



EIHR Report: 2022 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On 27 January 2022, the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 80th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference were marked with a special program in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Educators' Institute for Human Rights (EIHR), the Post-Conflict Research Center (P-CRC), Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst (forumZFD), the Association Haggadah Sarajevo, and the Bosnian Cultural Center welcomed guests, experts, and the citizens of Sarajevo to the launching of the manual *Holocaust & Peace: Lessons from the Past for the Future* and the opening of the exhibition "Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution to the Jewish Question".

Holocaust commemoration and education is a global imperative. The practical manual for educators was created by teachers and experts from across BiH with the purpose to challenge discrimination and intolerance, strengthen solidarity, and prevent future genocide.

After a brief address by the Mayor of Sarajevo, Benjamina Karić Londrc, and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kathleen Kavalec, a panel of teachers and experts introduced the manual and discussed the purpose of Holocaust education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "The history of Jews of this city is the history of all of us", stated Karić and emphasized that only through the commemoration of history can we build a better future.

The panel was joined by the co-authors of the manual, Senior Teaching Assistant at the University of Banja Luka, Milica Jošić-Milinović, English language teacher at the High School for Tourism, Amina Kaknjo, EIHR Education Coordinator and Senior Teaching Assistant at the University of Sarajevo, Alma Žero, Founder and President of the Post-Conflict Research Center, Velma Šarić, and Advisor for Culture and Religion to the Jewish Community in BiH, Eli Tauber. The photography exhibition was prepared by Tauber with the purpose to honor Holocaust victims and to present the scale of the Nazi extermination of Jews across Europe. EIHR Executive Director, Kate Weckesser English, and EIHR Deputy Executive Director, Kimberly Klett, addressed the audience with a video and expressed the unwavering commitment of EIHR to promoting human rights in education, the manual being the practical realization of a longstanding dedication.

"The formal educational system in BiH and the region is very reserved with regard to history, not only BiH history but also the Holocaust which is why we are glad to organize the manual promotion on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 80th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference. Our goal is to educate new generations of young people in the spirit of tolerance, co-existence, and inter-religious cooperation", Šarić observed.

Žero added, "It is an honor and a great pleasure to participate in the promotion of the manual on this day. I hope that the lesson plans will be of use to all the educators and

teachers who strive to foster their students' critical thinking on human rights, the culture of remembrance, and lessons from the past for the future."

"In the workshop The (Un)Healed Scars of Conflict, I joined my love for literature with my love for art in that poetry and photography are used as a tool to reflect on different conflicts and on how perspectives change. Participants have the opportunity to experience the places where certain conflicts happened through poetry writing and pseudo-personal testimonies", explained Jošić-Milinović.

"We have to prove again and again the obvious truths that all people are equally valuable and that there are no superior races or people; only the fear of something different and unknown. On our path to breaking free from that fear, it is important to offer to young people an abundance of information through film, literature, memorialization, and publications like this manual, in order to develop empathy towards victims and the strength to stand by truth and justice, clearly differentiating between good and evil", said Kaknjo.

We give special thanks to the manual co-authors who were not able to join the event: Selma Rustempašić, Adnan Korman, Olivera Nedić, and Paul Lowe. The number of invited guests was limited due to the COVID-19 epidemiological restrictions but in addition to the representatives of non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, a number of diplomatic representatives joined the program.

We give our thanks to the Embassy of Great Britain, the Embassy of Italy, the Embassy of Sweden, and the Embassy of Germany, as well as the representatives of the association "Movement of Mothers of Srebrenica and the Žepa Enclaves".

*-Submitted by Alma Žero,
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