



The Tribunal and the Next Generation

ICTY Youth Outreach Project in the former Yugoslavia:
2011-2014





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Over the past three years, young people in the former Yugoslavia have been learning about the recent past and the work of the ICTY. Representatives from the Tribunal have travelled throughout the region, where they spoke with high school and university students about the Tribunal's mandate, its work and how it functions.

Experiences in other post-conflict societies show that the fact-based education of the next generation about the recent violent past is crucial for building a lasting peace and stability. For this reason the Tribunal sought to reach out directly to students in the region with a factual overview of its judgements relating to crimes committed during the conflicts. In this way, participants were encouraged to think critically about the way in which the conflicts have been narrated to them in the past, and better equipped to form their own opinions on both the history and future of their communities.

Reaching out to students

Presentations to high school students

Tribunal representatives delivered 116 presentations to high school students throughout Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo reaching over 4,000 students. The Tribunal's work and achievements were explained through presentations which included photographs, video footage from the Tribunal's proceedings, and powerful testimonies of victims.*

University lectures


The lectures at universities focused on topics related to the students' fields of study, and were designed to encourage the development of critical and independent thought about the Tribunal and the conflicts of the 1990s. As of December 2014, 79 lectures have been given at universities across BiH, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and the FYROM, reaching nearly 4,000 students.

The Youth Outreach project has reached nearly **8,000 young people in the former Yugoslavia** since its launch in December 2011. Through presentations by the Tribunal's representatives to high school and lectures to university students, the Youth Outreach project has provided insight into the Tribunal's work to the generation which grew up after the end of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia.

The level of interest shown by the young participants surpassed all expectations and their feedback shows that the project contributed to an improved understanding of the Tribunal's work by young people across the region.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Voice of the Victims



"I think that my entire life I will remember and feel the same pain which I felt then, and which I still feel. That will never go away."

Protected witness 87

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

SLIDE FROM THE PRESENTATION HELD IN HIGH SCHOOLS

* The term "Kosovo" used here and throughout the document is status-neutral, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1244.

The Tribunal through essays and drawings



EMAN BOLOBAN, 12 YEARS OLD, SARAJEVO, BIH



JASMINA ĆUREVAC, 14 YEARS OLD, SARAJEVO, BIH



SADŽID KOSOVAC, 14 YEARS OLD, SARAJEVO, BIH

The ICTY Outreach invited students to express their thoughts about the Tribunal through essays and drawings. The result was more than 400 essays written by high school students and drawings made by elementary school pupils. Their work provides an invaluable insight into the depth and complexity of the students' and pupils' perception of the Tribunal, the crimes that were committed throughout the region, justice, and the relevance of these concepts to their own future.

Essay-writing competitions

The topic of two essay writing competitions organised in 2013 and 2014 for high school students in BiH was *'Should we hold trials for war crimes committed during an armed conflict?'*. More than 200 students took part and the 11 member Tribunal-wide jury had a difficult job selecting the prize winners from amongst the many high quality entries.

Drawing and educational workshops

In 2013 and 2014, the Youth Outreach project was extended to include children aged 7 to 14, who were invited to annual educational workshops as part of the *'Sarajevo Kids' Festival'*. At these workshops, over 200 children from BiH were shown age-appropriate photographs of wartime events and ICTY proceedings, which served as a catalyst for a discussion about the war and its consequences. The children were encouraged to express their thoughts on justice and the need for war crime trials through drawings.

Engaging with educators in the region

In order to ensure continued education about the Tribunal's legacy, the Youth Outreach project has worked with educators in the region to enable them to deliver the project themselves.

Training of high school teachers

Maximising the impact of educating students about the work of the Tribunal requires integrating these lessons into their regular curriculum. Accordingly, the Outreach Programme organised a pilot workshop for teachers from five high schools in Sarajevo in 2014, to enable them to independently provide information about the work of the Tribunal. Each of the teachers went on to hold regular presentations about the Tribunal in their respective schools, receiving excellent feedback from students.

Study visit of university lecturers

Ensuring that future legal professionals in the region learn about the work of the ICTY is crucial if the relevance and impact of the Tribunal's legacy is to be secured. It was therefore considered important to work with university lecturers and offer them a first-hand insight into the Tribunal's work. Five university lecturers from BiH, Kosovo, Serbia and Croatia therefore took part in a two-day intensive study visit to the Tribunal in 2014. During the visit, the regional lecturers met with Tribunal's experts, attended trials, and exchanged views about the place of ICTY jurisprudence in university-level education in the region.

Partnerships with NGOs

NGOs are a vital partner in working to ensure the sustainability of the Youth Outreach project. During 2013-2014, the ICTY Outreach engaged with regional NGOs and trained members to independently deliver high quality presentations about the Tribunal. In Kosovo and Croatia, partnerships were forged with the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), whilst in BiH the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights was selected as a partner. In Kosovo, the YIHR delivered 10 high school presentations, and received excellent feedback from both students and their teachers in 2013.



WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN SARAJEVO,
BIH, 9 OCTOBER, 2014

STUDENTS' FEEDBACK

Assessment of presentations



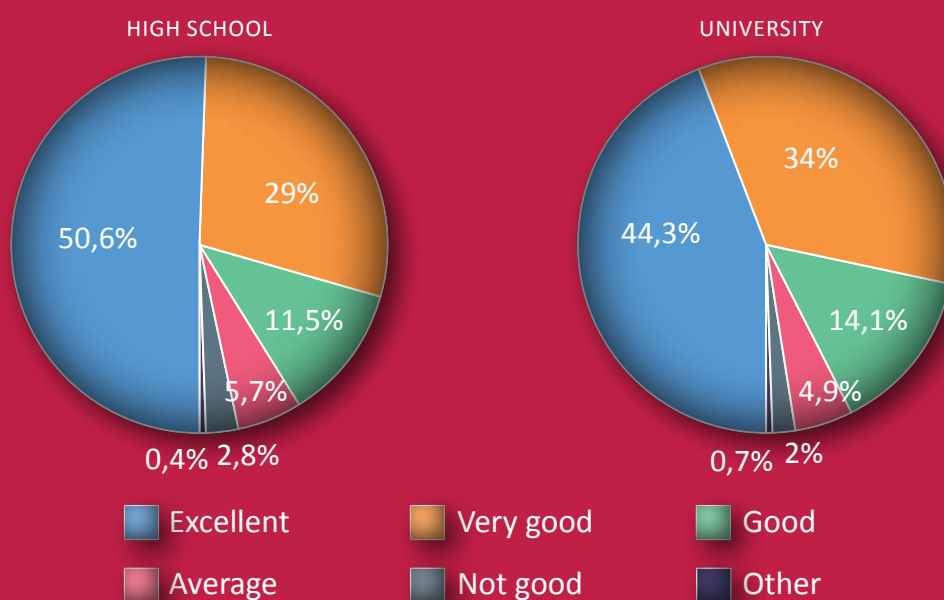
HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION IN ROŽAJE,
MONTENEGRO, 5 MAY 2014

Both high school and university students gave high marks for the presentations and lectures about the work of the Tribunal.

This feedback is particularly relevant, as the Tribunal's representatives were informed that these students had pre-existing ideas of the Tribunal's work.

Yet, following the presentations and lectures the students were overwhelmingly positive about the information they received about the Tribunal.

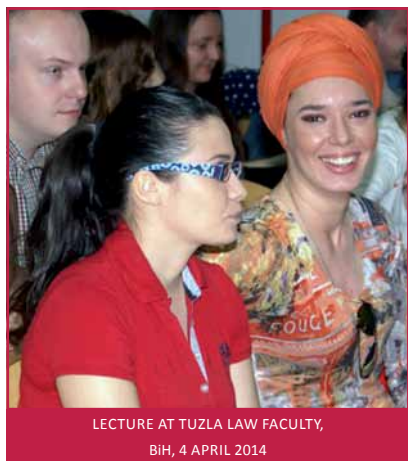
What is your general assessment of the presentation?



Approximately 80% of the high school students and 78% of university students considered the presentation to be either "excellent" or "very good".

STUDENTS' FEEDBACK

New knowledge

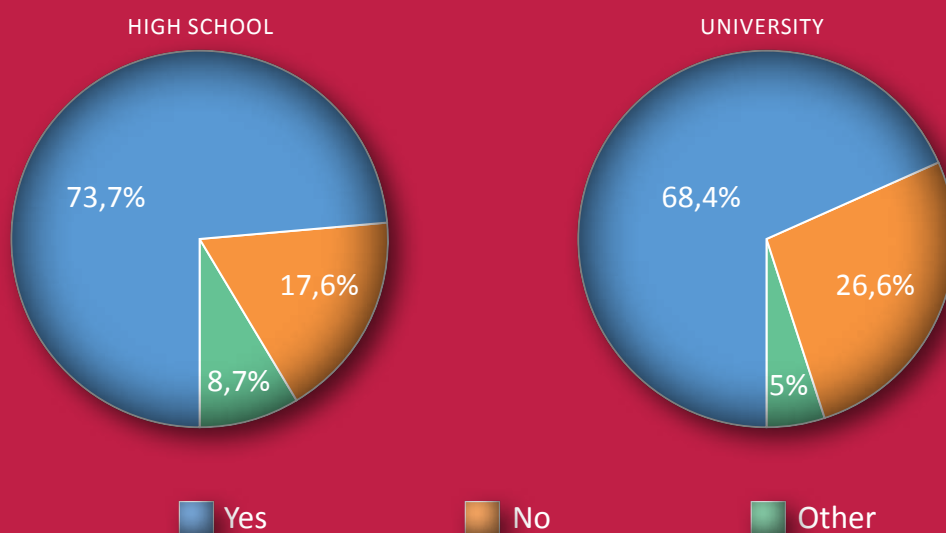


LECTURE AT TUZLA LAW FACULTY,
BIH, 4 APRIL 2014

The primary goal of the Youth Outreach project is to provide information about the Tribunal's work to young people in the region.

The finding that more than two thirds of both high school and university students learnt new things about the Tribunal through presentations and lectures shows that the project achieved its main purpose.

*Did you learn something new
about the Tribunal and its work?*



A substantial majority of both high school and university students indicated they had learned something new from the presentations and lectures delivered during the project, namely 73% of the high school students and 68% of the university students.

STUDENTS' FEEDBACK

Opinion about the Tribunal

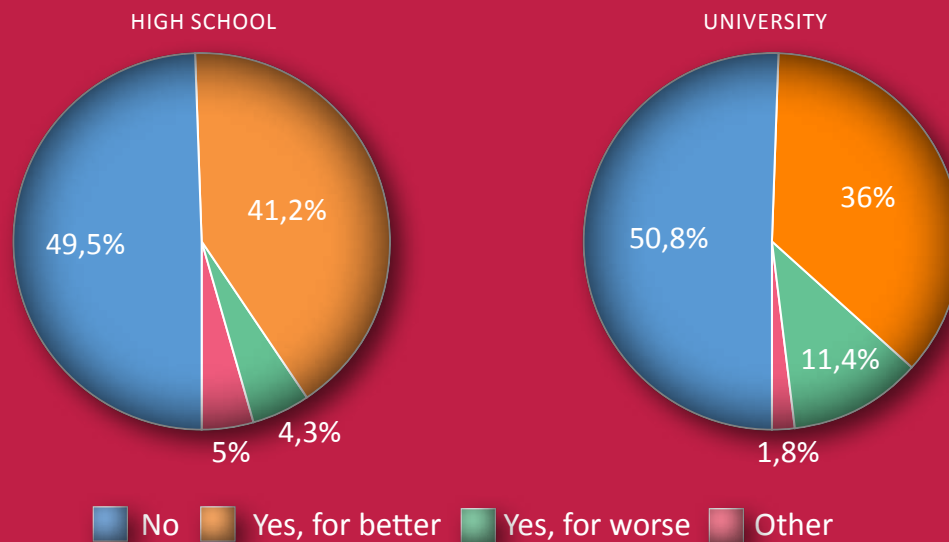


The Youth Outreach project has at times been criticised for its limited scope. Specifically, it has been said that while thousands of young people were able to participate, they were only exposed to one lecture or presentation about the Tribunal.

However the feedback received from the students has demonstrated that this criticism is unfounded and that a single lecture, followed by a debate, can positively contribute to the students' understanding of the Tribunal's work. Indeed this was the case, for more than a third of students at both the high schools and the universities.

These results suggest that engaging with the students in the region in the form of a lecture and an open debate can yield positive results.

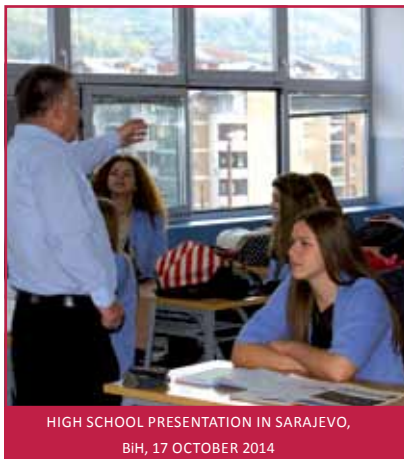
Did your opinion about the Tribunal change after the presentation?



Among the high school respondents, 41% indicated that their opinion of the Tribunal had improved after the presentation. University students were a little less inclined to change their views of the ICTY for the better (36%). Around half of all students said their opinion had not changed after the lecture.

STUDENTS' FEEDBACK

The Tribunal's contribution



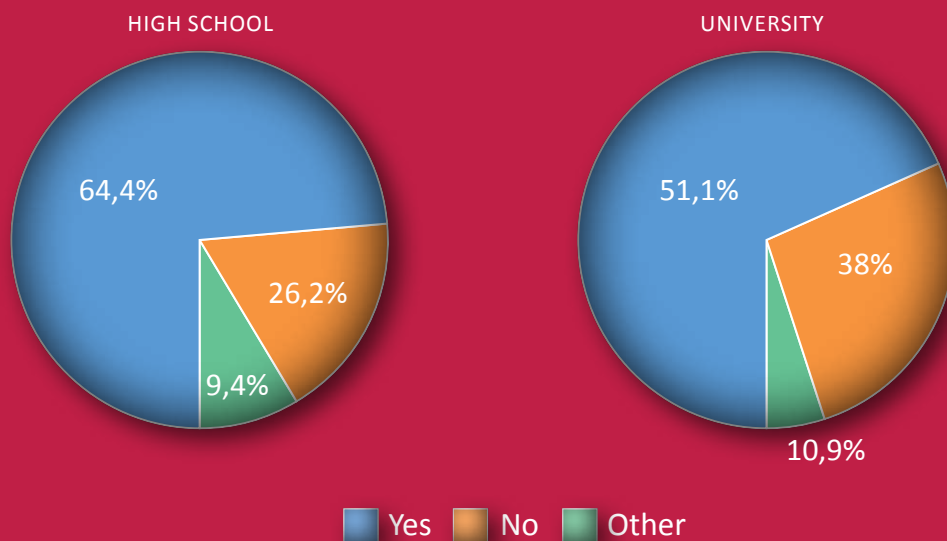
HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION IN SARAJEVO,
BiH, 17 OCTOBER 2014

Nearly two-thirds of the high school students, and over half of the university students who took part in the project believe that the Tribunal has made a positive contribution to punishing war criminals in their respective countries.

These are significantly higher percentages than are usually reported in surveys of the general population when asked the same question.

These results are encouraging with respect to the views held by high school and university students when it comes to perception of the Tribunal's legacy in the countries of the former Yugoslavia in the decades to come.

Do you believe that the Tribunal gave a positive contribution to punishing war criminals in your country?



A majority of both high school students (64,4%) and university students (51,1%) believe that the ICTY has made a positive contribution to achieving justice for war crimes committed during 1990s in the region of the former Yugoslavia.

Views of teachers



Antonija Krstulović Dragičević
PhD, Lecturer, Split Law Faculty,
Croatia

“For the last two years the Split Faculty of Law has organised lectures of experts from the ICTY as part of the criminal law curriculum, primarily for the students of the second year of studies, but also open for all other interested students to attend. It is my pleasure to say that the Tribunal’s experts prepared excellent lectures and presented them in a comprehensible and interesting manner, adjusted to the young audience of law students who have just begun studying the fundamental principles and basic notions of criminal law.

I see the greatest benefit of these lectures in the fact that the students got an insight into the work of the international criminal tribunals from the perspective of the legal profession, devoid of the political context through which the public frequently receives information and which creates perceptions about the adjudication in the international criminal context.

I am certain that the students will remember the fact mentioned in one lecture, that although sexual violence always “went hand in hand” with wartime events, it was only through the jurisprudence of the ICTY and ICTR that such offenses have been defined as crimes under international law.”



Islam Zulović
Teacher, Sarajevo 5th Grammar
School, BiH

“I accepted the proposal of the ICTY’s Outreach Programme to host a presentation at the school where I teach, Sarajevo’s 5th Grammar School, out of pure curiosity. However, the presentation left a far deeper impact on me than I’d expected, and when it was finished the reaction of the students was very positive.

After that, during 2014 I took part in a training course on giving presentations about the work of the ICTY. During the training we actively took part in the discussions, and took the role of presenters so as to try this out before giving the same kind of presentation for the students of our respective schools.

The presentation I held at the school where I teach was received very positively by the students. I believe it helped to break the taboos related to the work of the ICTY and that through it they received a lot of new information, relating for example to the organisation of the work of the ICTY, role of witnesses in achieving justice and punishing the crimes of sexual violence.

I think that these topics should be included in the regular curriculum because they would contribute to a better understanding among students of issues of international humanitarian law.”



Views of students



Amina Pivić

Student, Pravni fakultet u Zenici, BiH

“In light of the sentiment and the situation prevailing in our society when it comes to war crimes, I had thought that the sentences imposed on convicted war criminals were lenient. However, during the presentation I came to understand the role of the judges and the importance of guilty pleas by the persons who committed the crimes. Looking at it as a lawyer, I believe that individuals who have committed such crimes and later truly repented and pleaded guilty, and also helped in further proceeding and in locating mass graves, have the right to have their sentences reduced.”



Bešir Isaković

Student, Mostar Law Faculty, BiH

“Overall, it was useful and interesting to learn and understand how the perpetrators of the most serious crimes are treated. Since the context of the presentation is closely tied to what happened in my country, I found every word of it very useful. Finally, I believe that all that is happening at the ICTY is not and cannot be deemed to provide sufficient satisfaction to the victims; however, what is positive is that, by the very existence of the Tribunal, the memory of the victims will live on.”



Albertina Gashi

Student, Klina/Kline High School, Kosovo

“I was quite impressed with the presentation. It had a great impact on all of us and it raised our awareness of the work of the ICTY as it provided information that we had never heard before. The presentation helped us better understand the role of the Tribunal as an international court, who the accused persons are and how judgments are delivered for the crimes charged in the indictments.

The most moving part for me was the fact that about 140,000 persons were killed as well as the fact that millions of people were displaced within and outside national borders. It was also very interesting to see some of the footage from the courtrooms, excerpts from testimonies of victims and guilty pleas of the accused. I think that the work of the Tribunal should become a part of the curriculum in order to improve the understanding of this issue by the students and by society in general.”

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“I think it is very important for my generation to end the code of silence and to speak up about the events of the wartime past, and their tragic consequences, which are still part of our lives and to a great extent determine our future.

Youth cannot be an excuse for a lack of interest or passivity in the process of facing up to the past. We have to be open to listening to others, sensitive to the problems of victims marginalised by society, willing to ask unpleasant questions and persistent in getting honest answers.”

Maja Graca, high school student, winner of the 2013 essay writing competition, ‘Meša Selimović’ Grammar School, Tuzla, BiH

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Empowering young people in the former Yugoslavia

The Youth Outreach Project builds on lessons learnt from post-conflict societies around the world which have shown that the younger generations have great potential for active engagement in the process of facing the past. Delivering this project has proved that there is a demand for fact-based information about the issues related to the crimes committed during the conflicts of the 1990s amongst students in high schools and universities throughout the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

Speaking directly with young people about the crimes committed in their communities during the recent conflicts and the ICTY’s role in punishing those responsible is a significant way to empower them. The project presented to the young people in the region the judicial perspective of the process of facing the past and the role of the ICTY in initiating trials for war crimes as a key precondition for a successful post-conflict recovery of the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

Outreach representatives stimulated questions and discussion and the presentations and lectures were designed to encourage young people to carefully scrutinise the views presented to them, challenge conventional wisdom, and develop their own opinions about the conflicts and the Tribunal’s work. The project proved to be a ground-breaking effort in both scope and impact, contributing to strengthening support for accountability and the rule of law amongst the young people of the region.

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