

Sarajevo, April 26, 2018

CONCLUSIONS

FROM THE EUROPEAN WORKSHOP ON DEALING WITH THE VIOLENCE BURDENED PAST IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Interreligious council in BiH in cooperation with Maximilian Kolbe foundation and organization Renovabis from Germany organized the fourth European workshop: Dealing with the past which is burdened by violence in the BiH - contribution to the dialogue and culture of listening and solidarity, from 23 to 26 April, 2018. During the workshop about 30 participants from BiH and other countries (Germany, Israel, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Albania and Italy) had the opportunity to visit places of suffering of Bosniaks (Ahmići), Serbs (Bradina) Croats (Trusina) and Jews (Kruščica) and to talk to survivors of war. The participants came to the following conclusions:

1. The position and attitude of the state and society to the victims of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina are not on satisfactory level. War crimes are still denial and relativize, war criminals are treated as heroes, while the bodies of many victims have not yet been found and are being traced as missing persons, and there is a lack of adequate financial, legal and medical assistance to survivors.
2. It is necessary to stop the denial of the war crimes and to have due recognition and respect to all victims regardless of their religious and national belongings.
3. Governmental and non-governmental institutions should provide adequate financial, legal and medical assistance to survivors and help them to successfully overcome the trauma of war crimes that are committed to them, and to enable all victims marking places of suffering without a call for hatred and revenge.
4. We are encouraged by survivors' statements that they are ready for dialogue, forgiveness and building of a joint society based on truth, justice and reconciliation. Dialogue does not have an alternative! It is important to listen and show understanding to each other.

We thank survivors who were willing to share with us their experience, as well as we thank churches and religious communities in BiH who have opened religious facilities and enabled this workshop to be realized. We also thank all the media who provide media covering of this workshop.

