

2013

SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE

NEWSLETTER: WINTER EDITION

EVENTS

PUBLICATIONS

CONFERENCES

EXHIBITIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Sarajevo Open Centre.....2

Research Project: the Needs of.....3
the LGBT Community in Bosnia &
Herzegovina

Project: Mainstreaming LGBT Rights.....5

Cooperation with the Police.....6

High School Trainings.....7

Hate Crime Advocacy.....8

Regional Conference: Advancing
the Human Rights of LGBT People in
the Western Balkans.....9

Conferences.....10

SOC Presents: SEVEN.....11

New Book: The Women's.....12
Movement in BiH

Other Events.....13

Publications.....15

Upcoming Events.....18

Team.....19

ABOUT SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE

Vision

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a society based on equal rights and possibilities for everyone, built on active and engaged citizens and an accountable state.

Mission

Sarajevo Open Centre is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organisation dedicated to advocating for the full respect of human rights and decreasing the level of discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sarajevo Open Centre is an organization that empowers women and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) persons through community activities and promotes the human rights of women and LGBT persons in general public. Sarajevo Open Centre advocates for improved legislation and policies and the implementation of the existing ones within BiH institutions and international bodies.

SOC was established in 2007, and we have been working intensively since 2011, when we opened our first office. The team grew from 3 (2011) to 10 (July 2013) members.

Achievements

Sarajevo Open Centre is **recognized as a relevant civil society actor** in advocating for reduction of discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity on the national and international level. On the **national level**, we initiated the advocacy that led the Federation of BiH Parliament to include hate crimes in the Federation's criminal code; we also successfully pressed for the changing of a discriminatory questionnaire for voluntary blood donation in the Federation. On the **international level**, we conducted monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe's recommendations on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; we contributed to the Progress Report and the State Department Report; we participated in the preparation of the UN's Universal Periodic Review; we coordinated the creation of an alternative CEDAW Report, and we provided support to a platform of women's priorities for constitutional changes. **For a more extensive list of our achievements**, click **here**.

Links:

Strategic Plan 2013-2015

Sarajevo Open Centre

LGBT Rights Portal



RESEARCH PROJECT: The Needs of the LGBT Community in BiH

Sarajevo Open Centre completed a research project on the needs of the LGBT community in BiH as a part of the **Coming Out** project, funded by the Open Society Fund, between February and July 2013. The initial aim of this research was to map the real problems and to assess the particular needs of LGBT persons in BiH. The results will enable the definition of precise and clear arguments that can be used in future problem solving, which will lead to the improvement of concrete activities in the spheres of advocacy, education, and meetings with institutions that have been proven to act in a discriminative manner against LGBT persons.

The research encompassed 545 female, male, intersexual and transgender persons (homosexual, bisexual, asexual, pan sexual, heterosexual and 'other' sexual orientations) ranging in age from 15 to 54. Since a significant number of trans and intersex persons participated in the research, one chapter is dedicated specifically to them. Based on the analyses of collected statistical data and additional comments that examinees have emphasized, we have produced general conclusions and recommendations for certain sectors – some parts of the health care system, police, and also civil society.



After six months of data collection and analysis of the needs and problems of the LGBT community in BiH, we have a clearer perception of the life conditions of LGBT persons and their consequences. It is clear that a long sociological, cultural and legal path lies ahead of Bosnia and Herzegovina in pursuit of the day when LGBT persons become equal citizens. The validity of this publication is in its precise outlines of the state of numerous elements of the real lives of LGBT persons in BiH, which will be used as a legitimate argument in the fight for achieving equality.

One deficiency of our analysis is that it does not deal with certain issues, such as mental health, the coming out of bisexual persons to their partners, and discrimination in educational and health institutions. However, as this survey is the first of its kind to ever be conducted with such massive participation in BiH, it could not account for all of the elements of LGBT persons' lives. That leaves us with the possibility of creating and performing a continuation of this research that will include more segments of the LGBT population's reality. Still, a valuable database has been created. That database can be used in further surveys that will deal more precisely with certain issues and explore the particularities related to the crossing of different demographic data.

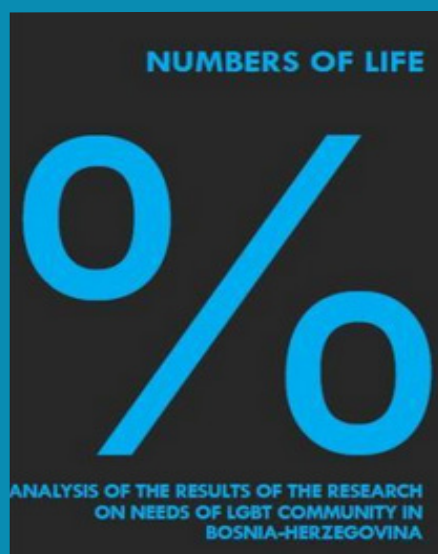
SUMMARY OF RELEVANT FINDINGS

Discrimination is not reported in 93.8% of cases. Only 3 cases of discrimination were prosecuted and one was completed successfully, while another 23 have never been prosecuted.

Because of their gender expression or sexual identity, **23.5% of persons have experienced violence**, while 74.2% of them have never been victims of violence. Physical violence was experienced by every third person, and sexual violence by almost every fifth person. Victims of violence are almost always persons who are out. 130 persons have suffered through violence, and only 17 of them have reported it, while 3 cases have been prosecuted in court and 2 cases are still ongoing.

If we consider the fact that only 3 cases out of 17 that have been reported and prosecuted in court, while 2 other are still ongoing, it is nothing unusual that LGBT persons are not confident towards the institutions that are supposed to protect them. Only 23.1% of examinees have confidence in the police.

Every third person who, due to the consequences of homophobia, suffers from depression, fear, anxiety, affliction or any other symptoms, is deterred from seeking professional psychological, psychiatric or therapeutic help because of the assumed incompetence of persons one would usually approach, and because of the fear that their sexuality will be uncovered.





Sarajevo Open Centre and the **Royal Norwegian Embassy** in Sarajevo are collaborating on a project using culture as a powerful tool to fight stereotypes and discrimination against LGBT persons. The goal is to **mainstream LGBT issues into the BiH cultural scene and serve as a complement to our advocacy strategy**, with the main aim of decreasing the level of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in our society. We organized a series of cultural events open to the general public about LGBT issues in mainstream venues.

We produced two exhibitions related to LGBT rights, both in the gallery of Art Cinema Kriterion in Sarajevo, in order to mark two important dates for LGBT persons – **International Coming Out Day** (October 11th; **Masks are for the Closet**) and **International Human Rights Day** (December 10th; **Capturing Life**). The idea was to showcase, in a public space, the visibility of diverse gender, sex, sexual and all other identities and to show segments of their everyday life.



MAINSTREAMING THE RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE INTO BIH SOCIETY

On October 11, 1988, the first **Coming Out Day** was held in Washington, with half a million LGBT persons taking part in demonstrations demanding equal rights. Coming Out Day is a day of stepping out of the closet of shame and hiding one's gender and sexual identity. This day has been celebrated for 25 years all over the world through activist interventions in public space. The idea behind this day is to raise public awareness on the rights, needs and problems of LGBT people and to empower LGBT persons to live their identities and their love freely. Awareness, and visibility can be raised in many ways, and this year our team has decided to do it through art.

We printed and distributed **four books dealing with LGBT rights and issues**. We organized **12 monthly LGBT related film screenings** (about intersexuality, bisexuality, transsexualism, about the parents of LGBT children, Pride etc.) within the our film programme **Sex, Pop and Politics** which took place in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka. We organized **12 weekly empowerment events** for the LGBT community (workshops related to self-empowerment, self-defense and education about LGBT rights; going to the theater and cinema; book promotions). In collaboration with GLIC (Gay Lesbian Info Center from Belgrade), **we will present Merlinka in Sarajevo 2014**, a weekend queer film festival dealing with LGBT issues.

Also, in order to accomplish our main objective to mainstream LGBT rights and issues into BiH society, we hosted the **BABELNOR Capacity Building Seminar for LGBTIQ* Activism** (August), participated in the **Annual European Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association – ILGA** – in Zagreb (October) and established **The LGBT CORNER** in the Human Rights Centre of the University in Sarajevo (December).

COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE

COMMUNITY POLICE TRAINING: LGBT RIGHTS

The **first training on hate crimes** based on sexual orientation and gender identity for community police officers of Sarajevo Canton took place in Konjic in Garden City Hotel on 23 and 24 September, 2013, as a part of **“Coming Out! Advocating Promotion and Protection of LGBT Rights.”** The project is financed by the European Union and implemented by the Heinrich Böll Foundation together with partner organisations Sarajevo Open Centre and the CURE Foundation.

The goal of this training was to sensitize police officers to the problems of LGBT persons and the need to fully implement and protect the human rights of LGBT persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first day of the training was focused on presentations and practical exercises about terminology related to sexual orientation and gender identity used in national legal regulation, and raising awareness on the prejudice and stereotypes towards LGBT persons through open and interactive methods. These were followed by interesting dialogue and discussion.

On the second day of training, there were presentations on the following topics: better understanding of the characteristics of hate crimes, concrete criminal offences in Federation of BiH motivated by prejudice and based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and guidelines in the treatment of victims of such crimes. Then **participants practiced via role play and group work so they could apply this newly gained knowledge.** Also, participants shared their experiences and obstacles they face while working with LGBT persons and they emphasized the importance of the position of prosecutors in the qualification of the crimes committed.

The trainers were experts from the field of hate crimes and human rights of LGBT persons, as well as activists from the region and from BiH: Sasa Gavric, Sasa Bojanic, Sanja Juras, Vladana Vasic, and Slobodanka Dekic .

MEETING: SUPPORTING POLICE AGENCIES IN BIH IN THE PROTECTION OF LGBT RIGHTS

The Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina/EU Special Representative, in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation in BiH, the Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC) and the CURE Foundation, organised a meeting to support the police agencies in BiH in the protection of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons. The meeting was held on Friday, 8 November 2013, in the premises of the FBiH Police Academy in Sarajevo.

The meeting was attended by a member of the European Parliament, Tanja Fajon; the BiH Minister of Human Rights and Refugees, Damir Ljubic; the Deputy BiH Minister of Security, Mladen Cavar; the FBiH Minister of the Interior, Predrag Kurtetz, and the representative of the RS Ministry of Interior and the Head of the Political Office at the EU Delegation to BiH/EUSR, Thomas Busch.

The EU funded project “Coming Out: Advocating Promotion and Protection of LGBT Rights,” implemented by the Heinrich Böll Foundation in partnership with the Sarajevo Open Centre and the CURE Foundation, presented the results of its police training and information about future activities in relation to cooperation with the BH police agencies with the goal of building trust between LGBT persons and the police.



This project is funded
by the EU

HEINRICH
BÖLL
STIFTUNG

SARAJEVO
OPEN
CENTRE

CURE
www.fondacijacure.org

Training: (Re)Education about Homophobia and Transphobia in High Schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina

On the weekend of 30.11 and 1.12, we held a training at Hotel Sarajevo called **“(Re) Education about Homophobia and Transphobia in High Schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina”** as a part of the EU-financed project **“Coming Out! Advocating Promotion and Protection of LGBT Rights.”** The project is implemented by the Heinrich Böll Foundation BiH together with SOC and the CURE Foundation.

The general goal of this training was to support our schools' teachers, future teachers, staff, and administration through suggestions about inclusive work with LGBT students.



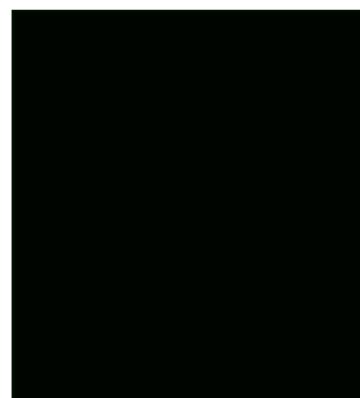
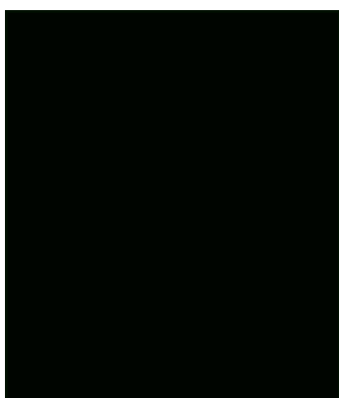
On the first day, participants had the opportunity to learn more about the basic terms connected with activism and the human rights of LGBT people, as well as the specificities, problems, and needs of LGBT students. We presented research about public opinion on homosexuality that was performed in high schools in Zagreb. During the second day of the training, participants had the opportunity to work on awareness of prejudices, the problems that they cause and how they can affect work with young LGBT people. Through shared experiences, interactive exercises, and discussions, they adopted methods and an approach to supporting LGBT students. The facilitators of the training were Ivana Draco, Belma Ziga, Vladana Vasic, and regional experts: Jelena Milic Jerkovic from Belgrade and Amir Hodzic from Zagreb.

Present were 19 teachers and psychologists as well as psychology and pedagogy students from Olovo, Zenica, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihac, Visoko, Odzak, Kaknjo, Zavidovic, and Novi Travnik. They talked, discussed, and learned about methods of supporting LGBT students. The interactive training was successful; **it produced a few concrete beginning steps in the sensitizing of school employees to work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students** in high schools all over Bosnia.

HATE CRIME ADVOCACY

Collaborating with ILGA Europe to Combat Hate Crime in BiH

Sarajevo Open Centre documented hate crimes and hate-related incidents between March and November of 2013 as a part of **ILGA Europe's project on documentation of homophobic and transphobic violence**. During this period, Sarajevo Open Centre documented 16 hate crime cases ranging from verbal threats to severe physical violence. Most of the victims refused to report cases to the authorities. Two cases were reported to the police, which **resulted in a professional and quick police reaction**. It also **strengthened the cooperation of Sarajevo Open Centre with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Sarajevo and the police officers working in the community**.



The Coalition for Combat Against Hate Speech and Hate Crime

Since its formation in January of 2013, the Coalition for Combat Against Hate Speech and Hate Crime has advocated for a broader definition of hate crime than the one proposed in the draft of the law on amendments to the criminal code of Republika Srpska. **The proposition was partially adopted into the criminal code of the Federation of BiH.** The first attempt was made in July of 2013, when the House of Representatives of the Parliament of FBiH adopted the amendments of the Coalition into the draft law on amendments to the criminal code of FBiH, however the law did not pass in the House of Peoples.

Sarajevo Open Centre, in the name of the Coalition, has **prepared a new and more detailed proposal** and is currently working with the Parliamentary Women's Club to include it into their own draft law on amendments to the criminal code of FBiH. The Coalition is also working on its expansion and developing a strategy for documenting hate crimes and monitoring of the implementation of the existing hate crime legislation.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE:

Advancing the Human Rights of LGBT Persons in the Western Balkans

On Monday 16.12.2013, **Sarajevo Open Centre** and **Open Society Fund BiH** were proud to sponsor the first LGBT conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of the conference was to bring together regional activists and representatives of relevant institutions in order to share best practices and begin a tradition of collaboration. The conference was held in the UN House in Sarajevo and was attended by around 50 people from around the region and from the rest of Europe.



Presenters included:

Dobрила Govedarica, Executive Director, Open Society Fund BiH
Besima Boric, Representative, Parliament of the Federation of BiH
Marije Cornelissen, Member of the European Parliament

Panelists represented the following organizations: Sarajevo Open Centre, Ombudsperson Office for the Elimination of Discrimination - BiH, Ombudsperson Office for Human Rights - Croatia, Labris Belgrade, Kvir Montenegro, Equinet, Youth Human Rights Initiative - BiH, Ombudsperson Office - Montenegro, Protectorate of Citizens - Serbia, Subversive Front - Macedonia, and Kontra - Croatia.



The participants agreed that despite some setbacks over the past years, the LGBT community in the Western Balkans has a lot to celebrate. Focusing on the creation and implementation of anti-discrimination laws has been, and will continue to be, a focus in all countries of the region. International bodies must continue to support these initiatives as well as increasing their support of cultural programs. Participants gained a more thorough knowledge of their partners' efforts in the region and were reassured by their allies in local and international institutions that LGBT human rights are one of their priorities. **Click here for a full report** on the conference.

Conference: ILGA Europe

International LGBT Association (ILGA)-Europe's seventeenth annual conference, called **"Family Matters! Reaching Out to Hearts and Minds,"** took place in Zagreb on 24-26 October 2013. The conference consisted of 35 workshops and meetings. Almost 250 representatives of LGBTI organizations from 42 member countries attended the conference alongside representatives from European institutions. This conference was also ILGA Europe's annual general assembly in which members of the Executive Board presented financial reports and reports on the activities of ILGA Europe. New members of the Executive Board of ILGA Europe were also elected. Representatives of Sarajevo Open Centre also participated in ILGA Europe annual conference as well as in the organization of a workshop called **"Working on Combating Hate Crimes in Eastern Europe"** in cooperation with Kontra, a lesbian group; Iskorak, a centre for sexual and gender minorities; Legebitra, and Campaign Against Homophobia, an LGBT organization from Poland.



ROUND TABLE: VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE IN THE REGION

As a part of the **"Coming Out!"** project, the **Heinrich Boll Foundation** organized a round table whose goal was to open up public space and dialogue on the topic of LGBT human rights. In this way, we want to sensitize the general public about the necessity to respect the human rights of LGBT persons and their institutional protection.

Participants of this round table had the chance to hear about practices in Serbia, Croatia, and BiH on the topic of fighting homophobia. **The speakers shared some of the institutional practices and policies of the countries they come from, as well as their experience and suggestions.**

The participants of the round table were decision makers from the health, justice, education, and interior sectors, as well for representatives of embassies and civil society organisations.



This project is funded
by the EU

HEINRICH
BÖLL
STIFTUNG
BOSNA I
HERCEGOVINA

SARAJEVSKI
OTVORENI
CENTAR

CURE
www.fondacijacure.org

-SEVEN-

A DOCUMENTARY DRAMA

This fall, Sarajevo Open Centre implemented a very special project that brought together amazing women from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina, including a great number of activists, volunteers, and people from all fields of work from Mostar, Sarajevo, and Banja Luka. **SEVEN** is a groundbreaking documentary play based on interviews with seven women's rights activists from around the world whose difficult life stories and struggle are a source of inspiration: Ferida Azizi (Afghanistan), Inez McCormack (Northern Ireland), Marina Pisklakova-Parker (Russia), Annabella de Leon (Guatemala), Mukhtar Mai (Pakistan), Mu Sochua (Cambodia) and Hafsat Abiola (Nigeria). It was produced by the award-winning playwright, actor and producer Hedda Krausz Sjögren in Sweden in 2008.

The preparations for SEVEN started long before it took place on November 5-7th 2013. Early in July, Sarajevo Open Centre established their first contact with the future ensemble members and preparations for the project began. We contacted very prominent women, aiming to find inspiring, strong and successful women around Bosnia and Herzegovina who would be good advocates for the cause that SEVEN is promoting -- **women's rights and the struggle against violence**. The ensemble met a few times before the performance took place.



Darija Buzakovic, executive of the International film festival Kratkofil; Tanja Miletic-Orucevic, theatre director; Kristina Ljevak, journalist; Amna Popovac, entrepreneur; Selma Spahic, theatre director; Besima Boric, politician, and Vesna Andree Zaimovic, musicologist and journalist, took the stage of Sarajevo War Theatre, Sarajevo, on November 5th. The audience was impress and inspired, but that was just the beginning. The SEVEN team traveled to Mostar the day after and performed in front of the Mostar audience, in the more private but still beautiful atmosphere of Hrvatsko narodno kazalite. Mostar was happy to host us, and it was a great pleasure for the SEVEN ensemble to visit Mostar.

On the early morning of the 7th, we hit the road and traveled all the way to Banja Luka, looking forward to the performance in Gradsko pozorite Jazavac that evening. Banja Luka was a great surprise -- the theatre hall of over 300 seats was full, and **we feel that the message of SEVEN was sent out to the right people -- men and women**. Looking back at the tour, the media attention it received, the full theatres, and the great awareness of the project, **we can proudly say that SEVEN in Bosnia and Herzegovina was a great success**. But this is not the end. Some time before the Sarajevo performance, Sarajevo Open Centre and Civil Rights Defenders alongside Alhemija film production company from Sarajevo began shooting a film about the BH tour. The film is currently in post-production, so stay tuned.

The Bosnian tour of SEVEN was implemented by the **Embassy of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Civil Rights Defenders, & Sarajevo Open Centre**. The tour is sponsored by **the Swedish Institute**.

The Women's Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina: In the Words of a Counterculture

by Dr. Zlatiborka Popov-Momcinovic

Sarajevo Open Centre, the CURE Foundation, and the Center for Empirical Research of the Region of BiH are honored to have an opportunity to publish a new book by Dr. Zlatiborka Popov-Momcinovic. "The Women's Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina: In the Words of a Counterculture" was released in December 2013. The printing of this book has been enabled by a generous donation from the **Open Society Fund BiH**.

The book was written with the aim of **giving an overview of women's activism in BiH** with a special focus on the post-Dayton era.

The value of this book is not only in its theoretical elaboration using different feminist paradigms, but also in the fact that quantitative and qualitative research on the women's movement in BiH was conducted. Besides the aforementioned topics, the book pays special attention to the **importance of social movements as collective social actors for fundamental social changes**, overcoming the reductionist view on civil society and the NGO sector.

Dr. Zlatiborka Popov-Momcinovic (Born 1975, in Vrsac) graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. Since 2005, she has been a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Philosophy in Eastern Sarajevo, where she gained her master's degree on the topic of political culture during the transition period. In 2013, she got her PhD at the Faculty of Political Science of Belgrade. She has published more than 40 scientific papers. She received a scholarship as a part of the "Policy Fellowship Development Project" and was engaged with several local and regional research projects, including, "Religion and Pluralism in Education: Comparative Approaches in the Western Balkans," "Reconciliation and Trust Building in Bosnia and Herzegovina," "Hate Speech in Bosnia and Herzegovina," "Parliamentarism in Bosnia and Herzegovina," and "Coming out: Zagovaranje i zatita prava LGBT osoba." She is vice-editor of the BiH magazine "Diskursi," an active member of civil society, and a board member of the CURE Foundation. Dr. Popov-Momcinovic has given numerous public lectures on the topic of the feminist movement and feminism, and was a lecturer at the Women's Political Academy and Political Academy for Young Leaders.

The book was presented in January.



SOMEBODY SAID FEMINISM?

The lecture series **Somebody Said Feminism?** (Ciklus predavanja: Neko je rekao feminizam?) is a new program of Sarajevo Open Centre that aims at promoting feminism through a series of public lectures dedicated to various topics related to feminism and women's rights.

The first lecture was held on October 1st by Amila Zdravovic, who presented the famous book **The Feminine Mystique** by Betty Friedan, a book that is considered to have started the second wave of feminism. The lecture was held at Art House Cinema Kriterion, and more than 70 people attended this lecture, which was quite a success, considering it was the first lecture.

The second lecture was held by Zlatiborka Momcinovic-Popov, Ph.D, and she spoke about the (de)construction of gender-religious perspective. The lecture was held in Kriterion on October 18th.

The third lecture was hosted by a lecturer from Belgrade, Adriana Zaharijevic, Ph.D, who presented the topic of women on the border of the citizen's society - the context of XIX century. The lecture was held on November 1st in the Art House Cinema Kriterion.

Feminism and sexuality was the topic of the fourth lecture, held in the Multimedia Centre Mak on November 14th. The topic was presented by Dragana Todorovic, a Ph.D candidate in the field of gender studies at the Central European University in Budapest. Finally, on December 10, Professor Jasna Baksic-Muftic held a lecture entitled, "Who are the Women in Political Bodies and Who do They Represent?"

The initial plan was to continue with the lectures until the end of this year, but since the interest is so high, Sarajevo Open Centre will continue to implement these kind of events next year. Stay tuned and don't forget to visit www.soc.ba for more information.

TRAINING: Gender Diversity & Equality in the Work of Civil Society Organizations

As a part of the **Gender Diversity** project, Sarajevo Open Centre and the **Heinrich Böll Foundation** organised the first module of a training entitled **Gender Diversity and Equality in the Work of Civil Society Organizations** on the 13th and 14th of November in Hotel Grand, Sarajevo. The training is primarily intended for civil society organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina whose primary activity is not gender equality. It consists of two modules, each lasting for two days.

The general objective of this training is to **introduce the organization to the importance and methods of including gender equality into work**, both in terms of their relationship with the beneficiaries of their activities as well as the structure and functioning of the organization themselves.

The first training hosted 10 participants representing organizations from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina, and they had an opportunity to be introduced to the concepts of gender, gender equality and gender diversity, as well as to the methodology of including gender equality in all aspects of the operations of the organization.

The second module will be held in Hotel Grand, Sarajevo, on December 2nd and 3rd hosting the same group of participants as the previous module. The trainer of both of the modules is Dragana Todorovic from Novi Sad, Serbia.

AWARDS CEREMONY FOR ETHICAL REPORTING OF LGBT ISSUES

+ Presentation of **As If Everything Was OK** by Boban Stojanovic



On 12.12.2013, SOC organized an awards ceremony for **continuing professional and ethical reporting** by journalists and the media on LGBT themes in 2013. The event was implemented as a part of USAID's Strengthening Independent Media Programme in BiH, implemented by Internews in BiH. The host of the ceremony was **Boban Stojanovic**, a gay activist from Serbia, who talked about concrete measures for professional reporting about LGBT themes from his personal experience. He also summarized eight previous info sessions whose goal was to offer basic information connected to LGBT rights and culture. At the opening of this event, **Mr. Steven Majors from USAID** give a speech about the importance of media reporting on LGBT issues.

One award was given to the web portal **radiosarajevo.ba**, who continued to report on LGBT themes, and another to the editor of the magazine **"Dani"** Dzenana Karup-Drusko, who has a clear editorial policy when it comes to writing about issues relevant to LGBT people. The third prize praised **Federal Television** for its commitment to presenting LGBT issues in a public space.



After the awards ceremony, there was a book promotion for Boban Stojanovic's autobiographical book **As if Everything Was OK**, in which he describes why it's difficult to be gay in Serbia, the problems gay individuals face in society, and why some families accept their children while others are willing to disown them for social acceptance.

EXHIBIT: THE (IN)VISIBLE EVERYDAY

As a part of the regional conference **Advancing the Human Rights of LGBT Persons in the Western Balkans**, 16.12.13 saw the opening of a photo exhibit about LGBT people in BiH entitled "THE (IN)VISIBLE EVERYDAY." The Ambassador of Norway to BiH, Anne Vibeke Liloe, opened the exhibit by emphasizing the importance of helping organizations and individuals who deal with activism and the protection of LGBT human rights. **The Royal Norwegian Embassy sees Sarajevo Open Centre as a very important partner in this battle.**



Five years after the Queer Sarajevo Festival, which included a photo exhibit of LGBT people, ended in such a violent way, yesterday's exhibit, which was conceived of in a similar light, ended successfully.

The series of photographs of LGBT people in Bosnia and Herzegovina THE (IN)VISIBLE EVERYDAY by Irfan Redzovic and Vedad Divovic, shows people who wanted to display moments of their everyday in a public space - from the places they work to the places they hang out, even in the places they live. **The idea of the exhibit was to make the diversity of gender, sex, sexual orientation, and other identities visible in an everyday context through 15 documentary portraits.**

By presenting segments of the lives of people who challenge the binaries of our society every day, we want to emphasize that **human rights must not be implemented selectively**. Every person is equal when it comes to the question of human rights and the responsibility that enjoying them brings.



The exhibit was part of Sarajevo Open Centre's International Human Rights Day celebration.



PUBLICATIONS

Sarajevo Open Centre and its partners have published 15 books, manuals, and official reports since Summer 2013. To read a publication, click on its corresponding image. Most publications are in B/H/S. The following texts are available in English:

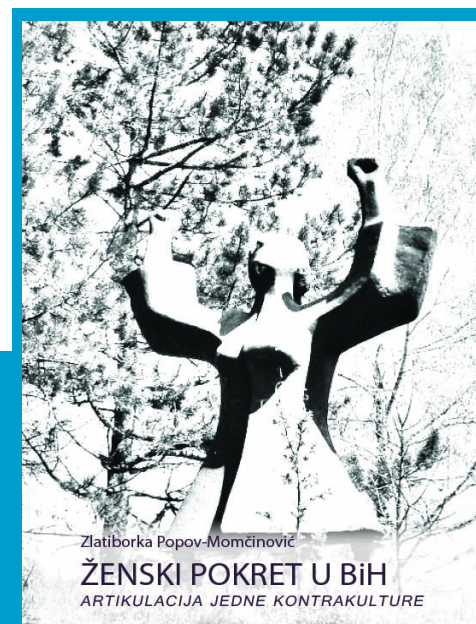
Numbers of Life

The Political System of Bosnia & Herzegovina

Economic and Social Rights of Women in Bosnia & Herzegovina 2012-2013

Shadow Report on the Progress of Bosnia & Herzegovina's EU Accession Process

The Women's Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina: In the Words of a Counterculture

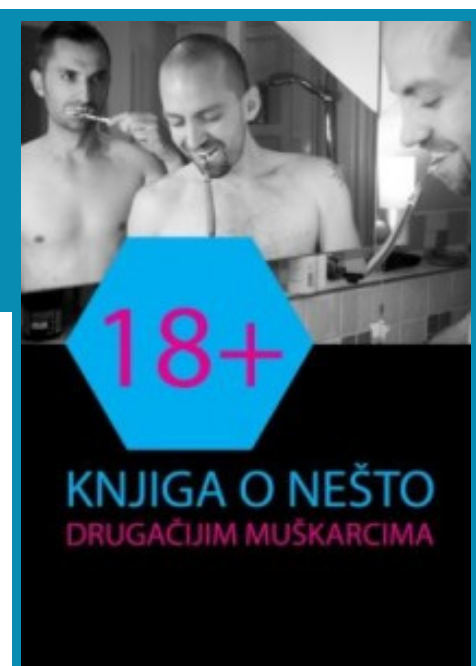


ALTERNATIVNI IZVJEŠTAJ
O NAPRETKU BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE U PROCESU
EVROPSKIH INTEGRACIJA

INICIJATIVA ZA MONITORING EVROPSKIH
INTEGRACIJA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE

18+ Book on
Non-Conformist
Men

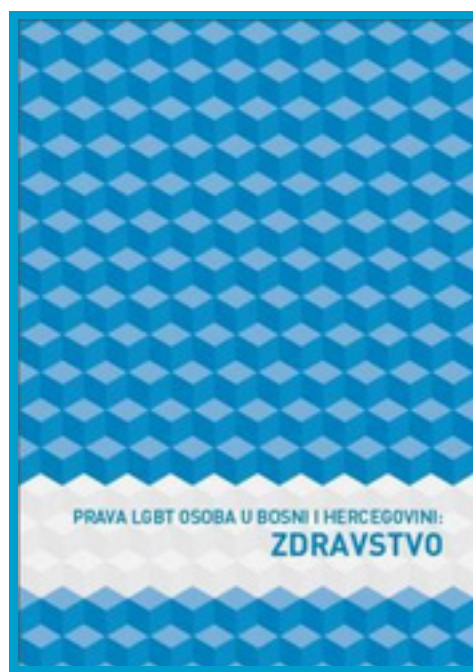
Shadow Report on the
Progress of BiH's
EU Accession
Process





In Defense of Diversity: A Handbook

"Who Are We to
Judge Others?"



LGBT Rights in BiH: Political Parties

LGBT Rights in BiH: Health



LGBT Rights in BiH: Internal Affairs

Numbers of Life: A Survey of the LGBT Community





PRAVNA LGBT OSOBA U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI:
OBRAZOVANJE

Don't be a Sheep:
On Ethnic Discrimination
in BiH

(Ne) budi ovca



O etničkoj
diskriminaciji
u BiH

Newsletter:
LGBT People in
the Workplace


Human Rights Papers: Economic and Social Rights of Women in BiH in 2013

**IZVJEŠTAJ O
POLOŽAJU LGBT
OSOBA NA RADNOM
MJESTU U BOSNI
I HERCEGOVINI**

PRAVA LGBT OSOBA U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI:
PRAVO SUĐE

The Political System of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**THE POLITICAL SYSTEM
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.
INSTITUTIONS - ACTORS - PROCESSES**



**SABA GAVRIĆ
DARIJA BANOVIĆ
MARIJA BANOVIĆ**

UPCOMING EVENTS

In collaboration with **GLIC (Gay Lesbian Info Center, Belgrade)**, we will present **MERLINKA in Sarajevo 2014**, a weekend queer film festival dealing with LGBT issues. It will be held from January 31st until February 2nd.

As a part of the film programme **Sex, Pop and Politics**, we will be screening the documentary **Lead with Love** about families with LGBT children. It will be shown in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka.

We will organize two professional workshops related to self-empowerment for the LGBT community and several book promotions of our recently-released publications, including the (18+) Book for Non-Conformist Men.

We will publish **The Pink Report 2013: Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation of LGBT Persons in BiH** as well as a **Women's Rights Report 2013**.