



# Through the Prism of the Community

2025 | Sarajevo Fellowship  
Report

# Acknowledgments

Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina cordially thanks its donors for their generous support of the 2025 Sarajevo Fellowship. We are deeply grateful to our speakers and Senior Fellows, whose commitment and insight will shape the conversations and learning ahead. We also extend special thanks to Mrs. Samira Ceribasic for her valued support in making this program possible.



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# About Humanity in Action

Humanity in Action is a collaborative, international learning community of individuals from or based in Europe and the United States committed to the values of pluralism, liberal democracy, social justice, and human rights, particularly in the transatlantic context. We seek to promote these values through different forms of civic engagement shaped by the specific historical and cultural contexts in which we live.

- We **educate** to encourage critical exploration of liberal democracy, pluralism, and human rights, within the specific national historical, and contemporary contexts of our Fellowship programs.
- We **connect** an ever-growing transatlantic community to promote continual learning and collaboration.
- We **inspire** action for advancing human rights, social justice, and equity.

Our Fellows implement Action  
Projects in their Communities  
around the World

- Offices
- Action Projects

07

Offices in the USA &  
Europe

211

Ongoing Action Projects



Through our work:

- We **affirm** the importance of strengthening democratic values.
- We **foster** environments in which individuals of diverse backgrounds and identities can engage openly and respectfully with contentious and challenging ideas and each other.
- We **support** a vision of pluralistic societies that embrace differences and negotiate their boundaries through constructive political, social, and personal dialogue and relationships.
- We **build** a multinational, inter-generational community of emerging and established leaders who share the Humanity in Action values.

## **PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**

We believe that an important test of a genuine democracy is how it advances social equity and pluralism. We strengthen the commitment of our community to democratic values and foster knowledge around past and present human rights challenges.

The intellectual touchstone for Humanity in Action, founded in 1997, has been the study of acts of resistance - and lack thereof - during the Second World War and the Holocaust. These events raise critical questions: Why do some people resist while others remain bystanders? What connects those who recognize the need to resist? How are acts of resistance influenced by national and historical contexts?

Since Humanity in Action was founded with a focus on the 1943 flight and rescue of the Jews in Denmark during the Holocaust, we have grown conceptually, intellectually, and geographically. Our scope has expanded to include the legacies of American slavery and the Jim Crow era; colonialism and migration; peacebuilding and transitional justice in the Balkans; transitions from authoritarian to democratic forms of government in post-communist societies to other human rights challenges in Europe and the United States.

## **THE FELLOWSHIPS**

Intensive and demanding, the Fellowship brings together international groups of university students and recent graduates to explore national histories of discrimination and resistance, as well as examples of issues affecting different minority groups today.

# Humanity in Action Activities



CONFERENCES



WORKSHOPS



NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS



WEBINARS

# About Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina

Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina operates within a network of affiliate organizations located in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and the United States. Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina is an educational organization that strives to build a network of students and young professionals committed to promoting human rights, diversity, and active citizenship.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we particularly focus on promoting reconciliation and rebuilding social trust among deeply divided ethnic and religious groups. We are driven by a very strong idealism and identification with the larger organization and its mission is evident among fellows, senior fellows, program staff, leadership, and board members.

The main objectives and activities of Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina include the realization of a peaceful and sustainable future in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region through education, networking, and cooperation of youth with the aim of developing mutual respect and cultural, religious, and ethnic tolerance in the international environment, as well as raising awareness of social problems, injustice, humanitarian work through domestic and international projects.

To this date, Humanity in Action invited over 200 outstanding Bosnian young men and women representing all local ethnic communities to participate in its international fellowship programs. Humanity in Action BiH has developed an active alumni association in the country that works to develop on-the-ground initiatives to promote the aforementioned goals.

Before its legal incorporation with the Ministry of Justice BiH in 2011, Humanity in Action BiH has developed and implemented many projects, such as the "Intercultural Navigators" program with the British Council, and a HIA study trip "Bosnia and Herzegovina: Challenges of a Post-Conflict Society" in 2010 for 35 local and international aspiring young leaders who learned about the history of BiH, the roots of the recent conflicts and the current social and political challenges in the country. HIA BiH sponsored grassroots projects of Humanity in Action's Bosnian alumni, such as an awareness campaign about internally displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Books 4 Vijećnica; Sarajevo Human Library; Memory Walk Sarajevo and Istočno Sarajevo and many others.



## What kept us busy?

Since 2011, HIA BiH has officially been leading and cooperating on over 25 projects, some of which are:

>> The Third Humanity in Action International Conference in Sarajevo, with over 300 participants, Special Opening Keynote by President Bill Clinton, Founder of the William J. Clinton Foundation, 42nd President of the United States; renowned speakers such as Kurt Bassuener, Konstanty Gebert, Jakob Finci, Eli Tauber, and many others.

>> ENCOURAGING DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AMONG YOUTH, supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (USA), a nine-month long program aimed at introducing BiH university students to democracy and human rights issues, encouraging them to employ critical thinking on sensitive topics, and building their communications, presentation and research skills. In December 2023 commenced the 12th educational sequence of the program.

>> BOLD Action: Building Impact Locally, supported by the United States Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed to attract and empower local youth leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina through a training program that provided them with insight, vision, and skills in an attempt to influence their transformation and used all available tools to empower them to embark on a community-oriented leadership path to create lasting social impact. The program helped them turn their perspectives on local issues into sustainable solutions through civic engagement, resulting in the implementation of 6 projects.

>> The board game projects implemented over the past few years, such as "Tabletop Reproductive Rights - "Ciklus"", "#gamEscape", "Gamifying EU Realities in BiH", "Game Changers" and "Media and Information Games" have been instrumental in engaging and educating young individuals across Bosnia and Herzegovina on various crucial societal issues. These innovative educational tools have served as catalysts for discussions and learning sessions, allowing participants to delve into topics such as menstrual and reproductive health, media and information literacy, relevant EU process and the EU integration of BiH, women's rights, gender equality, female empowerment, and peace-building. By gamifying complex subjects, these projects have made learning more accessible and interactive, fostering a deeper understanding and awareness among participants. Moreover, they have encouraged active participation and collaboration, empowering young people to address societal challenges and advocate for positive change within their communities. Through these board game initiatives, participants have not only gained valuable knowledge but have also developed critical thinking skills and a sense of civic responsibility, laying the groundwork for a more informed and engaged youth population in Bosnia and Herzegovina.





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# 2025

Sarajevo Fellowship

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## Message from HIA Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Our 2025 Sarajevo Fellows have surpassed every expectation we had for them.*

*During Action Week, they took their civic campaign ideas and breathed life into them with vision, creativity, and determination—turning concepts into powerful projects that spoke to real issues in our communities.*

*This year's Sarajevo Fellowship carried a central theme: Community. Over two intense weeks together, we didn't just talk about it—we lived it. From shared learning to late-night conversations, from working side-by-side to supporting one another through challenges, this group built something rare and meaningful.*

*The Closing Ceremony captured it all—insightful project presentations, heartfelt speeches, certificates of achievement, and the exchange of letters for their "Sarajevo Book." There were tears, laughter, and countless moments of gratitude.*

*We could not be prouder of how this group came together, challenged one another, and left Sarajevo as a true community—one that will continue to grow, support, and inspire well beyond these two weeks.*



# Introduction

The Sarajevo Fellowship 2025 brought together a group of emerging leaders, thinkers, and changemakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, USA, and Poland, united by a shared curiosity about Bosnia and Herzegovina's complex past and its democratic future. Rooted in Humanity in Action's belief in the power of education, dialogue, and human connection, the Fellowship offered a space for reflection, learning, and collaboration in one of Europe's most historically significant post-conflict societies.

Designed as a multi-phase journey, including online sessions, in-person programming, and an intensive Action Week, the Fellowship encouraged participants to engage critically with the challenges and possibilities facing Bosnia and Herzegovina today. Fellows explored themes such as migration and brain drain, human rights and transitional justice, foreign policy and regional cooperation, and the role of memory in shaping social cohesion. Just as importantly, they built bonds with local communities, peers, and mentors, learning not only from structured sessions but also from one another.

This report outlines how the core educational aims of the Sarajevo Fellowship were translated into practice and how their impact was monitored and assessed throughout the program. It reflects on what participants gained, how the learning environment evolved, and what stories and insights emerged along the way. Drawing from written evaluations, observation notes, and participant reflections, the report offers a snapshot of what the Fellowship achieved—and where it can grow in the future.

## **Overarching Educational Goal:**

***Engaging directly with policymakers, academics, and civil society representatives, fellows will explore critical contemporary issues shaping Bosnia and Herzegovina today.***

## **Contributing Objectives:**

- 1.Examining the effects of brain drain and the role of the diaspora, considering how migration impacts economic and social development, and how diaspora expertise can contribute to progress
- 2.Investigating BiH's geopolitical position: Assessing foreign policy challenges, regional cooperation, and global political influences
- 3.Investigating the impact of neighboring countries and external forces on Bosnia's political and economic landscape
- 4.Economic discussions will focus on the role of the international community and diaspora investments in fostering sustainable development and entrepreneurship.
- 5.Human rights and transitional justice will be central themes, addressing ongoing challenges, post-war justice efforts, and the role of civil society in fostering reconciliation.
- 6.The program will also explore post-war trauma and collective memory, considering intergenerational impacts, identity struggles, and social cohesion.

# Program Structure

The 2025 Sarajevo Fellowship kicks off with an online program, with four hours of programming and sufficient rest moments. Because of the different time zones, Fellows come together between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm (EDT)/16:00 and 20:00 (CEST). The online program this year consists of:

- Sessions for the 2025 Sarajevo Fellowship cohort
- International Session for the SF Community and 2025 Fellowship cohorts: Marking the 30 years since the Srebrenica Genocide: Commemoration and Storytelling

The program thus provides a virtual hybrid curriculum to explore the international and national historical and cultural context in which challenges to pluralism and democracy occur.

The in-person program is an interdisciplinary, collaborative, and engaging learning experience; it features lectures and discussions & dialogues with researchers, journalists, politicians, activists, and artists.

The goal of the program is to foster cross-cultural understanding and an appreciation of different perspectives and approaches for assessing past and contemporary social justice. After the three-week program, Fellows will continue to develop and implement Action Projects to address social justice issues in their own communities.

## FELLOW ENGAGEMENT & ACTION

Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina pays close attention to supporting Fellows so that they can get into action, apply their acquired skills and knowledge, and give back to their communities.

The personal contributions of Fellows are invaluable to the learning experience that the Fellowship offers. Therefore, each Fellow gets the opportunity and platform to present themselves and the issues they care for, to the group.

During the Fellow Talks they can choose one topic that they are particularly passionate about in relation to the Fellowship. Fellows are asked to carry out Action and Reflection Assignments during the virtual and in-person program.

Depending on the assignment, Fellows are asked to work individually or as a group.

# 2025 Fellowship Program





# Program Overview

Online Program Week (July 9 - 15, 2025)

## WEDNESDAY (09/07)

**Keynote Discussion:  
Understanding Bosnia  
and Herzegovina Today –  
Challenges &  
Opportunities**

*Jasmin Mujanović, PhD*

**Deliberative Democracy:  
Giving the Power back to  
the People**

*HIA Senior Fellow Harun  
Išerić, PhD candidate*

**Expectation Setting**

## THURSDAY (10/07)

**Transitional Justice  
Initiatives and their Impact  
on Local Communities**

*Dženeta Karabegović, PhD*

**Foreign Policy Talk: Why  
the Weak Links Matter.  
Bosnia, the Western  
Balkans, and the EU in the  
Global World**

*Ádám Bence Balázs, PhD*

**Inheriting Srebrenica:  
Memory, Activism, and the  
Cost of Leaving**

*Nejra Lilić, HIA BiH Alumna*

## FRIDAY (11/07)

**Srebrenica and the Politics  
of Memory: Legal Verdicts,  
Denialism, and Global  
Recognition**

*Zlatan Hajlovac*

**International Session for  
the SF Community and  
2025 cohorts: Marking the  
30 years since Srebrenica  
Genocide: Commemoration  
and Storytelling -  
Srebrenica Flower Action  
Project**

*HIA Senior Fellow Adisa  
Čakanović*

**Listening Across  
Generations – What Do We  
Do With the Memory of  
Others?**

## SATURDAY/SUNDAY (12 & 13/07)

**FREE DAYS**

## MONDAY (14/07)

**Looking Further into  
Bosnia's Past to explore  
the roots of its Identity**

*Nevena Jevremović, PhD*

**Bosnia and Herzegovina  
- a Politically 'Captured  
Country' Phenomenon**

*Ivana Korajlić*

**Introduction to the  
Action Week**

## TUESDAY (15/07)

**Diaspora Panel: How Can  
the Global Bosnian  
Community Contribute?**

*Lejla Tinjić-Zaimović*

*Elma Oručević*

*Samira Sulejmanović*

**The Role of Activism and  
Education in Advancing  
Reconciliation**

*HIA Senior Fellow Samir  
Beharić*

**Small Group Dialogues:  
What Have We Learned?**

# Program Overview

## In-person Program Week (July 16 - 23, 2025)

WEDNESDAY (16/07)	THURSDAY (17/07)	FRIDAY (18/07)	SATURDAY (19/07)
TRAVELING DAY	WELCOME RECEPTION	<p>Community Building <i>HIA BiH Team</i></p> <p>City Tour: 'Where it all began in Sarajevo' Tour - Walk through 'Sniper Alley' and Wilson's Lane <i>Merisa Krišćo, HIA BiH Alumna &amp; HIA BiH Team</i></p>	<p><b>ONLINE SESSION</b> <b>Human Rights Protection at the State Level in BiH</b> <i>Dunja Mijatović</i></p> <p><b>Trust, Opportunity, and Mobility: Addressing the Roots of Youth Emigration from BiH</b> <i>Alida Vračić, Executive Director at Populari - Think tank</i></p> <p><b>Workshop: Understanding European Media Models</b> <i>HIA Senior Fellow Ana Jovanovic Harrington, PhD Candidate</i></p>
SUNDAY (20/07)	MONDAY (21/07)	TUESDAY (22/07)	WEDNESDAY (23/07)
FREE DAY	<p><b>VISIT:</b> <i>Museum Of Crimes Against Humanity And Genocide 1992-1995</i></p> <p><b>The Forgotten Children of War and the Fight for their Recognition</b> <i>Ajna Jusić, President of the Association "Forgotten Children of War"</i></p> <p><b>Film screening "Ordinary Heroes" &amp; Conversation with Velma Šarić on Fostering a Culture of Peace</b></p> <p><b>Workshop:</b> <i>Reflecting on Values, Identity, and Agency</i></p>	<p><b>Fellows take over the Day</b> <i>Fellows' Panels</i></p>	<p><b>Day Trip to Mostar</b></p> <p><b>VISIT: OKC Abrašević/Youth Cultural Center Abrašević</b></p> <p><b>SIGHTSEEING:</b> <i>UNESCO World Heritage Old Bridge of Mostar, Old Town</i></p> <p><b>VISIT: Local Democracy Agency Mostar</b> <i>Maja Vejzović</i></p>



# Program Overview

## In-person Program Week (July 24 - 31, 2025)

### THURSDAY (24/07)

**Visit to the Directorate for European Integration - Bosnia's Future in EU**  
*Maja Rimac*

**Visit to the TITO Cafe**

**Activism through different lenses - Dialogue Session with Local Activists/Senior Fellows**

*Vasilije Jovanović  
Maida Zagorac  
Amina Imamović  
Dajana Cvjetković*

### FRIDAY (25/07)

**Spending the Day in Nature:**  
*Hiking to Vrelo Bosne (Spring of the river Bosna) in Ilidža*

**Small Group Dialogues: What Have We Learned?**

*Walking, Relaxing, Picnic*

### SATURDAY (26/07)

**Senior Fellow Talk: Steps after the Program and Staying Engaged in the Senior Fellow Community**

*HIA Senior Fellows  
Isa Zuhrić & Ivana Kulić*

**ACTION WEEK KICK-OFF**

*Meeting Senior Fellow Mentors  
Group Work*

### SUNDAY (27/07)

**ACTION WEEK**  
*Fellows work in teams to design and develop civic engagement projects, with mentorship from Senior Fellows*

### MONDAY (28/07)

**ACTION WEEK**  
*Fellows work in teams to design and develop civic engagement projects, with mentorship from Senior Fellows*

### TUESDAY (29/07)

**ACTION WEEK**  
*Fellows work in teams to design and develop civic engagement projects, with mentorship from Senior Fellows*

### WEDNESDAY (30/07)

**ACTION WEEK**  
*Fellows work in teams to design and develop civic engagement projects, with mentorship from Senior Fellows*

### THURSDAY (31/07)

**CLOSING CEREMONY**  
*Action Projects presentations, Reflections, Program Closing*



2025 Sarajevo Fellowship  
**Online Week**

# Online Week: Session Descriptions

**July 9, 2025**

**Session 1: Keynote Discussion –  
“Understanding Bosnia and  
Herzegovina Today: Challenges &  
Opportunities”**

**Speaker:** Dr. Jasmin Mujanović

**Objective:** Investigating Bosnia and Herzegovina’s geopolitical position and foreign policy challenges (Objective #2)

This opening keynote set the intellectual and emotional tone for the Fellowship, offering a candid exploration of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s post-war governance, regional entanglements, and democratic stagnation. Dr. Jasmin Mujanović critiqued enduring narratives of the region, notably Robert Kaplan’s *Balkan Ghosts*, and reflected on how war disrupted not just institutions, but also deeply personal relationships and trust within communities.

He examined how the Dayton Agreement, while successful in halting conflict, inadvertently entrenched ethnic divisions and empowered wartime elites, often at the expense of forward-looking reforms. In discussing Bosnia’s political gridlock, he emphasized the need for structural changes—such as reducing ethnic-based governance and promoting more inclusive, citizen-centered reforms. Regional dynamics, the influence of neighboring states, and missed opportunities by the international community were also part of his sharp yet hopeful narrative.

One of the session’s key messages was the enduring importance of everyday trust—how informal bonds between ordinary people remain a quiet source of democratic resilience in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Participant engagement was active throughout, with thoughtful reflections, comments, and questions enriching the discussion.



**Session 2: “Deliberative Democracy –  
Giving the Power Back to the People”**

**Speaker:** Harun Išerić, PhD Candidate and HIA Senior Fellow

**Objective:** Exploring human rights, transitional justice, and the role of civil society (Objective #5)

This session introduced the concept of deliberative democracy as a meaningful response to the global crisis of democratic decline, with particular relevance to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s current political challenges. Facilitator Harun Išerić guided fellows through key distinctions between participatory and deliberative models, highlighting the transformative power of citizens’ assemblies—structured spaces for ordinary people to learn, deliberate, and make policy recommendations.



Fellows explored root causes of democratic backsliding—such as the erosion of trust in public institutions, authoritarian resurgence, and collapsing civic norms—and discussed how deliberative processes could offer new pathways forward. A particular focus was given to local examples from BiH, including pilot assemblies in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Mostar, where such methods have shown early promise in breaking political deadlock.



The session was dynamic and hands-on, incorporating live polling, a video case study, and a silent reflection exercise where participants imagined a citizens' assembly in their own community. These tools helped ground abstract ideas in lived realities and practical design thinking. The facilitator's engagement style encouraged both critical thinking and creative envisioning, allowing fellows to not only learn about deliberation but also begin to see themselves as potential facilitators of democratic innovation.

**July 10, 2025**

**Session 1: "Transitional Justice Initiatives and Their Impact on Local Communities"**

**Speaker:** Dr. Dženeta Karabegović

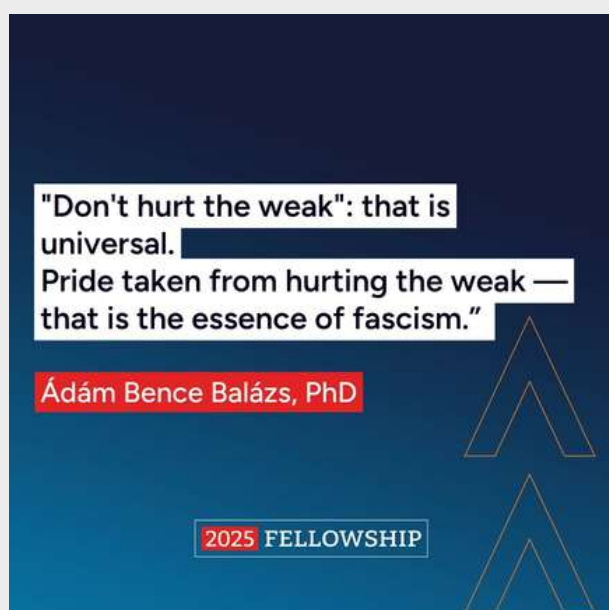
**Objective:** Human rights and transitional justice; civil society and reconciliation (Objective #5)

This session offered fellows a comprehensive and grounded introduction to transitional justice (TJ), anchored in both academic insight and the speaker's personal experience of displacement during the 1990s. Dr. Karabegović framed transitional justice not as a rigid legalistic framework, but as a dynamic process that blends truth-seeking, institutional reform, reparations, and prosecutions to help societies rebuild after mass human rights violations.



The speaker drew clear distinctions between transitional justice, human rights, and history—defining TJ as future-oriented and structurally transformative. Fellows engaged with critical questions around who owns the transitional process, the strategic tension between peace and justice, and the risks of victimhood being politicized. Local and creative initiatives from BiH, such as Most Mira and Što te nema, illustrated how bottom-up approaches can humanize justice and preserve memory in ways that courtrooms alone cannot.

Through an accessible and well-structured presentation, this session equipped fellows with a vocabulary and conceptual toolkit to critically assess justice mechanisms in post-conflict societies, while also encouraging reflections on power dynamics, reform obstacles, and the global relevance of transitional justice.



## **Session 2: Foreign Policy Talk – “Why the Weak Links Matter: Bosnia, the Western Balkans, and the EU in the Global World”**

**Speaker:** Dr. Ádám Bence Balázs

**Objective:** Geopolitical positioning of Bosnia and external influence (Objective #3)

In this intellectually rich session, Dr. Ádám Bence Balázs invited fellows to rethink international relations through the lens of “weakness”—not as a failure of power, but as a strategic and interpretive tool. Framing Bosnia and the Western Balkans as “weak links” in a globalized world, the speaker challenged dominant Eurocentric narratives by applying theoretical insights from Bertrand Badie and postcolonial IR scholarship.

Fellows explored how concepts like recognition, interdependence, and narrative positioning impact states’ global roles—drawing parallels from Hungary’s foreign policy, resistance movements in the Sahel, and post-Yugoslav transitions.

Special emphasis was placed on understanding Bosnia’s geopolitical identity not just through state institutions, but through its perception in global discourse.

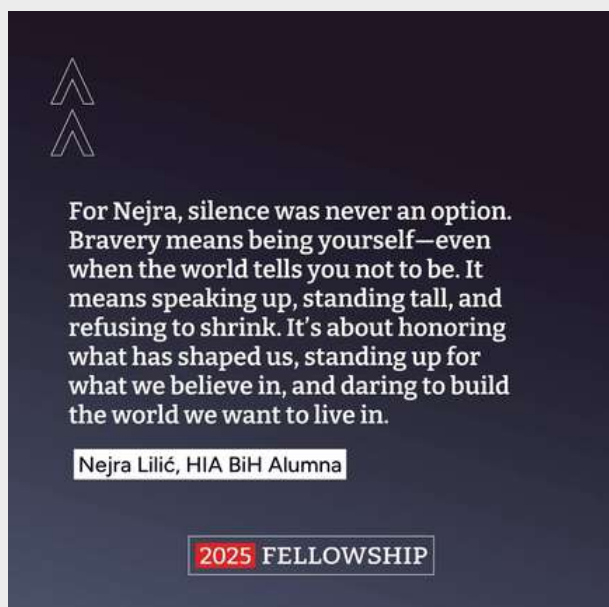
While globally expansive, the session was praised for its clarity and depth. The presentation prompted participants to consider how perceived weakness can become a strategic asset and how historic roles (colonizers, occupied, etc.) continue to shape modern political behavior. Participants engaged actively, particularly in a thought-provoking Q&A session that linked theoretical reflections with real-world case studies such as Gaza, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

## **Session 3: “Inheriting Srebrenica – Memory, Activism, and the Cost of Leaving”**

**Speaker:** Nejra Lilić, HIA BiH Alumna

**Objective:** Exploring post-war trauma, memory, and intergenerational identity (Objective #6)

Closing the day with a deeply moving personal narrative, this session featured Srebrenica survivor and activist Nejra Lilić.

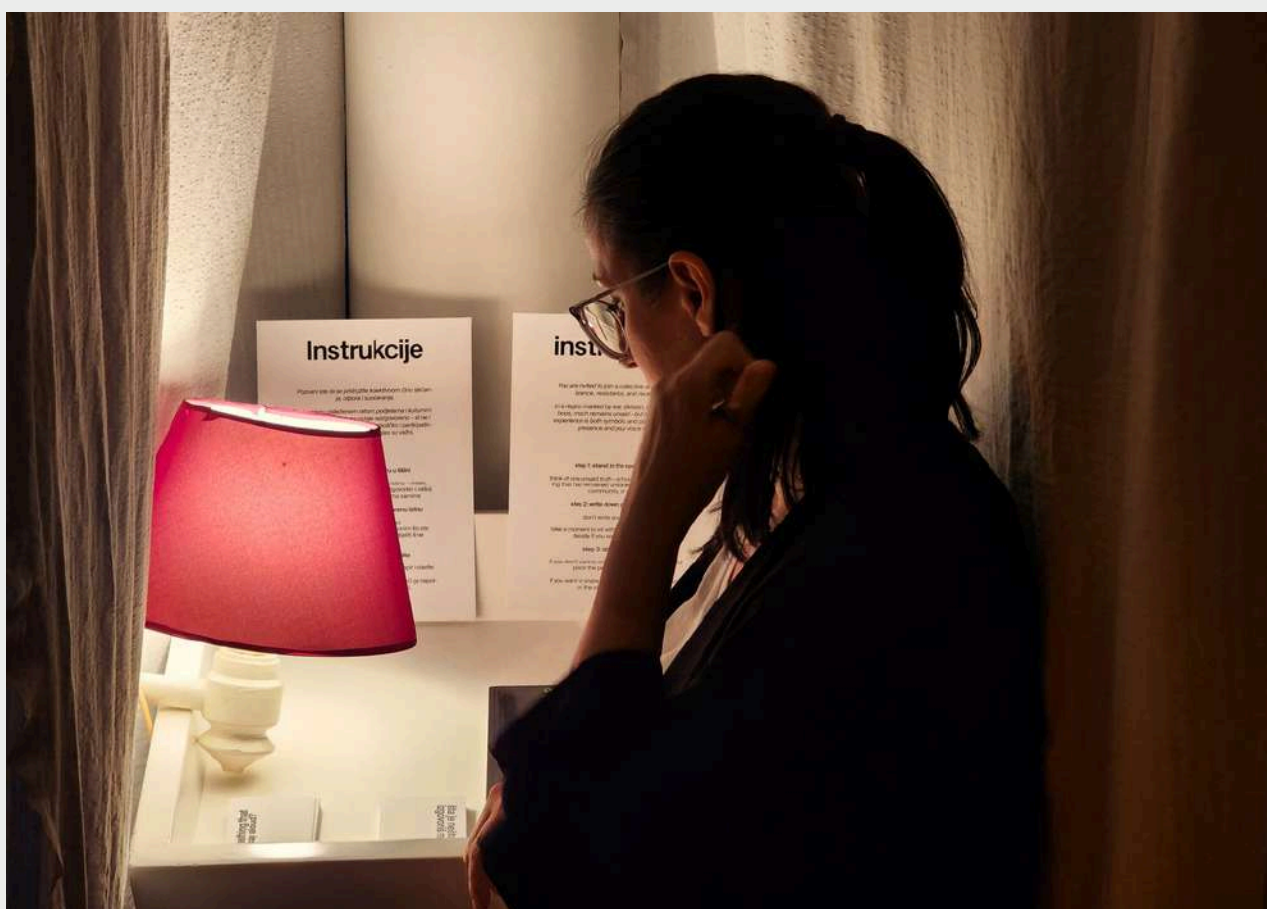


Speaking with honesty and vulnerability, she guided fellows through the emotional terrain of memory activism—sharing her reflections on identity, displacement, and the burden of being seen as the “*perfect victim*.”

Nejra’s story highlighted the complexities of trauma representation and the emotional labor involved in carrying collective memory forward. She questioned how survivors are framed by society and what it means to navigate activism when the wounds of the past are still healing.

Participants were highly engaged, not only out of intellectual interest, but also out of empathy and respect.

The session stood out not for academic rigor, but for its profound emotional resonance and human truth. It reminded fellows that behind every policy and historical narrative are lived experiences that resist simplification. As a closing to a full day of theory and analysis, Nejra’s voice brought reflection and gravity—emphasizing that justice and reconciliation are not abstract goals, but personal, ongoing struggles.





# July 11, 2025

## Session 1: “Srebrenica and the Politics of Memory – Legal Verdicts, Denialism, and Global Recognition”

**Speaker:** Zlatan Hajlovac

**Objective:** Exploring post-war trauma, memory, and intergenerational identity (Objective #6)

This session offered fellows a historical and legal overview of the Srebrenica genocide, situating it within the broader landscape of denialism, justice, and global recognition. Zlatan Hajlovac presented a clear and methodical account of how the genocide was systemically planned and executed—emphasizing state structures, military orchestration, and ideological narratives that dehumanized Bosniaks. The session also explored international legal definitions of genocide and used the Kravica case as a focal point to discuss systematic mass killing. Attention was given to the role of the UN, the post-genocide “death march” commemorations, and the rising trend of memorial denial across the region.

Participants were encouraged to consider the symbolic significance of the Srebrenica Memorial Center and global efforts (like the Bundestag’s recognition) to honor the victims while countering historical revisionism. By anchoring the day’s events in legal, political, and symbolic frameworks, the session laid the groundwork for deeper engagement with personal and collective memory.





## **International Session for HIA Senior Fellow Community: “Marking the 30 Years Since Srebrenica Genocide – Commemoration and Storytelling” (Srebrenica Flower Action Project)**

**Speaker:** Adisa Čakanović (HIA Senior Fellow)

**Objective:** Exploring post-war trauma and collective memory through intergenerational storytelling (Objective #6)

In a deeply personal and artistic session, HIA alumna and filmmaker Adisa Čakanović presented her autobiographical short film, *Absent, Yet Present: The Third Generation Speaks*. The film captured the burden of inherited trauma as experienced by descendants of genocide survivors, particularly focusing on silence, identity, and remembrance.

Following the screening, a moderated conversation reflected on how digital tools and artistic expression are reshaping public memory practices. Participants engaged with critical questions around ethical representation, authenticity, and the evolving role of younger generations in commemorating atrocity. The session highlighted the importance of survivor-centered narratives while also addressing the tension between personal pain and collective storytelling.

This emotionally resonant session bridged the historical content from earlier in the day with the personal realities of contemporary activists and artists navigating inherited memory.

## **Session 3: “Listening Across Generations – What Do We Do With the Memory of Others?”**

**Facilitation:** Fellowship Team

**Session Type:** Reflective group dialogue

As the final session of the day, this facilitated reflection provided fellows with space to process the emotional and intellectual weight of the Srebrenica-focused programming. In small breakout groups, participants discussed questions such as:

- What challenged your assumptions or touched you today?
- What is the ethical responsibility of outsiders engaging with trauma?
- How can we honor the memory of atrocity without appropriation?

The conversation was rich and introspective, emphasizing the ethical tension of bearing witness from a distance. The session emphasized listening over analysis—reminding participants that remembrance is both a political and deeply human act.

Originally planned as a speaker session, this backup reflection format was activated last-minute due to speaker unavailability. Despite the adjustment, the dialogue offered meaningful closure to a powerful day of learning.

**July 14, 2025**

**Session 1: “Looking Further into Bosnia’s Past to Explore the Roots of Its Identity”**

**Speaker:** Dr. Nevena Jevremović,  
University of Aberdeen

**Objective:** Post-war trauma, collective memory, and identity construction (Objective #6)

This deeply contextual and theoretically rich session offered fellows a long-view perspective on Bosnia and Herzegovina’s identity formation, tracing historical and political shifts over a 150-year timeline. Dr. Jevremović guided participants through the layers of Bosnia’s past—spanning the Kingdom of Bosnia, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian periods, Yugoslav statehood, and the post-Dayton era—showing how each era left a structural and symbolic imprint on identity and governance.

Particularly engaging was the application of postcolonial theory to Bosnia’s experience.

Concepts from Stuart Hall, Edward Said, Maria Todorova, and Gayatri Spivak were used to explore the “Othering” of Bosnia even within Europe, revealing how external influence has shaped internal divisions and perceptions of backwardness. The Dayton Peace Agreement was analyzed as a neo-colonial framework that, rather than resolving conflict, arguably institutionalized ethnic separation.

The session encouraged critical thinking and raised pressing questions about justice, representation, and the future of Bosnia’s constitutional structure. Fellows responded with a high level of curiosity, engaging thoughtfully during the Q&A.

**Session 2: “Bosnia and Herzegovina – A Politically ‘Captured Country’ Phenomenon”**

**Speaker:** Ivana Korajlić, Transparency International BiH

**Objective:** BiH’s geopolitical constraints and internal governance challenges (Objective #2)

In this session, Ivana Korajlić painted a sobering picture of the political landscape in Bosnia and Herzegovina, introducing the concept of state capture as a lens for understanding widespread corruption, institutional paralysis, and democratic backsliding.

She detailed how public sector employment and contracts are often used to maintain political patronage, with party loyalty prioritized over merit. Legal institutions lack independence, while media and civil society face mounting restrictions, particularly in Republika Srpska where “Foreign Agent” laws now target NGOs.



"Speaking of this notion 'The West and the Rest', the Rest should always be less than West, less civilized, less capable, so that colonial interests can be framed as **a moral cause.**"

**Nevena Jevremović, PhD**

**2025 FELLOWSHIP**

Public disillusionment is growing, fueled by youth outmigration and stagnating EU integration processes.

Despite these challenges, Ivana highlighted pockets of civic resilience, especially within the environmental activism sector. The discussion emphasized the need for both structural reform and public re-engagement. Fellows asked questions for over 45 minutes, signaling deep concern and interest in the fragility and potential of BiH's democracy.



### **Session 3: “Introduction to the NED Action Week”**

**Speaker:** Zarja Marković-Kosorić, HIA BiH National Director

**Objective:** Informative and preparatory session

This concise and practical session served as a springboard into the final phase of the Fellowship: Action Week. Zarja Marković presented the structure, expectations, and support mechanisms for fellows’ civic engagement projects, while emphasizing inclusivity, creativity, and ownership.

The session introduced three new project themes for 2025. Drawing on successful examples from previous years, Zarja encouraged fellows to take initiative while also offering logistical clarity on mentorship, reporting, and ethical considerations. Her closing message —“Nothing is small; every action counts”—captured the spirit of the session. Fellows responded with enthusiasm and thoughtful questions, suggesting a strong commitment to translating their learning into impactful public work.

## **July 15, 2025**

### **Session 1: “Diaspora Panel – “How Can the Global Bosnian Community Contribute?”**

**Speakers:** Lejla Tinjić-Zaimović (Business Women of BiH, Vienna); Elma Oručević (EU Parliament, HIA Senior Fellow); Samira Sulejmanović (Ministry of Economic Affairs, BiH)

**Objective:** Understanding diaspora’s role in addressing brain drain and supporting development (Objective #1)

This powerful panel explored how Bosnia and Herzegovina’s global diaspora can meaningfully contribute to local change, despite systemic hurdles. Each speaker brought a unique perspective: from economic and entrepreneurial engagement to advocacy at the EU level and public administration.

Lejla Tinjić-Zaimović emphasized the importance of visibility and solidarity among emigrant women, showcasing her work in Vienna’s business and community spaces. Elma Oručević shared her path to the European Parliament, advocating for Bosnia-related causes, while also

highlighting the instability of BiH's diplomatic structures. Samira Sulejmanović focused on the long-term psychological and institutional impacts of the war on diaspora-local relations, calling for low-threshold engagement and trust-building.

The session balanced realism with inspiration, ending on a collective note of resilience: "We are resilient. We learned to do something out of nothing."



## Session 2: "The Role of Activism and Education in Advancing Reconciliation"

**Speaker:** Samir Beharić (HIA Senior Fellow)

**Objective:** Addressing reconciliation through civic action and educational reform (Objective #5)

Samir led an engaging and critical discussion on how segregated education systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina not only reflect but actively reproduce ethnic divisions and societal dysfunction. He made a powerful link between educational separation and broader systems of corruption, exclusion, and political manipulation.

Through storytelling, reflection, and Q&A, participants explored forms of educational resistance, interfaith solidarity, and grassroots initiatives that challenge the "grand narrative of separation." Notably, Samir highlighted both positive and problematic examples—from innovative civil society projects to concerning developments in Republika Srpska, where curricula remain highly politicized.

The session concluded with a reminder that reconciliation is not a single event but a long-term, community-driven process, where both formal and informal education play vital roles.





### **Session 3: “Small Group Dialogues – “What Have We Learned?””**

**Facilitators:** Fellowship Team

**Objective:** Peer reflection and closing of online phase

The final session of the online program phase was structured as an intimate reflection circle. Fellows were divided into small breakout groups to share personal takeaways, insights, and emotional reactions to the sessions they had experienced.

Although the conversations were confidential, the design of the session fostered safe space, deep listening, and peer-to-peer synthesis of complex content—from memory politics and transitional justice to civic agency and diaspora activism.

The session closed with gratitude and encouragement, setting the tone for the transition to the in-person phase and Action Week. Fellows left the digital space not just informed, but deeply connected—with each other and the themes they had explored.







2025 Sarajevo Fellowship  
In-person program



**July 17, 2025**

## Welcome Reception

After an inspiring week of online sessions, HIA BiH Team was thrilled to officially begin the in-person phase of the 2025 Sarajevo Fellowship!

Together with Board members and local Senior Fellows, the team welcomed an incredible group of Fellows from the United States, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the introductory and welcoming remarks, the entire group spent an evening getting to know each other better and setting expectations for the following two weeks.





**July 18, 2025**

**Session 1: “Community Building”**

**Facilitator:** Dragana Kurti, HIA Team

Fellows engaged in building their community through a powerful session titled “Building Communities That Last,” facilitated by Dragana Kurti.

Designed to set the tone for the weeks ahead, the session offered fellows the space to reflect on the kind of community they are collectively shaping during the fellowship. Through trust-building exercises, deep listening practices, and honest conversations, participants explored how to build authentic connections, navigate tension, and transform conflict within group dynamics.

A key focus was also placed on understanding polarization—how it emerges in communities, how it can fracture relationships and shared purpose, and most importantly, how it can be addressed through empathy, accountability, and intentional dialogue.

The session not only helped foster a deeper sense of trust among fellows, but also challenged them to see one another not just as co-participants, but as potential long-term allies in the work of justice, memory, and social transformation.

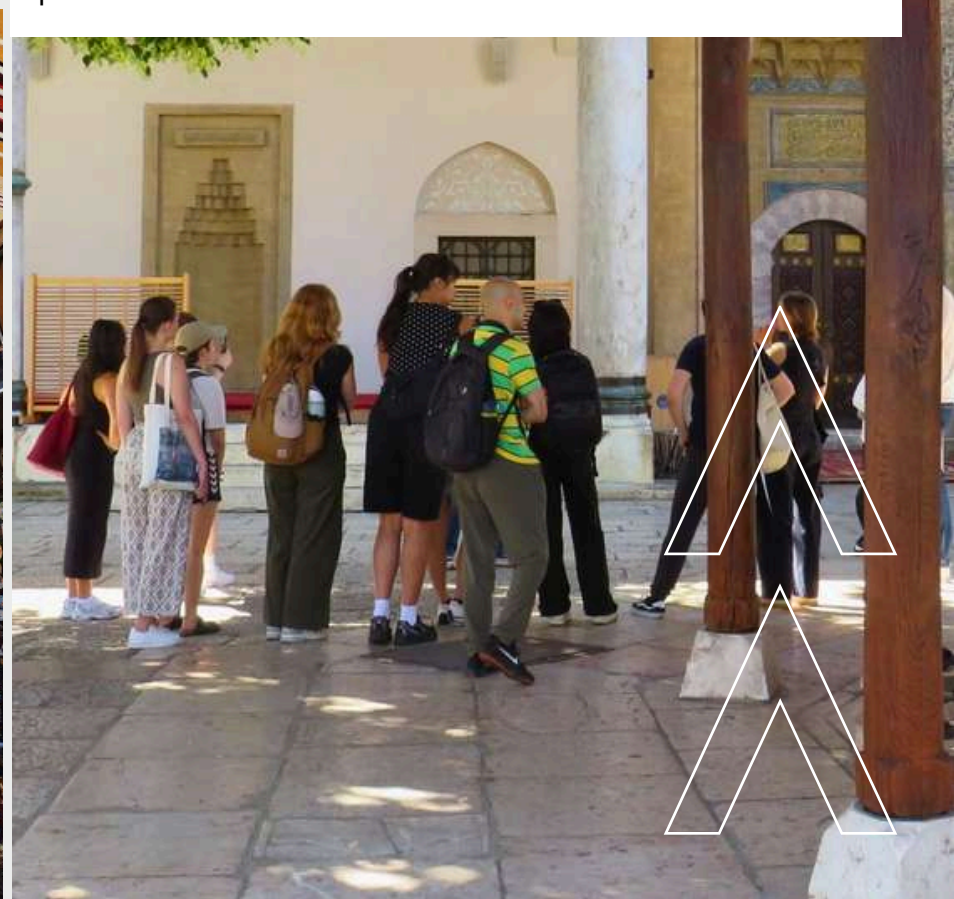






## City Tour: 'Where it all began in Sarajevo'

To truly understand Sarajevo, you must walk through its history. This city is not just a place it's a story written in courage, conflict, and coexistence. Every corner holds the weight of empires, wars, resistance, and resilience. Without knowing what Sarajevo has endured, you'll miss what makes it extraordinary: not just its scars but the strength it took to keep going. To know Sarajevo is to honor its past, and only then can you begin to grasp its present.





**July 19, 2025**

**Session 1: “Human Rights Protection at the State Level in Bosnia and Herzegovina”**

**Speaker:** Alida Vračić, Executive Director at Populari - Think tank

**Objective:** Exploring structural drivers of migration and brain drain (Objective #1)

In this timely and insightful session, Alida Vračić unpacked the deep-rooted and interconnected causes behind the ongoing wave of youth emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Drawing from years of policy research and fieldwork, she reframed emigration not merely as a socio-economic issue, but as a governance crisis marked by institutional distrust, a stagnant political culture, and a lack of credible long-term opportunities.

Alida emphasized that many young people are not fleeing poverty per se, but rather escaping a lack of prospects, agency, and accountability in public life. She also critiqued the fragmented nature of migration-related policymaking, urging for more integrated approaches that recognize the intersections between youth mobility, fertility strategies, and gender-responsive family policy.

The discussion also touched on regional trends, diaspora engagement failures, and the urgent need for sustainable reintegration frameworks that would allow youth to return and contribute. Fellows were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and drawing parallels with other contexts they were familiar with.

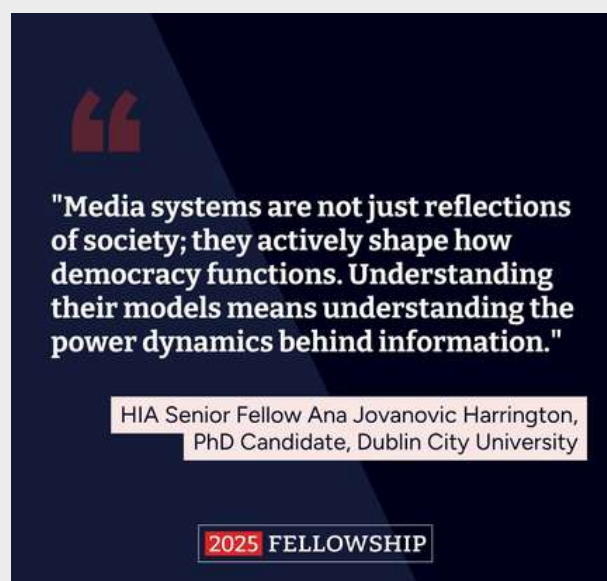
**Workshop “Understanding European Media Models: Polarized Pluralist, Democratic Corporatist, and Liberal”**

**Speaker:** Ana Jovanović Harrington, PhD candidate, Dublin City University

**Objective:** Media systems and democratic frameworks in comparative perspective

This interactive workshop introduced fellows to Hallin and Mancini’s (2004) typology of media systems—Polarized Pluralist, Democratic Corporatist, and Liberal—offering both conceptual clarity and comparative depth. The session began with a historical overview of media evolution in post-Soviet and Western European contexts, before moving into group exercises and applied reflection.

Fellows worked in small teams to map national media systems using Hallin and Mancini’s variables (political parallelism, journalistic professionalism, media-state relationships), sparking lively discussion about partisanship, propaganda, and the politicization of news. The session also introduced the idea of media convergence—whether all systems are increasingly resembling the American liberal model—and examined its limitations.





Key issues raised included:

- Segregated education as a barrier to reconciliation
- Gender justice and LGBTQ+ rights, particularly under threat in Republika Srpska
- Labor and healthcare rights, undermined by systemic neglect
- Politicized transitional justice mechanisms, often sidelining survivors
- The gap between international legal frameworks and local implementation

Mijatović reminded participants that defending human rights cannot be selective—failing to protect the rights of one group weakens the entire democratic fabric. The session closed with an active Q&A, touching on the rise of anti-gender movements, the shrinking civic space, and strategies to resist normalization of injustice.

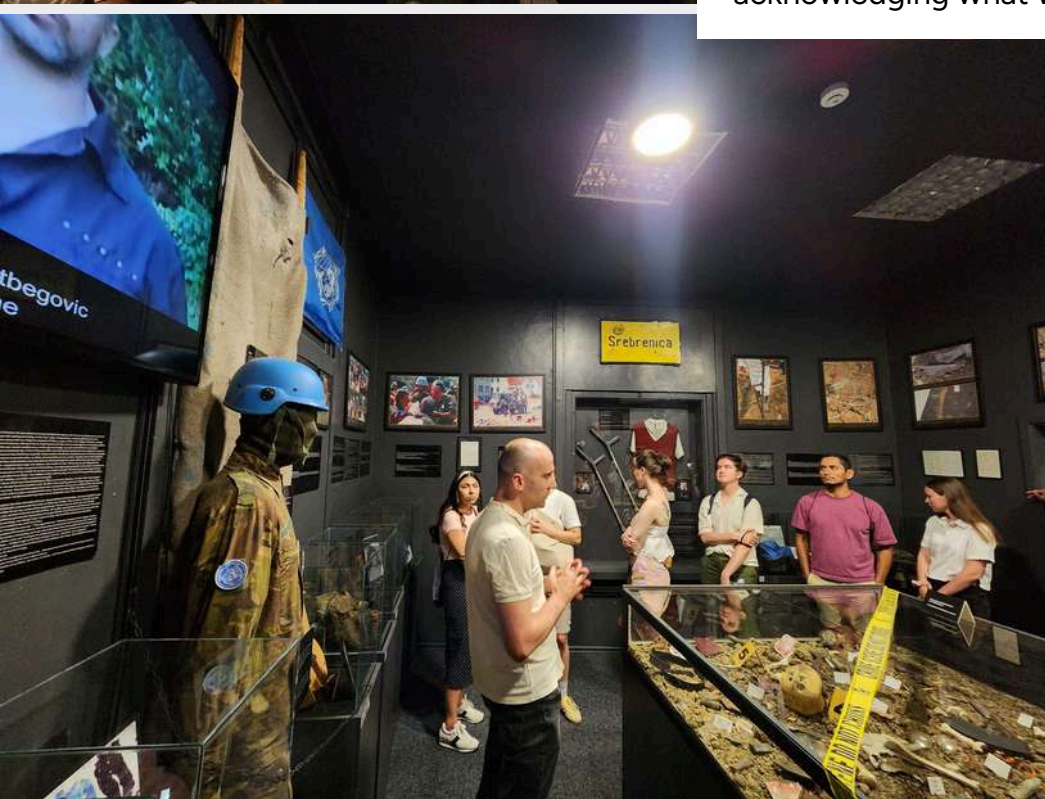
Her clear, direct communication and grounded institutional insights resonated deeply with participants, who left the session with a sharper understanding of the systemic hurdles—and moral responsibilities—embedded in Bosnia's human rights landscape.





## VISIT: Museum Of Crimes Against Humanity And Genocide 1992-1995

An emotionally intense visit for our fellows as we visited the Museum of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide 1992–1995—a space that holds the weight of memory, grief, and resilience. More than just exhibits, the visit was a confrontation with the painful truths of Bosnia and Herzegovina's past. Names, objects, and testimonies told stories that demand not only remembrance, but responsibility. For many, it was a quiet moment of reckoning—a reminder that justice begins with acknowledging what was, and refusing to look away.





**July 21, 2025**

## **Session 1: “The Forgotten Children of War and the Fight for Their Recognition”**

**Speaker:** Ajna Jusić, Association “Forgotten Children of War”

**Objective:** Gender justice, invisibility, and legal advocacy in post-conflict societies

Ajna Jusić opened the day with a powerful session spotlighting one of the most marginalized groups to emerge from the Bosnian war: children born of wartime sexual violence. As a survivor and tireless advocate, Jusić offered both personal insight and systemic critique—addressing how these children, and their mothers, have been structurally ignored by the state and society.

She emphasized that these individuals face lifelong stigma, treated not as victims but as “children of the enemy.” Without legal recognition or specific protection frameworks in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they remain invisible in institutional narratives and excluded from transitional justice mechanisms.

The session also explored:

- The mental health toll of social exclusion
- Comparative cases from other post-conflict regions
- UN failures to acknowledge children born from peacekeeper abuse
- Ongoing advocacy campaigns like “One Parent’s Name” and art-based initiatives like Speaking Out

The conversation was emotionally charged yet solution-focused, with fellows asking thoughtful questions on stigma, community education, and international advocacy. It was a striking reminder of how justice delayed becomes justice denied—and how survivors are still demanding space in public memory and legal policy.



## **Session 2: Film Screening “Ordinary Heroes” & Conversation with Velma Šarić**

**Speaker:** Velma Šarić, Post-Conflict Research Center – PCRC

**Objective:** Peacebuilding through storytelling, memory work, and interethnic dialogue

This session featured the screening of *Ordinary Heroes*, a documentary chronicling stories of resistance, moral courage, and interethnic solidarity during the Bosnian war. The film was followed by an interactive discussion with producer and activist Velma Šarić, who contextualized the PCRC’s work in promoting youth engagement, memory activism, and dialogue across divides.

Velma introduced PCRC’s three main pillars:

1. Memory & Historical Remembrance – using creative media to humanize justice.
2. Srebrenica Summer School – a youth platform around genocide remembrance.
3. State of Peace Program – connecting youth across the Western Balkans.

She spoke honestly about her personal evolution—moving from early optimism to a more sobering view of today’s challenges, both locally and globally.

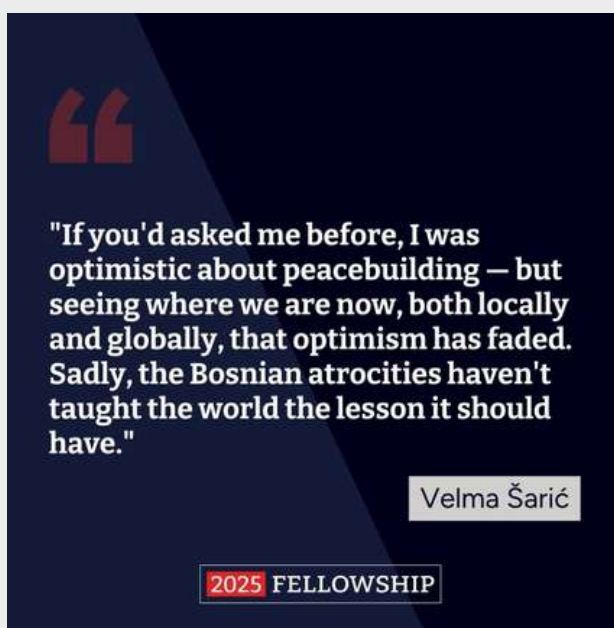


This closing workshop created an emotionally grounded and reflective space for fellows to process their personal connections to the themes explored during the day—and throughout the Fellowship thus far.

Through guided exercises and open dialogue, fellows were invited to consider:

- Intra-personal conflicts around values in divided or oppressive environments
- How political identity is shaped by experience, power, and memory
- What agency means in their respective contexts—and how silence, action, or even disengagement becomes political

The workshop encouraged vulnerability without pressure. Fellows shared candid reflections on justice, responsibility, and how they envision their own role in shaping society. The atmosphere was intimate, respectful, and deeply resonant. As the final session of the day, it provided closure not through answers, but through self-awareness and solidarity—emphasizing that structural transformation must also be rooted in personal clarity and ethical intention.



The Q&A covered a wide range: peace education, media literacy, institutional failures, and how to preserve hope without denial. Fellows engaged with care and depth, particularly around questions of how to foster lasting peace when the lessons of genocide are still being resisted or forgotten.

### **Session 3: Workshop – Reflecting on Values, Identity, and Agency**

**Facilitator:** Dragana Kurti, HIA Team

**Objective:** Personal political reflection and civic agency building





**July 22, 2025**

**Panels: “Fellow Talks”**

**Speakers:** 2025 Sarajevo Fellows

**Objective:** Strengthening Fellows’ skills in collaborative learning, critical reflection, and public presentation on pressing social issues.

The fellowship groups prepared and delivered presentations that brought together diverse perspectives on activism, memory, identity, and resistance. The panel highlighted themes ranging from housing justice, diaspora, and religion to gender, disability rights, and post-conflict recovery. Each presentation challenged dominant narratives and exposed the systems that shape and constrain our lives. What emerged were not only academic discussions or personal reflections but also deeply political acts rooted in lived experience and a shared commitment to reimagining the world.

**Group 1 (Ollie, Juan, Ezriella, and Ana)** addressed topics of belonging, identity, and political repression. Juan Flores presented “Before We Fix the World: Beneath the Urge to Save”, reflecting on silence, complicity, and the savior complex through his Action Project masa. Ollie Radović spoke on “Who Gets to Play? Sports and the Politics of Belonging”, analyzing sports as both a site of community and exclusion, with a focus on trans athletes and authoritarian regimes. Ezriella examined diasporic identity in her talk “Diasporic Experience of Global China: Chineseness Beyond Place and Language”, questioning binaries of hybridity and purity. Ana Arlet closed with “5 Years of Human Rights Erosion: What Happened in Belarus After the 2020 Protests & What Can We Do?”, providing context on repression, symbolism, and practical ways of supporting Belarusians.

**Group 2 (Medina, Eze, and Anna)** focused on religion, conflict, and human rights. Medina Zubaca analyzed patriarchal interpretations of Abrahamic scriptures and the power dynamics within them. Ezgi Gulistan Gul presented “Interdisciplinary Perspectives on (Post-)Conflict and (Post-) Genocide Geographies”, examining securitization, denialism, and contested histories in the Kurdish and Armenian contexts. Anna Arlet deepened the group’s exploration of repression through her case study of Belarus, tying current struggles to broader questions of rights and solidarity.

**Group 3 (Maja, Myrthe, and Heather)** explored urban and rural struggles alongside European integration. Maja Wróblewska presented on “Warsaw’s Housing Crisis: New Challenges”, outlining structural challenges and grassroots responses. Myrthe Raven spoke on European integration in transitional and post-conflict societies, questioning how its promises are lived and tested at the margins. Heather Storgaard emphasized the overlooked role of rural resilience in “The Transformative Power of Rural Life”, showing how heritage and innovation intersect to build sustainable futures.

**Group 4 (Kirsty, Vasilje, and Magda)** reflected on activism through personal experience and creative tools. Kirsty Leech shared insights from her Watson Fellowship, where she gathered stories of persons with disabilities and their families across continents. Vasilje reflected on youth engagement in Sarajevo in “From Experience to Reflection”, highlighting the challenges and resilience of local activism. Magda concluded with “Improv as a Tool for Change-Makers”, demonstrating how improvisation fosters adaptability, collaboration, and creativity in activism.

Together, the presentations created a space where listening became solidarity and questioning became a step toward action.



**July 23, 2025**

## STUDY TRIP TO MOSTAR

### **Session 1: Visit to the OKC Abrašević (Youth Cultural Center)**

**Speaker/Facilitator:** Boris Fillipović

**Objective:** Exploring youth activism, independent civic space, and the cultural politics of divided cities

This session introduced fellows to OKC Abrašević, one of Mostar's few genuinely independent civic spaces where young people can engage across ethnic, political, and social lines. Boris Fillipović presented the Center's origin story as one of resistance and restoration—where youth took over an abandoned space and built a dynamic platform for community-building, art, debate, and solidarity.

Key points included:

- Historical roots of resistance and leftist tradition in Mostar
- Reclamation of public space as political and cultural resistance
- Lack of local government support, highlighting civil society's structural fragility
- Symbolic erasure of Yugoslav-era street names and the imposed "ethnic neutrality" by external actors like the EU
- Programs aimed at countering youth disillusionment and brain drain

Participants were struck by the Center's autonomy and role in bridging urban and ethnic divides. It was a reminder of how culture and civic engagement intersect as quiet forms of peacebuilding in fragile democracies.

### **Session 2: Visit to the Local Democracy Agency Mostar**

**Speaker/Facilitator:** Maja Vejzović

**Objective:** Understanding institutional civic engagement, youth participation, and democratic challenges at the local level

In the afternoon, fellows met with Maja Vejzović at the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar, which plays a central role in strengthening participatory governance and rebuilding trust in public institutions.

Maja introduced the LDA's mission, focusing on:

- Deliberative democracy and the facilitation of citizens' assemblies
- Gender imbalance in civil society vs. political power
- Mostar's unique political gridlock following the 2011 City Council dissolution
- Electoral exclusion and distrust, especially among youth
- The role of legal cases like *Irma Valaia v. Bosnia and Herzegovina* in pushing for change

Despite lacking financial support from local authorities, the LDA remains deeply engaged in community outreach—particularly through electoral education and initiatives targeting youth empowerment.







**July 24, 2025**

**Session 1: Visit to the Directorate for European Integration – “Bosnia’s Future in the EU”**

**Speakers:** Darija Ramljak and Maja Rimac

**Objective:** Understanding the institutional frameworks, communication strategies, and political obstacles related to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s EU integration process

This formal visit provided fellows with a comprehensive overview of the Directorate for European Integration—the primary state-level body responsible for coordinating Bosnia and Herzegovina’s path toward EU accession. Maja Rimac offered insight into the Directorate’s internal structure, operational challenges, and outreach strategies.

Key topics included:

- The Directorate’s organizational mandate to manage communication, training, and institutional coordination
- Use of multi-platform communication tools, with an emphasis on digital media
- Public skepticism and regional variance in EU support, especially lower enthusiasm in Republika Srpska
- Conditionality fatigue and the risks of diluted reform, especially when compared to the fast-tracked Ukrainian process
- Emphasis on political—not technical—obstacles to progress



*“In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is no technical issue; all of them are political.”*

Fellows appreciated the transparency of the session and engaged in meaningful dialogue, particularly around generational perceptions, institutional trust, and the geopolitical implications of EU enlargement.



**Session 2: Activism Through Different Lenses – Dialogue with Local Activists and Senior Fellows**

**Speakers/Moderators:** Vasilije Jovanović (Students for Change), Maida Zagorac (TRAG Foundation), Amina Imamović (Sarajevo Open Center), and Dajana Cvjetković (CPCD)

**Objective:** Exploring diverse approaches to activism in BiH through personal narratives, intersectionality, and resilience strategies

In a vibrant and emotionally resonant panel, four distinguished activists shared their personal pathways into activism, reflecting on how identity, trauma, and values shape their work in feminist, queer, youth, and institutional spaces.

Key themes discussed:

- Personal alignment between values and activism as a safeguard against burnout
- Feminism and queer joy as political foundations and tools for resistance



- Activism as both emotional and political labor, demanding ongoing resilience
- Community care and trust circles as protection against isolation
- Tensions between economic development and ethical accountability, particularly in extractive industries
- Everyday acts of courage framed as meaningful resistance in stagnant political systems

Quote from Amina Imamović:

"If you face injustice, find a way to react—otherwise, the energy trapped inside will consume you."

The session emphasized that activism is not just strategic—it is deeply embodied, rooted in storytelling, care, and courage. Fellows responded with vulnerability and curiosity, reflecting on their own positionalities and values.



## July 26, 2025

### **Session 1: Senior Fellow Talk: Steps after the Program and Staying Engaged in the Senior Fellow Community**

**Speakers:** Ivana Kulić and Isa Zuhrić (HIA Senior Fellows, Moderation: Zarja Marković-Kosorić, HIA National Director)

**Objective:** Introducing fellows to post-program opportunities, senior fellow network, and alumni support structures

The day opened with an engaging session dedicated to exploring what lies ahead for fellows as part of the global Humanity in Action community. Speakers emphasized the value of staying connected—not just professionally, but also personally—with a diverse international network of activists, scholars, and changemakers.

Key messages included:

- Examples of impactful past projects by Senior Fellows across different countries and disciplines
- Ivana's and Isa's motivating reflection on building long-term relationships within the HIA ecosystem
- Zarja's briefing on communication channels, ongoing opportunities, and expectations for follow-up
- Clarification on programming coordination between local branches and the central HIA office

Participants were encouraged to see themselves not just as "graduates" of a program, but as lifelong members of a vibrant activist community.



## **Sessions 2 & 3: Action Week Kick-Off: Designing and Finalizing Follow-Up Projects – Group Work and Peer Exchange**

**Facilitators:** HIA BiH Team with HIA Senior Fellow Mentors Maida Zagorac, Kerim odžić, and Nedim Hadrović

**Objective:** Supporting the development and refinement of fellows' NED Action Week projects

The final sessions of the Fellowship shifted into collaborative, hands-on project design. Fellows broke into smaller working groups to further develop the civic initiatives they had been ideating throughout the program.

Key components of the sessions:

- Clarification of timeline, reporting formats, and mentorship availability
- Exchange of feedback between peers and facilitators
- Encouragement to focus on sustainability, target audience, and visibility
- Identification of key challenges: from institutional support to local adaptation

The projects explored ranged across themes such as migration support tools, civic education through gamification, poster exhibitions on propaganda, and localized knowledge-sharing for marginalized communities.

The tone of the sessions was constructive and energizing, with fellows showing commitment to turning ideas into action. Discussions reflected both ambition and realism—balancing creativity with feasibility.







## **A Day in the Nature**

### **Visiting Vrelo Bosne (The Spring of river Bosna)**

A reflective walk to Vrelo Bosne in Ilidža offered the 2025 Sarajevo Fellows a moment to pause and take in the journey we've shared—knowledge gained, emotions experienced, and lessons learned. Surrounded by nature, it was also a meaningful time to connect more deeply with one another.





# NED Action Week

## WHAT IS A CIVIC CAMPAIGN?

The Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship in Sarajevo is not only an educational experience, but it also allows fellows to engage in a new activism component, which is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. Their joint work and collaboration resulted in both the creation and implementation of three separate civic campaigns.

**The civic campaign is an outreach initiative inspired by the Humanity in Action Action Project, aimed at strengthening democratic values and promoting individual civic engagement and social responsibility. It is an initiative designed to raise awareness about a particular democracy- or human rights-related issue in the community, or to address specific social or civic barriers that fellows choose to focus on through their work.**

With the help and guidance of assigned mentors, the Fellows worked in three groups and designed their own small projects with three pre-set topics, with seed-money budget at their disposal to provide financial support for the activities they implemented. Throughout this process, the Fellows communicated with each other, their respective mentors, and Humanity in Action Staff.

## AIMS AND INTENDED GOALS OF THE CIVIC CAMPAIGNS

There are three goals that Humanity in Action seeks to accomplish through this form of engagement:

- **Individual Impact** — Humanity in Action firmly stands behind the idea that the skills and self-knowledge Fellows gain through conceiving and executing a successful campaign will be an essential part of your Humanity

in Action education—as well as their development as leaders and innovators in the field of human rights, or in any discipline they choose to pursue. It is our hope that this engagement will help move their Humanity in Action experience from one of educational inquiry to action.

- **Public Impact** — It is Humanity in Action's mission to prepare young leaders to make a public impact in the field of human and minority rights and to reach out to those whose rights are threatened. The civic campaign you participate in will represent a small, yet meaningful demonstration of our Fellows' capacity to engage in this work.
- **Networking** — The Fellows' participation in the campaigns encourages the creation of a horizontal connection leading to the forming of potential teams who will implement their Action Projects together after the Fellowship. Please note that the Fellows' participation in the implementation of this civic campaign is not a substitute for their Action Project, but can serve as a basis for acquiring project planning skills they can utilize when completing their own post-Fellowship project, as well as inspiration for their own AP initiative. Upon completion of the program, the Fellows will also have the opportunity to apply for Humanity in Action's annual grants for Action Projects, where they can use the experience and knowledge as a basis for their future proposals.



## **A MIGRANTS' MANUAL FOR BIH AND THE EU**

*Medina Zubača, Ollie Radovic, Heather Storgaard, and Maja Wróblewska;  
Mentored by Senior Fellow Kerim Hodžić*

The Fellows were inspired by a pressing reality: people on the move in Bosnia and Herzegovina often live in difficult conditions with very limited access to basic services. Many are refugees, asylum seekers, or migrants trying to reach the European Union, and they face countless obstacles along the way. Most importantly, many do not know what rights they have or how to access them.

In response, the Fellows created ***A Migrants' Manual for BiH and the EU, the first publication of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina***. The manual serves as a practical toolkit that provides migrants with essential information: the first steps to take after arrival, their social rights, and the organizations they can turn to for support. To maximize accessibility, the manual was produced in both printed form and as a free online PDF accessible via QR code.

Working in consultation with the local **NGO Kompas**, the Fellows discovered that the realities migrants face in BiH often differ from the rights guaranteed in law. For that reason, the manual places special emphasis on direct contacts with NGOs and community organizations that can provide hands-on assistance.

At the promotional event for the project, the Fellows presented the manual to the Sarajevo community, where it was met with strong interest and positive feedback. Journalists, local activists, and other Fellows in the audience recognized its importance, and several individuals and organizations reached out afterwards with inquiries about how they could access, share, and help disseminate the manual. These responses confirmed the need for such a resource and encouraged the Fellows to continue developing the project beyond Action Week.

Looking forward, part of the group is planning to expand the manual through two key improvements:

1. Translation – The manual will be translated into Arabic, Farsi, and French, some of the most widely spoken languages among people on the move in BiH. These translations will make the guide significantly more useful and accessible to its intended audience.
2. Visual Redesign – The manual will also be redesigned to be more visually appealing and user-friendly, with clearer navigation and formatting. This will help ensure the information remains easy to read, even in difficult or mobile conditions.

The Fellows hope that with these next steps, the manual can reach a broader audience and serve as a long-term resource for migrants and refugees in BiH. Their work is a reminder of how a small but committed team can transform an idea into a practical tool, one that combines creativity, research, and empathy to support some of the most vulnerable members of society.





## **PAST AND PRESENT: PROPAGANDA IN TRANSITION**

*Myrthe Raven, Vasilije Jovanović, Ezgi Gülistan Gül, Anna Arlet, and Ezriella Tang; Mentored by Senior Fellow Maida Zagorac*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Past and Present: Propaganda in Transition is a curated exhibition project exploring the evolution of propaganda in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the socialist period to the contemporary era. The idea originated from our shared interest in how visual language and design have been used to persuade, mobilise, and manipulate public perception across different historical periods.

Recognizing the power of images in shaping collective memory and identity, our project aimed to compare propaganda techniques across four distinct periods: the Socialist Yugoslav era, the wartime years of the 1990s, the post-war transition period, and the present. This theme remains highly relevant today, as contemporary societies continue to grapple with the influence of visual media and political messaging on public opinion. Each group member curated a section of the exhibition, selecting and analyzing posters and artworks that reflected key themes such as national unity, war trauma, feminist resistance, and contemporary political criticism.

The main activity was the preparation and installation of a visual exhibition supported by an accompanying digital guide and educational materials. The exhibition featured 14 carefully chosen visual pieces and was presented at the Serbian local cultural center, with an opening event.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The goal of our project Past and Present: Propaganda in Transition was to raise awareness about the power and evolution of propaganda in Bosnia and Herzegovina by examining visual materials from different historical periods. Through the lens of design, our aim was to highlight how imagery and symbols have been used to influence emotions, shape public perception, and support political agendas. By curating an exhibition and creating supporting educational materials, we sought to promote critical visual literacy among our audience, particularly among young people.

These objectives were achieved by organizing a multi-part exhibition, designing a digital guide, and hosting a public launch event with community engagement. Each section of the exhibition focused on a different theme or period, allowing visitors to observe the visual and ideological shifts in propaganda over time. Accompanying descriptions helped provide context and deeper understanding, supporting our mission of fostering critical reflection and civic dialogue.

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

The implementation of project followed several clearly structured phases. It began with initial planning and role division, where all five group members came together to define the core concept and thematic direction of the exhibition. During the Action week, they met regularly in co-working sessions to decide on the overall structure of the exhibition and to assign curatorial responsibilities. Each member was entrusted with a specific historical period or theme, ensuring both diversity of content and balanced group contribution.





Each curator researched propaganda from a specific period or theme:

- Anna Arlet: Socialist Yugoslavia (1945–1980s)
- Myrthe Raven: Wartime propaganda (1992–1995)
- Vasilije Jovanović & Ezriella Tang: Postwar to contemporary messages
- Ezgi Gülistan Gül: Representation of women in propaganda

## EVALUATION

The implementation was successful in meeting its core objectives and reaching a wide audience. The exhibition with the launch event drew around 60 participants from various backgrounds including students, educators, artists, and civil society representatives. Feedback collected through comment cards and informal conversations was overwhelmingly positive. Many visitors expressed appreciation for the visual quality of the exhibition, the clarity of explanations, and the thought-provoking nature of the topic.

The project also demonstrated success in fostering public dialogue, encouraging critical reflection on media and design, and making historical material accessible in an engaging way. Visitors noted that the exhibition helped them see propaganda in a new light; not only as something from the past but as something still present in today's political and cultural messaging. Although the project concluded with the exhibition and does not continue in a formal way, the conversations it sparked among visitors showed that its impact reached beyond the event itself, leaving participants more aware and reflective about the role of propaganda today.

Through this process, the group learned valuable skills from curatorial planning and visual storytelling to public speaking and collaborative problem-solving. More importantly, they gained a deeper understanding of the political power of design and the lasting impact of images on collective memory. The project encouraged both us and our visitors to reflect on the mechanisms of persuasion and the role of visual media in shaping public discourse. They believe it made a meaningful contribution to cultural education in the community.





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## **“WHAT DO YOU NEVER SAY ALOUD?”: VOCALIZING THE UNSAID AS A MEANS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, EMPOWERMENT, AND CONNECTION**

*Magdalena Pieńkowska, Ana Paula Munguia, Juan Lopez Flores, and Kirsty Leech; Mentored by Senior Fellow Nedim Hadrović*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The team created a symbolic and participatory experience around unsaid truths in a region shaped by conflict, division, and intergenerational trauma. The project is rooted in the understanding that open personal and interpersonal dialogue is a key tenet in fostering successful civic engagement. For community members to be willing to share with one another, as necessary in a robust civic society, they must first be open with themselves.

Through fostering a safe place to share, the team hoped to further both individual and collective wellbeing of the local community in BiH through a dismantling of inherited silence. This goal was realized through a participatory public pop-art installation in Sarajevo, BiH. This project and its promotional event used written and verbal facilitation to encourage participants to share personal or political truths in a “Voicing Booth” and engage in a group conversation about honesty and community exchange. By utilizing this pop-up as a tool for civic engagement, they aimed to reach beyond the network of the politically involved in BiH to encourage discourse in the broader community.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Their three main objectives were to **foster a safe space** (via installation and event) for participants to practice radical honesty; to **encourage community building through group discussion** about the values of open discourse; and to **support the emotional and mental wellbeing** of BiH through targeting a component of transgenerational trauma. Fellows believe that the first objective was accomplished through the “Voicing Booth” component of the project, where participants shared their unsaid truths. The second objective was accomplished through the surrounding event, in which they provided both guiding questions and group facilitation on topics of civic engagement, open discourse, and community silence. The third objective was accomplished through the curated space as a whole, evidenced by the multiple testimonies of participants that they felt “safe” and “heard” within the experience.

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

The group members created a pop-up exhibit in which participants engaged both independently in a “Voicing Booth” by sharing unsaid truths and collectively by anonymously sharing those truths with others and following a flexible facilitated discussion. The event was held in Europe House, an NGO located in Downtown Sarajevo. The team welcomed nearly 50 participants, including other HiA fellows and staff, local civil servants and advocates, and general members of the public who came across the event.

In preparation for the event, they spent two days designing the experience on paper; contacting and visiting venues; designing and distributing promotional materials; purchasing supplies; and determining other logistics. The final two days were spent physically constructing the booth and surrounding environment within Europe House; authoring and printing the event’s written materials; purchasing refreshments; and hosting the event itself. Fellows undertook all of these tasks as a foursome, with the help of their mentor when available, as they believe in the benefit of group discussion and exchange of ideas in strengthening the project’s vision.

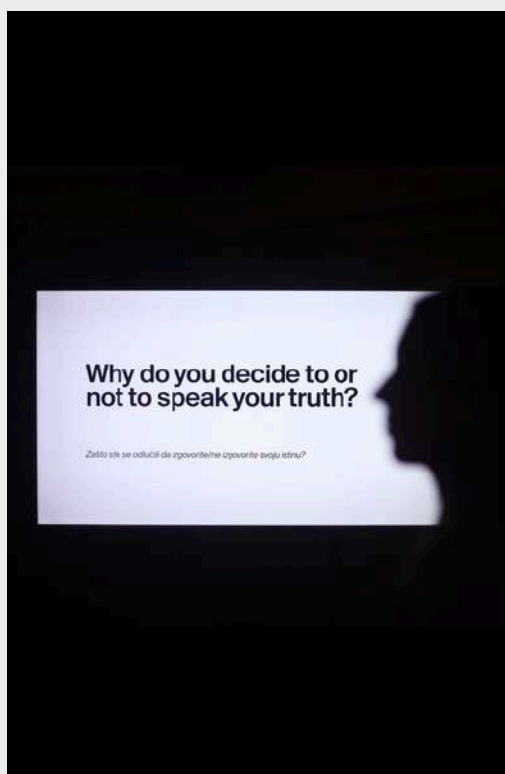


## EVALUATION

The Fellows consider their project a success based on the sizable participation and verbal feedback received. As explained above, they felt that the project objectives were accomplished for both the team members and participants.

They learned that even small actions can make a significant impact on individual and community wellbeing. The Fellows were deeply moved by the participants' willingness to share their unsaid truths and then remain to read others' or discuss the experience. Multiple participants testified that the act of sharing or the surrounding environment made them feel safe, seen, and unburdened.

The Fellows were also encouraged by the numerous comments regarding the quality of their teamwork, which combined cooperation, creativity, and passion from each member to produce a result in which each team member was uniquely embedded. Additionally, they have since sent out a written feedback form to receive input for future iterations of the project.

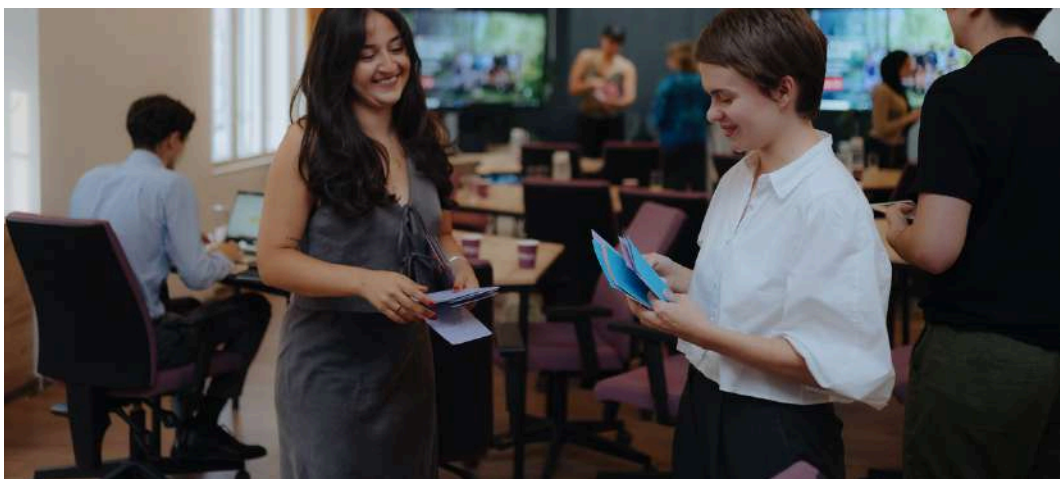






## SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing Ceremony marked a powerful conclusion to the Fellowship, bringing together Action Project presentations, personal reflections, and the formal program closing. Fellows shared their civic initiatives with creativity and passion, offered heartfelt speeches about their learning journey, and received certificates of achievement recognizing their commitment and growth. The ceremony also included the exchange of letters for the collective "Sarajevo Book," capturing the spirit of solidarity and connection built throughout the program. It was a moment filled with gratitude, joy, and emotion, celebrating both individual accomplishments and the community the Fellows created together.





Sarajevo Fellowship 2025

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# FELLOWS BLUEBOOK

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**Anna Arlet**  
(She/Her)  
Poland

**Polish psychologist and activist advocating trauma-informed education for underserved groups.**

Anna is a Polish psychologist and activist focused on the intersection of mental health and social justice. She studied clinical psychology at the University of Szczecin, where she also volunteered as a peer counsellor. Her work has supported youth, accompanied refugees, and advocated for survivors of violence. She is particularly interested in post-conflict societies and how historical trauma shapes communities across generations.

Anna's work is grounded in her lived experiences and a belief that mental health is a systemic issue requiring collective responsibility. She co-founded #NieJestemWyglądem, a body awareness initiative centered on community programming, and currently volunteers with NAMI Philadelphia, Amnesty International, and several grassroots projects. She's also a 2025 CEE Fellow, exploring the role of community care in civil society. Through her work, Anna hopes to promote proactive, preventative mental health education. She believes that emotional literacy is foundational to social resilience and, therefore, essential to any thriving democracy.



**Ezgi Gülistan Gül**  
(She/Her)  
Germany

**Ezgi Gülistan Gül is a researcher who works at the intersection of statelessness, denialism, and justice through writing, policy work, and international engagement.**

Ezgi is a German-Kurdish advocate for social justice and human rights. She recently completed her undergraduate degree in Sociology, Politics and Economics at the Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, with a semester abroad at the American University of Armenia.

With experiences in Berlin, Yerevan, and Kampala, her focus lies on statelessness, denialism, and memory politics, with an interest in their geopolitical dimensions. Her writing and research, centering marginalized communities and contested histories, have been published in Kubi online and Ciya Magazin. She has also been recognized with awards for her academic contributions. Ezgi interned with Amnesty International and the German Parliament, where she contributed to projects in foreign policy, human rights, security policy and external economic policy. She is also active in volunteer initiatives addressing educational equity and transitional justice. Deeply committed to intersectional justice, she seeks to amplify silenced narratives and contribute to change in policy and public discourse.



**Vasilije Jovanović**  
(He/Him)  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

**Vasilije Jovanović believes in the power of dialogue and spends his time trying to build bridges between people, ideas, and worlds that don't always speak the same language.**

Vasilije Jovanović is a psychology graduate, community organiser, and storyteller born and raised in Sarajevo. With a deep commitment to dialogue, mutual understanding, and peace building, he has worked on projects fostering inter religious and interethnic cooperation among youth. He holds a BA in Psychology and is currently pursuing a master's degree at the University of Sarajevo. Vasilije's work spans from psychological research and virtual assistance to public speaking and youth leadership. As a former Peace Ambassador and speaker at the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he brings a unique blend of communication skills, cultural sensitivity, and critical thinking to his work.

His background in a multigenerational spiritual family and his active involvement in youth councils, arts, and community life reflect his belief that human connection and storytelling are powerful tools for healing, learning, and change.

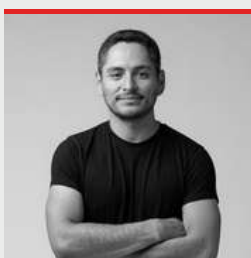




**Kirsty Leech**  
*(She/Her)*  
United States

Kirsty Leech is a British-American social justice advocate and aspiring public interest lawyer. Her passions lie at utilizing the law and policy to further intersectional and transnational equity.

Kirsty Leech is a British-American social justice advocate and aspiring public interest lawyer. She graduated magna cum laude from Rice University with a double-major in Political Science and Sociology, and is an incoming AnBryce Scholar at New York University School of Law. Her passions lie at the intersection of institutions and identities, through understanding how laws, policies, and governance impact historically under-resourced communities, and then by utilizing those avenues to forge systemic change. She has experience working in local, state, national, and international non-profits on both civil rights and human rights. Her focus lies in pursuing disability justice at a domestic and international level, inspired by her family's experiences. This passion was furthered during her year-long Watson Fellowship where she conducted independent research in eight countries to better understand the experiences of families with disability and support services, learning directly from persons with disabilities, family members, and advocates.

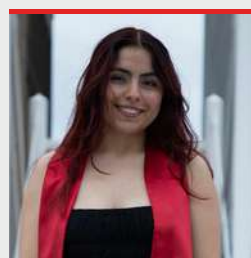


**Juan Lopez Flores**  
*(He/Him)*  
United States

Juan is a human-centered designer, community builder, and founder of Conscious Intervention, blending architecture, activism, and radical empathy to create spaces where people thrive together.

Juan José Cruz López Flores is a queer human-centered designer, architect, and community builder whose work sits at the intersection of social justice, participatory design, and systems thinking.

With a background in architecture and nearly a decade of experience bringing complex ideas to life, Juan deeply understands how the built environment shapes human relationships and reinforces—or reimagines—systems of power. He is a former union organizer who mobilized isolated home care workers across Pennsylvania and has led participatory design efforts with displaced Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon. Juan is currently completing a Master's in Human Centered Design and Engineering at the University of Washington and is the founder of Conscious Intervention, an experimental design studio that rethinks, redefines, and reimagines society's most entrenched problems. His work is rooted in going beyond surface-level solutions, diving deep into root causes, and creating transformative spaces—physical, social, and emotional—where people can truly thrive.



**Ana Paula Munguia Ayarzagoitia**  
*(She/Her)*  
United States

Ana is a recent Political Communication graduate, Mexican immigrant, and advocate advancing justice through policy, mentorship, and direct services in gender, culture, and migration.

Ana Paula Munguia is a Mexican immigrant, advocate, and community-rooted researcher who uses policy, mentorship, and community-based work to uplift underrepresented communities. She has explored the intersections of gender, culture, and power through campus presentations on sexual violence policy, civic engagement among Latine communities, and the overlooked roles of women in revolutionary movements.

Currently based in Houston, Ana works as a Bilingual Legal Advocate at the Houston Area Women's Center, supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Communication from the University of Texas at Austin and an Honors Associate Degree from Lone Star College. Ana has served as a peer mentor, student leader, and delegate at Model United Nations—where she earned national recognition—as well as in leadership roles with PLEN, student government, and the Honors College. She envisions a future where justice is multilingual, culturally grounded, and shaped by those most impacted.



**Magdalena  
Pieńkowska**  
(She/Her)  
The Netherlands

"I believe that tenderness of one's heart is the human superpower"

Magda is a seeker. Driven by the power of curiosity, she is willing to be surprised. Currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Management of International Social Challenges. Her biggest area of interest is capturing grounded humanity with the tenderness of one's heart. She works for "Czas Wolności" Charity, which fights human trafficking, where she focuses her research on this pressing issue in the context of gender and diaspora. Captivated by feminism and intersectionality, relies on knowledge and understanding derived from theoretical and participatory research. Yes- anding to upcoming challenges, she's ran a half-marathon for Amnesty International. You can find her at crossfit or improv classes.



**Ollie Radovic**  
(They/Them)  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

English teacher focused on culturally responsive curriculum and immigrant empowerment.

Ollie is a Bosnian-American educator and recent graduate of Macalester College, where they studied Linguistics and French with a focus on developing culturally responsive curricula. Currently working as an English language teacher in the U.S., Ollie has also taught in France and Turkey, bringing a global perspective to their classrooms. They are deeply passionate about refugee and immigrant rights and view literacy education as a powerful tool for empowerment and integration. Ollie's commitment to social justice began in high school as a successful policy debater, later coaching teams both domestically and internationally. They believe in the transformative power of dialogue to foster understanding, bridge divides, and build more inclusive communities.



**Myrthe Raven**  
(She/Her)  
The Netherlands

Myrthe Raven is a Dutch student of European Governance, passionate about the human side of politics and curious to explore how EU policies and history shape everyday lives.

Myrthe Raven is a Dutch graduate student in European Governance, with a background in political science and a growing fascination for the human stories behind politics. Through her studies in Brno (Czech Republic) and her internship at the Dutch Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels, she developed a strong interest in the EU's role in its neighbourhood and democratic transitions, particularly in the Western Balkans. Myrthe is curious and driven by a desire to understand how big political processes affect everyday lives. This interest also extends to how societies deal with war and its aftermath, something she has come to understand more personally through her own family's history of displacement and trauma. As a Humanity in Action Fellow, she hopes to connect with others who care about social justice and to learn from Bosnia and Herzegovina's complex and resilient society.



**Heather Storgaard**  
(She/Her)  
Denmark

Heather is a Danish-Scottish writer and researcher focusing on rural issues, particularly how heritage and culinary can be re-shaped to create vibrant communities in the countryside.

Heather Storgaard is a Scottish-Danish writer and researcher. Her work focuses on rural issues, including themes such as food and drink, culture, depopulation, heritage and agriculture. Since completing her master's in Island Studies, Heather has partaken in a Culture Moves Europe creative residency in the Westfjords of Iceland, completed an International Journalism Program fellowship in Germany, been selected to curate an exhibition in Scotland's Architecture Fringe





and named as one of Harper's Wine & Spirits '30 under 30' people to watch in the drinks sector. She is passionate about new ways to create meaningful futures in the countryside, drawing on both her educational background in Culture & Heritage as well as broad international experiences.



**Chuanchun Tang**  
**Ezriella**  
*(They/She)*  
United States

**Ezriella Tang is an interdisciplinary Chinese-American researcher, artist, and aspiring global scholar. Her work cultivates intercultural understanding through stories of diaspora and migration.**

Ezriella Tang is an interdisciplinary Chinese-American researcher, artist, and aspiring global scholar trained in anthropology, psychology, and cognitive science. She is interested in diaspora and migration, focusing on the success paradox of global China and the perpetual foreignness faced by communities of Asian ancestry in predominantly Anglo-Saxon and Francophone areas. Informed by her experience as a first-generation immigrant and community college transfer student, Tang is committed to engaged research and action-oriented pedagogy that cultivates intercultural understanding. Her research highlights representation and embraces storytelling to demystify and destigmatize biases towards historically marginalized communities. Tang's archival work in digitizing student activism seeks to re-outline the forgotten history behind collective progress. This summer, she will engage with community healthcare in Costa Rica, interning with Equipos Básicos de Atención Integral de Salud. Tang is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree at Pitzer College. Fun fact: She views photography as the contemporary way of stopping time.



**Maja Wróblewska**  
*(She/Her)*  
Poland

**Academic researcher on housing inequalities & climate policies and activist at the 'Miasto Jest Nasze' association, a Warsaw-based urban movement.**

Maja Wróblewska is a Polish researcher and activist. She studies sociology and law at the College of Interdisciplinary Individual Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Warsaw, where she previously graduated with honours in liberal arts. Her research interests lie at the intersection of urban studies with a particular focus on housing inequalities and critical policy studies. She works as an academic researcher, analysing the impact of the EU law on energy poverty in social housing in Warsaw. She has also designed research tools for NGOs and private institutions involved in the participatory design of public spaces. Maja has gained experience in running social campaigns as an active member of the 'Miasto Jest Nasze' (City is Ours) association, the biggest urban movement in Poland. She worked as a 'Miasto Jest Nasze' spokesperson during the 2024 local government campaign, which quadrupled the number of councillors from the association.



**Medina Zubača**  
*(She/Her)*  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

**Medina Zubača, a law student from Bosnia and Herzegovina, advocates for human rights, equality, and justice.**

Medina Zubača is driven by a commitment to human rights, feminism, immigrant rights, the rule of law, and fight against discrimination and racism. She has a strong interest in freedom of religion or belief, a field in which she has attended numerous workshops and seminars. With a long history in debate clubs, Medina is no stranger to well-reasoned discussions and critical thinking.

As a member of ELSA (European Law Student's Association), specifically in the Seminars and Conferences branch, Medina not only attends impactful events but also helps create platforms where meaningful conversations about social injustice can take place. She possesses a nuanced understanding of how socio-economic status, heritage, gender, and cultural differences shape individual experiences in a democratic society. She prioritizes equity and empathy in her work.





# Reach Out to Us

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Local in our  
activities,  
international in our  
collaboration, global  
in our reach.