



Global Youth Connect

Bosnia Program Report 2011



Report created and edited by Program Assistant Tyler Branscome. Articles written and photos provided by the GYC Bosnia 2011 Documentation Team.

Introduction

Twenty-two days. Two Staff. Seventeen participants. When looking at the numbers, some would say that not much could be achieved in a place like Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country that has struggled through four years of violent conflict and genocide from 1992-1995 and over a decade of slow moving post-conflict transformation thereafter. What could a delegation under such circumstances do to make a difference in Bosnia and Herzegovina? Here are a few outstanding examples of our success:

Delegation Schedule

June 24-29	Peacebuilding workshop and volunteering with the Center for Peacebuilding, Sanski Most
June 30-July 2	Site visits and meetings, Banja Luka
July 3-9, July 12-13	Site visits and meetings, Sarajevo
July 10-11	16 th Anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide

- Participated in dialogue with leaders of both local NGO's and national and international organizations in Banja Luka and Sarajevo; recorded their views and reported on them. Notably, two Bosnian participants, Nahla and Ehlimana, joined the delegation for all of these meetings and their perspectives were incredibly meaningful to the international delegates and the organizations.
- Volunteered at a youth center outside of Sanski Most.
- Accompanied doctors on their field visits at Krajina Tear, a women's organization providing medical and group support for women survivors of the Bosnian War.
- Painted the interior walls and did gardening around the outside of the Center for Peacebuilding, an NGO in Sanski Most.

Through this report, we hope to inform, story-tell, document, and most importantly, inspire.

What is Global Youth Connect?

Global Youth Connect is a 501 (c) 3 organization founded in 1999 by international youth leaders supported by key human rights advocates and scholars.

Over the past decade, GYC has organized 26 human rights training programs serving more than 625 young people around the world, including youth leaders from 15 different countries and has ambitious plans to deepen and expand this work. For more information, please visit our website: www.globalyouthconnect.org

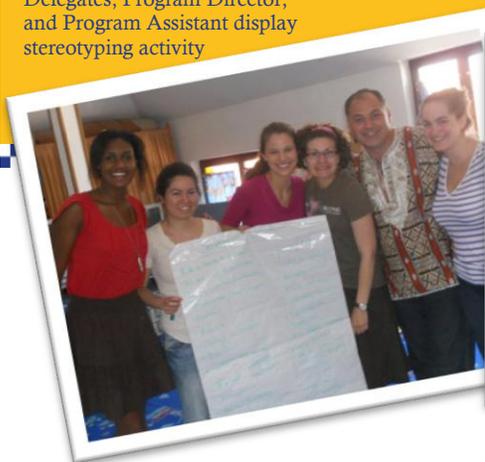


June 24-29: Sanski Most

Hosted by the Center for Peacebuilding

Delegates, Program Director, and Program Assistant display stereotyping activity

Teamwork activity during peacebuilding workshop



Hrustovo Cemetery



After arriving in Sarajevo on June 22, the delegation gathered at the American Corner in downtown Sarajevo for a daylong Orientation on the 23rd. The activities for the day ranged from the setting of group ground rules (created organically by the group itself) to an educational overview of the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On June 24th, the delegation's journey began. Following a brief visit in Travnik and Jajce, two towns in central Bosnia, the group arrived in Sanski Most. The delegation immediately began a

weeklong peacebuilding workshop, led by Program Director Miki Jacević and Center for Peacebuilding Director Vahidin Omanović. Some of the topics covered in the workshop included identity, stereotypes, transitional justice, and reconciliation.

The delegation visited multiple sites, including an identification center for exhumed bodies from the mass graves in the Northwest region of Bosnia and Vahidin's hometown of Hrustovo, where the

group partook in a group dinner and visited the town's cemetery from the War and a beautiful cave. For the last few days in Sanski Most, the delegation broke up into three groups and volunteered with three local NGO's in the Sanski Most area: The Center for Peacebuilding, Krajina Tear, and a youth center. By the time it came to leave Sanski Most, the town, its people, and the memories shared had filled the delegation with a sense of solidarity.

Youth Center

The youth center was established in 2000 and consists of two moderately sized houses. Almost all funding for the center comes from the canton and there is very little support from abroad. The funding from the canton is meant to support about six children at a time, but nine children live in the center and they are cared for by two house-mothers who prepare meals and clean the houses. Most of the children lack adequate parental supervision at their previous homes, though we were told that a few are there because families had been broken apart by the conflict in the 1990s.

The children that we met ranged from 11- to 18-years-old. According to Mirsada, one of the house-mothers, all of the children originally came from a similar center that mainly accommodates infants and toddlers. However, the children had to move to the center in Sanski Most when they turned six-years-old. The children are allowed to live at the youth center in Sanski Most until they are 18-years-old, the age when most of them finish high school. The house-mothers help them with their school work and also direct them towards resources related to vocational training opportunities.

According to Mirsada, adoptions do take place, but it is a long



Volunteers eating homemade pizza with Bosnian youth at the Youth Center

process. Most adoptions take place within Bosnia, but couples from other countries also adopt children from the centers. Mirsada said that she used to work with older women—at the Krajina Tear organization—but now she prefers working with children. She said that despite an initial adjustment period she really enjoys her job and loves the kids as her own.

Volunteers taught the children magic tricks, played card games, went on nature walks down to the river, packed a picnic, went swimming, played games of football in the hay fields, and even made pizza in one of the house's kitchens.



An Interview with a Peacebuilder

Vahidin Omanović, the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Peacebuilding (CIM in local language), is GYC Bosnia's in-country partner. Samantha Williams and Maya Swisa, two of the Center's GYC volunteers while in Sanski Most, wanted to know a little more about how Vahidin, and his Center, came to be.

How long have you been involved with CIM?

I started doing peacebuilding activities in 1998, but opened the organization in 2004. I did my personal transformation from 1998-2001, and in the meantime, I was also working with youth and religious communities in non-violent communication. After 2004, I participated in several national and international programs and developed a project of inter-Bosniak dialogue. After 3 years, Mevludin (co-founder of CIM) and I decided to start a NGO to have the legal framework to do what was needed for our community and unfortunately what is still needed today.

What does CIM do?

We have three departments; peacebuilding, youth and trauma healing. In the trauma healing department, we had a school for psychotherapy, we trained 11 therapists and provided more than 2,000 therapy sessions in the last seven years. We are now trying to find funds to establish another school to train more professionals in the field of trauma healing.

Departments for youth and peacebuilding are interconnected.

Most of the time we have beneficiaries from the department of youth that are also beneficiaries from the department of peacebuilding. We have peace camp, which is a six-day national and annual program where we train young people how to be peacebuilders. Our hope is that they will go on their own transformative process and that we will motivate and inspire them to become peacebuilders to continue the work in their communities.

We provide foreign language courses in Sanski Most and so far we have had courses in English, French, German, Spanish, Turkish and Arabic. These language classes are for all generations, but mostly younger people attend. Its been growing since we have many European service volunteers coming to volunteer at CIM. We also provided computer skills courses. Within these courses, we

are still trying to keep a focus on reconciliation. For example, in languages courses the students may read works on peacebuilding and or inspiring stories from around the world. Whatever we do, peacebuilding is involved.

We previously had dialogue for couples and women. From there, we are trying to develop "women for peace" club within CIM and we



have started several talks with female volunteers that are both public figures and well-educated. We have a youth volunteer club,

“Interview with a Peacebuilder”, continued

once a month for two class periods. International Peace Week is a week where we bring different professionals from the field to do activities relating to peacebuilding, human rights and forgiveness.

What are some challenges you have experienced?

Lack of support, financially and non-financially, from the local government because we don't fit into their ideology/corruption.

The separation of people in the whole country is our biggest struggle.

I can say personal traumas, but they are motivation as well.

What are some major successes you've seen in the past?

Most of the time we have people who arrive with a huge amount of hate and after six days/seven workshops they leave with a huge amount of understanding and love.

Vahidin and Mevludin at CIM's office



Vahidin leading the delegates through Sanski Most

How has CIM changed since it first opened?

Well we started in my house and didn't have any property including a computer. Now we have this beautiful old house. If it wasn't clear about what we wanted to achieve in the beginning, now we are. Within our work, we have learned more about the type of work we are doing and the community. For example what is good methodology for peacebuilding so peace will be more sustainable.

What do you have planned for the future?

Peace Embassy! Within the Peace Embassy, we will be able to develop more sustainable projects so we don't have to dependent on someone else because then you have to meet their goals as well. We are very clear about what our goals are and don't want to be strayed away from our goal of getting people together.

Krajina Tear (Krajiška Suza in local language)

Lesson Learned by a GYC Volunteer at Krajina Tear

Forgiveness is a lifelong process

Meda said, “Think of recovering alcoholics – every morning that they wake up and face a brand new day – each day becomes a struggle to resist, to say no and keep moving forward toward healing.” Forgiveness, for deeply seeded wounds, is a recovery journey. We cannot just wake up one morning and say that we have forgiven; that we accept what has happened, that we are now ok or at peace, and that we are moving on. For a woman who has lost her husband in war and was left with two young children, Meda certainly looks like a woman who has mastered the art of forgiveness. Few poems that she mustered up to share with the four of us delegates who were assigned to volunteer at Krajina Tear speak nothing short of forgiveness. Her poetry encourages one to embrace the enemy, dissolve their protective bubble and allow them to feel human warmth and connection. However, for Meda, every day is a struggle even though it might not seem like it.



Meda (center) in front of Krajina Tear's house with volunteers

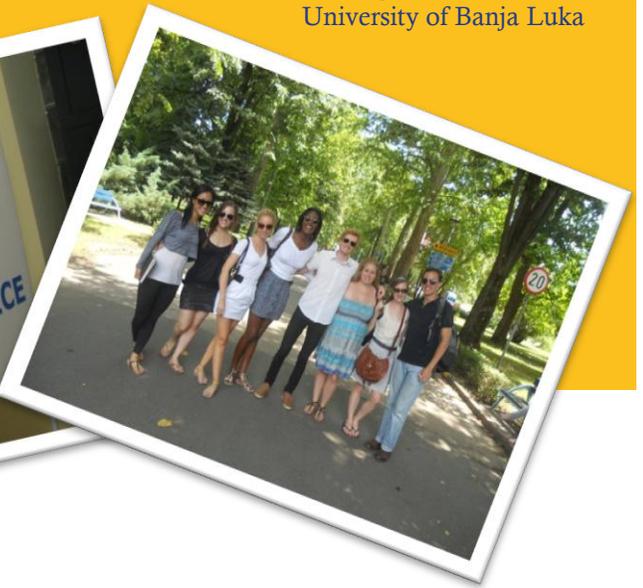
Main square, Banja Luka



OSCE Banja Luka regional office



Delegates outside the University of Banja Luka



June 30-July 2: Banja Luka

The delegation spent three days in Banja Luka, the capital city of Republika Srpska. The delegation participated in dialogue with international organizations like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the High Representative's Banja Luka office. Some of the topics discussed at these meetings included comparative relations between Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the role of the organizations in the betterment of Republika Srpska, and the current state of Republika Srpska. The delegation also met with the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly, student leaders at the University of Banja Luka, and Radmila Karlaš, an author and advocate for truth and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In these meetings, an emphasis on the role of youth in peacebuilding and reconciliation was placed on the conversation, as well as difficult questions regarding discrimination, stereotyping, and equality among youth in the region. Finally, at the end of our stay, the delegation was surprised with a visit from Vahidin, Mevludin, and Paula Greene, the Director of the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding. The delegation left Banja Luka with a better sense of the current state of Republika Srpska and what NGO's in the city and entity are doing to advocate for peace.



GYC delegation visits the Helsinki Citizens Assembly



GYC Delegation with Radmila Karlaš

Student leaders at the University of Banja Luka



July 3-9, 12-13: Sarajevo

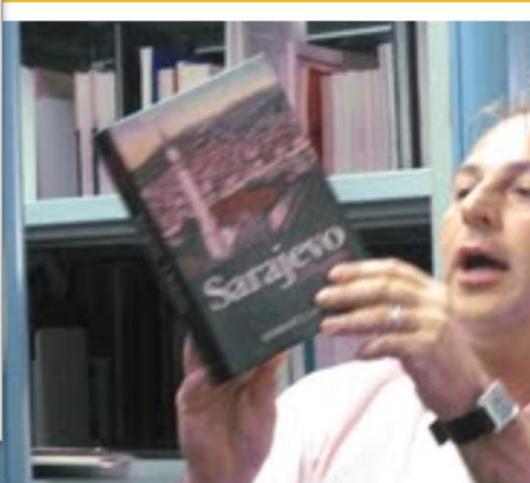


A view of downtown Sarajevo



Group dinner in the city

Program Director Miki Jacevic describing his hometown



For the final days of the journey through Bosnia and Herzegovina (aside from the trip to Srebrenica), the delegation visited Sarajevo, the capital of the country. Sarajevo, with its fascinating architectural diversity and equally awe-inspiring history, provided an ideal location for a variety of meetings with both foreign and domestic organizations that are

currently working in various focus areas of post-conflict transformation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The delegation's schedule was packed with 3-4 meetings per day, providing the delegates with countless opportunities to connect with organizations and leaders who are working tirelessly to aid Bosnia and Herzegovina in its path to accession into NATO

and the European Union. During this week, the delegation was able to get an insider's view of what organizations in Sarajevo are doing to help the country achieve a more stable infrastructure. In this section of the report, a few of the organizations that the delegation visited will be showcased.

International Labor Organization (ILO)

The delegation met with Director, and Lawyer, Ms. Lejla Tanovic at the ILO headquarters in Sarajevo. Tanovic stated that the aim of the organization was to create, "decent and productive work" opportunities for the people of BiH through social integration, protection, security, and health programs. The objectives of the organization also include creating employment, attaining rights for individuals in the work place and equalizing pay and opportunities for men and women. Tanovic explained that the ILO is unique because it is the only organization with a tripartite system; it creates social dialogue between workers, employers and the government that is beneficial for all. Although Tanovic reassured the delegation that the ILO and other organizations are collaborating to create employment and subsequently boost the economy, there are many difficulties and obstacles including: the dysfunctional government, complications caused by immigration and the informal sector of the economy.

Organizations in Sarajevo, continued

The World Bank

The World Bank has been characterized as controversial organization because of its past involvement in countries for disaster and debt relief. When the delegation met with the Director, who was in his last few months with the organization, he eloquently expressed what he thought the pros and cons were of the World Bank, its faults, and when the organization had been successful. The aim of the World Bank in Bosnia and Herzegovina is “reintegration and reconciliation” through three pillars: Security, Justice and Jobs. The director cited a major obstacle for the economic progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina: the political obstruction of economic reforms and deterioration of political dialogue with the ten cantons in the Federation and the government of Republic Srpska. Until there is political unity and the country becomes more assertive in what it wants to change as a whole, the World Bank does not foresee economic stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



International Organization for Migration (IOM): Facts and Figures

Sasha Barnes- Project Manager
“Migration for the Benefit for All”

Worldwide

- * There are currently more than 12 million migrants being assisted
- * Started in 1951; 132 members, 17 states holding observer status, offices in over 100 countries
- * Budget- \$1 billion → 95% goes directly to operations/projects
- * Promotes orderly and humane migration & management; international cooperation on migrant issues; assist in the search for practice

solutions to migration problems; provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- * Member of IOM since 2005
- * Program in-country is donor driven
- * Focus on:
 - 1- counter trafficking
 - 2- return programs
 - 3- migration health
 - 4- labour migration
- * Many migrants are coming from Serbia and/or are Roma people
- * IOM is assisting with re-integration of former soldiers
- * Bosnia and Herzegovina has seen significant improvements since Visa- Free Travel initiative
- * Currently there is no healthcare for those who are trafficked

Organizations in Sarajevo, continued

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)



The Millennium Development Goals have been streamlined with issues that have been planned to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in becoming a member of the European Union:

- 1- Democratic governance
- 2- Reducing social exclusion
- 3- Regional development (socio-economic recovery)
- 4- Local development and poverty reduction
- 5- Improving human security
- 6- Promote access to justice and witness support activities
- 7- Biodiversity conservation and energy efficiency initiatives

Overview of Meeting with UNDP

The delegation met with the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Peter Van Ruysseveldt. Mr. Van Ruysseveldt told the delegation that it takes about four to five years to approve a project and that the UNDP is currently still working on 2006 projects. Each project must have special objectives and two to three years to complete. The UNDP, just like many other organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been negatively affected by the lack of a census (the last census in Bosnia and Herzegovina was taken in 1991). This makes work for the UNDP especially difficult because it is virtually impossible to determine who is currently rich and who is poor and which groups of people need the most assistance. Throughout the presentation, Mr. Van Ruysseveldt discussed a variety of topics such as:

- 1- Measuring the effectiveness of a project
- 2- Capacity development and institutional building
- 3- Dutch efforts in compensation for the genocide in Srebrenica
- 4- Transparency of policies
- 5- Anti-corruption
- 6- Bosnia and Herzegovina as an agricultural society

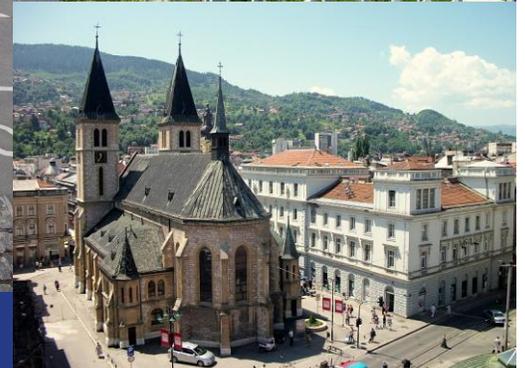
Finally, Mr. Van Ruysseveldt spent time discussing his own professional career, how the delegation can get involved with the United Nations through the Junior Professional Officer program, the UNDP, and in other ways.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



The delegation had the opportunity to meet with the UNHCR regional office of Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNHCR began its operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1991 and provided humanitarian aid and protection throughout the war. At that time there were 146 ministries all over country. There have been around 2.2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees as a result of the war. On December 14, 1995, the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed and the UNHCR was entrusted with assisting the government to implement Annex VII: Agreement on Refugees and Displaced Persons. Between 1996 and December of 2010, there have been 1,029,056 people who have returned to their homes; however, there are still 113,000 IDPs left today in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UNHCR currently provides support to 153 Asylum Seekers (from both Serbia and Kosovo), 176 recognized refugees, and four people under subsidiary protection. Until June 2004, UNHCR was still recognizing refugees. There are 6,836 refugees from Croatia in BiH and their status is complicated because their spouses are from Bosnia and Herzegovina. A particular problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina is that Roma are at risk of statelessness because, at times, there are three generations of Roma with no ID cards and/or birth certificates. In this situation, Roma are at risk of being trafficked and are not educated. UNHCR is helping them register at bureaus of unemployment. UNHCR also works with Sexually Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response: female and male victims of war, rape and victims of domestic violence.

Sarajevo: A Photo Journal





United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID opened its mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995 and has provided over \$1.5 billion towards post-war recovery and institution building since the end of the war. The agency's two main areas of focus in Bosnia and Herzegovina are democracy/governance and economic growth. The agency, which is headquartered at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, seeks to strengthen civil society, encourage youth participation in decision-making processes, and build a comprehensive culture of open dialogue and reconciliation. Examples of successful projects include the GAP Program, which improves services on the municipal level by holding mayors accountable to their constituents, and the creation of the Srebrenica Dialogue Center, which increases civic dialogue. To encourage economic growth in Bosnia, the agency emphasizes private sector development and stabilization of the country's vulnerable, open economy to meet EU requirements for accession talks. Successful projects on this front include the establishment of the Civic Advocacy Partnership Project (CAP II), which emphasizes action through local organizations rather than international development firms, and the creation of Youth Banks that empower young people to raise money for their communities. It was also encouraging to hear about the agency's outreach efforts among the vulnerable youth, disabled, and Roma populations within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

United States Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Jonathan M. Moore, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, spoke with the delegates about America's diplomatic initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina and answered questions ranging from what it was like working as the desk officer for the former Yugoslavia at the State Department during the War to what requirements Bosnia and Herzegovina must meet for accession to the European Union. Moore highlighted the challenges of building a strong federal government in Bosnia and Herzegovina at a time when the Dayton Peace Agreement, which still serves as the country's constitution and provides a layout for the structure and composition of the government, prevents progress towards a sustainable peace. Jim Hagengruber, a cultural affairs officer, also spoke about the Embassy's focus on exposing Bosnian youth to American culture through events ranging from basketball games to rock concerts. In addition, both men provided a great deal of advice to the delegates about pursuing careers with the U.S. Foreign Service and fostering closer ties between Bosnia and the U.S. through higher education.

National Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina: War Crimes Chamber

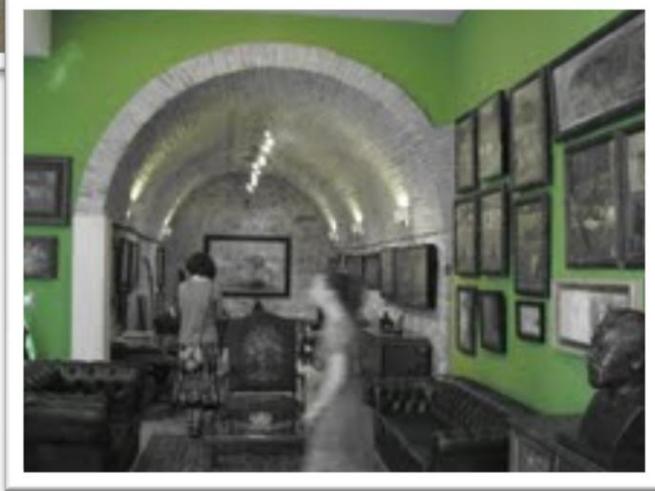
The delegates met with the National Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the only national court in the world to have a special chamber devoted exclusively to war crimes. The Office of the High Representative established the War Crimes Chamber in 2000 to manage the overflow of cases from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and provide long-term solutions to first and second instance trials that involve war crimes. Currently, the Chamber uses a hybrid system of national and international judges who oversee the criminal, administrative, and appellate divisions. Within the prosecutor's office, personnel oversee the operation of the Special Department for War Crimes, the Special Department for Organized Crime, Economic Crime, and Corruption, and the Department for General Crime and International Cooperation. Despite a lack of adequate funding, a need for more penitentiary units, and a policy that prevents trials in absentia, the chamber has a 95 percent conviction rate and approximately 10 individuals have been convicted of the crime of genocide by the Chamber since its establishment.

Bosniak Historic Institute

The delegation had the privilege of learning about the rich heritage of the Bosniak people at the Bosniak Historic Institute of Sarajevo. The institute was founded in 2001 by Adil Zulfikarpasic, a prominent Bosniak politician and intellectual. The Institute is housed in a renovated 16th century Turkish bath in the heart of the city, which provides the perfect setting for both the several-thousand-unit library and its wealth of art created by the Bosnian people throughout history.

With its massive collection of art and literature ranging from contemporary to pre-ottoman, the Institute houses several treasures of Bosnian heritage.

The Institute also conducts scientific research in collaboration with related institutions at home and abroad and also organizes cultural events, academic seminars, meetings, exhibitions and promotions. Lining the floors of the library are the works of several prominent Bosnian painters that evoke both the haunting and exuberant beauty of the country while immaculate ottoman-style rugs line the walkways. The Institute is a wealth of research material for all aspects of Bosnian studies.



Žene Ženama

Žene Ženama, which translates as “Women to Women”, is a self-organized women's group, which contributes to development of civil society through empowerment of women and women's groups. Through seminars, round tables, media campaigns, civil advocacy, and workshops, Žene Ženama advocates for respect of women's human rights in all spheres of private and social life. After a brief presentation about their work, the delegation had a question & answer session with Žene Ženama's founder Nuna Zvizdic, who is credited with creating civil service as it exists in Bosnia.



Nuna Zvizdic and Program
← Director Miki Jacevic

Delegates at Žene Ženama



July 10-11: Srebrenica



Srebrenica Prayer

In the Name of God
The Most Merciful,
The Most
Compassionate

We pray to Almighty
God,
May grievance become hope!
May revenge become justice!
May mothers' tears
become prayers
That Srebrenica
Never happens again
To no one and
nowhere!

Well known for his high profile exhibits including the Belgrade billboard campaign (a series of photos from the Srebrenica genocide on road side billboards) and his segment in the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. (the only non-Holocaust piece to be showcased in the museum), photographer Tarik Samarah stopped by the delegation's hotel in Sarajevo prior to the group's departure to Srebrenica to discuss the message of his work. He gave context to his photographs, sprinkling anecdotes of resilience and revealing his own sources for inspiration amidst the atrocities. Samarah shared his fear that the war did not truly end, but merely froze.

Routine violence had ceased, he explained, but the malignant, nationalist sentiments that armed the aggressors in Srebrenica that spring of '95 still remained.

Because of this, Samarah began to document not only what had happened since 1995, but also persuade our generation to actively "never forget Srebrenica" as evil can only succeed if goodness chooses passivity.



Delegate Reflections



Austin- "The experience was great overall. I had a fantastic time. I came in with high expectations and they were all met. I was really happy with how much of the country we got to see. The fieldwork was amazing. I want to go back next summer and do it all again. Aside from the really amazing skills you learn in the various workshops that we do and talking to all the representatives from the various organizations, something that I really learned how to do was listen and understand the conflict firsthand because of the people I got to talk to and the places I got to see."

Arianna- "I know a reoccurring theme for me throughout this trip has been a line that Miki has said a few times that "there are many truths and none of them are wrong." That really resonated with me and was something that I had never heard before. That was a powerful theme from day 1. Building on that, it was extremely important to learn the context of the conflict and I have really learned a lot about the Balkans and Bosnia in particular."

Camilla- "...having the combination of hands on workshops, like being at the peace center for a few days versus learning about retributive and restorative justice from a classroom setting really enabled me to take what I learned in the classroom, which I have always sort of done, and apply it to the real world. For me, I am really excited about my experience because it has also left me in a place in my life where I am asking, 'Well what do I want to do next?' I can take the next step in terms of academics, but also my personal pursuit, whether it is a career or a passion. It sort of helped get me a little bit of direction and also gave me insight into the greater world that is political science and has taught me that there are different realms of policy making, and also that implementation is really important as well as the importance of dialogue at the local level, and people at all levels need to collaborate. Without that collaboration, nothing will be successful."



Emily- "My overall experience was really good—kind of up and down. It was emotional. It was stressful, but there were really good people on the trip, which brings you up a little bit and helps you learn a lot of really important things and get to experience all different kinds of sides of the conflict and look at all different kinds of perspectives. What I am going to take away from it would be that I gained a lot of knowledge that I didn't know before having been here so many times, kind of understanding the complexity of all the issues that are going on and how it affects all the people on the ground the most. I am taking away a new perspective of what I want to do with my career and realize that I would rather work with people instead of not at all."

Tiffany- "My experience on this trip is that it has really been a growing opportunity, one where we can actually apply what we have learned and actually get real life experience rather than just reading about it in a textbook. So far the best experience would be attending Srebrenica yesterday. Being in the place and seeing the streets where everyone was separated, watching the burial of 613 people—that was really eye opening. It was such a growing experience... Also, going to UNDP and listening to our questions not only being answered but also being thrown back at us allowed us to reflect on why is this question important, what are the implications of the answers, and how would we react to it—how would we answer our own questions? Just being able to critically think and analyze a little bit better. I think those are some of the high points of the trip."

International Delegate Biographies

Andrew Dusek hails from the small town of Havre, Montana. He graduated with honors as a University Scholar from The University of Montana in May 2010. He holds degrees in journalism and political science with an option in international relations and comparative politics, as well as minors in history and international development studies. Currently, Andrew works as a researcher for the Genocide Prevention Program at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. In January 2011, he served as part of the Global Youth Connect human rights delegation to Rwanda and previously traveled to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland where he met with local journalists to discuss press freedom and conduct research on the impact of the Good Friday Agreement in January 2010. Andrew has spent years researching the ethical implications of humanitarian intervention within the context of the war in Kosovo and ways to create sustainable intercommunity relations and livelihoods in the region. He is currently awaiting his final placement as a Peace Corps volunteer and plans to pursue a graduate degree in international relations with the hope of entering a career in diplomacy. He is very interested in international human rights and particularly hopes to learn more about the rights of youth and marginalized communities in Bosnia.

Originally from Jacksonville, Alabama, **Tiffany Jolley** is the youngest of five daughters to Jim and Debra Jolley. Tiffany currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama and is studying Social Psychology and International Studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Last summer, Tiffany traveled to Uganda and Rwanda with the School for International Training to study post conflict transformation. She is currently doing research on terrorism and the relevance of the rational choice model. While in Africa, Tiffany quickly realized that she loved working in the field of conflict analysis and resolution and hopes to pursue her Masters at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. Outside of school, Tiffany is a certified open water scuba diver, enjoys road trips, and camping.

Roxolana Wynar was born and raised in Colorado, close to the beautiful Rocky Mountains. She has a BA in Political Science and International Relations and an MA in International Studies: Human Rights and Security--both from the University of Denver (DU). Roxolana has a passion for human rights and helping people, not only because she is the daughter of 2 refugees from Ukraine, but also because she has studied and learned about the tragedies that have happened in the Balkans from her courses at DU. She wants to learn more about the Balkans by applying the training and experience she gains from GYC to other countries/areas of conflict in the world. Roxolana has an open heart and passion for learning and interacting with people from all over the world. She has volunteered and worked with various non-profit organizations in Denver, CO and overseas in different countries regarding human rights, rights of women and children, refugee and migrant rights, international law and so forth. She hopes to continue her studies and work in the human rights/conflict resolution/genocide area and eventually receive her PhD. She hopes to work for the United Nations in the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She also has a strong admiration for health and medicine and may perhaps pursue some sort of degree in the medical field. Outside of school, Roxolana enjoys dancing, singing, acting, sports and outdoor activities, reading and writing, creating different kinds of art, learning how to play different kinds of musical instruments, learning languages, traveling all around the world, and making new friends. Lastly, Roxolana is very passionate and enthusiastic about her Ukrainian background and loves sharing about it as well as learning about other cultures.

Kelly Hill is a first year Master of Theological Studies student specializing in Religion and Conflict Transformation. She graduated from Hendrix College in 2008 with a B.A. in International Relations and Global Studies, and from Vanderbilt University in 2010 with a M.Ed. in International Education Policy and Management. Currently, she serves as co-leader of Partakers, a mentorship program for inmates participating in the Boston University College Behind Bars program. She also works as a research assistant at the Anna Howard Shaw Center and the Center for Practical Theology at the Boston University School of Theology. Her academic interests include multicultural and interfaith dialogue, peace education, and education in post-conflict settings. After graduating, she hopes to merge her interests in education policy and conflict transformation by developing youth education programs and educational policies in post-conflict regions.

Arianna DeFelice is originally from and currently living in New York City, New York and is a 2011 graduate of the City College of New York with a major in Political Science. During spring 2009 she studied Conflict Transformation and European Human Rights Law in Strasbourg, France through Syracuse University. Currently, she is an intern for the Director of Advocacy for the Eastern Division at the American Cancer Society. She has assisted in the passage of Bill 332: Smoke Free Parks, Beaches, and Pedestrian Plazas as well as supported lobbying efforts of New York City Council members to sustain the Colon Cancer Screening and Patient Navigation Initiative. Arianna works part-time as the Membership Assistant at Sokol New York, a not-for-profit organization committed to sharing the legacy of Czech and Slovak immigrants to the United States. Arianna has extensively traveled Europe and has traveled as far south as Chile to as far east as Turkey. At home in New York, she is involved in and enjoys the arts as a Member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and spends her free time reading and jogging.

Delegate Biographies, continued

Samantha Williams, originally from Nashville, TN, is a rising senior at Brown University majoring in International Relations. Her regional focus is the Balkans and this is her second time traveling to Bosnia; the first trip was a short period in Summer 2010. Also in the summer of 2010, Samantha spent a majority of the summer living in Freiberg, Germany studying the EU's relationships with the Western Balkans and Turkey. In addition to academic activities, Samantha is a member of the Brown Women's Swim Team and will be a writer/editor for a student-created journal, Brown Human Rights Report.

Maya Swisa is originally from Santa Fe, New Mexico but is currently living in Los Angeles. Maya is a senior at University of Southern California with a major in international relations with concentrations in the EU, Middle East, security studies, and foreign policy analysis. After her sophomore year, she decided to live in New York and take a year off of school. There, she worked at a non-profit photography gallery in the West Village. Maya is currently interning at a non-profit organization called the Bosana Foundation that seeks to help women and children living in Bosnia. Maya recently traveled to Brussels and Bruges to take a tour of the different EU institutions as well as NATO. Maya plans to study for the GREs, apply to graduate schools and international fellowships, and find a job dealing with issues of international relations on either coast. Aside from academics, Maya loves music, photography, traveling, and good food.

Michelle Lee was born in San Francisco, California but raised in southern California in a town called Arcadia, probably best known for bordering the more popular city of Pasadena. Michelle recently graduated from the University of Southern California with B.A. in Political Science and Sociology as well as a minor in Human Rights. Inspired by a friendship that exposed her to the Bosnian conflict, she began researching the issues surrounding the violence in the Balkans. She was a recipient of the 2011 Levan's Ethics Essay Award for her piece regarding "Ethics Across Borders: Justice, Ethics, then Peace in Post-Transitional Bosnia" at her university and plans on continuing research on post-transitional societies. Both in the classroom and outside the classroom, Michelle has learned that emotional intelligence is no backseat to logic, and that compassion and managed expectations are two necessary ingredients for diplomacy. Post GYC Bosnia, Michelle plans on working in Sydney, Australia then attending law school in the fall of 2012.

Emily Horner grew up in a small town in Northwest New Jersey called Long Valley, and graduated from high school in 2005. She attended college at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, earning a bachelors degree in International Relations and a minor in Foreign Politics. She also played four years of field hockey at Roanoke, and was voted captain and MVP during her senior year. She graduated from Roanoke in 2009, and then worked there for a year as an admissions counselor for the Mid-Atlantic region. After a year of working in the real world, Emily decided that she wanted to go back to school and pursue the career field in which she really wanted to be. She began graduate school in August 2010 at Arcadia University as a graduate candidate in the International Peace and Conflict Resolution program. Emily has also been very involved with the country and people of Bosnia for many years. Her first trip was in 2004, during the summer before her senior year of high school. To date, Emily has been to Bosnia five times, every time traveling with the New Jersey Synod, ELCA. Emily has been involved with holding day camps all over the country in the schools. She and her group have worked with the kids and their teachers in developing ways to have the children interact among each ethnic group in a productive, safe, and cooperative manner, and at the same time, have fun with it! Emily's experiences in this amazing country have created and continue to build her passion for international affairs and act as fuel for her to continue with the work she does in the Balkans.

Born and raised for part of her life in Banja Luka, Bosnia, **Elma Dzanic** and her family were forced to immigrate to Phoenix, Arizona on August 31st, 1995 in the aftermath of the Bosnian ethnic conflict. She is a 2007 graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in Justice Studies - Human Rights and Peacebuilding - and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Secondary Education at her alma mater. During the summer of 2007, Elma studied transitional justice and forgiveness at University of Cape Town, South Africa via Arizona State University study abroad program where she fell in love with the South African culture, its people and their way of envisioning a peaceful future. Upon return from South Africa, she began conceptualizing, developing and delivering student and faculty focused programs on topics of human rights, education, gender identity in her role as a senior program coordinator for the Arizona State University Intergroup Relations Center. In addition to her work at ASU, she continued working in marginalized communities providing dialogue and mediation stretching across cultural divides both in several university classrooms and community centers. Via her work with high school and college students, she developed a deep love for adolescents and in her desire to work with youth, Elma returned to South Africa in March of 2008 and 2009 as a program coordinator where she planned and facilitated a two-week study program on peace building and transitional justice for high school students. In August of 2010, her passion for youth education and her extensive background in teaching, facilitating and developing curriculum brought her to a low income/underperforming high school in Mesa, Arizona where she is currently a teacher of English Language Arts via the Teach for America program. Outside of the peace building world, Elma enjoys painting and sculpting, cooking and hosting dinner parties, and spending time with her two rescue love bug pups; Marley and Dezi.

Delegate Biographies, continued

For the majority of her childhood/youth, **Camilla Jackson** has lived in Newton, Massachusetts, which is a suburb about 8 miles from Boston. She graduated from Newton North High School in 2010 and has just completed her freshman year at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin. At Beloit, Camilla is involved in athletics (soccer and track), student government, Model UN, community service, Greek life and working as a tutor, tour guide and in the Learning Enrichment and Disabilities service center. Camilla plans to major in Political Science and History with a focus on mass atrocities, post-conflict peace building and transitional justice. She has a special interest in traveling and learning about the history and culture of countries and the dynamic between the government, international aid and the local community. In 2009, Camilla traveled to Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic where she began her studies of genocide, war and the impact on the livelihood of the individuals living in these places during times of conflict.

Karina Brennan is originally from Massachusetts and has lived in Florida for the past ten years. Karina is a senior in Political Science at Florida Atlantic University, and is also pursuing a minor in International Economics with a focus on development as well as Certificate in Peace Studies. As a student of the Peace Studies program, Karina spends time studying the roots of conflict, the international institutions that deal with the conflict, and the human side of conflict. In Spring 2010, Karina participated in the National Model United Nations simulation in New York City where she represented Haiti on the UN General Assembly First Committee to deal with issues of disarmament. Since 2007, Karina has worked part time as an assistant teacher at Claremont Montessori School with students between the ages nine and fifteen years of age. In the past two years as an assistant teacher, she has started giving lessons to the students on global topics, such as an introduction into the structure of the UN, its branches and the work it does, as well as lessons on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the issues surrounding nuclear weapons. Because of her experiences in the Peace Studies program at her university as well as her participation in the 2010 Model United Nations simulation, Karina is interested in peace-building looks forward to spending time learning about the grassroots approaches to establishing peace.

Kathryn (Katie) Lance-Parsoud is from the village of Wales in Wisconsin, but recently relocated to France. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in German with a concentration in French. During her undergraduate career, she spent two and a half years living, studying, and working in Europe - mainly in Graz, Austria and Aix-en-Provence, France. Her experiences abroad drove her to study conflict resolution. She recently completed her coursework for a Master of Arts in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at the American University in Washington, DC. During her career as a Master's candidate, she has worked for CARE International and interned at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington, DC as well as at the European Policy Center in Brussels, Belgium. Additionally, she participated in the Caux Scholars Program studying Conflict Transformation in Caux, Switzerland in summer 2010, and in summer 2011 she spent ten days studying conflict resolution in the South Caucasus in Tbilisi, Georgia. Lastly, after participating in the Global Youth Connect's Human Rights Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, she will return to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Boren Fellow from September 2011 to May 2012 teaching foreign language at the Center for Peacebuilding in Sanksi Most, Bosnia. In her free time, Katie enjoys writing, reading, listening to music, dabbling around on the piano, playing frisbee, cards and spending time outdoors.

Austin Snyder was born and raised in Berkeley, California where he attended Berkeley High, graduating in 2009. He is currently studying at Brown University in Providence, RI going into his junior year. He is concentrating in Visual Arts and History while also taking apparel construction and design classes at The Rhode Island School of Design. At Brown, he competes for both the Cross Country and Track teams. His study of History mostly focuses on modern Europe with special attention on Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. At Brown, he studied both politics of the post soviet states and ethnic conflicts in the Balkan region as well as all around the world. Austin is extremely passionate about International Human Rights particularly in times of major conflict. He has had an interest in the break-up of Yugoslavia since a young age, particularly the Bosnian War of Independence. After many years of individual research on the conflict, Global Youth Connect has provided him with the opportunity to see almost all corners of the nation, speak with a wide variety of people from all walks of life, and experience a fantastic representation of Bosnia's current post war path to peace and reconciliation. Global Youth Connect was one of the most powerful experiences of his life and he will never forget both the heart wrenching and enjoyable experiences that the trip provided.

Melody Hollifield is a 23 year old female from rural Newkirk, OK, where she graduated as high school valedictorian. She is currently a senior, attending the University of Oklahoma to obtain her Bachelors in International Studies and Associates in Non-Profit Business. She's worked for the Domestic Violence Program of North Central Oklahoma as both a resident advocate and child advocate at an emergency shelter that aided victims of domestic violence who were leaving their abusers and had no other place to go. From 2008-2009, she worked as the Great Plains Regional Outreach Coordinator for STAND, the student division of the Genocide Intervention Network, and helped college chapters in nine states with event planning, lobby training, and fundraising for civilian protection. After participating in GYC, Melody hopes to maintain a close working relationship with Krajina Tear by raising awareness and funds in the US for their vital work in Bosnia.

GYC Bosnia Staff Biographies



Miki Jacevic, GYC Bosnia Program Director, is a human rights activist and peace program specialist from Sarajevo, Bosnia Hercegovina. He is a co-founder of Global Youth Connect where he is directing Bosnia program. In addition, Miki works full-time as a deputy director at the Initiative for Inclusive Security where he oversees policy efforts to include civil society in formal and informal peace processes. Before the war in Bosnia, Miki headed the UN Youth Chapter and was president of the local committee of AIESEC, the largest student association in the world. During the war, he was involved in numerous projects to ease the suffering of youth and the elderly. In 1994, he founded and directed Collegium Bosniacum, an organization of Bosnian students in Europe. Out of that work grew the initiative, Academic Lifeline for Bosnia Hercegovina, aimed at rebuilding the country's academic institutions. In 1995, Miki headed the Vienna office of the World University Service, dealing with education issues in troubled regions. During this time, he also lived and worked in South Africa, Northern Ireland, Palestine, and Central American countries. Miki has consulted with many conflict resolution organizations, including Search for Common Ground, where he led efforts to develop child soldiers programs. He has led several delegations of international activists and conflict resolution practitioners to various post-conflict settings, including the Balkans, Northern Ireland, South Africa and Guatemala. He has served on the Board of Directors of several organizations, including the KARUNA Center for Peace building, Global Youth Action, State of the World Forum, and others. He has been honored with numerous awards, including the Fetzer Institute Fellowship, Rotary International

Scholarship, Soros Foundation Scholarship, State of the World Forum ChangeMaker award 1999, and honorary President of the Bosnian Student Union. Miki is a PhD student at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, where he received his MS in 1999. He teaches in the Conflict Transformation Across Cultures Program, (CONTACT) Summer Peace building Institute at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, and is an associate faculty member for the Trauma and Conflict Program at Prescott Collage in Arizona. He lives with his wife Eva Morales Contreras, a human rights leader from Guatemala, and their two children, in the Washington, DC area.

Vahidin Omanovic is a founder and director of the Center for Peacebuilding, a non-political, non-governmental organization based in Sanski Most, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has worked as a liaison, trainer, and project manager for the organization whose goals are peacebuilding, reconciliation and the prevention of violence. Vahidin has designed and facilitated workshops and interpersonal dialogue groups, taught non-violent communication and conflict transformation, supervised personnel, created budget and grant proposals, and trained youth camps in Macedonia, Kosova, and all across Bosnia and Herzegovina. He holds a master's degree in International and Intercultural Management from the School for International Training in Vermont and a Professional Certificate in Intercultural Peacebuilding. Vahidin is also an Imam, and he graduated from Islamic theological school with an Imam, Teacher, and Preacher Diploma in 1998. Before establishing the Center for Peacebuilding, he worked as a foreign language instructor in primary and middle schools, an administrative assistant to the Bosnian Army. During the war in Bosnia, while still in his teens, he served as a counselor, liaison, teacher and religious leader at refugee camps in Slovenia. Vahidin has given numerous presentations on Bosnia and Intercultural Conflict Transformation in numerous European countries and the United States. Vahidin is fluent in Bosnian, English, Arabic, and Slovenian, and has strong conversational skills in Spanish, Italian, Turkish, and Russian.

Tyler Branscome, GYC Bosnia 2011 Program Assistant, grew up in historic Yorktown, Virginia. Tyler is a 2011 graduate of Wellesley College with a double major in Political Science and Peace and Justice Studies and is now pursuing a Masters in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. Tyler is also currently the sole intern at the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina, an organization that advocates for Bosnian-Americans in the United States. Tyler is dedicated to the studies of conflict resolution, post-conflict transformation, and nonviolent action and communication in children and hopes to continue her work in a Masters Thesis or Internship that combines these topics through peace and nonviolence education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. GYC's 2011 Delegation to Bosnia will be Tyler's third trip to the country after having served as a delegate in the 2009 delegation to Bosnia and as a student in the School for International Training's Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans program in the Spring of 2010. While studying abroad with SIT, Tyler conducted individual research and volunteered for the Center for Peacebuilding in Sanski Most for a month and a half. She also participated in the Center for Peacebuilding's annual Peace Camp, which brings Bosnians from all ethnic backgrounds together to learn skills in nonviolent conflict resolution and discuss topics such as the Bosnian War, ethnic prejudice, and identity. Following Peace Camp, Tyler spoke at Wellesley College's annual Tanner Conference, which showcases students' experiential learning opportunities. After the Conference, Tyler's presentation was one of a select few presentations chosen to represent the Conference on iTunesU. Outside of the peace studies world, Tyler is also a musician, having participated in three choral ensembles and voice lessons while at Wellesley College.