

Date	18-05-2019
Archive Number	146-001-18
Pages	3

Platform for Peace

We, the undersigned,

Respecting the laws and political order of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Deeply committed to the goal of building a peaceful and just society,

Recognizing the importance of establishing and promoting peace in post-conflict, multi-ethnic societies,

Alarmed by the preponderance of opposing cultural narratives and the exploitation of differences and historical suffering, which have contributed to intolerance and violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Noting with concern the lack of alternative or neutral interpretations of history and the absence of a strong democratic and participatory political culture,

Lamenting the lack of peace education in Bosnia and Herzegovina's divided educational system and the marginalization of those attempting to break down the barriers of mistrust and fear,

Affirming the need for authorities and individuals from all levels and segments of society—public institutions, non-governmental organizations, educational and cultural institutions, sport associations, media, youth, religious communities, intellectuals, and vulnerable and marginalized groups—to participate in building inter-cultural understanding, inter-ethnic trust, peace, and non-violence,

Acknowledging the commitment of individuals and institutions throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina who have bravely initiated the process of overcoming the consequences of past conflict and of rebuilding mutual understanding, respect, and trust,

Encouraged by the results of peace-building efforts and joint projects of these individuals and institutions,

Seeking to achieve:

- Widespread advocacy for and acceptance of the peacebuilding process and reconciliation among all constitutive and all other ethnicities/nations and religious communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Mutual trust, understanding, and responsibility throughout society;
- The inclusion in peacebuilding processes all who can contribute to establishing better social conditions and capacities that will improve stability, safety, and peace;
- A raising of citizens' awareness and the creation of a culture of dialogue in which citizens can discover different interpretations of social relations and responsibility, without the influence of harmful or divisive ideologies;

- The elimination of communication obstacles between decision-makers and civil society activists, so that they may work together to build long-lasting and sustainable peace processes;
- A more dynamic and faster inclusion of authorities in the peace activities of civil society and non-governmental sector, and vice-versa;
- The identification of representatives from all levels and disciplines of society—politicians, religious leaders, citizen activists, representatives of minorities, intellectuals, education activists, journalists, youth, war victims, marginalized groups, and others—who are ready to transform their predisposition towards peace into concrete activities that affirm human rights and improve mutual trust, understanding, and responsibility;
- Recognition of individual and institutional actors who are striving to reduce the distance between ethnicities and eliminate prejudice toward “the other,” thus cultivating social attitudes of mutual understanding, inter-ethnic trust, and intercultural development;
- Acceptance of this Platform at the state, entity, and local level;
- Adaptation of this Platform for a regional and international audience so that it may convince neighboring countries as well as regional and international organizations of the necessity of further support for peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Affirm our belief in peace as a human right and as the highest value of our society;

Declare our belief in the necessity of widespread promotion and acceptance of peace and peacebuilding activities as the only way to prevent a resurgence of conflict and violence;

Emphasize that our common goal is a peace that will be inclusive and will not be satisfied only with absence of war and violence, but a peace that will build freedom, justice, understanding, and responsibility through protection of human, national, and minority rights;

Accept our responsibility to create a society in which peace will be a priority that trumps all others;

Resolve to build on the preexisting efforts of peace actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to recognize the contributions of peacebuilders to our society;

Dedicate ourselves to publicly advocating for peace and to continuously working and educating about peace;

Commit to the development of democratic freedoms, civil engagement, and a democratic political culture that encourages debate, rejects violence, and promotes nonviolent forms of opposition;

Call for a proliferation of debates on peace on media and social platforms, so that they become part of everyday life;

Condemn all actors and advocators of violence and violent politics;

Call on decision-makers and civil society leaders across the country and on different levels of the political structure to promote the values of peace and actively participate in building a stable and sustainable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Endorse the creation of a committee of prominent and public personalities from different areas (education, economy, religion, authorities, politics, culture, sport, etc.) who will advocate for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take ownership of this Platform;

Promote the inclusion of formal and informal peace education in public education institutions;

Commit to working with the media to seek out and promote good peace practices, messages, symbols, and gestures;

Invite the public presentation of the conclusions and lessons of relevant scientific research focusing on peacebuilding projects;

Call for the creation of a Strategy for Sustainable Long-Term Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a comprehensive peace framework that will outline the path for institutionalizing trust-building and reconciliation processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina;


Commit to identifying representatives of judicial and executive authorities who are encouraging peace, inter-ethnic cooperation, and understanding, and who have respect from different communities, in order for them to contribute to the creation and parliamentary ratification of the Strategy for Sustainable Long-Term Peace;

Call upon mayors of municipalities and cities to open their doors to people of all backgrounds and to promote political openness, tolerance, dialogue, acceptance of the existence of different narratives, and advocacy for long-term peace and reconciliation in all local communities;

Urge all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in formal and informal peace education, build peace skills, and resolve their conflicts through peaceful and nonviolent means;

Call for the government, non-government sector, and all citizens to provide quality suggestions that will improve this initial Platform so that it may grow into a relevant document and standard for peace activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Fully endorse the contents of this Platform for Peacebuilding and commit ourselves to the achievement of its goals.


Đuro Blanuša
RYCO Secretary General

