16 to 19 August, 2005 at the UNITIC Centre, Sarajevo

Convened by
Globalism Institute, RMIT University, Melbourne

Sponsored by
United Nations Development Program, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Global Reconciliation Network
Globalization Studies Network

In association with
Association of Citizens for Truth and Reconciliation (Sarajevo)
Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, University of Sarajevo / ACIPS
Community, Habitat & Finance (CHF) International / REZ (Sarajevo)
Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Canberra)
FENA Federal News Agency, (Sarajevo)
International Commission on Missing Persons (Sarajevo)
Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Missing Persons Institute (Sarajevo)
Refugee Health Research Centre (Melbourne)
Research and Documentation Centre (Sarajevo)
Society for Threatened Peoples (Göttingen/Sarajevo)
Sources of Insecurity Network (Melbourne)

Conference Logo developed from a photo taken of the domed ceiling of the Old Hamam, now incorporated into the site of the Bosniak Institute, Sarajevo
Summary

The *Pathways to Reconciliation and Global Human Rights* conference to be held in Sarajevo in August 2005 is an opportunity to bring together thinkers and practitioners to reflect upon, evaluate and advance the global human-rights agenda.

The fourth in the *Pathways to Reconciliation* series, the conference is also an opportunity to engage the specific locale of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a global context. An Australian initiative, the four-day conference (16–19 August 2005) encourages participation from a range of individuals and organizations from around the world including: academics, civil servants and activists; representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and multi-lateral bodies such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court; and members of the international media, in addition to participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region of the former Yugoslavia.

Rationale

The conference will evaluate ways of reconciling aggrieved peoples and of responding to situations of conflict around the world.

Developing and assessing processes of reconciliation has been a central concern of human-rights institutions and organizations. However, their impact and role continue to be weak in a world convulsed by warfare and terrorism. Human-rights supporters and policymakers from the Global North and South remain divided on how best to secure and prioritize fundamental human rights.

Consideration of how international institutions, the state and non-government organizations can co-ordinate to develop economic, social and political structures that favour human rights is crucial for the advancement of processes of reconciliation.

At this moment in time particularly, it is vital to empower and enable those with an experience of violence and conflict and others who have sought to move societies forward from a history of the same. The conference will provide an opportunity to draw on shared experiences and unique insights in the common pursuit of pathways to reconciliation and the attainment of global human rights.

Outcomes

*Pathways to Reconciliation and Global Human Rights, Sarajevo 2005* will generate a deeper understanding of the discourse of human rights and reconciliation, and a broader participation in the processes through which they are realised, by:

- Strengthening international processes of reconciliation.
- Reconfiguring existing models of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to suit other contexts.
- Sharing local testimony about the experience of war.
- Cultivating an international support and counselling network for survivors of violence and trauma.
- Engaging youth from situations of social conflict in reconciliatory processes and activities.
- Extending the Global Reconciliation Network.
- Publishing an anthology on globalisation, human rights and nation-states.
- Publishing a report of the proceedings and outcomes of the conference.
- Generating media engagement in the issues of human rights and reconciliation.

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1 Including the national commissions for Truth and Reconciliation (such as those conducted in Argentina, Bolivia, Chad, Chile, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, The Philippines, Serbia and Montenegro (formerly Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Uruguay and Zimbabwe), the International Criminal Court, the World Court, the European Human Rights Commission and various NGOs.
Background

Pathways to Reconciliation and Global Human Rights, Sarajevo, 2005 is being organized by the Globalism Institute, RMIT University in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP). The Globalism Institute was inaugurated in 2002. Its brief is to initiate and manage research projects involving academics, researchers and government and community-based practitioners from diverse backgrounds. These collaborative projects draw on expertise from across the university in fields such as global politics, international relations, community studies, cross-cultural communication, international education, international trade, productive diversity, and media studies. This work involves creative dialogue and exchange within the university and in the public sphere of community, governmental and non-governmental contexts.

With the support of the UNDP in BiH’s Assessing Options for Reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina program, the conference builds on the efforts of two networks of which the Globalism Institute is a member: the Global Reconciliation Network and the Globalization Studies Network. The conference and is the fourth in a series titled Pathways to Reconciliation originated by the Global Reconciliation Network (GRN).

The first conference, After September 11: The Ethical Consequences, was held at RMIT University in Melbourne (2002). This was followed by Thinking through a Collapsing World: Pathways to Reconciliation, an intensive three day workshop held in London (2003). An immediate outcome of the workshop was the formal establishment of the GRN, an active international association convened in Melbourne, Australia which is committed to initiating new projects in support of reconciliation. The third conference in the series is one such project. Organized by Ganesh Devy, Director of the Tribal Academy at Tejgadh and Professor of Humanities at the University of India, Towards Harmony: Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation was held in New Delhi in December 2004.

The Globalization Studies Network (GSN) is a worldwide association formed out of a forum held in Ottawa (2003) and carried forward by a conference in Warwick, UK, (2004). The network links programs of research, education and public policy as a means of fostering dialogue and debate about the nature, direction and possible re-direction of globalisation. The Sarajevo conference will provide a setting for substantively taking up one of the major concerns of the GSN in dialogue with a broad constituency of practitioners and scholars.

Conference Themes

Reconciliation and the Human Rights Discourse

- New Paths to Reconciliation
- The Legacy of Past Reconciliation Efforts
- Human Rights as a Discourse for Reconciliation
- Universal Human Rights vs. Cultural and Religious Rights
- The Impact of Globalization on Reconciliation and Human Rights
- Overcoming Psychological Barriers to Reconciliation
- Truth Commissions and Punishment: the Human Rights Implications
- Women and Reconciliation
- Youth and Reconciliation
- Reconciliation: Majority vs. Minority and Indigenous Rights

The Context and Strategy for Reconciliation

- Economic Development Strategies for Reconciliation
- Democratization as a Path to Reconciliation?
- Violence as a Means to Obstruct Reconciliation Efforts
- Can Humanitarian Interventions promote Reconciliation?
- Reconciliation within Divided Societies
- The Experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- The Experience of Afghanistan
- Reconciliation: Iraq?
- Reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians
- Reconciliation, Religions and Human Rights
- Reconciliation, Islam and Human Rights

Tools for Reconciliation: International Institutions, Networks and Law

- The Role of the UN
- The Role of Criminal Courts and Courts of Justice
- The Role of Conventions on War and Violence
- International Law and the Protection of Stateless People
- International Law and the Rights of States
- International Law and the Rights of People
- The Current and Future Roles of NGOs
- Global Civil Society Activism as a Platform for Reconciliation

Speakers

Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Rotating Position (Opening Ceremony)

*Paddy Ashdown*, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina since May 2002 and former Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the UK: During the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Ashdown was one of the leading advocates for decisive action by the international community.


*Howard Dean* MD, Governor of Vermont, USA, Dr Dean is the founder of Democracy for America and was a former chairman of the National Governors Association, the Democratic Governors’ Association, and the New England Governors' Conference, he also served on the National Education Goals Panel and was co-chair of NGA's Task Force on Health Care.

*Jakob Finci*, President of La Benevolencija, Vice President of the coordinating body of Bosnian NGOs, former Executive Director of the Open Society Fund (Soros Foundation) and former chair of the Association of Citizens for Truth and Reconciliation, Bosnia and Herzegovina. For his work, Mr Finci has been awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and the French decoration, Chevalier Legion of Honour.

*Micheline Ishay*, Professor and Director of the International Human Rights Program at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), University of Denver. Professor Ishay is author of the *History of Human Rights* (2004) and a number of books and articles on human rights.

*Paul James*, Director of the Globalism Institute, RMIT University, Melbourne. Professor James has written on nationalism and state formation and is currently working on questions of globalisation and violence, including most recently *Global Matrix: Globalism, Nationalism and State-Terror* (with Tom Nairn, 2005).

*Brendan O'Leary*, Director of the Solomon Asch Centre for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict, University of

* To be confirmed
Pennsylvania. Professor O'Leary’s academic areas of interest include: nationalism, national and ethnic conflict regulation, national self-determination; power-sharing systems: federations, consociations, federacies and autonomy settlements; Northern Ireland and other deeply-divided territories, especially in Europe, Africa and South Asia; democracy, electoral systems, policing, human rights and the state in history, political theory and political science.

*Olara Otunnu*, Undersecretary General of the United Nations and UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. Mr Ottunu’s mandate is to protect children at every phase of conflict: preventively before conflict erupts, in the midst of conflict, and in post-conflict situations.

**Margaret Reynolds**, National President of the United Nations Association of Australia, a former Senator for Queensland, Australia and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Queensland. Professor Reynolds has been chair of the Commonwealth Human Rights International Advisory Committee since 1998.

**Pat Walsh** is a special advisor to CAVR, the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reception Commission of East Timor.

**Charles Villa-Vicencio**, Executive Director Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, South Africa and Former National Research Director, South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**Tilman Zuelch**, author and human-rights activist, President of the Society for Threatened Peoples International and Secretary General of the Society for Threatened Peoples Germany

We sadly observe the passing of **Susan Sontag**, who was to join the speaker’s above. Ms Sontag died of leukaemia in New York on 29 December 2004 at the age of seventy-one. An obituary in *The Financial Times* described her as "one of America’s most influential intellectuals, internationally renowned for the passionate engagement and breadth of her critical intelligence and her ardent activism in the cause of human rights." *(The Financial Times, Dec. 30)*

In a letter printed in the Boston Globe, on 2 January 2005 the following remarks were made regarding Ms Sontag’s commitment to drawing international attention to and ending the injustices of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

*I always will remember her personal acts and not just her words. Now that she has passed on, she should not be eulogized only as a great writer and thinker, but also as a doer of remarkably courageous deeds, as a true advocate for justice in a troubled world who was compelled to speak out and put her life on the line for others when it mattered.* *(The Boston Globe, Jan. 2)*

**Participants**

An estimated 150 delegates will attend the conference, including a substantial proportion from the region. Registration has been structured to encourage participation from the region, beyond Europe and the United States and, to involve delegates from NGOs, activist organizations and bodies such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, in addition to academics and the media.

**Network of Patrons**

**The Honourable Sir William Deane**, AC KBE, Former Governor-General of Australia

**Dr Jose Ramos-Horta**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, East Timor, Nobel Peace Prize winner

**Dr Bernard Lown**, MD, Harvard Medical School, Co-Founder of International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War, Nobel Peace Prize winner

**Dr Lowtija O'Donoghue**, AC, CBE, FRCNA (Hon), Professorial Fellow, Flinders University, South Australia
The Reverend Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus, Nobel Peace Prize winner

International Advisory Committee

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Dino Djića, Prism Research, Sarajevo
Marcus Einfeld AO, National Vice President of the International Commission of Jurists (Australian Section), AUSTRAC’s Ambassador for Refugees, UNICEF’s Ambassador for Children, Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Australia
Jakob Finci, Association of Citizens for Truth and Reconciliation, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
John Funder AO, Professor of Medicine, Monash University, Australia
Raimond Gaita, Professor of Philosophy, King’s College London, Australian Catholic University
Vincenzo Gamberale, Country Director of Community, Habitat & Finance (CHF) International, USA
Sandy Gifford, Professor of Public Health, La Trobe University, Director of the Refugee Health Research Centre
Babu Gogineni, President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union, UK
Zdravko Grebo, Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, University of Sarajevo
Safet Halilović, Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Zehrudin Isaković, Director, FENA (Federal News Agency), Sarajevo
Ida Kaplan, Manager of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, Melbourne
Barry Jones, Former Minister for Science and Technology, Commonwealth of Australia
Amer Kapetanović, Minister Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Djordje Latinović, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Patricia McKeever, Professor and Co-Director of the Health Care Technology and Place Research and Training Centre, University of Toronto, Canada
Chantal Mouffe, Professor of Politics and Social Theory, University of Westminster, UK and the New School for Social Research, New York, USA
Mirsada Muzur, Honorary Consul of Australia in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ashis Nandy, Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, India
Modjtaba Sadria, Professor, Faculty of Policy Studies, Chuo University, Japan
Sabit Subašić, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canberra
Gordon Smith, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, Canada
Eric Stover, Director of the Human Rights Center and Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley

Lamija Tanović, Professor of Atomic and Nuclear Physics and Solid State Physics, Faculty of Sciences, University of Sarajevo

Mirsad Tokača, President, Research and Documentation Center, Sarajevo

Harvey Weinstein, Clinical Professor, School of Public Health, University of California and Associate Director of the Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Michel Wievorka, Director of the Centre d’Analyse et d’Intervention Sociologiques (CADIS), Paris.

Asta Zinbo, Director of the Civil Society Initiatives Program of the International Commission on Missing Persons, Sarajevo

Organizing Committee

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Peter Phipps, Globalism Institute, RMIT University, Melbourne

Stefan Priesner, United Nations Development Program, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Philipa Rothfield, Philosophy Program, La Trobe University, Melbourne

Further Information

If you would like further information about the conference, registration costs and the call for papers, please visit the conference website:

www.sourcesofinsecurity.org/events/PathwaysToReconciliation.html or contact:

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