

SREBRENICA

Genocide Denial

Intentions, Sources, & Consequences.

SATURDAY
APRIL 15
2023

11:55am *Eastern Time*
4:55 pm *UK/GMT Time*



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Eastern Time **11:55 am**

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Join us for a public conversation with trauma specialists and survivors of the *Srebrenica Genocide*. The discussion will focus on the individual and collective trauma of genocide denial, the long-term impact of genocide, and potential coping mechanisms.

 <https://broward-edu.zoom.us/j/98230342140>

GUESTS



Dr. Azra Osmančević
Clinical Psychologist

Dr. Osmančević is a postdoctoral fellow at MindWell Psychology in Ithaca, New York. She is originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina and was raised in Des Moines, Iowa after immigrating to the United States as a refugee with her parents when she was a child. Dr. Osmančević values taking a collaborative, culturally responsive, and reflective approach to therapy. Her clinical and assessment expertise are also heavily informed by her research interests, which have focused on the influences of cultural factors on the experiences of trauma, healing, and cultural identity development among the Bosnian American diasporic population in the United States.



Omar Shareef
Psychiatrist

Omar Shareef is a MD, MBA dual-degree graduate of St. George's University School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Nassau University Medical Center and completed fellowships in Public Psychiatry and Psychodynamic Psychotherapy at Columbia University. He currently practices at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens, NY. Omar is a certified Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor, a community educator with the Family and Youth Institute, and is a member of the HEAL Collective, a NY-based nonprofit dedicated to Muslim mental health.





Senada Cvrk Pargan
*Srebrenica Genocide
Survivor*

Senada Cvrk Pargan, author and activist, was born in Srebrenica Bosnia and Hercegovina. She is a Srebrenica Genocide survivor, who dedicated her life to stop Genocide Denial. Senada lost 99 family members in the Srebrenica Genocide, and her sorrow and inner pain for the loss of her loved ones affected her life tremendously. Senada published two books, "A Sorrow for Silence" and "The Darkness of Silver Lights," in which she told her story through poems. The books are dedicated to the loved ones she lost in the war in Bosnia. Senada graduated with Science of Business and Management and currently lives and works in Lansing, Michigan. She is now married, and a mother of two amazing children, Bilal and Lejla.



Senahid Halilovic
*Srebrenica Genocide
Survivor*

Senahid Halilovic was born in the village of Sućeska, a municipality of Srebrenica where he lived during its entire siege (1993-1995). The city was overrun by the Serbian forces, who proceeded to commit a genocide against the Bosniaks, the town's native Muslim population. Senahid survived by walking over 60 miles through the front lines of Serbian troops-held territory. After surviving that trauma, he emigrated to the USA in 2002 where he acquired a master's degree in chemistry at the City College of New York.

He now lives in New York City with his wife and three children and is currently a chemistry lecturer and a CLT at the City University of New York. Senahid authored the book, "Argentarija—Domavia—Srebrenica" in which he described the fate and history of Srebrenica. He then released the second edition of the book which was published in English under the title "The Fate of Srebrenica." As a survivor of that genocide, Senahid wants to continue writing and educating the public about the horrors of genocide.





Aida Haughton
Moderator

Aida Haughton is a British Bosnian living in Stoke-on-Trent since 2010. A teenager turned UN interpreter overnight in a war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina, Aida was left with experiences she has been sharing with the British public since 2014, with the support of the charity Remembering Srebrenica, YMCA North Staffordshire, and New Vic Borderlines. Her methods, firmly embedded into the community, involve organizing educational trips to Bosnia and Herzegovina, memorials, workshops, and talks to raise awareness of the consequences of war, hate speech and war trauma. The extent of her work has been recognized in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2021 when she was awarded an MBE (Medal of British Empire). As a Staffordshire University History graduate of 2021, Aida's contribution now extends to the academic community.



Aida Mačkicić
Moderator

Aida Mačkicić is a nationally recognized community organizer and political advocate, who as a hijabi Muslim woman, advocates for preserving individual freedom and choice for women in all aspects of their lives. Aida immigrated to the United States as a Bosnian war refugee when she was eleven years old, and her background catalyzed her passion for grassroots activism that served as the impetus for becoming a leading voice and fearless advocate for women's rights at large. She also ran numerous political and issue-oriented campaigns, including recently as the Florida Community Organizing Director for the 2020 Elizabeth Warren for President, the Political Coordinator for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), FPSU, and as the Special Projects Director for the 2018 Gillum King Gubernatorial Campaign in Florida.





Mirsad Kriještorac
Host

Mirsad Kriještorac is now an assistant professor of Political Science at Broward College in Florida, USA. Dr. Kriještorac holds a PhD in Political Science from FIU's School of International and Public Affairs. His book *First Nationalism Then Identity: On Bosnian Muslim and their Bosniak Identity*, was published in September of 2022 by the University of Michigan Press. He is also a Research Fellow at the Jaffar Center for Muslim World Studies at the Green School of International and Public Affairs. As a public intellectual, he frequently presents nationally and internationally at public forums on relevant political issues and serves his communities in various ways.

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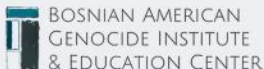
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Following Bosnia's declaration of independence and **UN** recognition in 1992, Bosnian Serb forces led a campaign to seize territory and "cleanse" the country of its non-Serb civilians, leading to the deaths of more than 100,000 people over the next three years. Systematic and widespread abuses, including ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and other gross violations of human rights, were committed primarily by Bosnian Serb forces against Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) during the war. In an effort to protect civilians, the United Nations Security Council declared the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica on April 16, 1993, as a **UN Safe Zone** and promised to protect thousands of civilians and people from neighboring villages who found refuge there. Yet, the UN failed to carry out its **promise** to protect the town two years later when Serbian forces overran the Srebrenica UN Safe Zone. As a result, the deadliest atrocity of the war occurred in Srebrenica, after Bosnian Serb forces entered the refugee camps, separated men from women and **then for several days** proceeded to kill more than 8,000 Bosniak boys and men in July 1995. **The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia** twice ruled this horrific crime a **genocide**. **The United States, Great Britain and European Union** have issued numerous declarations affirming the ruling on the Srebrenica Genocide.

Despite international and domestic **court rulings**, independent reports, and broad international consensus, prominent Bosnian Serb politicians and various other local and European actors have continued to deny that Serb forces committed genocide against Bosniaks in Srebrenica. Many of the survivors of the Srebrenica Genocide now live throughout the United States with their families and are traumatized by the denial and glorification of the convicted war criminals and others who were directly responsible for the genocide. To educate students and the public and address the issue of genocide denial and traumatization it causes, the Global Human Rights Initiative Project of the SBSHS Pathway at Broward College North Campus and the FIU class on the International Protection of Human Rights, in cooperation with partners and co-sponsors, organized this public conversation with survivors and trauma experts.