



WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND: IN SEARCH FOR PEACE STATE OF MIND

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Context: Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Yugoslavia
- Independence 1992.
- War 1992. - 1995.
- Dayton Peace Agreement
- Post-conflict country
- Divided society
- Confronted narratives
- Common ground?



21 years after...

- ,We‘ vs. ,Them‘
 - Fear and antagonism
 - Dominance of collective identity
- Absence of negative culture of remembrance
 - Grown up post-war generations
- „the past is more important than the present and future“
 - Silence

Research:

Lost in translation

2 communities (FBiH, RS), 1 youth camp

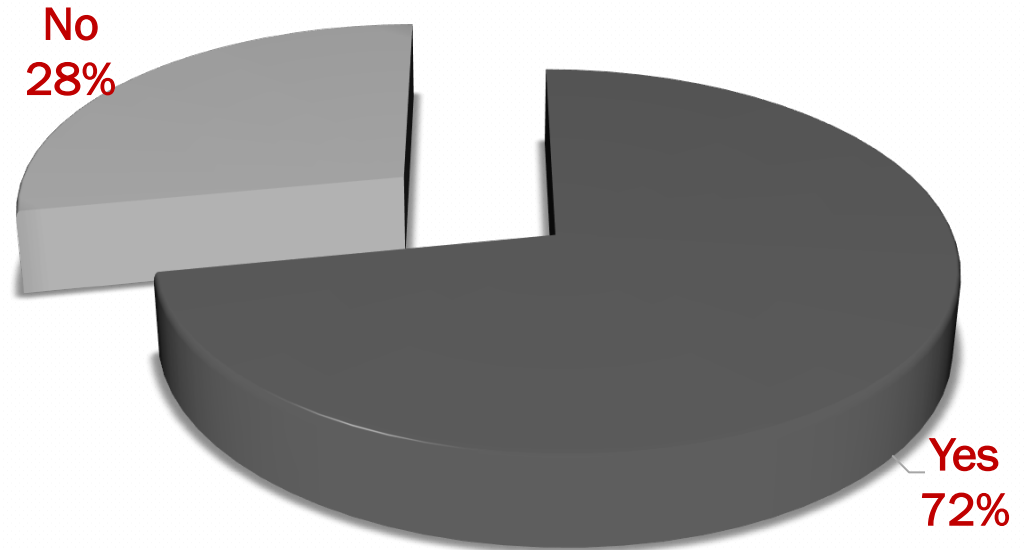
Survey, semi-structured interviews

150 young people (high school)

Research units:

- Exposure to conflict interpretation?
- What kind of information they receive, from where and how (did) they interpret them
- Are the conflicts important in their lives and how much

Do you feel that you **have to choose** between **accuracy** of the information about the conflict?



Past in our lives:

„entire generation of BiH youth born after the war is being instilled with the same values and notions that led their parents' generation into conflict: distrust, ethnic superiority over ethnic homogeneity, and discrimination“

Different (Hi)story?

How to build peace?

How to deal with two schools under one roof?

How to overcome difficult past?

How to establish dialogue?

What is reconciliation for us?



The Network for Building Peace

- Established 2010
- Over 120 organizations and schools
- Web portal www.mreza-mira.net
- Publications: Peace Calendar, Peace Newsletter, Directory of Donors
- Celebration of important dates (Women's Day, Victory Day, Peace Day, Human Rights Day)
- Example: International Human Rights Day 140 activities at 40 towns, 500 people at Parliament
- Competitions (literate, photo, art) in schools
- Joint activities: Park of Women Peacemakers



mreža za
izgradnju mira

Activity:

Srđan Aleksić Journalist Award Peace Award

- Named after war hero, (killed) Serb who helped Bosniak friend
- Award is given for professional and continuous reporting about marginalized and vulnerable groups in Bosnian society and for the development of socially responsible journalism
- Since 2011



Activist Focus: Initiative Women's Citizens for Constitutional Reform

- initiative that advocates for the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina that will ensure enlarged protection for human rights and freedom especially focusing on gender perspective
- formed by the activists and organizations from all over B&H (36 members)
- Platform of women's priorities for Constitutional reforms with amendments to the Constitution of B&H from a gender perspective
- Priorities:

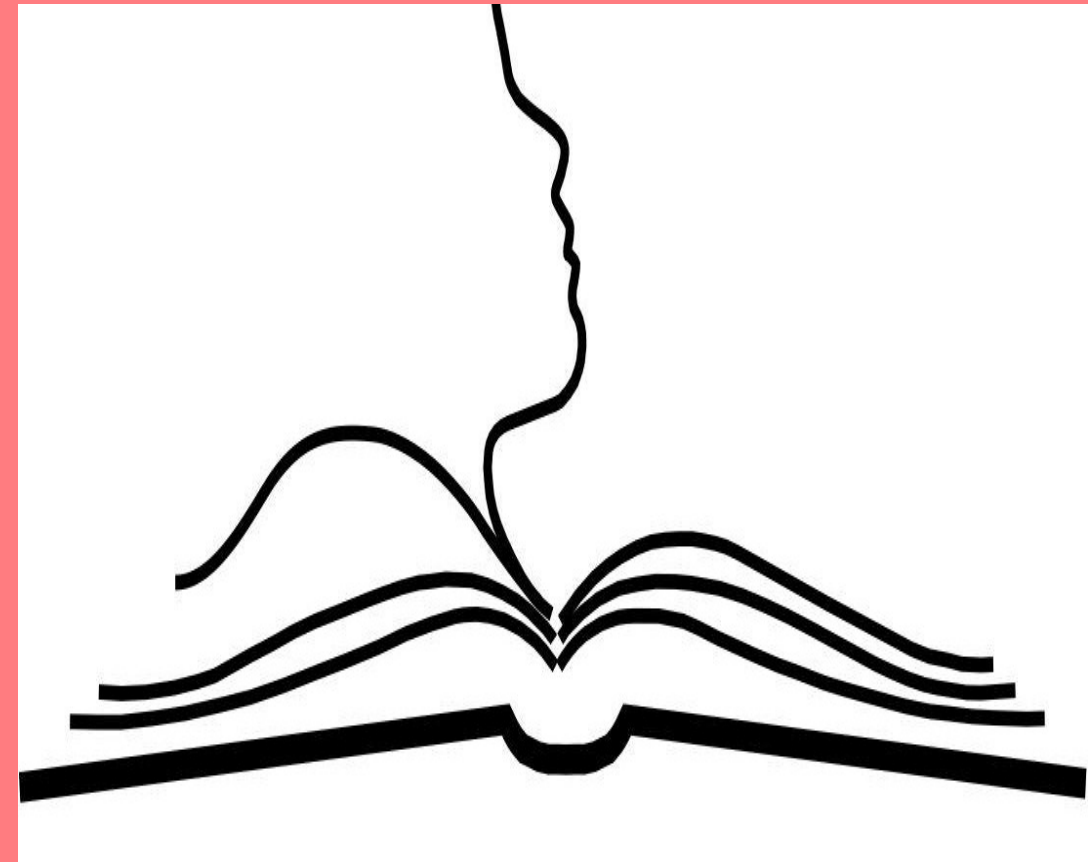
Application of gender inclusive language in the Constitution of BiH;

Introduction of affirmative action principles in the Constitution of BiH to work towards full gender equality;

Amendments to the existing catalog of fundamental rights, to include provisions with respect to common health care services, social and family care;

Affirmation of a higher level of judicial and legal protection of human rights and liberties, and

Introduction of the principle of direct democracy in the process of constitutional reform.



What we leave behind?

„nobody knows who won
because **no-one won**.

We all know who lost
because **all of us lost, and
we lost a lot**“

- Negotiate on **reconciliation**
- Provide safe **space** for CSO
- Encourage and **support** young people in activism
- Take **responsibility** for making better present and therefore future

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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