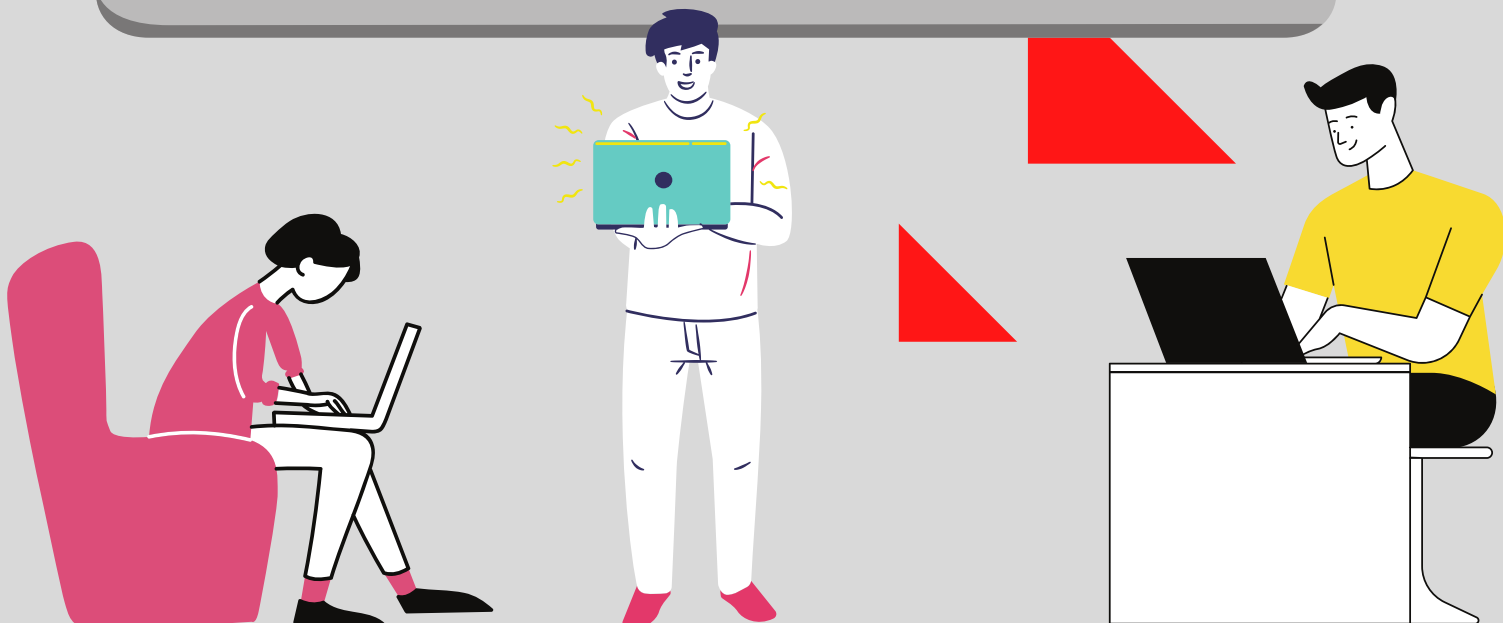


July 2020

# REFLECTION BOOK

Humanity in Action Virtual Summer  
Fellowship 2020



# About Humanity in Action

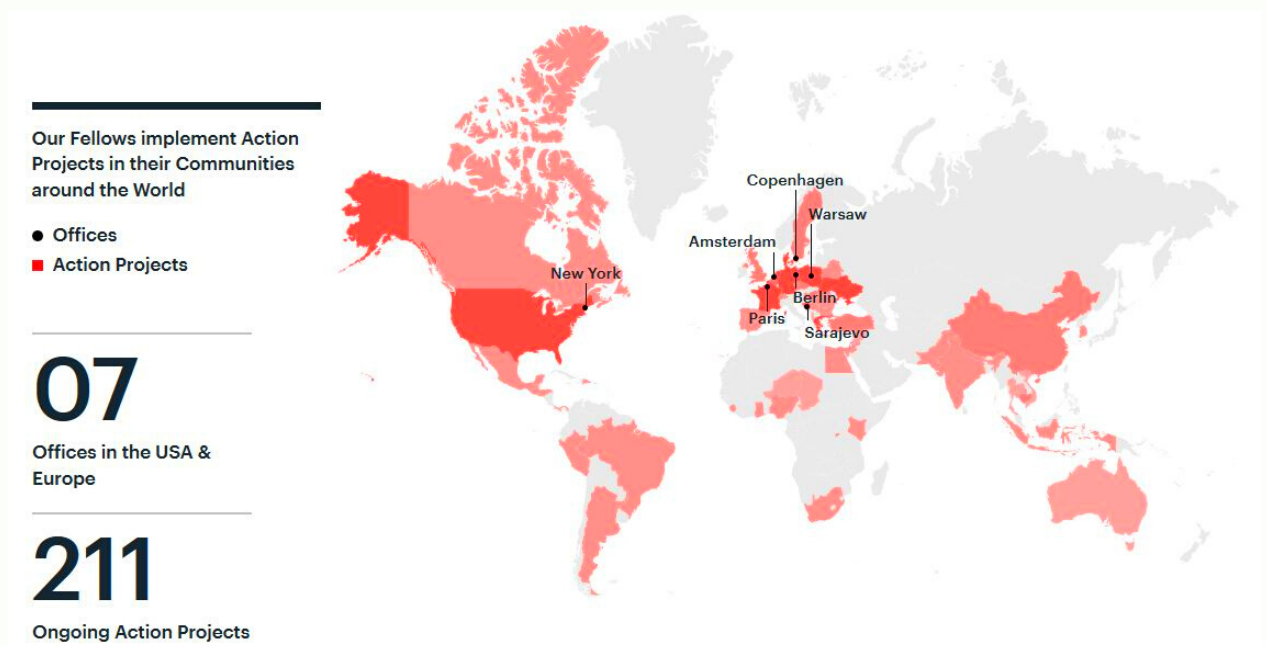
Humanity in Action is an international organization that educates, inspires and connects a network of university students and young professionals committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship in their own communities and around the world. Humanity in Action is a nonprofit, non-partisan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

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

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

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

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



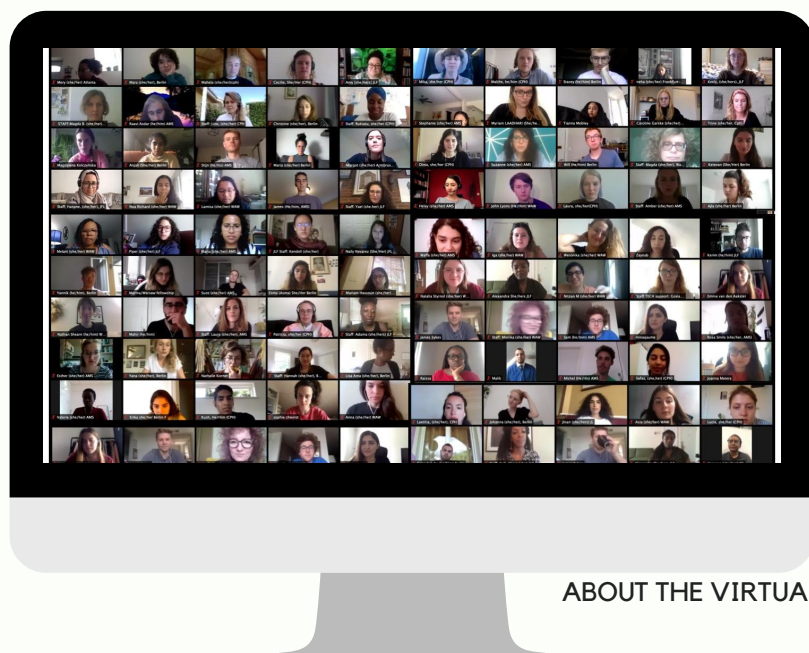
# About the Virtual Fellowship

## Fellowship Program Dates in 2020 June 3 – June 24, 2020 (virtual)

The Humanity in Action Fellowship explores issues of democracy, pluralism, human rights, and social justice. Each program is tailored to its location. Fellows are challenged to understand their host city's unique history of injustice, its present struggles to encompass groups with minoritized cultures and identities, and the future of its democratic values.

For four weeks, Fellows engage with local experts and community members, visit museums and historical sites, and engage in constant discourse with one another and program leaders.

Each program has a cohort of roughly 22 college students and recent graduates. Fellows come from many different backgrounds—academia, the arts, activism—but share common values. Humanity in Action Fellows are collaborative, passionate and open people, willing to examine and challenge their personal preconceptions and biases.



ABOUT THE VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP

# The John Lewis Fellowship, June 3 – 24, 2020

*Placing Atlanta's human rights realities today into the context of the Civil Rights Movement and current grassroots solidarities*

Unique in its long commitment to slavery, "The South" has a distinctive role in the making of America. The region also has a richly-layered cultural landscape and is home to vibrant traditions of organized resistance and progressive politics. For all its exceptionalism, the complexities of race, class, culture, and conflict in the American South reflect the very soul of US society. Atlanta, an important Southern battleground of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, is an especially poignant site for contemplating America's troubled racial past, and importantly, for setting the course toward a redemptive future.

The John Lewis Fellowship in Atlanta is one of Humanity in Action's six annual Fellowship programs. In partnership with The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Inc., Humanity in Action brings together a group of European and US university students and recent graduates for an intensive program about the civil rights movement and current human rights challenges in the US. The program honors Congressman John Lewis, an icon of the Civil Rights Movement. The John Lewis Fellowship looks at the regional experiences, cultures and institutions of the US South through a different thematic lens every year. The 2020 Fellowship will place a greater emphasis on experiences of resilience and selfreliance amidst crisis to explore the role of justice in collective survival and freedom, through this year's theme, "Just Justice." Fellows will interrogate the validity of 'crisis narratives', and explore major world historical events that have shaped the language and landscape of justice-seeking in the U.S. and Europe today. This year the John Lewis Fellowship brings together a group of 25 young people who are passionate about civic engagement, human rights, social justice, equity and democratic values. Fellows based in or from the US will learn alongside Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, and Ukraine.

# Meet the John Lewis Fellows

## *2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*



### **Kerim Hodžić**

Born and raised in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kerim Hodžić currently studies marketing management at the School of Economics and Business Sarajevo. As a member of NGOs such as the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Bosnia) which strives to heal post-conflict societies through intentional and inclusive dialogue, Kerim seeks to address and raise awareness about human rights inequalities through innovative and creative ways. Kerim organized a project known as "Paint your Culture" where he hosted workshops on human rights and utilized street art to encourage expression. In his spare time, Kerim paints and volunteers in local humanitarian non-profit organizations. After obtaining his Bachelor's degree, Kerim plans to pursue an MSc in product design and marketing management.

## *2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*'The first week of the Virtual John Lewis Fellowship was very intense as we covered the Soha and WWII, the long civil rights struggle and the foundations of racial justice. I really found an interesting lecture from Janvieve Comrie about races, anti-racism and intersectionality because it gave me a clearance on how to comprehend these frameworks. Another great lecture we had from historian professor Dr. Carol Anderson that provided us with facts and knowledge about racial politics of voter suppression which I never knew was this radical and complex. All in all I'm thankful for everything I learned and I will continue to pursue research that regards U.S. democracy and history of the U.S. south.'* - Kerim Hodžić

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Kerim Hodžić Action Project and Alumni Collaboration



# Meet the John Lewis Fellows

## *2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*



**Sonja Kosanović**

Bonja Kosanović is a senior of legal studies at the University of Banja Luka where she maintains a focus on human rights and International Law. During her time at University, Sonja attended a legal clinic allowing her to further understand the involvement and impact of the European Convention on human rights. She is also a member of the Centre for Environment where she aims to reduce the damage individuals inflict on the environment. In her spare time, Sonja enjoys writing fiction, some of which have already been published.

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

### WEEK 1

*'After my first week of being a part of 2020 John Lewis Fellowship program, I can say that I am very much excited to be a part of this group of enthusiastic people who have come together to work on making a difference!*

*25 amazing people, together with a staff of 5 people, we make a great team! Another inspiring thing is our international community where all 124 participants gather to listen to amazing lectures given by various lecturers all over the world. The topics are various, but at the same time there's a unique link between them, which is the ultimate need to respect human rights and dignity of people.*

*The program is intense and there is so much to cover, and with the current happenings in the USA, I believe the John Lewis Fellowship and its topics and goals become even more important.'*

### WEEK 2

*'Second week of John Lewis Fellowship was all about bonding, learning and exchanging opinions. It was a very dynamic week, during which we had an opportunity to hear an amazing lecture about genocide that was not only a review of the historical events that took place in world's past, but also a thought-provoking, philosophical conversation with fellows.*

*In our national program, we had the opportunity to hear from amazing Dr. Carol Anderson on the topic called "Civil Rights Then and Stolen Democracy Today", during which she talked about Unites States' voting system and how racist laws are being pushed to prevent people from voting, but also the means with which the Black community fights back, not letting anyone steal their voting rights.*

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Another lecture that particularly touched me was the one held by Dr. Durryle Brooks, during which the fellows were separated into smaller groups of five. In those groups we got to know more about each other, talk about how we feel and check-in on each other, which I particularly found helpful. It certainly helped us bond and understand each other, and find out about each other's worlds outside the Fellowship.'*

### WEEK 3

*'Third week of our Fellowship was heavy, emotional, but enlightening and useful. We all as a community had to reflect on the past weeks and if or how we had shown up for those who were more affected by the events that are taking place in the world.*

*Times are tough, but we are tougher. Let's be tough together, but let us not forget to be vulnerable together, too. I think this is the key message I am going to take away from this program. I loved meeting these people and I am coming out of this genuinely caring about them. Even though I didn't get to meet them in person, I got attached to them, and this is something I never thought was possible, which is another thing this Fellowship has taught me – nothing is impossible. I am staying true and staying dedicated to doing better in the future. I owe it to this community, and I owe it to myself.'* – Sonja Kosanović

# The Berlin Fellowship, June 3 – 24, 2020

*Placing Germany's human rights realities today into the context of its colonial history and the Holocaust.*

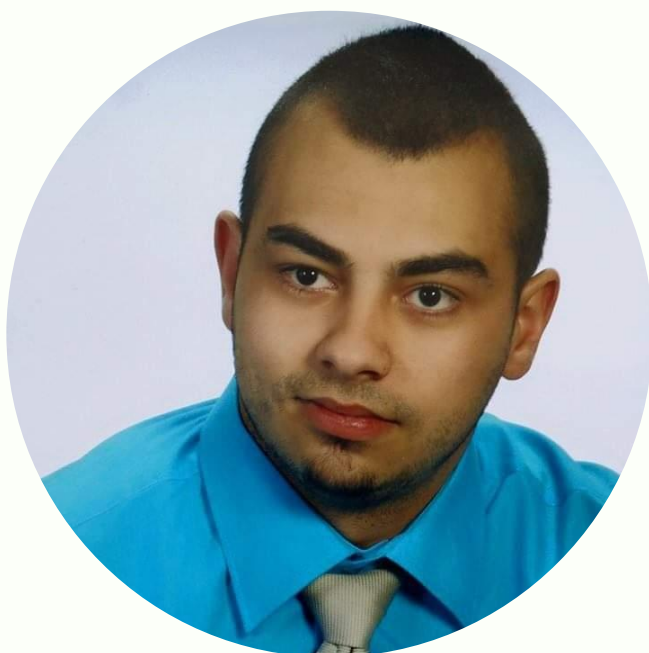
For historical lessons in catastrophic human rights violations, there are few more powerful case studies than Germany. The Berlin Fellowship looks at the country's past to better see its present.

A focal point of German colonialism, the Weimar Republic, National Socialism and the Cold War, the city does not only carry enormous historical significance. It continues to be a pivotal point for contemporary social justice struggles including the accommodation of asylum seekers fleeing more recent atrocities.

Home to a diverse range of communities in a city that never sleeps, Berlin offers a unique landscape to view the social, cultural, and historical clashes taking place across European democracies. Berlin Fellows examine contemporary questions around identity formation and societal pluralism seen through the lens of those affected.

# Meet the Berlin Fellows

## *2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*



**Emin Fafulić**

Born and raised in Kakanj, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Emin Fafulic is a Faculty of Law student. Most of his life has been spent working with NGOs on improving the quality of life and status of the Roma in his country. Emin has participated in both the School of Political Studies, run by the Council of Europe, and the World Forum for Democracy. He works as a Life Skills facilitator with Roma youth. Currently, Emin is a facilitator in the ROMACTED program from the Council of Europe as well as a regional coordinator for UNICEF's 'Immunization for every child' campaign. In the future, Emin plans to continue his studies at Central European University.

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

*'This week was exciting in many ways. I had opportunity to meet a lot of new people with common interests and to learn new things from respectable people in their fields. Looking forward to next week to learn even more and to listen more inspiring people.'* - Emin Fafulić

## Alumni Collaboration on Action Project



**The Paths of the Future, Senior Fellow Kerim Hodžić's Action Project - Emin Fafulić was one of the lecturers at the event where he shared his story of work for the improvement of Roma community in BiH and his own professional development.**

# Meet the Berlin Fellows

## *2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*



**Marija Karić**

Born and raised in Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Marija Karić is a psychology graduate at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Banja Luka. She works with the University's Laboratory of Experimental Psychology assisting in organizing laboratory activities and running their social media accounts. Her research is primarily focused on the cognitive processes specific to the bi-alphabetism in the Serbian language. Marija's interest in Developmental Psychology and her fascination with children has led her to volunteer under the project "Older brother/older sister" within the Youth Center "Hi Neighbour" for two years. She has been actively volunteering in a Children's Orphanage in Banja Luka since October of 2019. Marija plans to pursue an MSc in Clinical Psychology and eventually a PhD in Developmental Psychology.

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

*'I have attended the 2020 Virtual Humanity in Action Berlin Fellowship. The fellowship was hosted online, due to the current pandemic situation. Our program was centered around human rights and many social issues that are relevant today, but we approached these subjects through the lens of history. Given that our meetings and lectures were held online I had the opportunity not only to be a part of the Berlin Program, but I also have taken part in the International Program, with all four HiA cohorts.*

*I loved how our experience started off with very useful and effective team building and "getting to know each other" sessions. This has created strong bonds among our cohort and a sense of community that I feel is a fundamental part of the Humanity in Action. At the very beginning, dr Judith Goldstein introduced us to the brief history, core ideas, and goals of HiA which put the whole program into perspective.*

*Although I expected the program to be revolving around history, it really tackled the issues that were emerging at the moment, and it didn't neglect our need to protest and to speak about the issues at hand. I saw this throughout the whole program, we had individual sessions dedicated to human rights during the pandemic, as well as the sessions revolving the Black Lives Matter movement and the situation that arose after the death of Gorge Floyd. But these issues were never neglected and were brought up in almost every session we had during the fellowship.*

***'The way we looked at history totally changed my perspective.'***

*I feel like I learned a lot, but also it opened my horizons when it comes to history. We had the opportunity to hear about colonialism and how it affected and still affects people in different parts of the world.*

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

*How the ideas we have about people, family, gender, sexuality, communities are in a way fabricated and forcefully globalized. This gave me the motivation to question my surroundings, which is, at times hard, but also necessary for any sort of change to happen. It also showed me how history can be a useful tool in understanding today's issues, a tool for learning and improving.*

*We focused on the aspects of pluralistic societies comparing history and present. I loved how we got the chance to approach some subjects from different points of view. This wasn't just an interdisciplinary approach, we heard about the same issues thought different timelines, different cultures, and different perspectives. The collaboration of academia, activism, and art was inspiring. The plurality of perspectives was obvious when we heard the lecture Genocide as a "Moral endeavor".*

*The Berlin fellowship offered a clear overview of the social issues that dominated Germany's history, but we also had the opportunity to discuss Germany today. I found it very useful to talk about human rights in the context of Germany, even though my own surroundings and issues are very different than the ones discussed. I think that this gave me a whole lot to think about and to apply it to my own surrounding, and my points of view.*

*I am grateful to have participated in this fellowship, I am proud to be a part of this community, and I am happy I had the opportunity to get to know wonderful Berlin fellows and the staff. I am going to cherish this forever. The best part of this fellowship for me was the sense of community and belonging. I loved that I had the opportunity to learn in this manner, and I am grateful for the Fellow talks and Fellow discussions that allowed me to learn and to get to know my peers.' - Marija Karić*

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

*'The Fellowship can be emotionally and mentally draining at times. But I value every second of my time that I've given to this program. It was when I was feeling uncomfortable that I was gaining the most, I was confronted with my own lack of understanding and knowledge.'*



*'Being able to learn from someone like Konstanty Gebert was a real privilege. His explanation of genocide, the morality of it, and the circumstances in our society that allow for it to happen gave me a new perspective on things. It also made me rethink my stands on the Bosnian War. If I am to accept the positive aspects of my culture, I'm responsible to educate myself on the negative ones and to speak up about the wrongdoings. Even though it's hard to experience the burst to the "ignorance is bliss" bubble I'm thankful for the opportunity to grow and educate myself.'* - Marija Karić

# The Amsterdam Fellowship, June 3 – 24, 2020

*Placing the Netherlands human rights realities today into the context of its colonial history and the Holocaust.*

The Netherlands has a reputation for being liberal and tolerant: a model nation for the protection of minority rights. The Humanity in Action Fellowship in Amsterdam offers an opportunity to consider where that reputation is deserved and where there is deeper work to do. Fellows look at the nation's history—the Second World War and the Holocaust, as well as Dutch colonialism and slavery—to understand how democracy breaks down when minority groups are denied rights.

Amsterdam and Rotterdam are the backdrops for this exploration of Dutch histories. The Hague, as an international city of Peace and Justice, offers unique opportunities to connect national to global dynamics. Home to a very diverse population, the Netherlands is a fascinating and complex case study in identity construction in a liberal pluralistic Western democracy.

# Meet the Amsterdam Fellows

*2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*



**Amela Brčaninović**

Amela Brčaninović is from Bosnia & Herzegovina and is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Sarajevo studying international relations and diplomacy. Before starting her BA, Amela lived and worked in the United States, Switzerland and Germany. In addition to this, she has spent two exchange semesters in both France and Lithuania. As an activist, she focuses on issues of rural communities as well as the formal and non-formal education of youth in those communities. Additionally, Amela enjoys working on projects promoting non-formal education and youth exchanges.

## *2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*

AMELA BRČANINOVIĆ (2020 AMSTERDAM FELLOWSHIP)

>> "This week I was especially inspired by the insights on the treatment of indigenous peoples throughout the colonial and de-colonial history that Delesslin Roo George-Warren spoke about. I was absolutely amazed by his explanation of "the right to remain separate"."



# Meet the Amsterdam Fellows

*2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina*



**Đorđe Dujković**

Đorđe Dujković is from Dobož, a small city in Bosnia & Herzegovina. There he finished his primary and secondary schooling as Valedictorian before venturing to Banja Luka for his BA at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Banja Luka. Đorđe is a proud member of Rotary Club Dobož, American Councils for International Education Bosnia and Herzegovina and many other associations working on bettering the everyday life of both children and students. Đorđe is also a participant in the Humanity in Action BOLD Action: Building Impact Locally project and is currently working in a group on the implementation of their civic campaign.

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

### **WEEK 1**

*'The first week we spent getting to know each other by learning about the Fellowship and setting some basic rules of conduct, but also by introducing ourselves to the other Fellows and answering other fellows' questions.'*

### **WEEK 2**

*'The second week was pretty interesting, of course, due to the amazing speakers we had a chance to listen to. This week also held a little Assignment called "Hidden Hero", in which we had to, paired with our Fellow Buddy, write an article about a person we think had an impact of some sort during the WWII but he/she wasn't given the recognition they have deserved.'*

### **WEEK 3**

*'The third week was astonishing, the speakers were truly inspiring and I just couldn't afford my self to miss them speaking. The second Assignment was about writing an article, in a group of 5, about certain social injustice in the world, so our article held the name "COVID-19 and the United States: Healthcare Ecosystem and Injustice.'*

### **WEEK 4**

*'The last few days were devoted to closing the Fellowship by talking about what we have experienced and sharing our views and perspectives on lectures, but also getting to new the steps after the Fellowship (Community Action Project and the Senior Fellowship Community). The last Zoom meeting was with the International cohort, and it was a pretty emotional meeting. We have spent 16 days from 3pm till 8pm together, talking and listening, exchanging opinions and getting to know each other.'*

## 2020 Fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina

*'For me, the best part of the Fellowship were the Fellow Talks. In the absence of free time during the Fellowship (IRL) when we would get to know each other, we used this part of the (online) Fellowship and talked about the certain topics (of the Fellowship) but also talked about the each other, so this way we got to know each other. I am so honored and pleased, and grateful, for getting the chance to participate in the Humanity in Action Fellowship Amsterdam 2020.*

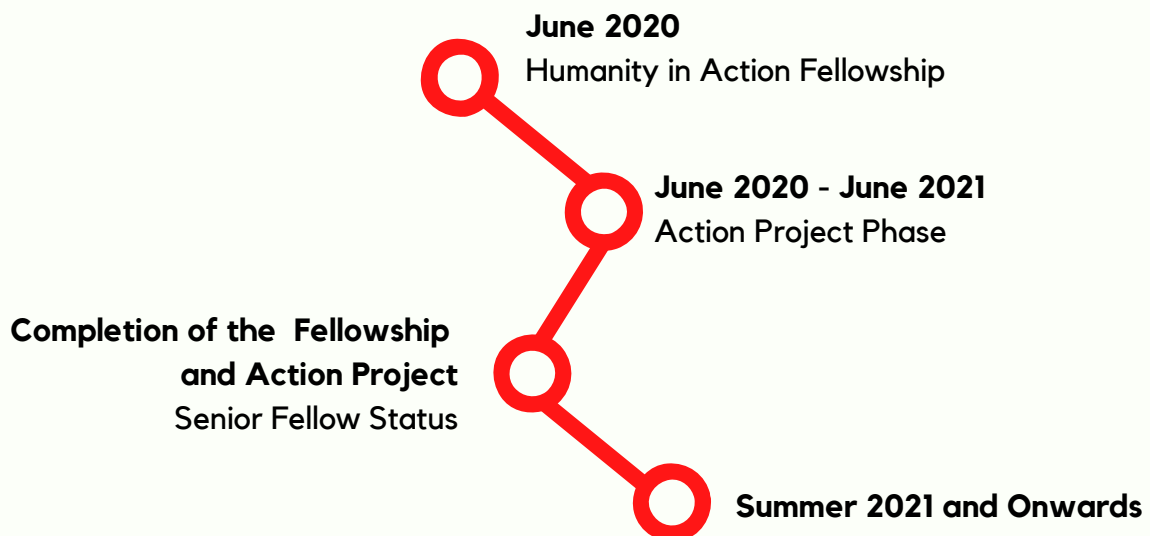
*It's hard to express the feelings and to explain the knowledge and skills gained by participating in the Fellowship, because I am discovering them even now, a month later.*

*The feelings are connected with these people you met online and you can't wait to see them in person, and the knowledge and skills are tied to the lectures and these wonderful and inspiring people who talked to us about their experiences and their lives. Every lecture and every speaker, also all of the assignments and tasks were specifically planned to teach us a new set of skills or allow us to use already learned skills. That's why I was amazed by the organization of the whole Fellowship.' - Đorđe Dujković*

# Fellowship future engagement

## *A life-long engagement*

The Fellowship may only last for a year, but engagement with Humanity in Action lasts much longer. The Fellowship serves as an entryway into a global network of people dedicated to advancing human rights, pluralism and active citizenship around the world. There are many ways to engage in the Humanity in Action Network. The diagram below shows each Fellows' progression through Humanity in Action, starting with the on-site Fellowship, the planning and execution of the Action Project, and the Senior Fellow opportunities available to them afterwards.



After successful invitation to the Senior Fellow network, Fellows have access to Humanity in Action Study and Community Opportunities including:

***Conferences, Rotating Professional Fellowships, Study Trips, Senior Fellow Grants Competition, Webinars, Retreats and Workshops***

[www.humanityinaction.org](http://www.humanityinaction.org)