



Bosnia and Herzegovina Trip

6th- 12th July 2014



Briefing Pack

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Welcome to the Women for Women International Trip to Bosnia 2014

This booklet will provide a brief introduction to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the work of Women for Women International as a background to the trip.

Contents

Before you go: Important Trip Information	
General Travel Advice for Bosnia and Herzegovina	3-4
Trip Notes	5
What To Bring	6-7
Profile of Seida Saric, WfWI Country Director, Bosnia and Herzegovina	8
Women for Women International in Bosnia and Herzegovina	9-14
Background and Context	
Programme Approach and Activities	
Programme Outcomes	
Mevlida's Story	
Introduction to Bosnia and Herzegovina	15-20
Population Demographics	
Government	
Economy	
Geography	
Climate	
Religion	
Food	
Culture & Events	
Language & Useful Vocabulary	
Timeline	21-23
A Brief History of the Balkans Conflict	24-25
Memorials and Historical Sites	26-27
The 'March of Peace'	28-31
Further Reading	32-36

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



BEFORE YOU GO: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

General Travel Advice for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Entry Requirements

British, EU and American citizens do not require a visa for stays of up to three months. Nationals of other countries can check their visa requirements on the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) website – pick your nationality from the drop-down menu for detailed advice.

Valid passports are required by all nationals of all countries except holders of valid National Identity Cards issued to nationals of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

Money

Bosnia and Herzegovina's currency is the Convertible Marka, locally abbreviated to KM. One Marka is made up of 100 fennig, and is equivalent to around £0.43. You can check the latest exchange rates using this online currency converter: <http://www.oanda.com/>.

You cannot get hold of KM outside Bosnia & Herzegovina, but Euros, US dollars, British pounds and other major currencies can be exchanged at the banks and exchange offices located in most major towns. There are also plenty of ATM machines in the major towns and cities. Although credit/debit cards are widely accepted in Sarajevo, most transactions are in cash (KM) and it is advisable to carry enough KM with you when you are travelling outside major cities. Remember to exchange any leftover currency before you leave the country because you won't be able to once you leave.

Language

Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

Weather

Average temperatures in Bosnia during July range from 13 to 26 degrees Celsius. Last year, temperatures on the Peace March reached 35 Celsius, so please be prepared for hot weather. Generally, it will be warm during the day and the risk of rain is lower at this time of year. However, please pack a long-sleeved sweater or light jacket for cooler evenings and waterproof clothing in case of rain.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Telephone

Country code: +387

Police: 122

Fire: 123

Time difference

Bosnia is 1 hour ahead of British GMT.

Health

No vaccinations are required to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Drinking water and food hygiene throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina is very good so the chances of getting any travellers' diseases are remote. Pharmacies are plentiful and there is usually at least one that is open 24 hours a day. These pharmacies will usually have all standard prescription drugs for sale.

All travellers should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance for the duration of the trip.

If you already have private medical insurance, check that your policy covers overseas travel and emergencies like a trip to a foreign hospital or a medical evacuation. The UK and Bosnia and Herzegovina have a reciprocal healthcare agreement which entitles British passport holders to free hospital treatment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, however in practice the healthcare authorities in Bosnia might not have the immediate resources to provide treatment without charging.

Travel Cautions

Bosnia and Herzegovina is an increasingly popular tourist destination and most visits are trouble-free. Bosnian people are welcoming, friendly and tolerant of foreigners - they've had thousands of them in their country for fifteen years. Sarajevo is a safe and secure city, a million miles away from its wartime past, and the level of crime against foreigners is low.

The main safety threats associated with the country are the mines left over from the war. With the clearing process progressing slowly, there will continue to be mines for decades to come. However, no visitor to Bosnia-Herzegovina has ever been involved in a mine incident. Mine safety is a matter of respecting a few rules. Highly populated areas, national parks and conservation areas are all clear of mines and safe to visit. Stay away from taped areas, regardless of whether they are marked in yellow or red or whether the markings are new or old.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Trip Notes

Transportation

Transportation will be organised by Women for Women International for all activities during the itinerary.

Accommodation

We will be staying at Hotel Europe during our time in Sarajevo, a modern 5-star hotel which is in the heart of the old town and a 15 minute drive from the airport. All rooms will be single-occupancy with en-suite bathrooms.

During the march and in Srebrenica, we will be staying in private homes hosted by local women and their families. Please note that at the home stays, we will be sharing 2-3 rooms between the group.

Gifts

During the trip you will be meeting many women participants and graduates of our programme. In general, we ask that you do not bring or buy any gifts for individual women as it can create a sense of unfairness within the women's groups that can disrupt their programme.

However, as a group we would like to bring some small gifts for the women whose houses we will be staying at during the march and for the women who have invited us to visit their homes, as a thank you for their kind hospitality. We will be buying some small gifts such as scarves or toiletries before departure, which we can give as a group.

Emergency Contact Information

WfWI-UK office, London: +44 (0)207 922 7765

WfWI-BiH office, Sarajevo (Alma Budakovic): + 387 (0) 33 77 00 15

British Embassy, Sarajevo: +387 (0) 33 282 200

Danielle Mason – mobile: +44 (0)7752 400 190

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



What to Bring

Primary Essentials

- Passport
- Money – Bosnian Marks, Credit Cards. Euros are better than UK Sterling and some shops will accept them.
- Personal Travel Insurance – you will also need to return a copy of your insurance documents to the UK Office (Danielle Mason) along with your completed waiver and medical forms, prior to travel.

Clothing

- Casual summer clothing – anything not required in the trek can be left in Sarajevo with the hotel, so bring a separate small bag for this.
- There will be no formal occasions, however you may wish to bring one smart-casual outfit for the farewell dinner on 11th July and for a few dinners out in Sarajevo.
- Lightweight trekking/walking trousers, made of breathable, quick-drying synthetic fabric.
- Selection of short and long sleeved t-shirts - they should be lightweight and quick drying for body temperature regulation. Running tops are ideal. Light colours are recommended.
- Light fleece jacket for evenings
- Waterproof top and bottoms, in case of rain on the march.
- Sun hat
- Headband/bandana – you can soak in water at the water stops along the route to stay cool
- Socks – 3 or 4 pairs of trekking socks. These can be running socks or light/medium-weight trekking socks made of wool or synthetic fibres, or a blend. Cotton is not recommended.
- For the 11th July memorial ceremony, women will need to bring a headscarf and men are required to wear a long sleeved shirt and trousers.

Footwear

- Lightweight walking boots or sturdy running shoes (such as trail shoes) with good ankle support and semi-rigid sole
- Flip-flops or light and comfortable footwear to change into after you finish walking
- Trainers/casual shoes – should be comfortable for walking during programme visits and sightseeing in Sarajevo

Other items

- Large holdall or backpack – this will carry all your clothes & belongings needed for the 3-day trek. You won't need to carry this with you on the march – it will travel in our support vans, which will meet up with us each evening when we finish walking.
- Small, lightweight backpack –this is your day bag which you will carry with you on the march. You won't need to carry much with you, and will be more comfortable if you keep it as small and light as possible, as you will be walking with it for around 8 hours each day in hot weather! A

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Camelbak 'hydration backpack', which comes with a built-in, hands-free water bottle, is a very efficient way of minimising extra weight and ensuring you stay well hydrated.

- Water bottle (if not using a Camelbak) – this should hold at least 1 litre. There will be water stops at regular intervals along the route for you to fill up your bottles.
- Sun-cream (high factor)
- Small personal first aid kit to include essential items – eg. plasters/bandages, blister pads (eg. Compeed), antiseptic wipes/cream, insect repellent, anti-diarrhoea or constipation medicine, allergy medicines if needed, motion sickness medicine if needed.
- Vaseline – can be used on your feet to prevent rubbing and blisters
- Toilet items
- Travel towel (lightweight/microfibre)
- Toilet roll/tissues
- Hand Sanitizer/ Wet wipes
- Sunglasses
- Phone
- Charger/Adapter – Bosnian power sockets use the standard European plugs, with 2 round pins. The standard voltage is 220-240 Volts.
- Extra snacks for the march – you will be provided with a packed lunch and plenty of snacks (dried fruit, nuts, cereal bars) at the start of each day's walking. However, you may wish to bring a supply of your own – it's important to stay well fuelled and you will know best what works for you. Ideal snacks are dry, energy-dense, non-perishable foods that will withstand the heat - eg. energy/sports bars, trail mix, sweets, etc.
- Energy Gels / Electrolyte powder to add to water – not essential, but these were really helpful staying fuelled and hydrated in the very hot weather we experienced last year. Several participants used & recommended 'High 5' sports nutrition products – the IsoGels and sachets of 4:1 Energy Drink powder are easy to carry and provide instant fuel. You can buy them online or at running/cycling/outdoor shops.

Additional items - optional

- Camera
- Binoculars
- Trekking poles – not essential, but several participants last year found these useful, especially for some of the uphill sections of the route and some uneven terrain. You can buy extendable ones that are easy to pack and travel with.
- Personal Journal – it's a great idea to record your experiences and impressions at the end of each day. Sharing your stories and photos with friends, family and colleagues after you return is also a brilliant way of boosting your fundraising!
- Books (see pages 27-29 for some recommended reading on Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Sleeping bag liner/ travel pillow – bedclothes and pillows will be provided at all the houses where we stay, but if you would prefer to bring your own this is not a problem, they can be carried in the van with the rest of our overnight supplies.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Seida Saric – WfWI Country Director, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Seida Saric is the first Country Director of Women for Women International Bosnia and Herzegovina and the first Country Director for any Women for Women International country programme.

Seida lived in besieged Sarajevo during the four years of war witnessing the most horrible atrocities. People's lives were shattered and destroyed, and Seida mustered the courage and decisiveness to risk her life for the greater good and well-being of her fellow citizens trapped in the city. Lacking basic necessities and under constant threat of attack, daily life became minute-by-minute for Seida and the people of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The sobering experience of war introduced Seida to the horrors human beings are capable of inflicting upon one another, and the fact that women were always the ones hurt the most in the crossfire. This presented ample inspiration for Seida to start introducing positive change into devastated lives. Education and the creation of opportunities for women have always been at the core of Seida's beliefs and values. She joined her strength and energy with the mission and vision of Women for Women International in 1998. Since then, Seida and her team have managed to help over 50,000 women (and this number is rapidly growing), rebuild their lives and self-confidence through investing in their potential and education.

Under Seida's leadership, Women for Women International has implemented two programmes aimed at empowering women. The first provides rights education, vocational skills training and income-generating opportunities. The latter is Women for Women International's extremely successful microcredit programme, which has provided loans to nearly 30,000 women -- totalling approximately 70 million US dollars.

Seida's strong belief in unity and coexistence has given her a genuine desire to address the challenges of post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. With her dedicated staff, she has managed to offer new hope and life to the women in her war-torn homeland. She has helped lead the women of Bosnia and Herzegovina into a future void of religious and ethnic discrimination through encouraging education and diversity.

Seida is also a frequent guest at seminars and conferences around the world and is a fervent advocate for gender equality and women's rights. Her portfolio of experience includes work in Care International and Save the Children and her educational background spans from engineering to business.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Background

Women for Women International exists because of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1993, WfWI founder Zainab Salbi heard reports of wartime atrocities against women during the Bosnian war. Compelled to act, she visited the country herself. She spoke with women who had been imprisoned in rape camps, endured daily mass rapes by soldiers and had lost their entire families to ethnic cleansing. When she returned to the U.S., she founded Women for Women International to help Bosnian women rebuild their lives.



Salbi on an early visit to Bosnia with a survivor of the Bosnian war

Twenty years after the end of the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains deeply impoverished and divided by ethnic tensions. Women bear a particularly heavy burden, struggling against unemployment, lack of education and traditional societies that curb their rights and participation.

Women for Women International's programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina has designed to equip socially-excluded women with the tools and resources to become active, self-sufficient members of society. Every woman who enrolls in our holistic programme receives a monthly stipend and a year-long training that equips them with an understanding of their value in family and community life, rights awareness, information about nutrition and hygiene, and vital skills to sustain an income via entrepreneurship or employment.

Current Context for WfWI's work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Currently one of Europe's poorest countries with a GDP per capita of just £4,984 (est. 2013) and an unemployment rate of 41%, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still struggling to stabilise its war-ravaged economy and infrastructure. The transition from a pre-war socialist economy where enterprises were mostly government-owned has been challenging as citizens often lack the skills, mindset and knowledge that are essential to a market-driven system.

Ethnic rivalries that fuelled the conflict 20 years ago still simmer below the surface – hardened by the brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing that the Serbian population perpetrated against Muslims where 100,000 -250,000 lives were lost and nearly half the pre-war population were displaced. Men were imprisoned in work camps where they died of starvation, fatigue or torture and between 40,000 and 50,000 women were tortured and forcibly impregnated in rape camps.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



While Bosnian women have made some progress since the war, they continue to struggle with poverty, disenfranchisement and trauma. Thousands of widows, rape victims and children born of rape confront isolation and stigmatisation. Women lack critical access to skills training, finances and equipment that would enable them to break the cycle of poverty. They make up only 35% of employed Bosnians and receive lower wages than their male counterparts. Women-headed households are at even greater risk of poverty – with the loss of male relatives during the war these households have increased to one in four. If women – who represent half the population and are the lynchpins of families and communities – remain trapped in poverty, Bosnia and Herzegovina will fail to improve citizens' lives and achieve stability and peace.

WfWI has provided services to over 30,000 socially-excluded women since its inception in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including widows, single heads of household, refugees, the internally displaced, and the physically challenged. By targeting the poorest members of the population, WfWI ensures that the movement toward stability is rooted at the lowest socio-economic levels of society. Our programme enrolment data shows that WfWI are reaching those most desperately in need of our intervention - an average 55% of participants have attended primary school while less than half have benefited from a secondary education. As few as 31% of women are employed at enrolment and earn just \$1.05 a day while only 13% are saving a portion of their income. By targeting the poorest members of the population, WfWI ensures that the movement toward stability is rooted at the lowest socio-economic levels of society.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Participant Demographics	
Age 18-24	10%
Age 25-30	12%
Age 31-40	27%
Age 41-50	23%
Age over 50	26%
Single	10%
Married	73%
Divorced/Separated	3%
Widowed	12%
Attended primary school	55%
Attended secondary school	35%
Post-secondary	1%
Adult education	0%
No formal education	10%
Illiterate	8%
Innumerate	8%
Proportion of girls under care in school	59%
Proportion of boys under care in school	56%

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Programme Approach and Activities

WfWI believes that providing women with access to knowledge and expression of voice, plus access to and control of economic resources, leads to lasting social and economic change.

WfWI has developed a rights-based curriculum that is geared towards **four key outcomes** that must be achieved if women are to re-negotiate their household and community status and become active citizens:

- Women are well**
- Women are decision makers**
- Women have social networks and safety nets**
- Women sustain an income**



When all these are achieved, they enable women to improve their livelihoods and in turn benefit families and whole communities.

Women come together in classes of 25 to complete a **life skills curriculum** and **vocational skills training**. Regular classes enable the group to form tight social circles of support – breaking the isolation created by the war and insecurity.

At enrollment, each woman is matched with a sponsor who provides direct financial and emotional support during the year-long programme. Throughout their training, participants receive a portion of the sponsor's contribution as a monthly training stipend, to cover basic needs such as food, clothing and medicine. Perhaps more importantly, letters from her sponsor provide an emotional lifeline to a woman who may have lost everything due to war and serves as an impetus for establishing self-confidence, perseverance, and solidarity.

Life skills curriculum

Participants receive training in the following four modules:

- **Module 1: Health and Wellness:** Provides women with a critical understanding of their bodies and how to care for them. Participants increase knowledge on treatment, and management of their health, including nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, mental health, stress and hygiene.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



- **Module 2: Family and Community Decision Making:** Equips women with the knowledge required to access opportunities, such as acquiring land, or contributing to family and community decisions. Participants learn about concepts such as equality, rights and law - with special emphasis on ownership and inheritance of property; marriage, divorce and child custody; and domestic violence and rape.
- **Module 3: Sustaining an Income:** This module is designed to help women understand and overcome stereotypes and inequalities that prevent them from gaining economic self-sufficiency, including that women's work is viewed as less valuable; that women's work is unpaid or underpaid; and customs that prevent women from controlling assets, property, and their own incomes. Women also learn about the benefits of savings, credit, managing household finances, and opportunities for income generation.
- **Module 4: Social Networks and Safety Nets:** This module introduces women to the value of working with each other in groups, or social networks. It teaches them how to build effective networks, plan for advocacy and manage leadership issues. It also covers negotiation and conflict management.



A WfWI graduate with her sheep, bought with the help of a small business loan.

Vocational and business skills training

WfWI has conducted market assessments in Bosnia and Herzegovina to identify the sectors of the economy that are most promising for women given their resources and other constraints. Women can choose from a range of sectors including:

- Berry cultivation
- Knitting and embroidery
- Greenhouse management
- Medicinal and aromatic plant collection

Vocational training consists of 40 to 70 hours of instruction and is composed of two components: business and skills. Business training introduces participants to basic business concepts needed for employment or self-employment. Topics include: small business and the market economy, entrepreneurship, planning, selling, bookkeeping, and business financing. The importance of saving is recognised during business training as an essential tool in alleviating poverty and achieving economic self-sufficiency

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Programme Outcomes

Women for Women International surveys programme participants in Bosnia and Herzegovina at enrolment, and again at graduation. Participants' progress is measured against indicators that fall under the 4 key outcome areas of "Women earn an income", "Women are well", "Women are decision makers", and "Women have social networks and safety nets". Average data for 2013 graduates in Bosnia and Herzegovina is shown below.

Indicators	Enrolment	Graduation
Women earn an income		
Average daily income	\$1.05	\$2.14
Saving a portion of her income	13%	74%
Women are well		
Knowledge of good nutrition	66%	100%
Women are decision makers		
Knowledge of rights	53%	95%
Women have social networks and safety nets		
Participating in social networks and safety nets	21%	44%
Practice good nutrition - Participant reported making healthy dietary choices for herself and family.	57%	98%
Practice family planning	52%	96%
Educated another woman on her rights - Participant reported having educated another woman who is not a WfWI participant about her rights.	8%	70%
Participated in community activities - Participant reported that she has been participating in activities in her local community.	32%	68%

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Mevlida's Story



Mevlida with a letter and photo from her sponsor, Janet

Mevlida Delic has been a single mother since 1989, when she and her husband divorced. When Mevlida insisted on retaining custody of their two children, her husband refused to provide any material support for them. Mevlida was left struggling to keep the household afloat, as well as providing for her elderly mother who had always lived with the family.

Before the war, Mevlida worked for a retail company, but they were forced to close during the conflict. After losing her job she started knitting in an attempt to earn an income. However, difficult economic conditions, combined with a very limited market, meant that her profits were minimal.

Mevlida explains that the WfWI programme enabled her to transform her business and boost her income by joining together with other women.

After graduating, she and her classmates formed the 'Most' Women's Association. The association now runs a small souvenir shop in Jablanica, providing local women with the opportunity to display their handicrafts and access a wider market for their goods. The shelves and walls of the small shop are stacked with Mevlida's colourful hats, sweaters, scarves, socks and gloves, which she knits in her living room using her own designs.

Mevlida also talks about how the programme has widened her social circle. She says that the women in her class became "like family" and since forming the association they have grown even closer. Since graduating, they continue to meet regularly. During the programme, Mevlida says that she most enjoyed the topics on women's rights, because "women in Bosnia and Herzegovina don't have many rights". She remembers that these classes were the most popular among her group, sparking the most active and lively discussions. Mevlida has kept the letters and a treasured photo she received from her sponsor sister in the US, Janet Stillman. "I am always grateful for WfWI for coming to Jablanica, bringing women together and finding customers for our products" she says.



Mevlida knitting in her garden; Mevlida at the association shop with some of her knitted products

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan

INTRODUCTION TO BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



In Brief¹

Area: 51,197 km² (19,767 sq miles)

Population: roughly 3.87 million

Largest City: Sarajevo (capital)

Countries Bordered: Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro

Highest Point: Maglic 2,386m

Longest River:

Language: Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

Population Demographics¹

Total Population: 3,871,643 (2014 est.)

Age Structure:

0-14 years: 14%

15-64 years: 73%

65 years and over: 12.9%

Median age: 40.8 years

Ethnic groups:

Bosniaks 48%, Serbs 37.1%, Croats 14.3%, Others 0.6%

Religions:

Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Roman Catholic 15%, other 14%

Languages:

Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

¹ CIA-The World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bk.html>



Literacy:

Total population: 98%

Male: 99.5%

Female: 96.7% (2012 est.)

Government²

Type of Government: emerging Federal Democratic Republic

Legal system: civil law system

Elections: The three members of the presidency (one Bosniak, one Croat, one Serb) are elected by popular vote for a four-year term by constituencies referring to the three ethnic groups. The candidate with the most votes in a constituency is elected. The chairmanship rotates every eight months. Elections were last held on 3 October 2010 (next to be held in October 2014). The chairman of the Council of Ministers (Head of Government) is appointed by the presidency and confirmed by the state-level House of Representatives.



Chief of State: Chairman of the Presidency Bakir Izetbegovic (chairman since 10 March 2014 - Bosniak) other members of the three-member presidency rotate every eight months: Zeljko Komsic (presidency member since 6 November 2006 - Croat); Nebojsa Radmanovic (presidency member since 6 November 2006 - Serb)

Bakir Izetbegovic
Bosniak member of
the Presidency of Bosnia
and Herzegovina

Head of Government: Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vjekoslav Bevanda (since 12 January 2012)

Cabinet : Council of Ministers nominated by the council chairman

Economy²

Bosnia has a transitional economy with limited market reforms. The economy relies heavily on the export of metals as well as on remittances and foreign aid. A highly decentralized government hampers economic policy coordination and reform.

The interethnic warfare in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused production to plummet by 80% from 1992 to 1995 and unemployment to soar. With an uneasy peace in place, output recovered in 1996-99 at high percentage rates from a low base; but output growth slowed in 2000-02. Part of the lag in output was made up during 2003-08, when GDP growth exceeded 5% per year. However, the country experienced a decline in GDP of more than 3% in 2009 reflecting local effects of the global economic crisis. One of

² CIA-The World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bk.html>



Bosnia's main economic challenges since the recession began has been to reduce spending on public sector wages and social benefits to meet the IMF's criteria for obtaining funding for budget shortfalls.

Banking reform accelerated in 2001 as all the Communist-era payments bureaus were shut down; foreign banks, primarily from Austria and Italy, now control most of the banking sector. The convertible mark (BAM) - the national currency introduced in 1998 - is pegged to the euro, and confidence in the currency and the banking sector has increased. However, given the current concerns over the strength of the euro, this is a situation that is likely to fluctuate.

Bosnia's private sector is growing, but foreign investment has dropped off sharply since 2007. Government spending, at roughly 50% of GDP, remains high because of redundant government offices at the state, entity and municipal level. Privatization of state enterprises has been slow, particularly in the Federation where political division between ethnically-based political parties makes agreement on economic policy more difficult.

A sizeable current account deficit and high unemployment rate remain the two most serious macroeconomic problems. Bosnia and Herzegovina became a full member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement in September 2007. Bosnia and Herzegovina's top economic priorities are: acceleration of integration into the EU; strengthening the fiscal system; public administration reform; World Trade Organization (WTO) membership; and securing economic growth by fostering a dynamic, competitive private sector. The country has received a substantial amount of foreign assistance and will need to demonstrate its ability to implement its economic reform agenda in order to advance its stated goal of EU accession.

In 2009, Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook an International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby arrangement, necessitated by sharply increased social spending and a fiscal crisis exacerbated by the global economic downturn. The programme aims to reduce recurrent government spending and to strengthen revenue collection. However, disbursement of IMF aid was suspended in 2011 after a parliamentary deadlock left Bosnia without a state-level government. In 2011, the country continued to recover from a recession caused by the global financial crisis. Unemployment and poverty are high. Ethnic and political stalemate slow reform and discourage investment. Bosnia relies heavily on West Europe for trade and credit.

Geography

Bosnia is a mountainous country, encompassing the Dinaric Alps which run from east to west and get higher towards the south. Half the country is forested and mainly covers the central, eastern and western parts of Bosnia. Very fertile agricultural land lies in the north along the river Sava and consequently this area is heavily farmed. Bosnia only has 20km of coastline around the town of Neum. Although surrounded by Croatian peninsulas, by international law, Bosnia has right of passage to the outer sea. Major cities are the capital Sarajevo, Banja Luka in the Northwest, Bejeljina Tuzla in the Northeast, Zenica and Doboij in the centre and Mostar, the capital of Herzegovina.

Climate

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a mix of Mediterranean and central European climates: it gets hot in summer but quite chilly in winter, especially at elevations where snowfall can last until April. Sarajevo temperatures

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan

range from minus 2°C in winter up to 27°C in July and August. Temperatures in the south will be several degrees warmer.

Religion

Religion is an important aspect of national identity. Islam is associated with the Bosniaks, Eastern Orthodox with the Serbs, and Catholicism with the Croatians. The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for freedom of religion; the Law on Religious Freedom also provides comprehensive rights to religious communities. These and other laws and policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion. Religious leaders from the three major faiths claim that observance is increasing among younger persons as an expression of increased identification with their ethnic heritage, in large part due to the national religious revival that occurred as a result of the Bosnian war.

The modern **Bosniaks**, or **Bosnian Muslims**, descend from **Bošnjani** who accepted Islam in the 15th century. Islam was brought to this region by the Ottomans, when they gained control of most of Bosnia in 1463, and seized Herzegovina in the 1480s. Bosniaks are overwhelmingly Sunni Muslims. For some Bosniaks that identify themselves as Bosnian Muslims, religion often serves as a community identifier, and religious practice is confined to occasional visits to the mosque or significant rites of passage such as birth, marriage, and death. While there are significant numbers of Bosniaks who practice their faith to varying degrees, for others, this identity tends to be secular and is based primarily on ancestral traditions and ethnic loyalty.



The Emperor's Mosque, built during the Ottoman era, is the oldest mosque in Sarajevo



Serb Orthodox Cathedral in Sarajevo, one of the largest in the Balkans

The **Eastern Orthodox Church** does not recognize the authority of the Pope but follows a group of patriarchs who have equal status. Icons – images representing Christ, angels, saints, and other holy figures – hold an important place in Orthodox practice and are considered a connection between the earthly and spiritual realms. Each family has a patron saint who is honoured once a year in a large celebration called *Krsna Slava*. A candle is lit in the saint's honour, and special foods are consumed. Christmas (observed 6 and 7 January in the Orthodox Church) is a major holiday. Christmas Eve, called *Badnje Vece*, is celebrated with a large bonfire in the churchyard and the singing of hymns. In addition to church services, Easter is celebrated by dying eggs and performing traditional *kolo* dances. Eastern Orthodox funerals are large, elaborate occasions. In the cemetery, a spread of salads and roasted meats is presented in honour of the deceased; this is repeated a year after the death, at which point the gravestone is placed in the ground.

Architecture



Approximately 42% of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina lives in towns or cities. Sarajevo, near the centre of the country in a valley of the Dinaric Alps, is the capital and largest city.

Sarajevo is famous for its traditional cultural and religious diversity, with adherents of Islam, Orthodoxy, Catholicism and Judaism coexisting there for centuries. Due to this long and rich history of religious and cultural variety, Sarajevo is often called the "Jerusalem of Europe" or "Jerusalem of the Balkans".

The religious architecture is varied and impressive; in addition to mosques, there are several Orthodox churches, a cathedral, and a Sephardic Jewish synagogue.

Food

Bosnian food has been influenced by both Turkish and Eastern European cuisine. Grilled meat is popular, as are cabbage-based dishes. *Bosanski Ionac* is a cabbage and meat stew. *Cevapcici* are lamb sausages that often are eaten with a flat bread called *somun*. Pastries, both sweet and savory, are common; *burek* and *pida* (layered cheese or meat pies), *zeljanica* (spinach pie), and *sirnica* (cheese pie) are served as main dishes. *Baklava*, a Turkish pastry made of phyllo dough layered with nuts and honey, is a popular dessert, as is an apple cake called *tufahije*. *Kefir*, a thin yogurt drink, is popular, as are Turkish coffee and a kind of tea called *salep*. Homemade brandy, called *rakija*, is a popular alcoholic drink. Alcohol use is down since the rise in Muslim influence, and in certain areas of the country drinking has been prohibited.

For Bosnian Muslims, the end of Ramadan (a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset) is celebrated with a large family meal and with Turkish-style sweets and pastries. Both Catholics and Eastern Orthodox believers celebrate Easter with special breads and elaborately decorated eggs. Christmas is an occasion for special family meals among the Christian population.



Spinach and Cheese Burek

Culture and Events

Sarajevo is the proud host of the [Sarajevo Film Festival](#), which is one of the most important in south-eastern Europe. The festival began as an act of resistance in 1995 with residents braving mortar shells to gather in a basement. In 2011, the honorary 'Heart of Sarajevo' award was collected by Angelina Jolie, whose directorial debut 'In the Land of Blood and Honey' is set in Bosnia's 1992 to 1995 war. The film, which stars Zana Marjanovic and Rade Serbedzija, tells the story of a love affair between a Bosnian Muslim woman and a Serb, on opposite sides of the conflict. On her visits to Bosnia as a UN goodwill ambassador,



Jolie has drawn attention to the thousands of people who have been unable to return to their homes despite the war ending 16 years ago.

In 1984, Bosnia and Herzegovina famously hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics, held in Sarajevo from the 7th to 19th of February 1984. While much of the infrastructure was destroyed during the war, there has been extensive reconstruction and expansion, and Sarajevo today offers some of the best skiing and winter sports in south-east Europe.

Language & Useful Vocabulary

The three official languages are Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian. These are all forms of Serbo-Croatian or Serbo-Croat, a South Slavic language based on the Shtokavian dialect, which uses both Latin and Cyrillic alphabets. All three languages are mutually intelligible. Up until the dissolution of former SFR Yugoslavia, they were treated as a unitary Serbo-Croatian language, but as a result of the Balkan conflict, the different national groups established their own official languages. It is estimated that there are approximately 4 million speakers of Bosnian in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In total, 21 million people throughout the world speak a variation of the formerly shared Serbo-Croat language.

Basic Vocabulary

Hello/Good Day	Dobar dan (DOH-bahr dahn)
Hello (informal)	Zdravo (ZDRAH-voh) or Merhaba (MEHR-hah bah)
How are you?	Kako ste? (formal) (KAH-koh steh) / Kako si? (informal) (KAH-koh see)
Fine, thank you	Dobro sam, hvala (DOH-broh sahm, HVAH-lah)
What is your name?	Kako se zovete? (formal) (KAH-koh seh ZOH-veh-teh) / Kako se zoveš? (informal) (KAH-koh seh ZOH-vehsh)
My name is _____	Zovem se _____ (ZOH-vehm seh _____)
I am _____	Ja sam _____ (yah sahm)
Please	Molim (MOH-leem)
Thank you	Hvala (HVAH-lah)
Thank you very much	Hvala lijepo (HVAH-lah LEE-veh-poh)
You're welcome	Nema na čemu (NEH-mah nah CHEH-moo)
Yes	Da (dah) (formal) / Ja (yah) (informal)
No	Ne (neh)
Excuse me (getting attention)	Oprostite (oh-prohs-TEE-teh)
Excuse me (begging pardon)	Izvinite (EEZ-vee-nee-teh)
I'm sorry	Oprostite. (oh-prohs-TEE-teh)
Goodbye	do viđenja (doh vee-jeh-nyah) / čao (chao) / Zdravo. (ZDRAH-voh)
I can't speak Bosnian [well]	Ne govorim dobro bosanski (neh goh-VOH-reem DOH-broh boh SAHN-skee)
Do you speak English?	Da li govorite engleski? (dah lee goh-VOH-ree-teh ehn-GLEHS-kee)
Good morning	Dobro jutro (DOH-broh YOO-troh)
Good evening	Dobro večer (DOH-broh VEH-chehr)
I don't understand	Ne razumijem (neh RAH-zoo-mee-yehn)

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BRIEF HISTORY

Timeline

1908 - Bosnia-Herzegovina annexed to Austria-Hungary.

1914 - A Bosnian Serb student, Gavrilo Princip, assassinates the Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, precipitating World War I.

1918 - Austria-Hungary collapses at the end of the war. Bosnia-Herzegovina becomes part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

1941 - Bosnia-Herzegovina annexed by pro-Hitler Croatian puppet state. Thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies are sent to the death camps.

1945 - Bosnia-Herzegovina liberated following campaign by partisans under Tito, who is seen as an 'enlightened despot', working closely with communist Russia and reporting to Moscow. The territory becomes a republic within the Yugoslav Socialist Federation.

1991 - Following collapse of communism, nationalists win first multi-party elections and form coalition government despite having conflicting goals: Muslim nationalists want centralised independent Bosnia, Serb nationalists want to stay in Belgrade-dominated rump Yugoslavia, Croats want to join independent Croatian state.

1992

Feb 29 - March 1: Bosnia's Muslims and Croats vote for independence in referendum boycotted by Serbs.

April 6: European Union recognises Bosnia's independence. War breaks out and Serbs, under the leadership of Radovan Karadzic, lay siege to capital Sarajevo. They occupy 70 percent of the country, killing and persecuting Muslims and Croats to carve out a Serb Republic.

May: U.N. sanctions imposed on Serbia for backing rebel Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia.

1993

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL IS SET UP AND LAUNCHED IN BOSNIA

January: Bosnia peace efforts fail, war breaks out between Muslims and Croats, previously allied against Serbs.

April: Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde in eastern Bosnia are declared three of six U.N. "safe areas". The United Nations Protection Force UNPROFOR deploys troops and Bosnian Serb Army (VRS) attacks stop. But the town remains isolated and only a few humanitarian convoys reach it in the following two years.

1994

March: U.S.-brokered agreement ends Muslim-Croat war and creates a Muslim-Croat federation.

1995

March: Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic orders that Srebrenica and Zepa be entirely cut off and aid convoys be stopped from reaching the towns.

July 9: Karadzic issues a new order to conquer Srebrenica.

July 11: Bosnian Serbs troops, under the command of General Ratko Mladic, capture the eastern enclave

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



and U.N. "safe area" of Srebrenica, killing about 8,000 Muslim males in the following week. The U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague indicts Karadzic and Mladic for genocide for the siege of Sarajevo.

August - NATO starts air strikes against Bosnian Serb troops.

November 21 - Following NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serbs, Bosnian Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic agree to a U.S.-brokered peace deal in Dayton, Ohio.

December 14 - The three leaders sign the Dayton peace accords in Paris, paving the way for the arrival of a 66,000-strong NATO peacekeeping Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia. The international community establishes a permanent presence in the country through the office of an international peace overseer.

1996

July - West forces Karadzic to quit as Bosnian Serb president.

September - Nationalist parties win first post-war election, confirming Bosnia's ethnic division.

1997

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL MICROCREDIT SCHEME LAUNCHED

Having lost power, Karadzic goes underground.

2002

February 12 - Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic goes on trial charged with 66 counts of genocide and war crimes in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo.

2003

December - Ex-NATO commander tells the court Milosevic knew Bosnian Serbs planned to massacre Muslims in Bosnia in 1995.

2004

June 11 - In a belated abandonment of its endless denials and under strong international pressure, the Bosnian Serb government make a landmark admission -- that Serbs did indeed massacre thousands of Muslims at in Srebrenica on Karadzic's orders.

2006

March 11 - Milosevic is found dead in his cell in The Hague.

2008

July 21 - Bosnian Serb wartime president Radovan Karadzic, one of the world's most wanted men for planning and ordering genocide, is arrested.

October - Nationalist parties do well among all three ethnic groups in local elections, leaving Bosnian politics divided firmly along ethnic lines.

March - Austrian diplomat Valentin Inzko takes over as High Representative.

May - US Vice-President Joe Biden visits Bosnia and tells local leaders to work together ahead of the expected closure of the Office of the High Representative.

July - Report by High Representative Inzko on progress towards full sovereignty says Bosnian leaders are undermining state institutions despite international condemnation.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



2009

October - EU- and US-brokered talks aimed at breaking deadlock on constitutional reform end in failure. Trial of former Bosnia Serb leader Radovan Karadzic begins at UN tribunal in The Hague. He faces 11 counts of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other atrocities.

February - Bosnian Serb Republic passes law making it easier to hold referendums on national issues, in a move seen as a challenge to the international High Representative's authority and potentially paving the way for a referendum on independence.

March - Bosnian wartime leader Ejup Ganic is arrested in London at the request of Serbia, which accuses him of war crimes. A court later blocks a bid to extradite him.

October - Serb nationalist party led by Bosnian Serb Republic premier Milorad Dodik and multi-ethnic party led by Zlatko Lagumdzija emerge as main winners in general election.

2011

May - Serbian authorities arrest former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic, one of the world's most wanted war crimes suspects.

December - Bosnia's Muslim, Croat and Serb political leaders reach agreement on formation of new central government, bringing to an end 14 months of deadlock since 2010 general election.

2012

January - Parliament elects Croat Vjekoslav Bevanda as prime minister under the December agreement.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BALKANS CONFLICT

Breaking Free from Yugoslavia

The War in Bosnia and Herzegovina, commonly known as the Bosnian War, was an international armed conflict that took place between March 1992 and November 1995.

The conflict came about as a result of the breakup of Yugoslavia. Formed in 1943, the “Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia” comprised of the present-day independent states of:

- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia and
- Slovenia



Unlike its neighbouring counterparts, Bosnia and Herzegovina had no clear ethnic majority. Bosnian Muslims (known as Bosniaks), Catholic Croats, Orthodox Serbs, Jews and Hungarian communities all shared linguistic and cultural histories and traits, ensuring they co-existed side by side in relative peace. Marriages crossing the “ethnic line” were common and most people defined themselves as Bosnian first before declaring any ethnic group partisanship.

However, economic decline and political instability following years of volatile relations with the Soviet Union during the Cold War and the death of the Yugoslavian leader Josip Broz Tito, led to the breakdown of the multinational balance. Raising ethnic tensions, Slobodan Milosevic, a Serbian Communist leader, emerged as President, stirring Serb nationalist hopes of creating a “Greater Serbia” by alienating other Yugoslav republics. Following the successful exit of Slovenia, Serbian nationalists soon began to attack surrounding regions. Croatia voted to secede the Republic in 1991 but was faced with a brutal rebuttal and attack from Milosevic. Bosnian Croats and Bosniaks soon followed in 1992, calling for a referendum for Bosnian independence.

Milosevic again counter-attacked by trying to gain support for his nationalist aims through hate-filled propaganda targeted at both Bosniaks and Croats. Painting Bosniaks as dangerous fundamentalists and using World War II stories of mass killings of Serbs by both Bosniaks and Croats (whilst ignoring mass killings by Serbs during the same period), the two ethnic groups were soon united in their stance as the “culprits” at whose hands the Serbs had suffered political and economic repression and were being halted from true unification.



On February 29, 1992, the Bosnian referendum for independence was passed, sparking what was soon to be one of the largest genocide campaigns in history.

Bosniaks & Croats v. Serbs

Under the guise of protecting the Serb minority in Bosnia, Milosevic channelled arms and military support for Serb nationalist supporters. Bosniaks and Croats responded in turn by arming and organizing their own forces and almost immediately after officially declaring its state of independence, Bosnia and Herzegovina found itself falling head first into civil war.



Slobodan Milosevic

Whilst all parties were to blame for war crimes, Serb nationalism drove the conflict to new and horrendous levels of ethnic brutality.

Over the course of two short years, Serb forces drove over 2 million Bosniaks and Croats out of their homes and desecrated hundreds of churches, mosques, libraries and museums in a bid to wipe out the country's cultural and historical identity. Alongside large-scale "cleansing" of Bosniak men through siege tactics and killing sprees, a strategic rape campaign was also initiated, culminating in the building of 16 "rape camps" where women and young girls were often held captive for up to 8 months or more before being released or killed.

It is estimated (the exact figures are still not known), that the Serb military forces proceeded to systematically rape, enslave and torture over 44,000 Bosnian Muslim girls and women, aged between 18 and 60. Women were also forcibly impregnated and held in the camps until late stages of pregnancy when they were "released" with no provisions or homes to return to in a bid to deter abortion. The children resulting from rape of Bosniak women by Serbs were viewed and sanctioned by Serb forces as "clean and purified".

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan

MEMORIALS AND HISTORICAL SITES

The Genocide Memorial Centre

The Srebrenica Genocide Memorial, officially known as the Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial and Cemetery of the Victims of the 1995 Genocide, is the memorial-cemetery complex in Srebrenica set up to honour the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide. The victims were both Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

The Srebrenica Genocide Memorial opened on the 11th of July of 1995. Since then, every year, tens of thousands of people gather at the memorial site to attend the burial ceremony where newly identified victims are buried. On 11 July 2012, the 17th anniversary, about 30,000 people attended the ceremony and 520 newly identified victims were buried. As of July 2012, 6,838 genocide victims have been identified through DNA analysis of body parts recovered from mass graves and 5,657 victims have been buried.

The March for Peace finishes at the Genocide Memorial the day before the Anniversary, to commemorate the march made by 15,000 Bosniaks who fled after the town fell to the Bosnian Serb Army. The march participants (numbering around 7,000 last year) attend the ceremony on the next day.



The Cemetery at the Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial



Srebrenica Genocide Memorial Stone

The Sarajevo Tunnel

Between May 1992 and November 1995, during the Siege of Sarajevo and in the midst of the Bosnian War, the Sarajevo Tunnel was constructed by the Bosnian Army in order to link the city of Sarajevo, which was entirely cut-off by Serbian forces, with the Bosnian-held territory on the other side of the Sarajevo Airport, an area controlled by the United Nations. The tunnel linked the Sarajevo neighbourhoods of Dobrinja and Butmir, allowing food, war supplies, and humanitarian aid to come into the city and people to get out. The tunnel was one of the major ways to bypassing the international arms embargo and providing city defenders with weaponry.

The construction of the tunnel began in secret on March 1st 1993 under the codename "Objekt BD". It was engineered by a Bosnian civil engineer, Nedzad Brankovic. The tunnel was dug by hand and its construction was completed on June 30th, 1993 when the two tunnels met in the middle.

The tunnel consist of 160 meters of covered trenches on the Dobrinja side, 340 meters of covered trenches on the Butmir side, and 340 meters of actual tunnel under the airport runway. Its height ranged from 0.8 meters to 1.8 meters. Every day, between 3000 and 4000 Bosniak and UN soldiers and 30 tons of

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



various goods passed through the tunnel. On average it took 2 hours to travel through the tunnel. Throughout the war, between 2 and 3 million Muslims and UN soldiers passed through the tunnel.

After the war, The Sarajevo Tunnel Museum was built on a historic private house whose cellar served as the entrance to Sarajevo tunnel.



Sarajevo tunnel



Sarajevo Tunnel Museum



The 'March of Peace'
Nezuk – Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina
8th – 10th July 2014



About the 'March of Peace'

This year's March of Peace ('Mars Mira' in Bosnian) will mark the 19th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. The event is now in its ninth year and attracts thousands of participants, from across Bosnia and Herzegovina and all around the world.

The 110km route is the same as the one taken in July 1995 by thousands of fleeing Bosnian Muslims, after the UN-designated "safe area" of Srebrenica was taken over by Serbian forces. In an attempt to escape certain death, they fled through woods and across hills to try and reach free territory. Many died on route but those who survived arrived six days later at the village of Nezuk, the first settlement under control of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Peace March is done in the opposite direction as a symbolic return to Srebrenica.

What happened in Srebrenica in July 1995 was described by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the worst crime on European soil since the Second World War. UN forces failed to provide protection to the town's Muslim population and more than 8,000 were massacred by units of the Army of Republika Srpska under the command of General Ratko Mladić.

The aim of the March is to commemorate all those who lost their lives in this atrocity, and to ensure that it is never forgotten or repeated. The identification of victims' remains from mass graves continues to this day, and following the march there is a huge memorial service in Srebrenica where those named in the past year can be laid to rest.

Another key aim of the March is to put pressure on the relevant local and international authorities to administer justice for the victims and their families. Prosecuting those responsible for crimes against humanity is seen by many as a prerequisite for building peace and tolerance among people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



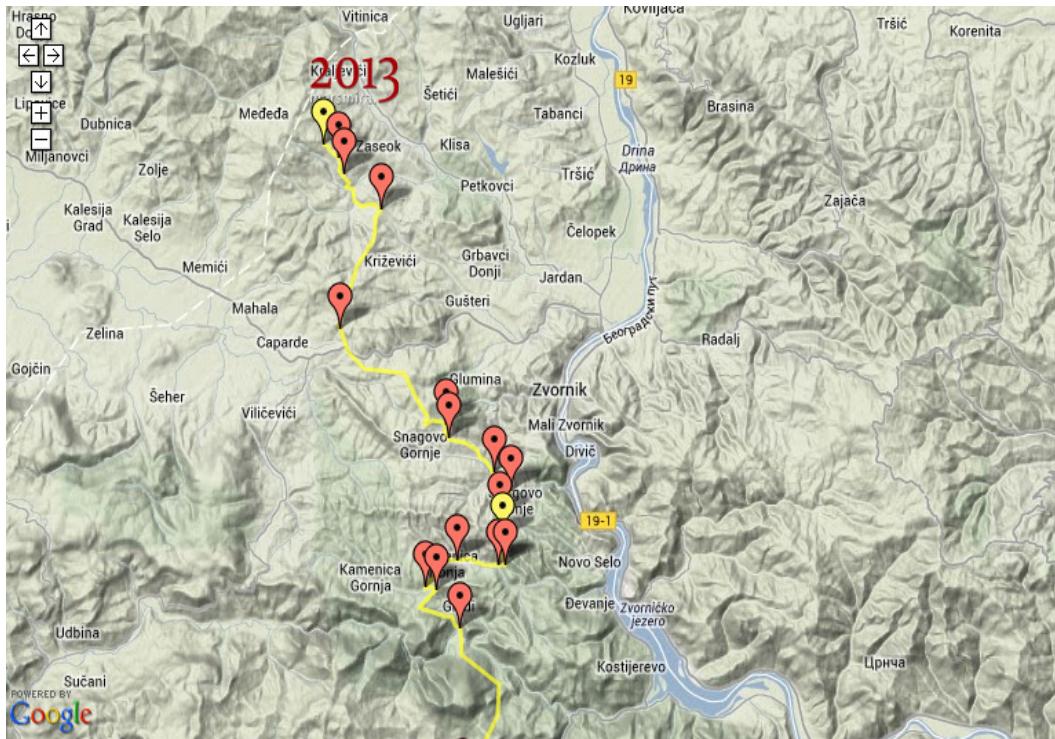
The March of Peace Route 2014

The march starts from the village of Nezuk (Republika Srpska) and after 3 days and 110 kilometres reaches Potočari (Srebrenica Municipality), the former site of the UN base and now a memorial to the genocide.

Each of the daily stages is between 35 and 40 kilometres long and the column passes through a series of checkpoints en route to Srebrenica:

Nezuk - Baljkovica - Parlog - Crni Vrh - Snagovo - Liplje - Jošanica - Donja Kamenica - Bakrači - Glodi - Udrč - Cerska - Kaldrmica - Đugum - Mravinjci - Burnice - Kameničko Brdo - Ravní Buljim - Jaglići - Šušnjari - Budak – Potočari.

Route Map



During the March we will be walking through areas of outstanding natural beauty. The route covers rugged, hilly terrain including the mountain of Udrč (1043m), and areas covered with dense woodland and creeks. We will also pass through a number of returnee villages, where local hospitality has been a highlight of previous marches.



The march also passes through many sites of historical importance from the 1992 – 95 war, and there are stark reminders of the destruction that occurred in this beautiful area in the not-so-distant past. Houses belonging to non-Serbs were completely destroyed, and the route passes through sites where captured Bosniaks were executed and mass graves have been discovered. At certain checkpoints along the march, short historical talks are held, where there will be an opportunity to hear some of the testimonies of survivors and participants of the real "Death March" of 1995.



The third and final day of the march in particular tends to be highly emotional, as landmarks are passed where Serbs attacked and killed thousands fleeing from Srebrenica. The day after the March is finished, participants have the opportunity to attend a memorial service for these victims and participate in the funeral prayer (in Islamic religious tradition) and ceremonial burial of identified victims of the genocide.



Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

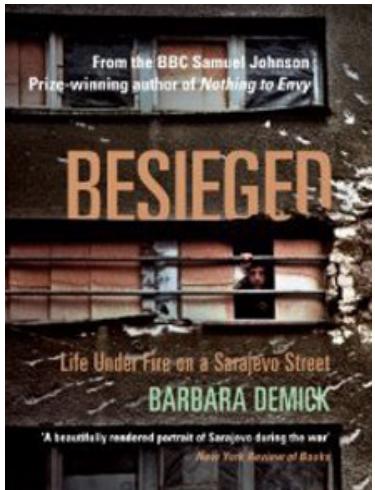
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



IDEAS FOR FURTHER READING

Books



Besieged: Life Under Fire on a Sarajevo Street (2012)

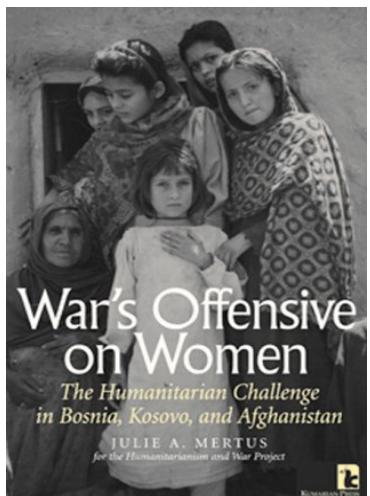
By BARBARA DEMICK

For four centuries, Logavina Street was a quiet residential road in a cosmopolitan city, home to Muslims and Christians, Serbs and Croats. Then the war tore the street apart. In this extraordinary eyewitness account, Demick weaves together the stories of ten families from Logavina Street. For three and a half years, they were often without heat, water, food or electricity. They had to evade daily sniper fire and witnessed the deaths of friends, neighbours and family. Alongside the horrific realities of living in a warzone, Demick describes the roots of the conflict and explains how neighbours and friends were turned so swiftly into deadly enemies. With the same honest, intimate reporting style which won her so many plaudits for Nothing to Envy, Barbara Demick brilliantly illuminates one of the pivotal events of the twentieth century, and describes how, twenty years later, the residents of Logavina Street are coping with its

consequences.

Barbara Demick recommends several other accounts of the Bosnian war in this article:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/authorinterviews/9200898/Barbara-Demick-on-the-best-books-on-Bosnia.html>



War's Offensive on Women: The Humanitarian Challenge in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan (2000)

By JULIE A. MERTUS

Using case studies from Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan, Julie Mertus exemplifies the important roles women play in war, humanitarian crises and post-war reconstruction and the battle to ensure international human rights law addresses gender-based violence.

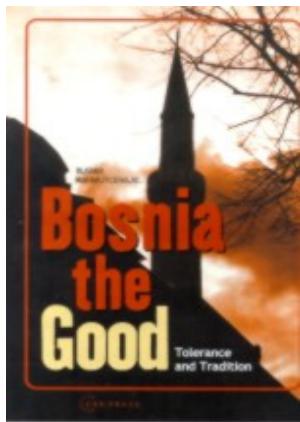
EXTRACT: "Journalists flocked to Bosnia, asking to interview "raped women", and some foreign humanitarian groups set up offices and treatment facilities for "raped women". Women refused to identify themselves by that single criterion. Doing so would open themselves up to criticism and shame within their own communities, affecting prospects for future marriage and family life.

So instead, many women preferred to remain silent, complicating the efforts of protection officers to document persecution." ... (p.28)

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan

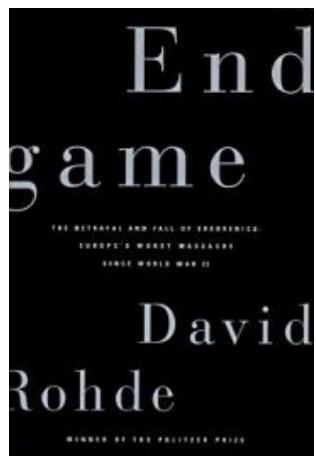


Bosnia the Good: Tolerance and Tradition (2000)

By RUSMIR MAHMUTCEHAJIĆ

Challenging perceptions of the country's past, present and future, *Bosnia the Good* is a spiritual analysis of the tragic religious divisions that, despite having for so long united a country's people, was used to cause the most horrendous crimes against humanity.

EXTRACT: "Throughout the history of Bosnia's religious identity we can trace the presence of three mainsprings of its strength. These are, that man is created for the sake of Perfection; that God has created for all men their own laws and ways of life; and that in faith there can be no compulsion..." (p.151)



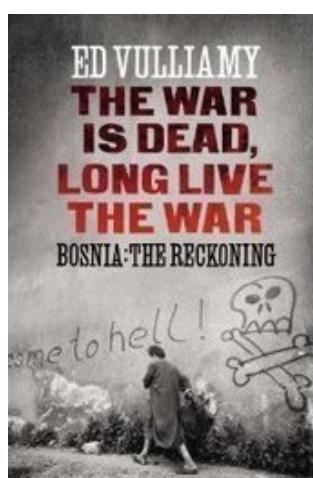
Endgame: The Betrayal and Fall of Srebrenica, Europe's Worst Massacre Since World War II (1997)

BY DAVID ROHDE

In 1996, at the height of the Bosnian wars, a correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor named David Rohde uncovered a horrifying story that became an enduring symbol of the genocidal nature of that conflict, earning him his first Pulitzer Prize. *Endgame* is the full-length narrative of the nightmare he stumbled upon in Srebrenica. Rohde follows the experiences of seven central characters—three Muslims in Srebrenica, two Dutch peacekeepers charged with defending the surrounded town, and two Serb Army soldiers attacking it—through the ten-day period that changed the course of the war in Bosnia and was arguably the darkest hour in United Nations history. Rohde exposes how the United States, France, Great Britain, the United Nations and the Bosnian government—out of incompetence or

cynicism—allowed 40,000 Muslims to fall into the hands of their potential executioners. Part of an apparent Serb endgame to win the war, Srebrenica's fall ended up playing a crucial role in the Clinton administration's "endgame strategy" that halted the conflict. A new afterword by the author updates recent efforts to find the missing victims of Srebrenica and to apprehend and prosecute the executioners.

"Powerful...definitive...Rohde tells the Srebrenica story with all the shades of gray the truth demanded." - The Washington Post



The War Is Dead, Long Live the War (2012)

BY ED VULLIAMY

In June 1991 while working as a reporter in Rome, Ed Vulliamy received a phone call from his editor at the Guardian asking him to travel to the neighbouring Balkan states to check out something strange that was happening in the region. Vulliamy spent the next few years immersed in the Bosnian War, the worst carnage to blight European soil since the Third Reich. In August 1992, Vulliamy revealed to the world the horrific concentration camps that were in operation in Omarska and Trnopolje in Bosnia.

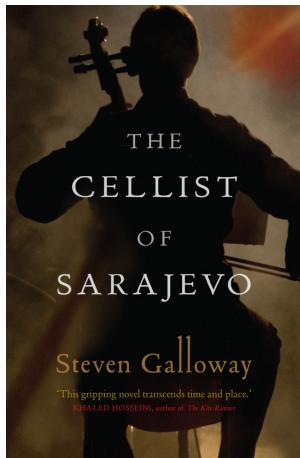
Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



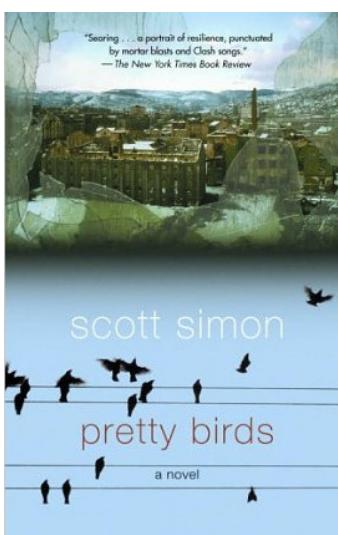
The War is Dead, Long Live The War is a tribute to some of the survivors, who are now scattered across various cities around the world in exile. As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the war's outbreak, Vulliamy argues that there has been little reckoning or redemption in the region.



The Cellist of Sarajevo (2008) By STEVEN GALLOWAY

In a city ravaged by war, a musician plays his cello for twenty-two days at the site of a mortar attack, in memory of the fallen. Among the strangers drawn into the orbit of his music are a young father in search of water for his family, an older man in search of the humanity he once knew, and a young woman, a sniper, who will decide the fate of the cellist—and the kind of person she wants to be. A novel of great intensity and power, *The Cellist of Sarajevo* is a testament to the endurance of the spirit and the subtle ways individuals reclaim their humanity in a time of war.

'Though the setting is the siege of Sarajevo in the 1990s, this gripping novel transcends time and place. It is a universal story, and a testimony to the struggle to find meaning, grace, and humanity, even amid the most unimaginable horrors.' - Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*



Pretty Birds (2006) By SCOTT SIMON

In the spring of 1992, Irena Zaric is a star on her Sarajevo high school basketball team, a tough, funny teenager who has taught her parrot, Pretty Bird, to do a decent imitation of a ball hitting a hoop. Irena wears her hair short like K. D. Lang's, and she loves Madonna, Michael Jordan, and Johnny Depp. But while Irena rocks out and shoots baskets with her friends, her beloved city has become a battleground. When the violence and terror of "ethnic cleansing" against Muslims begins, Irena and her family, brutalized by Serb soldiers, flee for safety across the river that divides the city.

The universally respected NPR journalist and bestselling memoirist Scott Simon makes a dazzling fiction debut. In *Pretty Birds*, Simon creates an intense, startling, and tragicomic portrait of a classic character—a young woman in the besieged city of Sarajevo in the early 1990s. As a journalist, Scott Simon covered the siege of Sarajevo. Here, in a novel as suspenseful as a John le Carré thriller, he re-creates the atmosphere of that place and time and the pain and dark humour of its people.

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



Articles

- *The Woman Who Helped Make Rape A War Crime* - Huffington Post, March 2013

A young judge, Nusreta Sivac was one of 37 women raped by guards at a concentration camp in Bosnia. It is partly thanks to her efforts to gather testimony from women across Bosnia that rape has since been categorised as a war crime under international law. Thirty people have been convicted at the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague and another 30 cases are ongoing. Earlier this year she spoke about her story and ongoing work. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/08/nusreta-sivac-rape-war-crime_n_2835241.html

- *Suffering in Silence: Women in the shadow of Srebrenica* – Guardian Professional, June 2013

The shadows of war still fall over the survivors of the massacre, but solidarity and practical support is giving women security and a place of safety. This article includes an interview with Ahida Dudich, a graduate of WfWI's programme, who talks about how the training and support transformed her life. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development-professionals-network/2013/jun/07/srebrenica-women?INTCMP=SRCH>

- *Srebrenica Remembered: A Funeral for 613* – The Economist, July 2011

An Economist blogger who attended the annual memorial and burial ceremony in 2011 writes about his experiences.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2011/07/srebrenica-remembered>

- *Unforgiven, Unforgotten, Unresolved: Bosnia 20 Years On* – Alec Russell, Financial Times, March 2012

For a wider perspective on the 1992-1995 campaign of ethnic cleansing and its lasting wounds. Alec Russell revisits the small town of called Visegrad, which one of the Bosnian Muslims quoted describes as: "worse than Srebrenica...It was a small, slow genocide that went on for weeks. Teachers murdered pupils. Pupils murdered teachers. Godfathers murdered each other ... It was a hunting party and we were the prey." <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/8a698dbe-73af-11e1-aab3-00144feab49a.html#axzz1rvAiW9ZI>

- *Grief of Bosnia War Lingers On* – Alan Little, BBC News, April 2012

The BBC's Allan Little recalls the horrors of the Bosnian war, 20 years after Serb forces laid siege to the capital Sarajevo. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17636221>

The **International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)** was the first war crimes tribunal created since Nuremberg at the end of World War II. To date, it has indicted 161 individuals, including senior politicians and military leaders. Currently, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić are both on trial on two counts of genocide and other war crimes committed in Srebrenica, Prijedor, Ključ, and other districts of Bosnia.

- *Bosnian Serb general crosses himself as he's sentenced to life for Srebrenica Genocide* – The Telegraph, 12 December 2012

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH
Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan



The UN's Yugoslav war crimes court found Zdravko Tolimir, a former Bosnian Serb general, guilty of genocide for his role in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, and sentenced him to life in jail.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/bosnia/9740933/Bosnian-Serb-general-crosses-himself-as-hes-sentenced-to-life-for-Srebrenica-genocide.html>

- ***Serbian Security chiefs acquitted of war crimes by UN judges - The Telegraph, 30 May 2013***

Slobodan Milosevic's two most senior Serbian state security officials have been acquitted of organising war crimes in Bosnia and Croatia carried out by Serb combat units in the war following the breakup of Yugoslavia. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/serbia/10089709/Serbian-security-chiefs-acquitted-of-war-crimes-by-UN-judges.html>

- ***Serbian President apologises for Srebrenica 'crime' – BBC News, April 2013***

Serbia's President, Tomislav Nikolic, has apologised for all "crimes" committed by Serbs during the breakup of Yugoslavia, including Srebrenica. But he refused to call the killing of thousands of Bosnian Muslims an act of genocide, as recognised by UN war crimes prosecutors. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22297089>

Research reports

- ***Old Crimes, Same Suffering: No Justice for Survivors of Wartime Rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Amnesty International Report, March 2012***

It was in response to the plight of Bosnian women being held in rape camps that Zainab Salbi founded Women for Women International in 1993. Rape occurred on all sides during the war, but Muslim and Catholic women were particularly targeted by Serb forces. Estimates of the total numbers raped range from 20,000 to 50,000. Successive governments have failed to acknowledge the rights of civilian victims of wartime sexual violence and provide them with access to justice, truth and reparation. Almost two decades after the end of the conflict, this recent report calls on state and entity authorities to fulfil their international legal obligations to address the survivors' suffering.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR63/002/2012/en/f688b1c8-1fa2-46ba-ae26-0b6ec344401f/eur630022012en.pdf>

- ***Perspectives Series Research Report: War Victims and Gender-Sensitive Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Recurrence in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Maja Šoštarić / Impunity Watch***

<http://www.impunitywatch.org/upload/UserFiles/file/Bosnia%20FINAL.pdf>

- ***Bridging the Gap: The Gender Impact of the Rule of Law and its Application – Women for Women International (UK) research report***

http://issuu.com/womenforwomenuk/docs/wfwi_research_report_aug_2013_v7b_1

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org.uk 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH

Charity Registration No: 1115109 Company Registration No: 05650155

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan