

Bosnia and Herzegovina

NGO report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in preparation for the review of the 2nd periodic report submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

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NGO coalition submitting the report:

Human Rights House in Sarajevo (coordinator) and Human Rights House Foundation

CURE Foundation

European Law Students Association (ELSA)

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Initiative and Civil Action (ICVA)

Regional Co-ordinator for Youth Groups

Renaissance - Association of Female Citizens

Rights for All

Serbian Civic Council - Movement for Equality

Woman and Society Centre

www.humanrightshouse.org

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Introduction

The report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina was produced by an informal NGO coalition in preparation of the 2nd review of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The coalition gathered around the Human Rights House in Sarajevo, and supported by the Human Rights House Foundation.

The coalition has decided to report on the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee at the initial review of Bosnia and Herzegovina, thereby following the presentation used in the State's report (CCPR/C/BIH/2). The coalition also reports on some additional issues.

Follow-up to the initial review of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Some of the members of coalition presenting this report have submitted a progress report on the follow-up of the Concluding Observations of the initial review of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1). The NGO report can be found on the website of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights: http://ccprcentre.org/doc/HRC/Bosnia%20Herzegovina/Bosnia_final_v2.pdf.

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Comments on the implementation of the recommendations made to Bosnia and Herzegovina's initial report

Recommendation 8

The State party should reopen talks on the constitutional reform in a transparent process and on a wide participatory basis, including all stakeholders, with a view to adopting an electoral system that guarantees equal enjoyment of the rights under article 25 of the Covenant to all citizens irrespective of ethnicity.

The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), adopted as an annex to the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement, contains provisions that are contrary to international human rights standards. The UN Human Rights Committee indicated that the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina contains discriminatory provisions, requesting that the authorities undertake constitutional reform, and harmonize the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the international standards. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination underlined that the Constitution contains discriminatory provisions and recommended that the State ensures the equal enjoyment of the right to vote and to stand for elections for all citizens irrespective of their ethnic background.¹ Furthermore, it is important to mention that NGOs for the protection of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ever since 1996, have been persistent in their efforts to make the authorities amend the discriminatory provisions of the Constitution.

The European Court for Human Rights condemned Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2009 for denying the national minorities the right to be elected as members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Once more, the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities have been requested to carry out the constitutional amendment as to eliminate the discriminatory provisions and harmonize the Constitution with the international standards.²

In 2011, a Temporary Joint Committee of both Houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina was formed to implement the Verdict of the Court. The Committee comprised 13 political parties and representatives of the Council of National Minorities and a certain number of NGOs. The political actors failed to reach an agreement, and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina was not amended, and it preserved the discriminatory provisions.

There are no clear indications as to when the talks on constitutional reform might be reopened or an appropriate solution found.³

The constitutional reform is even more important, due to the fact that citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot identify themselves simply as citizens from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian and Herzegovinian), but have to identify as belonging to an ethnical group. This ethnical identification is the cause of many cases of discrimination, in access to health care, to public education, and as discussed above, to public office.

¹ Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, recommendation 7, Geneva, 27 August 2010 (UN Doc.: CERD/C/BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/CO/7-8).

² European Court of Human Rights, Grand Chambre, Case of Sejdic and Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Strasbourg, 22 December 2009 (Applications nos. 27996/06 and 34836/06).

³ In February 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina has accepted the recommendations 100 made by the United Kingdom and 102 made by the Netherlands on the reform of the Constitution at its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) (Report of the Working Group on the UPR, 19 February 2010, UN Doc.: H/HRC/WG.6/7/L.15).

Recommendation 10

The State party should intensify its efforts to adopt a systematic approach to reestablishing mutual trust between different ethnic groups and accounting for past human rights abuses.

Initiatives for establishment of mutual trust between different ethnic groups usually come from the representatives of the civil society and international community. All these initiatives, except the one for establishment of truth in Srebrenica in July 1995, did not receive support from the authorities. An Act on Establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, prepared by NGOs and delivered to the competent authorities, has not been adopted. All efforts to find out the truth about the war events that took place in Sarajevo, which were guided by the experience of the Commission for investigation of the events in and around Srebrenica, have also failed. Other efforts to formalize and legalize the normalization process in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina have also failed.

Non-governmental organisations are constantly trying to initiate talks between the former warring parties in certain local communities in order to meet victims' expectations and to create an atmosphere of tolerance.

Reconciliation, establishment of trust, tolerance and cooperation between different ethnic groups should be directed mainly towards young people. Even though they did not participate in armed conflicts, young people live with the consequences of war, which affect their attitudes and actions. Therefore, it is extremely important to provide a systematic approach to problems of ethnic differences among young people. NGOs already contribute and their impact could be made greater with a more proactive willingness to cooperate from state authorities.

Obviously, establishing the truth about war events and reconciliation are not yet the main priorities of the political bodies. The lack of action by political leadership can be considered as the main cause of the insufficient work in the country on war events and reconciliation.

Recommendation 12

The State party should ensure the effective implementation of the legislation to combat domestic violence, intensify the training provided to judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers on the application of such legislation, as well as to hospital and other staff working with victims of domestic violence and child abuse, introduce standard procedures for the collection of medical evidence of domestic violence, and enhance victim assistance programs and access to effective remedies.⁴

Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted several acts and policies on domestic violence, both on entity and state levels. Unfortunately, the State does not have reliable statistic data on the actual number of victims of domestic violence, or the number of people who report such cases. Furthermore, we cannot talk with certainty about the results of the implementation of adopted laws and policies with respect to these issues because we lack reliable data about the actual number of reported cases and number of cases pending before the Prosecutor's offices, nor do we have data on court verdicts in these cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the other hand, data of the NGOs that provide support and help to victims of domestic violence show certain increases in the number of these cases.

Available and incomplete data⁵ from courts of all levels, for the referenced reporting period,

⁴ Bosnia and Herzegovina has accepted the recommendations 57 made by Belgium, 59 made by Australia, and 71 made by Malaysia on domestic violence, the judicial system related to domestic violence, trafficking, as well as sexual abuse of women and girls at its UPR (Report of the Working Group on the UPR).

⁵ The statistics are not harmonized and there are differences in the statistics in the entities. In addition, one cannot see, from police statistics for example, whether it is a case of domestic violence or disturbance

indicate that courts, in the majority of cases, usually issue conditional sentences, and rarely fines, prison sentences and other criminal sanctions. It is also important to point out the fact that protective measures are ordered in a relatively small number of cases, despite the fact that they are prescribed by both entity Laws on protection from domestic violence. These measures are imposed to punish a perpetrator, and not to protect a victim.

Moreover, NGOs often point out that the public still perceives domestic violence in a stereotypical manner, and doesn't understand the actual problems. The main causes are often understood to be poverty, unemployment, and alcoholism. Although these are the factors that play a role in generating domestic violence, it must be said that impunity, lack of preventive measures, tolerance towards the violence against women that prevails in the society, and the absence of legal solutions increase the risk of domestic violence.

What needs to be emphasized is the fact that women often avoid seeking help and protection from competent institutions because of fear, shame or fear of being judged by the community, or their inability to survive outside their families. There are no sufficient measures that would provide access to social security and protection, housing, employment or legal aid to victims of domestic violence. Majority of services and support to victims of domestic violence is still provided by NGOs, which are largely financed through international donor funds, whereas the state funds are still insufficient. It is incorrect to say that those shelters are fully funded by public authorities. In addition, the part of public funding received is uncertain and can change depending on a swift political decision and not on the financial or administrative situation of the funding authority or the needs in the field.

On domestic violence, some members of the coalition submitting this report also submitted a report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women containing more information and date: <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/15609.html>.

Recommendation 14

The State party should take immediate and effective steps to investigate all unresolved cases of missing persons and ensure without delay that the Institute for Missing Persons becomes fully operational, in accordance with the Constitutional Court's decision of 13 August 2005. It should ensure that the central database of missing persons is finalized and accurate, that the Fund for Support to Families of Missing Persons is secured and that payments to families commence as soon as possible.

Sixteen years after the end of the war 10'000 persons are still considered missing. Within the referenced period, remains of about 20'000 persons were found, and most of them were identified.

Families of missing persons still believe that the process of finding their loved ones is very slow and inefficient.

Independent bodies for missing persons, mainly the International Commission for Missing Persons, believe that the hiding of dead bodies of the missing persons was very well planned, which thus made looking for the bodies of the missing persons very difficult.

Therefore, missing persons' families and organisations for missing persons are constantly putting pressure on the authorities to speed up the search process and to help detect the mass graves and other sites suspected of containing remains of missing persons.

Despite the fact that the competent authorities believe that it is imperative to establish a fund to support missing persons' families, this has not yet happened, and these families are still deprived of financial support, which only aggravates their position and prolongs their agonies.

of public order. It is therefore difficult for NGOs to follow the implementation of measures undertaken against domestic violence.

In addition, authorities have still not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 6 February 2007.

A coalition of various NGOs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swiss Association against Impunity has submitted a very complete report to the Human Rights Committee on the implementation of the recommendation 14, and more generally on the consequences of war and missing peoples.

Recommendation 16

The State party should ensure that the perpetrators of acts of trafficking in persons are effectively prosecuted; that judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers receive intensified training on the application of anti-trafficking and anticorruption standards; that sufficient funds are allocated from the State budget to victim assistance and witness protection programs; and that effective measures are taken to combat the exploitation of children, especially Roma and other ethnic minority children, for the purpose of street begging or other forced labour.

Even though certain laws and measures for the prevention of illegal trafficking of persons have been adopted, so called “arranged” or “forced” marriages still present a problem.

These marriages are a form of trafficking of young girls and children. Unfortunately this State does not undertake steps to prevent this practice. NGOs constantly report on the incidence of arranged marriages for the purpose of trafficking, especially within the Roma community.

Recommendation 19

The State party should improve the material and hygienic conditions in detention facilities, prisons and mental health institutions in both Entities and ensure sufficient staffing levels, as well as regular exercise and out-of-cell activities for inmates, and adequate treatment of mental health patients. It should transfer all patients from Zenica Prison Forensic Psychiatric Annex and, to that end, ensure that Sokolac Psychiatric Hospital meets international standards.

As underlined by the United Nations Committee against Torture⁶, Bosnia and Herzegovina did not meet the obligations of providing appropriate accommodation to persons referred for compulsory psychiatric treatment. Deadlines for reconstruction and adaptation of the Special Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in Sokolac have been extended several times, and recent estimates indicate that the Special Hospital will be completed in late 2012.

What can be considered as positive is the fact that the Zenica Prison Forensic Annex was moved to a new building, which improved the material and hygienic conditions of patients.

However, there is still a problem of the lack of qualified staff in forensic units and pharmacotherapy is still the only method of treatment in the majority of cases.

In its report on institutions for accommodation of mentally disabled persons⁷, the Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina presented a set of recommendations that have not yet gained the attention of authorities, although the Committee against Torture recommended the full and timely implementation of those recommendations.⁸

⁶ Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee against Torture, recommendation 20, Geneva, 20 January 2011 (UN Doc.: CAT/C/BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/CO/2-5).

⁷ Special rapport on the situation of human rights in institutions for accommodation of mentally disabled persons, Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Banjaluka, 10 September 2009 (view: <http://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/docs/SpecialReportontheSituationofHumanRightsintheInstitutionsforAccommodationofMentallyDisabledPersons.pdf>).

⁸ Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee against Torture, recommendation 20, *op. cit.*

Recommendation 21

The State party should proceed with the phasing-out of collective centres for IDPs and provide adequate alternative housing to the residents of such centres.

Today, there are about 158 collective centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina. About 2400 families live in these centres. The Revised Return Strategy was adopted in 2010, which contained plans to complete the return process by 2014, including the phasing-out of the collective centres.

There has been no step forward in the implementation of the Revised Return Strategy within this year and no improvement with respect to the closing of collective centres, or in providing adequate alternative housing to residents of such centres.

Recommendation 22

The State party should remove administrative obstacles and fees in order to ensure that all Roma are provided with personal documents, including birth certificates, which are necessary for them to have access to health insurance, social security, education and other basic rights.

Roma women tend to be discriminated for belonging to the Roma minority and are also discriminated based on gender, social origin or status, etc. Therefore, Roma women are victims of “multiple discrimination”.

Low educational level among Roma women, where only half complete elementary school, and only a small number have higher education, presents a serious problem. A consequence of the aforesaid is a high unemployment rate among Roma women, which amounts to more than 87%, whereas only 8.4% are employed. Not a single Roma woman can be found working in the legislative or executive, or other decision-making bodies.

The State has issued a certain number of policies and measures for improvement of the position of the Roma population. The government’s position with respect to women and their rights, stipulated in the Strategy for solving the Roma issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is considered very worrying. In fact, only one paragraph of this Strategy refers to the issues of equality of Roma women within both the Roma community and the entire society.

However, even six years after the adoption of the referenced Strategy these modest objectives have not been met, nor are there any actions for their realization.

Recommendation 24

The State party should vigorously undertake programs of public information to combat anti-Roma prejudice in society. It should also include in its next periodic report detailed information on the measures implemented to give effect to the linguistic and educational rights of the Roma that are protected under the Law on the Protection of Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities, the effectiveness of these measures, the number of Roma children receiving instruction in or of their language and on their culture, as well as data disaggregated by sex, age and place of residence, and information regarding the hours of instruction per week.

The State did not put sufficient efforts into familiarizing the members of the national minorities and persons employed in public services and justice with the provisions of the Law on the Protection of Rights of Person Belonging to National Minorities. Members of the minority groups are not familiar with the protection mechanisms that are available to them, nor do they know whom to address for protection of their rights.

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees did not establish the mechanism for keeping track of discrimination cases, which was compulsory.

The Ombudsman Institution does not have the adequate means or staff to perform its central function defined under the Law, which is protection from discrimination.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has in 2010 reiterated its recommendations to the State to combat prejudices against Roma people “and to ensure that all Roma have access to personal documents that are necessary for them to enjoy their civil and political rights, as well as their economic social and cultural rights.”⁹

⁹ Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, recommendation 12.

Additional issues

Discrimination against LGBT people in domestic law and practice (article 2 ICCPR)

Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted a number of laws and directives prohibiting discrimination on various grounds, including the law on prohibition of discrimination in 2009.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights activists are threatened and attacked in Bosnia and Herzegovina, because of the work they do. At the opening of the first Queer Festival in Sarajevo, on 24 September 2008, eight participants were physically assaulted. One of the organisers of the Festival, Svetlana Djurkovic, received death threats. These events in Autumn 2008 were extremely serious -- international NGOs, such as Amnesty International, and the international community reacted to these events, but the political leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not take the full measure of the threat against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has not acted to prevent such violence and allow lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to fully enjoy their rights to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association.

The law on prohibition of discrimination does not mention sexual orientation or gender identity as one criterion under which nobody shall be discriminated against. It does not mention same-sex marriage either. During the discussion of the law, some religious leaders argued that a general non-discrimination clause, giving the same rights to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, would be "nonsense because we will be in a position where we protect the rights of one, homosexuals, and discriminate the rights of others, believers."¹⁰

Freedom of the media and freedom of expression (article 19 ICCPR)

Public Radio and TV broadcasting in Bosnia and Herzegovina is strongly influenced by the authorities and political formations. Editing policies of these media outlets, which have a strong influence on the public, is governed by the interests of political circles, and they therefore cannot be considered professional and independent.

The Regulatory Agency for Communications, an independent body for protection of journalistic standards and ethics, is also under significant influence.

The private media also usually represents the narrow political and business interests of their owners and business lobbies, and sometimes are even in service of religious leaders. In addition, these media outlets are disregarding the journalistic professionalism and ethics.

A certain number of journalists are exposed to physical violence and constant pressure by means of threat and intimidation attempts, which negatively affects the freedom of expression.

Law on free access to information had little success in disclosing certain sources of information, which creates preconditions for manipulation of the citizens' and public opinion.

¹⁰ Vanja Jovanovic, Priest of Serbian Orthodox Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina, quoted on the website of the Human Rights House Network, 14 October 2010 (see: <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/15239.html>).

Propaganda for war or advocacy of national racial or religious hatred (article 20 ICCPR)

The language of hatred is still widely present in certain media, whereas the existing mechanisms of regulation, in electronic media, and self-regulation in print media, have proven to be insufficient and inefficient.

National authorities, including the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, have a responsibility to prevent national, racial and religious hatred, and to fully engage in prevention campaigns as well as to support discussions between the various communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although laws to prevent national, racial and religious hatred have been adopted, the political leadership is not willing to implement them and to sanction those responsible for such hatred.

Harassment, threats and other attacks against human rights defenders

On the 10 and 12 January 2012, the daily newspaper *Oslobodenje* published two press releases of the Public Relations service of the Ryiasat of the Islamic Community containing large-scale allegations according to which "... the Helsinki Committee in Bosnia and Herzegovina had gone into moral bankruptcy a long time ago because they protect the violation of fundamental rights of Muslims by supporting the discrimination against Muslims, especially covered Muslim women..." Furthermore, the mentioned press releases falsely argue that "... the characteristics of this [Helsinki] Committee is to take the opposite side or remain silent in cases of violation of the Muslims' rights..."

Based on false grounds, both press releases decrease the respect, regard, and confidence in which the organisation and its members are held, and induce hostile opinions against the Helsinki Committee and its members. By pointing out prominent human rights defenders, they increase the risk of harassment and other attacks on those defenders and their relatives.

These verbal attacks against the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, its current president, Vera Jovanovic, and its former president, Srdan Dizdarevic, are the most recent example of hate speech in the country and of a defamation campaign against human rights defenders.

Authorities do not take action to protect the right to be a human rights defender, nor do they publicly denounce defamation of human rights defenders, or support human rights NGOs and their work.

Suggested questions for the list of issues of the United Nations Human Rights Committee

Non-discrimination (art. 2 ICCPR)

1. Please provide the Committee with further information on the plans to reform the constitution in order to guarantee equal enjoyment of the rights under article 25 of the Covenant to all citizens irrespective of ethnicity.
2. Please provide information to the Committee on the access to health care, to the welfare system, and to public education for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina who do not recognise themselves as Bosniaks, Serbs or Croats.

Equal rights of men and women (art. 3 ICCPR)

3. Please provide information on the sources of the statistical data provided in the second periodic report (paragraphs 55 and following).
4. Please provide documentation on the financial support given to safe houses for victims of domestic violence from local and national authorities. Please also provide information on support of NGOs working on the prevention of domestic violence.
5. Please provide information on the public sensitisation activities carried out by state authorities or NGOs with the support of authorities to prevent domestic violence.

Right to life and cases of missing persons (art. 6 ICCPR)

6. Will Bosnia and Herzegovina ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and thus adopt a plan to speed up the process of finding missing persons and fully support families of missing persons in their search for the truth?

Trafficking in persons (art. 8 ICCPR)

7. Please provide information on the effective persecution of the perpetrators of acts of trafficking in persons.
8. Please provide documentation on the steps taken to protect witnesses and provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, including psychological assistance.
9. Please provide information on the concrete measures taken, in addition to specific legislation, to prevent forced marriages, especially of young girls and children.

Rights of persons deprived of their liberty (art. 10 ICCPR)

10. Please provide documentation on the plans to reconstruct the Special Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in Sokolac.
11. Please provide documentation on the concrete steps taken by local and national authorities to implement the recommendations made by the Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Special Report on the situation of human rights in institutions for accommodation of mentally disabled persons.

Situation of Roma people

12. Please provide information on the steps taken, including legislative, to prevent discrimination against Roma people, including in access to health care, to the welfare system, and to public education.

Situation of LGBT people

13. Please provide documentation on the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to enjoy all human rights.
14. Please provide information on steps taken by local and national authorities to prevent discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Internally displaced people

15. Please provide documentation on the concrete steps taken by local and national authorities to implement the Revised Return Strategy.

Situation of human rights defenders

16. Please provide documentation on steps taken by local and national authorities to ensure the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
17. Please also provide information on campaigns against human rights defenders and steps taken by authorities to protect human rights defenders and their NGOs.

About the NGO coalition

This coalition of independent non-governmental organisations is established around the Human Rights House Sarajevo.

Human Rights House in Sarajevo (coordinator) and Human Rights House Foundation

The Human Rights House Network is a forum of cooperation between established and emerging Human Rights Houses, uniting 70 NGOs in 15 countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, East and Horn of Africa, and Western Europe. The Human Rights House Sarajevo is a member of the Network. HRHN's aim is to protect, empower and support human rights defenders and their organisations. The Human Rights House Foundation, based in Oslo (Norway) and Geneva (Switzerland), is the secretariat of the Human Rights House Network.

- Website of the Human Rights House Sarajevo: http://humanrightshouse.org/Members/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina/index.html
- Website of the Human Rights House Network: <http://humanrightshouse.org>

CURE Foundation

CURE Foundation is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation that works through feminist activism, education, arts and culture, publishing, and event management, in order to spark continued public dialogue on gender equality issues that are essential for a democratic society in BiH.

- Website: <http://www.fondacijacure.org>

European Law Students Association (ELSA)

ELSA is the world's largest independent law students' association. It comprises a membership of around 32,000 students and recent graduates who are interested in law and have demonstrated commitment to international issues. ELSA operates primarily through its Local Groups, which are located at nearly 300 law faculties in universities throughout 42 countries in Europe.

- Website: <http://www.elsa.org>

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The aim of the Committee is the protection and promotion of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the founders of the Human Rights House Sarajevo.

- Website: <http://www.bh-hchr.org>

Initiative and Civil Action (ICVA)

ICVA's aim is strengthening the non-governmental sector in BiH through providing support to NGOs in: information-sharing and production of information sources; developing policies on issues relevant to NGO sector in BiH; advocacy towards governments, international organisations, UN and other stakeholders.

- Website: <http://www.icva-bh.org>

Regional Co-ordinator for Youth Groups

Office of Regional Co-ordinator for Youth Groups of West Balkan was founded in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in August 2005, by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, which is organizing Human Rights Schools for high school students of West Balkan from 2000.

- Website: <http://www.humanrightsschools.org>

Renaissance - Association of Female Citizens

The Association is a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit organisation established on 8 May 1999 in Sarajevo. It acts in a capacity of legal person on the territory of Sarajevo Canton and in the future it will function on the territory of the Federation of B&H.

- Website: <http://www.renesansa.com.ba>

Rights for All

Rights for All is a non-governmental human rights and advocacy organisation aiming to create a just and democratic society based on human rights principles. We believe that critical forces for achieving deep-rooted and sustainable change come from within each society and Rights for All collaborate in partnership with organisations that share our vision of just society based on human rights principles on local, national, regional and international level.

- Website: <http://www.rightsforall.ba>

Serbian Civic Council - Movement for Equality

Forum of the citizens of Serb ethnical origin was founded in May 1992. Serb Consultative Board was founded in November 1993. Serb Civic Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Canton Sarajevo was founded in Sarajevo at the First Assembly of Citizen of Serb Nationality, held on March 27, 1994, as an Association of Citizens.

- Additional information: <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/5107.html>

Woman and Society Centre

The Research, Policy and Advocacy Centre “Woman and Society” from Sarajevo is an independent, feminist, non-governmental and non-profit organisation operating at the level of the State of BiH. The primary goal of the Centre is promotion of women's rights at the national, regional, and global level, and advocacy for gender-sensitive democratisation of the BiH society.

- Additional information: <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/5110.html>

