

data owned by non-governmental organizations or your individual archives. And even if prosecutors don't do anything with that material, in The Hague, Belgrade, or Sarajevo, by gathering and presenting that material in an unofficial report or on an Internet site can be a way to initiate responsibility for those less tangible crimes and issues prosecutors cannot always link with war crimes.

Statement: Caitlin Reiger, International Center for Transitional Justice, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

Journalists employed in the regional public service media could work together and produce a TV show on transitional justice, which could be aired in all former Yugoslav states.

It would be a good idea to form a team of journalists that would make one TV show every month and would be broadcast at a set time (...) with topics such as war crimes, or stories that never get to be told, and all war crimes related stories, and everything that deserves to be covered by that TV show.

Statement: Gordana Petrović, Serbian Radio-television-RTS, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

8. National consultation with young people on mechanisms of dealing with the past

Osijek, Croatia,
October 6th 2007

The consultation was organized by the Osijek Center for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights (Croatia). It is necessary to create a strategy which will educate young people about the importance of dealing with the past, both for their own and future generations, and also to show them how important it is in preventing possible armed conflict in the future. Regional cooperation in the process of dealing with the past is indispensable because the armed conflict has spread across the newly formed states. In order to secure a comprehensive process of dealing with the past and finding an adequate truth-establishing and truth-telling mechanism, it is essential to include the entire post-Yugoslav region.

9. Regional consultations with young people on instruments and initiatives to establish and disclose the facts about war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia

Belgrade, Serbia,
October 21st 2007

The consultation was organized by the Humanitarian Law Center (Serbia), Research and Documentation Center (BiH), and Documenta (Croatia) in cooperation with the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Serbia) and the Croatian Youth Network. A total of 37 representatives of non-governmental human rights organizations, four members of the youth organizations of various political parties from the region as well as 16 observers, two of whom were from international organizations participated in the discussion. Nataša Kandić (Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia) and Vesna Teršelić (Documenta, Croatia) opened the gathering and Emina Bužinkić (Croatian Youth Network) and Andrej Nosov (Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia) were the moderators. H-Alter posted a short news piece announcing the gathering.

It is necessary to form a regional body tasked with establishing the truth about the past and staff it with expert members from all countries formed on the territory of the former SFRJ.

When we speak about truth-seeking and truth-telling, I think it would be (beneficial) to have a regional body with members from all former SFRJ countries. Why? Because it is important that the body is regional and made up of experts from the entire region so that the results are accepted by the public, especially the young people, without any prejudice.

Statement: Antonela Balić, Young People and Informal Education Forum, Croatia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

The role of young people is crucial in creating a positive social context for the promotion of a regional body tasked with establishing the facts about war crimes.

The role of the young people in the creation of a positive context in the region is crucial for the dealing with the past process. Their role and their

engagement are anticipated in the creation of a positive public climate at the regional level and it is indispensable for the creation, functioning, and the promotion of the regional fact-finding and fact-establishing body.

Statement: Nataša Kandić, Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

Good communication is extremely important for establishing the truth at a regional level.

Information transfer and communication lines are probably the most important issue here because what we have had so far is partly to blame for the fact that we have more than one truth in a number of different parts of the region.

Statement: Kenan Ušević, SDP Young Forum, BiH, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

Young people are responsible towards their own future and must insist that the facts about the past are established and told.

If young people are not considered responsible for the crimes committed in the past because at the time they happened they were too young to influence them in any way, they are surely responsible with respect to future generations with respect to establishing the facts about these crimes. They must ask questions and seek answers and insist that the facts are established and presented to the public.

Statement: Andrej Nosov, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

Whether we have a permanent and sustainable peace has to do with our attitude with the truth and in that respect it is very important for young people to accept responsibility, because they have so, whether they like it or not. Not for the things that were done in the past, but with respect to their attitude to the things that were done. We are not too young to deal with it now, especially considering the fact that our communities still haven't started the dealing with the past process. That is how I understand our responsibility.

Statement: Marko Veličković, Civil Resource Development Centre, Serbia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

That ideology is best demonstrated in war crimes denial, in the fact that we glorify war criminals, and the fact that there is no justice, and the fact that we

don't know the truth and everything else representing our everyday life. By denying everything that happened, we are extending the crimes, backing them up, in a way. From the things we do or don't do today, we create a climate in which the same events from the past will or will not happen again. Therefore, I think that we all have to understand our responsibility.

Statement: Maja Stojanović, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

Words such as 'war' and 'crime' are less emotionally charged with young generations simply because they have not experienced them or maybe they have but not in a way their parents or grandparents, who participated in the war, have. At the time of the war a terrific media manipulation was under way in every former Yugoslav republic and we were too young to understand it. That is why I believe that the young people are more objective when it comes to topics like these.

Statement: Mario Mažić, Youth Group of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

It is necessary to deal with the past, but it is also very important to prevent possible conflicts which may still happen, especially in Kosovo.

The problems in Kosovo that occurred in the past may still be on the back burner in some parts of Kosovo, such as northern Mitrovicë, where the mentality of the 1990s is more present than anywhere else in the region. Conflicts there had ended much earlier: the war and war crimes are considered an issue of the past. In Kosovo, it is in the past, too, but it still has a potential to revive. So, in addition to dealing with the past, we have to deal with the prevention of possible new conflicts.

Statement: Agon Maliqi, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Kosovo, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

Dealing with the crimes committed in the past we have to do on our own. We must not wait to become members of the European Union. We are directly responsible for our societies.

We have to solve these issues before we become members of the EU. We have to do it on our own and finally for the first time since the fifth, sixth century, or since before Christ, we must be responsible for our own societies. The EU gives us money for things like that and we only have to recognize

an opportunity, take the money, and start working on it.

Statement: Ivan Novosel, Youth Group of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

It is necessary to include as many young people involved in various political parties as possible in the process of dealing with crimes committed in the past.

We need to insist on including as many young people as possible from different political parties into the process.

Statement: Ivan Novosel, Youth Group of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

The creation of an atmosphere in which it will be possible to discuss such issues depends on political parties. In that context we should focus on the political parties and work with their youth organizations.

Statement: Vladimir Milovanović, BIRO, Association, Serbia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

Human rights topics should be introduced to school curricula as soon as possible.

Education is definitely the most important issue and human rights topics should by all means be introduced in schools and in mass media because, in addition to families, they have most influence on socialization process of young people.

Statement: Mario Mažić, Youth Group of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

There are many different classroom tools that can be used, such as documentaries about these issues, as well as other methods young people can find stimulating. We should lobby different educational institutions and ministries to include this in either informal education or in a large number of schools in official education.

Statement: Jan Zlatan Kulenović, Youth Information Agency, BiH, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

After the regional body discovers certain facts, it is important how to present it appropriately to young people. It has to be something they understand, an appendix to school history books that would be a uniformer. And it should also be translated into all regional languages.

Statement: Anamarija Sočo, Volunteer Center Zagreb, Croatia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

We can help by stimulating critical thinking in young people. That can be done by lobbying for the school system reform. And we can also advocate the introduction of a human rights curriculum in schools.

Statement: Agon Maliqi, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Kosovo, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

The web portal can be used instrumentally to inform young people about the crimes committed in the past.

An interactive map of the former Yugoslavia, for example, may be a good idea for the presentation, which would be updates regularly with new information. When you click a geographical area on the map, it shows names of victims, photos, films, documents, etc.

Statement: Ivan Novosel, Youth Group of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

I like the Internet presentation idea very much because it would be one place where we could find everything from lists of victims, to historical facts, to documentary films; that means everything in one place speaking about everything [about war crimes].

Statement: Simon Simonović, Serbia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

It is necessary to develop a strategy to inform the public in less developed areas about war crimes.

First, we need to do some research in order to identify and discover the least informed areas. I think that we would have greater success if we started to inform rural areas which don't have much access to information. For example, urban areas have far greater access to information on these issues compared with their rural counterparts.

Statement: Jehona Serhati, Integra Association, Kosovo, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

High school students should also be targeted because it is important to have an early start in informing the young people about the heritage of the past.

High school students, from freshmen to seniors

should be included because it is the time in their life when they form opinions on all important issues around them.

Statement: Naim Leo Beširi, Youth Group of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

It is beneficial to name all the places where crimes have been committed in the past: by becoming destinations for school field trips and excursions, young people can deal with the past interactively.

Our first step in dealing with the past is naming all war crimes locations because victims still feel threatened when nobody talks about them. That would grant some kind of satisfaction to all victims in the region and it would also serve to better inform the young people.

Statement: Jelena Bubanja, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights Youth Organization, Serbia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

An award for prominent public figures influential in dealing with the past should be instituted.

There are many young people in our region who are idols to younger generations, artists, musicians, actors and film makers, and who truly deserve some kind of award for being active in promoting the dealing with the past concept. This initiative should probably institute one such award in each state and award it annually. That could be quite motivating.

Statement: Iva Prpić, SDP Youth Forum, Croatia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

10. Regional consultation with human rights organizations on instruments to establish and disclose the facts about war crimes

Belgrade, Serbia,
October 29th 2007

The consultation was organized by the Humanitarian Law Center (Serbia), Documenta (Croatia), and the Research and Documentation Center (BiH). It was opened by Nataša Kandić (Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia), Vesna Teršelić (Documenta, Croatia), and Mirsad Tokača (Research and Documentation Center, BiH) and was attended by

36 representatives of human rights organizations from the entire region. The discussion was moderated by Sandra Orlović (Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia). The media that covered the consultation were as follows: Danas, Beta, Pcnen.com, Infobiro.tv, Radio Free Europe, Crnps.org.rs and H-Alter.

Human rights organizations should advocate the establishment of an official regional body tasked with establishing and disclosing the facts about war crimes.

I support the creation of this commission but it is going to be rather difficult because the government, the society, and the political elites haven't made up their mind yet about the past.

Statement: Biljana Kovačević-Vučo, Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, Serbia, Regional consultation with human rights organizations, Belgrade, Serbia, October 29th 2007.

We need to have a regional cooperation because the issue at hand is a regional issue. We can exert pressure in many different ways to make national judicial systems functional enough to start conducting war crimes trials. But, we can also put pressure and lobby both at home and elsewhere to create this regional body for establishing the truth.

Statement: Slobodan Franović, Montenegro Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Montenegro, Regional consultation with human rights organizations, Belgrade, Serbia, October 29th 2007.

This kind of commission or a body, we can call it different names, is an imperative of the moment. So, we all talked about experiences of various national commissions and how they were all a complete failure, and I'm sure that's true. That's what makes this commission really necessary (...) If we adopt a regional approach, it gives us more credibility.

Statement: Aida Čorović, Urban In, Serbia, Regional consultation with human rights organizations, Belgrade, Serbia, October 29th 2007.

Reconciliation may be debatable, but the truth commission should definitely be formed (...) Once the regional body is created, our goal is to promote it and make sure the body and the results of its work are well accepted throughout the region.

Statement: Jezdimir Milošević, Humanists' Peace Action, BiH, Regional consultation with human rights organizations, Belgrade, Serbia, October 29th 2007.

We should support the creation of a regional mechanism for establishing the facts about war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia (...) I think that advocating such a body should also