chapter with a proper funeral of their murdered relatives.
Seeking Justice for Women War Victims
Armela Ramić, Attorney-at-Law

Ms Ramić talked about the process of seeking justice for women war victims. She spoke about judicial obstacles women face on their way of attaining justice in BiH. Ms Ramić discussed the imbalance between the treatment of victims and perpetrators, stating that the perpetrator will have right to more than one lawyer while on the other hand, the victim will have no access to free legal aid or social welfare. Later on she talked about specifics of criminal procedures and mentioned some positive changes that happened over the past few years. Since 2015, it is no longer necessary for prosecutors to prove the element of force in cases of rape which was completely against international standards. In Federation of BiH, the statute of limitations was removed. Unfortunately, statute of limitations of three to five years is still in place in Republika Srpska. Ms. Ramić concluded her lecture with saying how there is still lot of stigmatization of victim and not enough of education on this subject.

Psychodrama Workshop
Zvjezdana Jakić and Vedrana Rebić, Psihodrama Association

The Fellows engaged in a series of exercises intended to help them process everything they have learned throughout the program and to share their impressions about their experience, as well as how to incorporate the acquired knowledge into their own identity.

The Ethics of Visiting Memorial Sites
Dr. Veronica Czastkiewicz

Dr. Czastkiewicz opened her lecturing by talking about her month long university program abroad, focused on visits to former concentration camps. The central question being asked during the entire trip was what is the purpose of visiting sites of mass atrocities. Fellows presented their opinions which varied from purpose of going there to become more aware because it gets more real, to one fellow stating that by silence we are doing injustice to the victims. Dr. Czastkiewicz was critical of including visits to sites of war atrocities where genocide happened as part of vacation package, as well as taking selfies and some other inappropriate action being made which disrespects the victims. Later, Dr. Czastkiewicz explained and elaborated rules to be followed in order to fully pay tribute to the victims. Throughout the entire lecture, the Fellows were very much engaged and stated their own dispute because they feel that visiting memorial sites has become a fashionable thing and emphasized the importance of ethics.
Dr. Moll is a historian focused on post-conflict legacy and dynamics of war in 1992-1995. He spoke to the Fellows on attitudes regarding crimes committed by one's own ethnic group. Dr. Moll focused mostly on Sarajevo and spoke about specific examples of crimes committed by Bosnian Army against Serbs in the besieged city. He emphasized the importance of accepting and addressing these crimes, from all sides, as it is the only path of reaching transitional justice and eventually true reconciliation between different ethnic groups. The Fellows had many questions related to the historic evolution of the country, actions that are being taken today in properly addressing of crimes, and how all of this fits into the political picture of the country.
Sarajevo City Hall and ICTY Information Center

After a guided tour of the Sarajevo City Hall and a visit to the exhibitions in the institution's museum dedicated to life in Sarajevo in the period from 1914 to 2014, as well as a collection of photographs and designs of the renovation project, the Fellows attended a lecture in the newly opened ICTY Information Center located in the City Hall, which contains the entire digital archive of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.
World War I Tour of Sarajevo with Harun Išerić, HIA Senior Fellow

Mr Išerić took the Fellows on a tour through Sarajevo using the same route that Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand took before he was assassinated in 1914. He spoke to the Fellows how idea for assassinating of Franz Ferdinand was born while providing detailed informations on the ideology behind the assassination and all logistical preparations. Mr Išerić gave an overview of a broader political and historical context of the assassination and event that followed. The Fellows had many questions, and the tour ended in a lively discussion and a Q&A session.

Guided Tour of the War Childhood Museum with 2018 HIA Fellow Sandra Mehmedović

The Fellows had the chance to visit the War Childhood Museum, the world’s only museum dedicated exclusively to telling stories of children in times of war. The Fellows first had the chance to go through the exhibition on their own, and afterwards had a tour with Sandra Mehmedović, Museum guide and HIA Fellow. She explained how the museum was founded, the work that has been done prior to this museum becoming internationally recognized and winning the 2018 Council of Europe Museum Prize, one of the most prestigious awards that a museum can receive. Ms Mehmedović explained the process of collecting and storing exhibits, and talked more about the long-term goals and mission of the museum - tackling trauma without reinforcing ethnic divisions.
Visit to Al Jazeera Balkans with Melina Kamerić and Marina Ridić

The Fellows had the opportunity to visit the headquarters of Al Jazeera Balkans in Sarajevo. Ms Kamerić talked about the work of Al Jazeera, how it was established and how it is funded. She explained that Al Jazeera Balkans has offices throughout the region and focused on the topic of objective reporting, as well as how to ensure that all information that is broadcast is true, and discussed the general state of media houses in BiH. Ms Ridić shared a journalist's perspective, and discussed potential media promotion strategies with Fellows which will help them in the implementation of their future Action Projects.

Visit to Balkan Investigative Reporting Network BiH with Mirna Buljugić and Denis Džidić

BIRN is a network of local NGO's promoting freedom of speech, human rights and democratic values. Mirna Buljugić, executive director of the Sarajevo office, talked about the structural organization of the network given that there are BIRN offices in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia with wide media reach and presence. She explained that this network is focused on implementing a range of programmes and projects with aim to train journalist to report more objective and more relevant to be able to address issues of public interests. Later Ms Buljugić showed the movie "How Islamist Extremism Destroyed a Bosnian Family" telling the story of a young man and his life from the time he was living in Gornja Maoča, a very closed religious community to finally finding escaping extremism that completely destroyed his own family. The session ended with a talk with editor and creator of the movie, Mr Denis Džidić.
KONJIC AND MOSTAR

The first study visit of the program was to Tito’s ARK D-0 nuclear bunker hidden in the mountains of Konjic, where the Fellows had a guided tour of the object, which today also serves as a modern art exhibition space, hosting a contemporary art biennial. After the trip, the Fellows visited and explored the old part of the city of Mostar.
Ms Gordana Katana is an experienced journalist, well known for writing objective and important stories in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She talked about her own beginnings as a journalist, and what motivated her to become involved with journalism. Ms. Katana provided a very thorough analysis of journalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina today, especially in Banja Luka and Republika Srpska. She explained how the majority of media houses and newspapers are controlled and owned or at least in some way manipulated by ruling parties. Ms. Katana stated that because of this, Bosnia is facing a huge crisis in objective reporting, which is inevitably resulting in the creation of narratives that foster further divisions between different ethnic groups and hostility. She concluded with saying how the role of journalists is very important in reaching transitional justice, especially in communities where journalists are reporting directly against figures in power, which can be very dangerous, and yet much needed. Ms. Katana then engaged in a discussion with the Fellows, where she was asked to give examples of stories that were very important, as well as to give her own view on the future of journalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Talk with Jovana Jankovski and Slavica Topić, Center for Democracy and Transitional Justice.

Ms Jankovski and Ms Topić spoke to the fellows about the work they have been doing in the Banja Luka office of Center for Democracy and Transitional Justice. They gave deep insight in everyday activities of the Center which revolves around the process of transitional justice. Recently, the Banja Luka office was dealing mostly with mapping of detention camps and other detention facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They spoke about their experiences when trying to gather the experiences of former inmates. In previous years, their office was strongly promoting the RECOM process in Republika Srpska and was pushing for its strengthening with the goal of uncovering and determining the facts about war crimes and human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia. Ms Jankovski and Ms Topić closed their talk with a Q&A session with the Fellows.
Talk with Mirsad Duratović

The lecture was held in Prijedor, at the site of detention camp Trnopolje. The lecturer was Mirsad Duratović, President of the “Prijedor 92” Association and a survivor himself. Mr. Duratović spoke to the Fellows about the beginning of the war in Prijedor and what that meant for Bosnian Muslims and Croats. He thoroughly explained how authorities in Prijedor today are doing everything they can for the truth not to be revealed and expressed his own concerns about the future of Prijedor.

Visit to Youth Center “Kvart”

During the visit to Prijedor, the Fellows also had the opportunity to meet with local activists from Youth Center “Kvart” - Executive Director Goran Zorić and Project Manager Branko Ćulibrk, who spoke about local human rights initiatives “Kvart” has initiated over the past years, and their long-standing fights with the local community in promoting the rights of the LGBTQI population in the city.
SREBRENICA

The Fellows took a study trip to Srebrenica where they participated in a two-hour guided tour of the Srebrenica-Potočari Memorial Center, led by Ms Amra Begić-Fazlić, Head of the Center’s Visitor Service. The Fellows had time to see the graveyard where thousands of victims of the genocide have been buried and continue to be buried there on the anniversary of the start of the genocide each 11th of July. After a tour of the Museum at the Center, the Fellows watched the “A Week in July” documentary.

During the trip to Srebrenica, the Fellows had the opportunity to talk to Dr. Hikmet Karčić from the Institute for the Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks, who focused specifically on the genocide in Srebrenica. He thoroughly and in chronological order explained the events that led to genocide, from 1992 until 1995. While the Fellows were approaching Srebrenica, Dr. Karčić would stop to point to different detention sites and pinpointed exact places of executions while at the same time offering valuable informations on perpetrators, logistical means needed to execute the genocide, and its ideological and political background. He also talked about the role of the international community, and the aftermath of the genocide.
Dr. Arsenijević from the University of Tuzla Faculty of Philosophy set off the discussion by introducing the history of Tuzla with focus on worker’s rights from the period from Yugoslavia today. He talked about Tuzla as a bastion of freedom that until present day nurtures the ideas of antifascism, and as a city that never gave in to nationalism. Ms Busuladžić talked about her own struggles to attain her own worker’s rights while working in Dita detergent factory. She explained the struggle she went through with her colleagues, and discussed all obstacles they were facing to achieve their goal. Ms Busuladžić emphasized that the only reason why they succeeded in their fight was persistence. She concluded her talk by saying that Dita today is a very prosperous company, and that one of the positive outcomes of this fight was that the workers of Dita managed to connect with other workers from all parts of Europe.
The campaign utilized artivism, a tool that merges art and activism. The activism component of this project addresses the politicized and charged borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, more specifically Sarajevo. The Fellows addressed this concept artistically by conceiving of a map-making project that would be interactive, emotional, and subvert conventional map-making processes. They implemented an interactive mapping campaign to make space for the citizens of Sarajevo to transcend location and ethnicity and define the emotional landscape of this city on their own terms. The Fellows spent four days collecting sites/stories on a physical map in different parts of the city, and then created a digital map and an accompanying short video about to be accessed online. The Fellows created this project with the goal to deconstruct the idea of a map as defined by geography and borders by incorporating emotion and subjective experience into the map-making process.
The overarching goal of the civic campaign is to engage citizens with and educate them about democratic processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through an educational board game, the group aimed to encourage voters to do more detailed research about their voting rights and political programs of the parties. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to encourage a higher voter turnout and a more engaged citizenry. Although hard to measure, this project aims to specifically target first-time and young voters to vote in an informed and intentional manner. The main outcome of the campaign is the creation of a civic engagement board game called (Ne) Glasam. (Ne) Glasam is a team game in which players (who are representing political parties or the “population”) compete to win the general elections. Players advance based on correctly answering trivia questions or dealing with “Wild Card” scenarios that have to do with the political system in BiH. The board game was promoted at a public event with over 50 guests held at the Faculty of Political Science, encouraging skill-building focused on understanding the complex electoral process as well as articulating questions to further individuals’ understanding of political processes and ability to hold politicians accountable. After the event, the group created an accompanying video to further promote their work.
The main goal of the campaign was to make people aware of the media bias. The Fellows aimed to confront people with different backgrounds with the media literacy reality and, moreover, to make them a part of the mechanism which rules within the media. The goal is to achieve people’s understanding of information subjectivity and of the importance of the critical spirit while being confronted with any kind of information, so that participants of the campaign would realize the existence of different subjective interpretations. The main product of the campaign was a short video, in which the Fellows interviewed local citizens asking them to share their opinion about a fictitious vague headline, illustrating the need to check your sources before trusting the news and have a critical approach to new information. The video was screened at the board game event at the Faculty of Political Science, and additionally promoted with a media literacy guide created by the group, flyers and other promotional materials.
Jasmin Hasić, Executive Director of HIA BiH, speaking about the civic campaigns for N1 Television, CNN exclusive news channel affiliate in the region.
International Burch University's article on Professor Marjanović's lecture
It was a privilege to be able to talk to Humanity in Action BIH students about the ethics of visiting sites of mass atrocity. Thanks Jasmin for the opportunity!

Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina
Published by Masta Omaričeić
28 June at 13:22 · G

Fakultet političkih nauka Univerziteta u Sarajevu shared your post.
9 mins · G

U ponuda su naci studenti imali priliku da uče na korakovan način o političkom sistem, izborima i izbornoj izboru u opučnom procesu. Zadovoljstvo nam je da smo bili pusteni na ovim projektu Korazajo Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina. #PonovniZahtjev #HRA2018 #FINANJA

Dženeta Karabegović shared a post.
11 June at 13:26 · G

A pleasure to start the week with the HJA Sarajevo Fellowship! Semester might be done, but I keep on learning 😊

Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina
11 June at 10:13 · G

>> Great news! We are at EFSA, learning about the armed conflicts in BIH, Dr. Dženeta Karabegović is lecturing on post-Dayton political system and consociational democracy. >>

Like · Comment · Share

You, Armela Ramić, Dijana Dzeđe and 69 others
Our Fellows are working on developing ideas for their own campaigns. Over the next two weeks, the three groups will create separate initiatives focused on activism, media literacy, and boosting turnout among young voters at the upcoming elections. This program component is made possible with the generous support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Stay tuned for more updates! #HIA2018

Priča o "generičkom blagu bosanskoga krajevstva" za djevojke i mornike iz 10-ak različitih zemalja koji su odlučili da svoju ljetu započnu ovdje, u Bosni i Hercegovini - Njeprojenjvko (bar za mene) Hvala Jasmin Heravi na pozvul ce Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina

See Translation

331 people reached

Samir Beharic shared a post to the group: ODLIV MOZGOVA.

Grupa fellows sa ovogodisnjeg Humanity in Action ljetnog programa u Sarajevu je pokrenula jednu javnu kampanju pod naslovom "NEGLASAM". U ponedjeljak, 2. jula ce u Sarajevu organizovati javni event na kojem zele da predstave svoju zanimljivu igru. Sve vas pozivamo da svojim dolaskom i aktivnim ucescem u implementaciji projekta podrzite ovu zanimljivu inicijativu.

Vise informacija mozete naci na Facebook stranici Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina: