



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE  
ISUSOVAČKA SLUŽBA ZA IZBJEGLICE



P A T H S  
S T A Z E

راه ها  
پيچل  
مسارات

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Staze su Vaše novine.  
Ako želite podijeliti svoju priču sa nama  
potražite ljude iz JRS tima i oni će  
se pobrinuti da se Vaš glas čuje.

***Dobro nam došli!***  
Vaš **JRS BiH** tim

The Paths are your newspaper.  
If you want to share your story with us,  
seek out the JRS team and they  
will make sure your voice is heard.

***Welcome!***  
Your **JRS BiH** team

عن أشد  
صوتك وسيروصو على JRS لقصداك معذ ، فابحد  
سماع



# PATHS STAZE

*Dear sons of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Syria, and sons of all countries who were my brothers and friends, whether you remember me or not, I want you to know that in my heart and thoughts, you will never be forgotten.*

*With both bitterness and joy, I recall the years that have passed and those that are yet to come.*

*I hope you have found better lives, buried your painful memories, and healed your wounds. May my prayers for you be answered.*

*You taught me the true meaning of honor, respect, and unconditional love.*

*You showed me the transience of life and the only valuable thing within it. My soul is imbued with these same values.*

*Though I don't know where you are now, I'll never forget your Friday prayers or the video you sent me from the border forest.*

*I may not know the current whereabouts of H., and I., but I can still envision their eyes framed by Afghan hair.*

*I remember the African boy stolen by the river on the border, his soul perfuming the water, his hand captured in this photo.*

*Dear sons of other mothers, my sons, brothers, and friends, there will come a day when I won't be there to accompany you on your journey, but rest assured, you will never be forgotten. You remain in my prayers, and there's one person who empathizes with all your pains.*

*Yours is only what you give.*

*by Amina Kunovac, JRS psychologist and caregiver*



*Dragi sinovi Afganistana, Pakistana, Mjanmara, Sirije, i sinovi svih zemalja koji ste bili moji braća i prijatelji, bez obzira sjećate li me se ili ne, želim da znate da u mom srcu i mislima nikada nećete biti zaboravljeni.*

*S gorčinom i radosti prisjećam se godina koje su prošle i onih koje tek dolaze.*

*Nadam se da ste pronašli bolje živote, zakopali ružne uspomene i zacijelili rane. Neka se moje molitve za vas ispune.*

*Naučili ste me pravom značenju časti, poštovanja i bezuvjetne ljubavi.*

*Pokazali ste mi prolaznost života i jedinu vrijednu stvar u njemu. Moja duša je prožeta istim vrijednostima.*

*Iako ne znam gdje ste sada, nikada neću zaboraviti vaše molitve petkom ili video koji ste mi poslali iz šume na granici.*

*Možda ne znam vašu trenutačnu lokaciju, ali još uvijek mogu zamisliti vaše oči skrivene afganskim kosama.*

*Sjećam se dječaka iz Afrike koji je otet rijekom na granici, čija je duša mirisala vodom, čija je ruka uhvaćena na ovoj fotografiji.*

*Dragi sinovi drugih majki, moji sinovi, braća i prijatelji, doći će dan kada neću biti tu da vas pratim na vašem putovanju, ali budite sigurni da nikada nećete biti zaboravljeni. Ostajete u mojim molitvama, i postoji jedna osoba koja osjeća sve vaše boli.*

*Vaše je samo ono što dajete.*

*napisala Amina Kunovac, JRS-ova psihologinja i starateljica*



## Pope Francis Illuminates Our Path: "God Walks with His People"

In his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024, Pope Francis reminds us of the words from the Bible: "God walks with His people". These words resonate as we open our hearts and doors to migrants, recognizing in each face God's search for refuge.

The suggestion of the Holy Father is a journey undertaken together, synodally, overcoming every obstacle and threat, to reach the true homeland. Along the way, wherever we may be, it is crucial to recognize the presence of God who walks with His people, providing them guidance and protection at every step. Therefore, the beginning is to recognize the Lord present in His people, the Emmanuel who, in every migrant, knocks on the door of our hearts and offers Himself for encounter.

At the Jesuit Refugee Service BIH, we embody this spirituality of compassion and hospitality. Our Day Center stands as a beacon of hope, offering refuge and support to all who seek it. From being present in camps in Bihać and Sarajevo to our Reception Center for minors and vulnerable children, we strive to provide a sense of home amidst uncertainty.

As we journey alongside our migrant brothers and sisters, the words of Pope Francis guide us. They remind us of our duty to accompany, serve, and advocate for those in need. In every gesture of compassion and solidarity, we see the presence of God urging us forward on the path towards our true homeland.

United with Pope Francis' message, we at JRS BIH remain steadfast in our commitment to uphold the dignity and rights of migrants. Together, we stride towards a future where all are welcomed, valued, and embraced as members of one human family.



## Papa Franjo osvjetljava nam put: "Bog hoda sa svojim narodom"

U svojoj poruci za Svjetski dan migranata i izbjeglica 2024., papa Franjo nas podsjeća na riječi iz Biblije: "Bog hoda sa svojim narodom". Te riječi odjekuju dok otvaramo svoja srca i vrata migrantima, prepoznajući u svakom licu Božju potragu za utočištem.

Prijedlog Svetog Oca jest putovanje koje se poduzima zajedno, sinodalno, prelazeći svaku prepreku i prijetnju, kako bismo stigli do istinske domovine. Duž puta, gdje god se nalazili, bitno je prepoznati prisutnost Boga koji hoda sa svojim narodom, pružajući mu vodstvo i zaštitu u svakom koraku. Stoga je početak prepoznati Gospodina prisutnog u svojem narodu, Emanuela, koji, u svakom migrantu, kuca na vrata našeg srca i nudi se za susret.

U Isusovačkoj službi za izbjeglice BIH, mi utjelovljujemo tu duhovnost suosjećanja i gostoprimstva. Naš Dnevni centar stoji kao svjetionik nade, nudeći utočište i podršku svima koji je traže. Od prisutnosti u kampovima u Bihaću i Sarajevu do našeg Prihvatnog centra za maloljetnike i ranjivu djecu, nastojimo pružiti osjećaj doma usred neizvjesnosti.

Dok putujemo uz svoju braću i sestre migrante, riječi pape Franje nas vode. Podsjećaju nas na našu dužnost da ih pratimo, služimo i zauzimamo se za one u potrebi. U svakoj gesti suosjećanja i solidarnosti, vidimo prisutnost Boga koji nas potiče naprijed na putu prema našoj istinskoj domovini.

Ujedinjeni s porukom pape Franje, mi u JRS BIH ostajemo postojani u našoj predanosti čuvanju dostojanstva i prava migranata. Zajedno, koračamo prema budućnosti u kojoj su svi dobrodošli, cijenjeni i prihvaćeni kao članovi jedne ljudske obitelji.



## The Sacred Time of Lent and Ramadan: An Opportunity to Build Bridges Between Religions

In March 2024, the convergence of Lent and Ramadan provides an opportunity for reflection on our shared humanity and spiritual interconnectedness. Pope Francis, in his message for Lent 2024, calls upon believers to pause for prayer and extend a helping hand to those in need, reflecting the essence of compassion and solidarity inherent in both Christian and Islamic traditions.

As Christians embark on their Lenten journey, reflecting on the Exodus of the Hebrew people and the desert as a season of grace, Muslims around the world begin their month-long observance of Ramadan. A time of fasting, prayer, and deep spiritual reflection, Ramadan invites believers to draw closer to Allah and to cultivate empathy for the less fortunate.

Pope Francis emphasizes: "Lent is a time for action, but also a time for pause - a time for prayer and a time to stand 'in the presence of a wounded brother or sister.' It is in this encounter with others, in their needs and pain, that we discover true love and compassion."

Similarly, Ramadan encourages Muslims to embody the principles of self-discipline, charity, and compassion. During this sacred month, Muslims abstain from food and drink from dawn to sunset, fostering a heightened awareness of the plight of the hungry and marginalized.

In the spirit of fostering interfaith understanding and collaboration, we at the Jesuit Refugee Service in Bosnia and Herzegovina are dedicated to serving refugees, irrespective of their religious affiliation. Recognizing the significance of both Lent and Ramadan, JRS organizes Iftars (breaking of fast meals) in camps in Bihać and Sarajevo, as well as in other locations, ensuring that beneficiaries are not isolated within the camp environment.

Moreover, Iftars are arranged at our reception center in Sarajevo, fostering a sense of community and solidarity among diverse religious groups. In the Day Center in Bihać, Iftars have become interfaith gatherings as Muslims and Christians prepare and share meals, nurturing a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

As we journey through Lent and Ramadan, we heed the call to compassion, solidarity, and service, recognizing that our shared commitment to love of God and neighbor transcends religious boundaries. In embracing the values of these sacred times, may we build bridges of understanding and forge a path towards a more inclusive and compassionate world.





## Sveto vrijeme korizme i ramazana: Prilika za izgradnju mostova među religijama

U ožujku 2024., susret korizme i ramazana pruža priliku za promišljanje o našoj zajedničkoj ljudskosti i duhovnoj povezanosti. Papa Franjo, u svojoj poruci za korizmu 2024., poziva vjernike da se zaustave na molitvu i pruže pomoć onima kojima je potrebna, odražavajući bit suosjećanja i solidarnosti inherentan u kršćanskim i islamskim tradicijama.

Dok kršćani kreću na svoje korizmeno putovanje, razmišljajući o izlasku Hebrejskog naroda i pustinji kao sezoni milosti, muslimani diljem svijeta počinju svoje mjesec-dugo promatranje ramazana. Vrijeme posta, molitve i dubokog duhovnog promišljanja, ramazan poziva vjernike da se približe Allahu i da njeguju empatiju prema manje sretnima.

Papa Franjo naglašava: "Korizma je vrijeme za djelovanje, ali i vrijeme za zaustavljanje - vrijeme za molitvu i vrijeme da stojimo 'u prisutnosti ranjenog brata ili sestre'. U tom susretu s drugima, u njihovim potrebama i boli, otkrivamo pravu ljubav i suosjećanje."

Slično tome, ramazan potiče muslimane da utjelove principe samodiscipline, milosrđa i suosjećanja. Tijekom ovog svetog mjeseca, muslimani se suzdržavaju od hrane i pića od izlaska sunca do zalaska sunca, potičući povećanu svijest o teškoćama gladnih i marginaliziranih.

U duhu poticanja međuvjerskog razumijevanja i suradnje, mi u Isusovačkoj službi za izbjeglice u Bosni i Hercegovini posvećeni smo pružanju pomoći izbjeglicama, bez obzira na njihovu vjersku pripadnost. Prepoznajući značaj korizme i ramazana, JRS organizira iftare (obroci za prekid posta) u kampovima u Bihaću i Sarajevu, kao i na drugim lokacijama, osiguravajući da korisnici nisu izolirani unutar okruženja kampa.

Osim toga, iftari se organiziraju u našem prihvatnom centru u Sarajevu, potičući osjećaj zajedništva i solidarnosti među različitim vjerskim skupinama. U Dnevnom centru u Bihaću iftari su postali međuvjerska okupljanja jer muslimani i kršćani pripremaju i dijele obroke, njegujući duh međusobnog poštovanja i suradnje.

Dok putujemo kroz korizmu i ramazan, odazivamo se pozivu na suosjećanje, solidarnost i služenje, prepoznajući da naša zajednička predanost ljubavi prema Bogu i bližnjemu nadilazi vjerske granice. U prihvaćanju vrijednosti ovih svetih vremena, možemo izgraditi mostove razumijevanja i utabati put prema inkluzivnijem i suosjećajnijem svijetu.



## A Blast From the Past

### A Love Story from JRS BiH

Amidst the trials of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian war (1992-1995), the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) became a beacon of hope and reconciliation. Established in 1993 during the turbulent times of forced displacement, JRS Croatia Bosnia became a lifeline for many seeking refuge in Croatia. Setting up schools under tents and fostering unity among people of different backgrounds, its impact resonated far beyond the borders of former Yugoslavia.

These beginnings laid the groundwork for extraordinary acts of compassion and solidarity. As Bosnian refugees temporarily settled in Croatia, JRS Croatia Bosnia provided vital support, offering education and bringing together people of different nationalities and faiths. These acts of kindness and inclusivity were not only lifesaving for refugees then; they continue to inspire hope and resilience today.

In 1996, as Bosnia and Herzegovina began the slow process of healing and rebuilding after the war, JRS Bosnia and Herzegovina emerged from JRS Croatia Bosnia. Dedicated to assisting returnees in rebuilding their lives amidst devastation, JRS Bosnia and Herzegovina provided aid to those in need. Among its beneficiaries was Amra, a brave woman who was wounded during the war, losing her leg. In her time of need, JRS Bosnia and Herzegovina provided crucial assistance by procuring a prosthetic for her.

Amra's story, supported by JRS BiH, intertwined with Ahmed's, a compassionate individual from Pakistan. Through the challenges of displacement and disability, their love story unfolded, transcending boundaries and cultural differences. Amra corresponded with Ahmed while he was in Pakistan, and when he came to Bosnia because of her, they soon married.

Amra's resilience and optimism, fueled by the support of JRS BiH, became a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome challenges. Her shared story with Ahmed, marked by love, served as a beacon of hope amidst the ravages of war.

After Amra's untimely death in 2017, Ahmed found solace and purpose in joining JRS BiH as a cultural mediator. Drawing from his own experiences, he became a source of comfort and support to others facing difficult challenges. Strangers in a land whose language they do not speak, victims of human trafficking, and victims of violence by Croatian police found solace in a man who speaks their language, who encourages them, and gives them new energy not to give up on their dreams.

Ahmed's story came full circle when, reflecting on 30 years of JRS BiH work at a JRS exhibition, he discovered that the organization had played a crucial role in Amra's life. Touched by this discovery, Ahmed expressed deep gratitude, recognizing the connection between their stories and the transformative power of compassion.

Today, Ahmed continues to write new chapters in the story of JRS BiH. He is employed at our reception center in Sarajevo as a cultural mediator, serving as a beacon of hope and resilience for migrants. From supporting children in integrating into Bosnian society to advocating for the rights of marginalized, his story symbolizes the enduring legacy of love and solidarity.

As we celebrate the extraordinary journey of JRS BiH and the countless lives it has touched, let us remember that amidst the chaos of conflict, love and compassion have the power to overcome barriers and build bridges of understanding and reconciliation.



## Iznenadjenje iz prošlosti

### JRS BiH Ljubavna priča

Usred iskušenja bosansko-hercegovačkog rata (1992-1995), Isusovačka služba za izbjeglice (JRS) postao je svjetionik nade i pomirenja. Osnovana 1993. tijekom burnih vremena prisilnog raseljavanja, JRS Hrvatska Bosna postala je spasonosna linija mnogima koji su tražili utočište u Hrvatskoj. Uspostavljajući škole pod šatorima i potičući jedinstvo među ljudima različitog podrijetla, njezin je utjecaj odjekivao daleko izvan granica bivše Jugoslavije.

Ovi počeci postavili su temelje izvanrednih činova suosjećanja i solidarnosti. Dok su se izbjeglice iz Bosne privremeno smjestile u Hrvatskoj, JRS Hrvatska Bosna pružala je vitalnu podršku, nudeći obrazovanje i spajajući ljude različitih nacionalnosti i vjeroispovesti. Ovi činovi dobrote i inkluzivnosti nisu bili samo spasonosni za izbjeglice tada; i danas nastavljaju inspirirati nadu i otpornost.

Godine 1996., dok je Bosna i Hercegovina počela spor proces iscjeljenja i obnove nakon rata, JRS BiH proistekao je iz JRS Hrvatska Bosna. Posvećen pomoći povratnicima u obnovi svojih života usred razaranja, JRS BiH pružio je pomoć onima kojima je bila potrebna. Među korisnicima bio je Amra, hrabra žena koja je ranjena tijekom rata, izgubivši nogu. JRS BiH pružio je ključnu pomoć nabavljajući joj protezu.

Amrina priča, podržana od strane JRS BiH, ispreplela se s Ahmedovom, suosjećajnom osobom iz Pakistana. Kroz izazove raseljavanja i invaliditeta, njihova ljubavna priča razvila se, transcendirajući granice i kulturne razlike. Amra se dopisivala s Ahmedom dok je on bio u Pakistanu, a kada je došao u BiH zbog nje, ubrzo su se i vjenčali.

Amrina otpornost i optimizam, potaknuti podrškom JRS-a BiH, postali su svjedočanstvo sposobnosti ljudskog duha da prevlada izazove. Zajednička priča s Ahmedom, obilježena ljubavlju služila je kao svjetionik nade usred razaranja rata.

Nakon Amrine prerane smrti 2017., Ahmed je pronašao utjehu i svrhu u pridruživanju JRS BiH kao kulturološki medijator. Koristeći vlastita iskustva, postao je izvor utjehe i podrške drugima koji su se suočavali s teškim izazovima. Stranci u zemlji čiji jezik ne poznaju, žrtve trgovine ljudima i nasilja hrvatske policije svoju su utjehu pronašli u čovjeku koji govori njihovim jezikom, koji ih hrabri i daje novu energiju da ne odustanu od svojih snova.

Ahmedova priča ocrtala je puni krug kad je, razmišljajući o 30 godina djelovanja JRS-a BiH povodom izložbe JRS, otkrio da je organizacija odigrala ključnu ulogu u Amrinom životu. Pogođen ovim otkrićem, Ahmed je izrazio duboku zahvalnost, prepoznajući povezanost njihovih priča i transformacijsku moć suosjećanja.

Danas Ahmed nastavlja pisati nove poglavlja u priči JRS-a BiH. Zaposlenik je naseg prihvatnog centra u Sarajevu na mjestu kulturnog medijatora, služeći kao svjetionik nade i otpornosti za migrante. Od podrške djeci u integraciji u bosansko društvo do zagovaranja za prava marginaliziranih, njegova priča simbolizira trajnu ostavštinu ljubavi i solidarnosti.

Dok slavimo izvanredno putovanje JRS-a BiH i bezbroj života koje je dotaknuo, sjetimo se da usred kaosa sukoba, ljubav i suosjećanje imaju moć preći prepreke i izgraditi mostove razumijevanja i pomirenja.



## Jesuit Values: Social Justice and Ecology

On the occasion of World Day of Social Justice, Fr. Arturo Sosa, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, asked us all: "What can we do to take Jesus off the cross?" This statement reminds us of our obligation to fight for a more just society and to act in favor of those who are marginalized and oppressed. For JRS BiH, the World Day of Social Justice represents an opportunity to highlight the importance of our mission in providing support to refugees and migrants and promoting social justice and gender equality.

Through various activities such as workshops, educational programs, and environmental cleanup initiatives, we strive to empower our beneficiaries and raise awareness about key issues of social justice. Recently, we conducted a series of workshops on social justice and gender equality, emphasizing the importance of fairness and equality for all members of society. Additionally, we organized environmental cleanup actions in the Blažuj and Lipa camps, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.

In Sarajevo, we particularly focused on activities at our reception centre for unaccompanied minors. On March 8th, International Women's Day, we organized a special presentation and discussion about the significance of that day. Through activities such as discussions and honoring influential women, we highlighted the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment. We also discussed stereotypes and challenges faced by women in various social contexts, promoting understanding and solidarity.

Furthermore, we continuously implement support and education programs at our Reception Center, providing children with the opportunity for continuous education and integration into society. Through these activities, we aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfill their potential regardless of their migration status or background. All these activities reflect our commitment to creating a fairer and more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to realize their potential and contribute to the community.



## Isusovačke vrijednosti: Socijalna pravda i ekologija

Povodom Svjetskog dana socijalne pravde, p. Arturo Sosa, Vrhovni poglavar Družbe Isusove, upitao nas je sve: "Što možemo učiniti da skinemo Isusa s križa?" Ovo pitanje podsjeća nas na našu obvezu da se borimo za pravednije društvo i da djelujemo u korist onih koji su marginalizirani i potlačeni. Za JRS BiH, Svjetski dan socijalne pravde predstavlja priliku da istaknemo važnost naše misije u pružanju podrške izbjeglicama i migrantima te promicanju socijalne pravde i rodne ravnopravnosti.

Kroz različite aktivnosti poput radionica, edukativnih programa i inicijativa čišćenja okoliša, nastojimo osnažiti naše korisnike i podići svijest o ključnim pitanjima socijalne pravde i ekologije. Nedavno smo proveli seriju radionica o socijalnoj pravdi i rodnoj ravnopravnosti, ističući važnost pravednosti i jednakosti za sve članove društva. Također, organizirali smo akcije čišćenja okoliša u kampovima Blažuju i Lipi, promičući ekološku osviještenost i održivost.

U Sarajevu, posebno smo se fokusirali na aktivnosti u Prihvatnom centru za maloljetne tražitelje azila i ranjivu/razdvojenu djecu. Povodom 8. ožujka, Međunarodnog dana žena, organizirali smo posebnu prezentaciju i raspravu o značaju tog dana. Kroz aktivnosti poput diskusija i čašćenja utjecajnih žena, istaknuli smo važnost rodne ravnopravnosti i osnaživanja žena. Također, razgovarali smo o stereotipima i izazovima s kojima se žene suočavaju u različitim društvenim kontekstima, promičući razumijevanje i solidarnost.

Uz to, kontinuirano provodimo programe podrške i obrazovanja u našem Prihvatnom centru, pružajući djeci mogućnost kontinuiranog školovanja i integracije u društvo. Kroz ove aktivnosti, nastojimo osigurati da svako dijete ima priliku ostvariti svoje potencijale bez obzira na svoj migracijski status ili podrijetlo. Sve ove aktivnosti odražavaju našu predanost stvaranju pravednijeg i inkluzivnijeg društva, gdje svatko ima priliku ostvariti svoje potencijale i doprinijeti zajednici.



## Integration, Joys, and Challenges: Journey Towards a New Community

We are dedicated to the integration of migrants into our society because every individual deserves a peaceful, stable, and pleasant life in the community where they have found security. In our story of integration, joys, and challenges, every step brings new insights and connections. Through various activities, we strive to shape an inclusive society, encountering different joys and obstacles along the way.

### Discovering Sarajevo

"Discovering Sarajevo" was an unforgettable journey through the cultural and historical heritage of the city. Divided into groups, our beneficiaries explored iconic locations, creating memories through photographs. From the cathedral to Husref-bey's madrasa, the adventure culminated in shared moments at the Sarajevo Museum and the famous House of Spite, a symbol of resilience and unity.

### Celebrating International Migrants Day

In the spirit of solidarity and unity, together with the children of Sarajevo, beneficiaries of our reception center celebrated International Migrants Day. In an unforgettable event marked by socializing and festivities, children were enchanted by magician tricks that provided moments of magic.

Professionally guided, they participated in creating magic and building bridges between different worlds and cultures. This wasn't just a moment of entertainment but also an opportunity for children to share their experiences, forge new friendships, and gain new perspectives.

This was a precious opportunity for our beneficiaries to establish new connections in the country that is becoming their new home. Without connections between hosts and those seeking to integrate, integration is inconceivable. This event represents small but significant steps towards better understanding and integration among different communities.

This day reminds us that an inclusive society is one where everyone has a place and a voice, and that every acceptance is a step towards a better future for all of us.

### Empowering Migrants at the Day Center in Bihać

At the Day Center, a range of activities aims to enrich understanding of Bosnian culture and way of life. From documentary screenings to culinary workshops, interfaith gatherings, and Bosnian language classes, each endeavor nurtures a sense of belonging and resilience. Despite the challenges on the path to asylum, these shared moments ignite a flame of hope and resilience.

While our beneficiaries in the Reception Center in Sarajevo step towards a secure future with hope for asylum, the journey for those in Bihać is long and uncertain, facing numerous obstacles in the asylum process. Nevertheless, despite these challenges, continuous participation in activities of collective learning and exploration gives them a sense of unity and support, offering hope on the long road to integration.



## Integracija, radosti i izazovi: Put ka novoj zajednici

Posvećeni smo integraciji migranata u naše društvo jer svaka osoba zaslužuje miran, stabilan i ugodan život u zajednici u kojoj je pronašla sigurnost. U našoj priči o integraciji, radosti i izazovima, svaki korak donosi sa sobom nove spoznaje i povezanosti. Kroz raznolike aktivnosti, nastojimo oblikovati inkluzivno društvo, pri čemu se susrećemo s različitim radostima ali i preprekama.

### *Otkrivanje Sarajeva*

„Otkrivanje Sarajeva“ predstavljalo je nezaboravno putovanje kroz kulturnu i povijesnu baštinu grada. Podijeljeni u grupe, naši korisnici su istraživali ikonične lokacije, stvarajući uspomene kroz fotografije. Od katedrale do Husref-begove medrese, avantura je kulminirala u zajedničkim trenucima u Sarajevskom muzeju i poznatoj Kući Inata, simbolu otpornosti i jedinstva.

### *Proslava Međunarodnog dana migranata*

U duhu solidarnosti i zajedništva, zajedno s djecom Sarajeva, korisnici našeg prihvatnog centra proslavili su Međunarodni dan migranata. U nezaboravnom događaju obilježenom druženjem i slavljem, djeca su bila očarana mađioničarskim trikovima koji su im priuštili trenutke čarolije.

Profesionalno vođeni, sudjelovali su u stvaranju magije, gradeći mostove između različitih svjetova i kultura. Ovo nije samo bio trenutak zabave, već i prilika za djecu da dijele svoja iskustva, stvaraju nove prijateljstva i upoznaju nove perspektive.

Za naše korisnike, ovo je bila dragocjena prilika za uspostavljanje novih veza u zemlji koja postaje njihov novi dom. Bez povezivanja domaćina i ljudi koji se žele integrirati, integracija je nezamisliva. Ovaj događaj predstavlja male, ali važne korake prema boljem razumijevanju i integraciji među različitim zajednicama.

Ovaj dan podsjeća nas da je inkluzivno društvo ono u kojem svatko ima mjesto i glas, te da je svako prihvaćanje korak prema boljoj budućnosti za sve nas.

### *Oснаživanje migranata u Dnevnom centru u Bihaću*

U Dnevnom Centru niz aktivnosti ima za cilj obogaćivanje i razumijevanje bosanske kulture i načina života. Od projekcija dokumentarnih filmova do kulinarskih radionica, međuvjerskih okupljanja i satova bosanskog jezika, svaki poduhvat njeguje osjećaj pripadnosti i otpornosti. Unatoč izazovima na putu do azila, ovi zajednički trenuci pale plamen nade i otpornosti.

Dok naši korisnici u Prihvatnom Centru koračaju prema sigurnoj budućnosti sa nadom u dobivanje azila, put korisnika u Bihaću je dug i neizvjestan, suočavajući se s brojnim preprekama u procesu azila. Ipak, unatoč tim izazovima, kontinuirano sudjelovanje u aktivnostima zajedničkog učenja i istraživanja pruža im osjećaj zajedništva i podrške, pružajući nadu na tom dugom putu prema integraciji.



## Blessing of Our Volunteers

Julie, a 20-year-old from Germany, embarked on her journey after completing her Abitur. Driven by a deep-seated desire to support those less fortunate, she dedicated herself to voluntary service in multiple refugee camps across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Julie's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others led her to actively engage with the marginalized communities in Bihac, where she is involved in the JRS BIH.

At JRS BIH, Julie works tirelessly to amplify the voices of individuals whose stories often go unheard. She operates within two camps in Bihac, along with the Day Centre, and extends her reach to various outreach locations. Through her firsthand interactions and experiences, Julie captures the essence of these individuals' lives and shares their narratives through her compelling blog.

Her dedication is palpable in her compassionate care for others, evident in her unwavering commitment to the cause. Julie's blog serves as a platform for shedding light on the human experiences within the migrant community, showcasing the resilience and diversity of those she encounters.

Julie's presence is a gift, enriching the lives of those she encounters with her compassion, empathy, and unwavering dedication to making a difference. Her commitment to serving others and amplifying marginalized voices serves as an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing her. We are truly blessed to have Julie among us, tirelessly working towards a more inclusive and compassionate world.





## Blagoslov naših volontera

Julie, 20-godišnjakinja iz Njemačke, krenula je na svoje putovanje nakon što je završila srednju školu. Pokretana dubokom željom da podrži one manje sretne, posvetila se dobrovoljnom radu u više izbjegličkih kampova diljem Bosne i Hercegovine. Julijina predanost dovela ju je do aktivnog uključivanja s marginaliziranim zajednicama u Bihaću, gdje sudjeluje u radu JRS-a BIH.

U JRS-u BIH, Julie neumorno radi na pojačanju glasova pojedinaca čije priče često ostaju nečujne. Djeluje u dva kampa u Bihaću, zajedno s Dnevnim centrom, te proširuje svoj doseg na različite outreach lokacije. Kroz svoje izravne interakcije i iskustva, Julie hvata bit života pojedinaca i dijeli njihove priče putem svog zanimljivog bloga.

Njena predanost je vidljiva u njezinoj suosjećajnoj brizi za druge. Julijin blog služi kao platforma za osvjetljavanje ljudskih iskustava unutar migrantske zajednice, pokazujući otpornost i raznolikost onih koje susreće.

Julijina prisutnost je dar koji obogaćuje živote onih s kojima dolazi u dodir svojim suosjećanjem, empatijom i nepokolebljivom predanošću u donošenju promjene. Njena predanost služenju drugima i pojačavanju marginaliziranih glasova služi kao inspiracija svima koji imaju privilegiju poznavati je. Istinski smo blagoslovljeni što imamo Juliju među nama, koja neumorno radi na stvaranju uključivijeg i suosjećajnijeg svijeta.



## Beyond Survival

### Clara's Journey from the Congo to Bosnia

*"I come from the Congo," Clara says. She says it as if it's now clear why she sits here, in the community kitchen of the family refugee camp in Sarajevo. She doesn't think an explanation is necessary, and I don't ask for one. I remember what my political teacher always said in school: Congo is an example of a 'failed state,' an area where the principle of a nation-state has failed, which has been in turmoil for years: After being cruelly owned by Leopold of Belgium and then a Belgian colony, it endured one dictatorship after another; it's a country falling apart due to resource exploitation, wars between rebel groups, land, water, stubbornness, and power.*

"I come from the Congo" represents a context that Clara believes I should know because it was hostile to her, as it is for many. "I come from the Congo" is not just information; it's a judgment.

In the community kitchen on the outskirts of Sarajevo, it's incredibly loud, children run around everywhere, and fat burns its way into the stovetops. And there, in the midst of it all, sitting on a plastic chair, is Clara, a small, round woman, maybe in her thirties, with bleached cornrows, light brown skin, and very calm. She speaks good French, without a noticeable accent.

Clara comes from Kinshasa, the sixteen-million capital of Congo. In 2019, she left Congo with her husband and two children; she's been on the road for four years.

From Kinshasa, she flew to Istanbul, Turkey. That's often heard. Many people from many nations easily get visas for Turkey. But from Istanbul, she didn't continue on the Balkan route to Bulgaria; instead, she bought tickets for a boat to Greece.

"Boat," she says with a contempt in her voice that wasn't there before and is actually unusual for her. Clara speaks calmly and seriously, very composed, and she looks her interlocutor in the eyes while speaking. It's easy to look Clara in the eyes—she has calm brown eyes with an unusual depth, eyes that say she has seen a lot. Sad eyes. But it's not an angry sadness, more of a thoughtful one. Listening to Clara, one might get the impression that she's glad to speak, glad that there are people interested enough in her to listen to her, glad to be able to share her story with someone who can still empathize with her.

"These are not 'boats,'" Clara says, "they are completely riddled." Old, hopelessly overcrowded rubber boats. That's how she wanted to cross the Mediterranean to Greece. The crossing costs 200 euros per person, so the family pays 800 euros. On February 2, 2020, they board. Clara is pregnant.

The "skippers" of these boats are called Dhikki, Clara reports; they navigate with Google Maps across the Mediterranean.

On this second February, just before Corona, the weather is bad, signs point to a storm, the wind whips up the sea. Water seeps through the holes of the rubber boat, which people try to bail out. Of course, without success.

"The waves tear you out of the boat into the water," Clara says. She speaks calmly, her hands folded in her lap.

"Some couldn't hold on," she says. "The water smashed people against the rocks. There was a mother with a baby. The mother fell into the water and was smashed against a rock. The baby survived." Then, she says, she fell into the water herself. And whoever falls into the water has no chance.

"I thought my life was over," she says and looks away. It was February, winter. The water was cold. Suddenly Clara can't look you in the eye anymore.

"But you're sitting here," I say. Why are you still sitting here?

She smiles.

"An Arab man took off his shirt and pulled me back into the boat with it. And in the boat," she says, "I look down at myself and I see the blood flowing." She loses her baby.

She looks away and doesn't talk for a while. It's the only time her voice becomes more lively as she recounts how she lost her baby, the only time you can hear pain. As she talks about her miscarriage, she seems so deep in the past and in her pain, in such a private pain, that she can't share the thought of it in her eyes.

In the end, the Turkish coast guard saves her.

In early summer, she tries again. There are no problems, not a single one.

"I can't believe you're sitting here," I say. That you survived that. It was so risky. Clara looks at me, smiles, half knowingly, half painfully, friendly and serious.

She wants to go to France because of the language. After four years, she's in Bosnia, at the gates of the EU, and she says, "Yes. But the risk is not over."

It's not over yet.

## Više od preživljavanja

### Clarín put od Konga do Bosne

*"Ja dolazim iz Konga," kaže Clara. Ona to izgovara kao da je jasno zašto sjedi ovdje, u JRS-ovoj zajedničkoj kuhinji obiteljskog izbjegličkog kampa u Sarajevu. Ona ne misli da je objašnjenje potrebno, i ja ga ne tražim. Sjećam se što je moj učitelj uvijek govorio u školi: Kongo je primjer "propale države", područje gdje je načelo nacije propalo, koji je već godinama u nemiru. Nakon što je bio vlasništvo Leopolda Belgijskog, a zatim belgijska kolonija, podnio je jednu diktaturu za drugom; to je zemlja koja se raspada zbog eksploatacije resursa, ratova između pobunjeničkih skupina, zemlje, vode, tvrdoglavosti i moći.*

"Ja dolazim iz Konga" predstavlja kontekst koji Clara vjeruje da bih ja trebala znati jer je bio neprijateljski prema njoj, kao i mnogima. "Ja dolazim iz Konga" nije samo informacija; to je sud.

U zajedničkoj kuhinji na periferiji Sarajeva, nevjerojatno je bučno, djeca trče posvuda, a masnoća izgorijeva na štednjacima. I ondje, usred svega toga, sjedi Clara, mala, okrugla žena, možda u tridesetima, s izbijeljenim kikama, svijetlo smeđom kožom i vrlo smirena. Govori dobar francuski, bez primjetnog naglaska.

Clara dolazi iz Kinshase, glavnog grada Konga s šesnaest milijuna stanovnika. Godine 2019. napustila je Kongo sa suprugom i dvoje djece; već četiri godine je na putu.

Iz Kinshase je letjela u Istanbul, Tursku. To se često čuje. Mnogi ljudi iz mnogih zemalja lako dobivaju vize za Tursku. Ali iz Istanbula nije nastavila Balkanskom rutom do Bugarske; umjesto toga, kupila je karte za brod za Grčku.

"Brod", kaže s prijezirom u glasu koji prije nije bio tu i zapravo je neuobičajen za nju. Clara govori smireno i ozbiljno, vrlo je sabrana, i gleda sugovornika u oči dok govori. Lako je gledati Claru u oči - ima smirene smeđe oči s neobičnom dubinom, oči koje govore da je puno vidjela. Tužne oči. Ali to nije ljutita tuga, više je rezigniranost. Slušajući Claru, mogli biste imati dojam da je sretna što govori, sretna što postoje ljudi dovoljno zainteresirani za nju da je slušaju, sretna što može podijeliti svoju priču s nekim tko još uvijek može suosjećati s njom. "Ovo nisu 'brodovi', kaže Clara, "oni su potpuno izbušeni." Stari, beznadno pretrpani gumeni čamci. To je bio način kako je željela prijeći Sredozemno more do Grčke. Prijelaz košta 200 eura po osobi, pa obitelj plaća 800 eura. Drugog veljače 2020. su se ukrkali. Clara je trudna.

"Vođe" tih brodova nazivaju se Dhikki, izvještava Clara; navigiraju pomoću Google karata preko Sredozemnog mora.

Tog drugog veljače, malo prije korone, vrijeme je loše, znakovi upućuju na oluju, vjetar podiže more. Voda prodire kroz rupe u gumenom čamcu, koje ljudi pokušavaju ispumpati. Naravno, bez uspjeha.

"Valovi izbacuju ljude iz čamca u vodu", kaže Clara. Govori mirno, s rukama prekrštenim u krilu. "Neki se nisu mogli držati", kaže. "Voda je ljude bacala na stijene. Bila je tu majka s bebom. Majka je pala u vodu i bila je razbijena o stijenu. Beba je preživjela." Zatim, kaže, i sama je pala u vodu. A tko god padne u vodu nema šanse.

"Pomislila sam da je moj život gotov", kaže i odmiče pogled. Bila je veljača, zima. Voda je bila hladna. Odjednom, Clara me ne može više gledati u oči.

"Ali sjedite ovdje", kažem. Zašto još uvijek sjedite ovdje?

Ona se smiješi.

"Jedan Arapin skinuo je svoju majicu i povukao me natrag u čamac s njom. A u čamcu", kaže, "gledam se dolje i vidim kako krv teče." Gubi svoje dijete.

Odmiče pogled i ne govori neko vrijeme. To je jedini trenutak kada njezin glas postaje življi dok opisuje kako je izgubila dijete, jedini trenutak kada se čuje bol. Dok priča o svom pobačaju, čini se tako duboko uronjena u prošlost i u svoju bol, u takvu privatnu bol, da ne može podijeliti misao o tome u svojim očima.

Na kraju je spašava turska obalna straža.

Početak ljeta pokušava ponovno. Nema problema, nijednog jedinog.

"Ne mogu vjerovati da sjedite ovdje", kažem. Da ste preživjeli to. Bilo je tako riskantno. Clara me gleda, smiješi se, djelomično znalački, djelomično bolno, prijateljski i ozbiljno.

Želi ići u Francusku zbog jezika. Nakon četiri godine, u Bosni je, na vratima EU-a, i kaže: "Da. Ali opasnost nije prošla."

Još nije gotovo.

## Celebrating International Women's Day with Diversity and Solidarity

We marked International Women's Day with various activities celebrating women's achievements and contributions worldwide.

In Blažuj camp, a presentation was held highlighting the importance of this day, honoring influential women, and shedding light on prevailing stereotypes. Discussions revolved around the significance of women's achievements, aspirations, and contributions beyond traditional societal norms. This presentation served as a reminder of the ongoing need to advocate for gender equality and challenge entrenched stereotypes.

In Bihać, the celebration had a more laid-back atmosphere, yet it strongly underscored the significance of solidarity among women and recognized their accomplishments. Women from Iraq (of Kurdish origin), Syria, Tunisia, Algeria, and Bosnia came together to mark this day. They took strolls through the city, enjoying coffee in the city center, and later celebrated at the Day Center. Through shared food preparation, meal-sharing, dancing, and laughter, they celebrated the achievements of women worldwide.

As the fight for gender equality continues, it's essential to recognize and challenge existing stereotypes. Women are capable of much more than societal roles prescribe, and on this occasion, we celebrate their achievements, aspirations, and contributions beyond traditional norms.

In JRS BiH, diversity is strength, and solidarity is power. Through such celebrations and activities, we collectively contribute to creating a world where women are equal and valued for their contributions to society and the world at large.

We will continue to strive for a fairer society where every woman can realize her potential and contribute to the community in her own way.



## Proslava Međunarodnog dana žena u znaku raznolikosti i solidarnosti

Raznovrsnim aktivnostima koje su slavile dostignuća i doprinose žena diljem svijeta obilježili smo Međunarodni dan žena.

U kampu Blažuj, održana je prezentacija koja je istaknula važnost ovog dana, odala počast utjecajnim ženama te osvijestila prevladavajuće stereotipe. Razgovaralo se o značaju ženskih dostignuća, težnjama i doprinosima izvan tradicionalnih normi društva. Ova prezentacija podsjetila je na važnost daljnjeg zagovaranja za rodnu ravnopravnost te izazivanje uvriježenih stereotipa.

U Bihaću, proslava je imala opušteniji ton, a opet, naglašavala je važnost solidarnosti među ženama i priznavanju njihovih postignuća. Žene iz Iraka (kurdskog podrijetla), Sirije, Tunisa, Alžira i Bosne, zajedno su obilježile ovaj dan. Šetale su gradom, poput mnogih bosanskih žena, uživale u kavi u centru grada, a kasnije su slavile u Dnevnom centru. Kroz zajedničku pripremu hrane, dijeljenje obroka, ples i smijeh, slavile su postignuća žena diljem svijeta.

Dok se nastavlja borba za rodnu ravnopravnost, važno je prepoznati i izazvati postojeće stereotipe. Žene su sposobne za mnogo više od onoga što društvene uloge propisuju, a ovom prilikom slavimo njihova postignuća, težnje i doprinose izvan tradicionalnih normi.

U JRS-u BiH, raznolikost je snaga, a solidarnost je moć. Kroz ovakve proslave i aktivnosti, zajednički doprinosimo stvaranju svijeta u kojem su žene ravnopravne i cijenjene zbog svojih doprinosa društvu i svijetu u cjelini.

Nastavit ćemo se boriti za pravednije društvo, gdje će svaka žena imati priliku ostvariti svoje potencijale i doprinijeti zajednici na svoj način.



**Trećim okom**

*Kad pukne, ili se slomi,*

*Kad se prebije, od prebijanja,*

*kost zaraste, zacijeli, a na mjestu gdje se spojila, ona zadeblja*

*Spremna za nova prebijanja*

*I tako rebra nikada ne pucaju na istim mjestima niti bilo koja druga u tijelu koščica*

*Na tom mjestu kost postaje nesalomljiva, i još nešto, vidovita,*

*Treće oko na mjestu zadebljanja*

*To oko vidi nevrijeme koje nadolazi*

*Osjeti magle, kiše, snijegove*

*Šalje signale nosiocu nekad ranjenih kostiju i on zna što mu se sprema*

*Tako eto migranti nepogrešivo znaju kada krenuti*

*I znaju koji obraz okrenuti i koju kost podmetnuti*

*Kad ih vrijeme iznevjeri.*

**Roberta Nikšić,**  
*službenica za komunikacije  
i zagovaranje u JRS BiH*



*With a third eye*

*When it cracks, or breaks,*

*When it fractures from the beating,*

*Bone knits, heals, and where it joins, it thickens,*

*Ready for new beatings.*

*And so ribs never crack in the same places nor any other bone in the body*

*At that spot, the bone becomes unbreakable, and something more, clairvoyant,*

*A third eye at the site of thickening.*

*That eye sees the approaching storm*

*Senses mists, rains, snows*

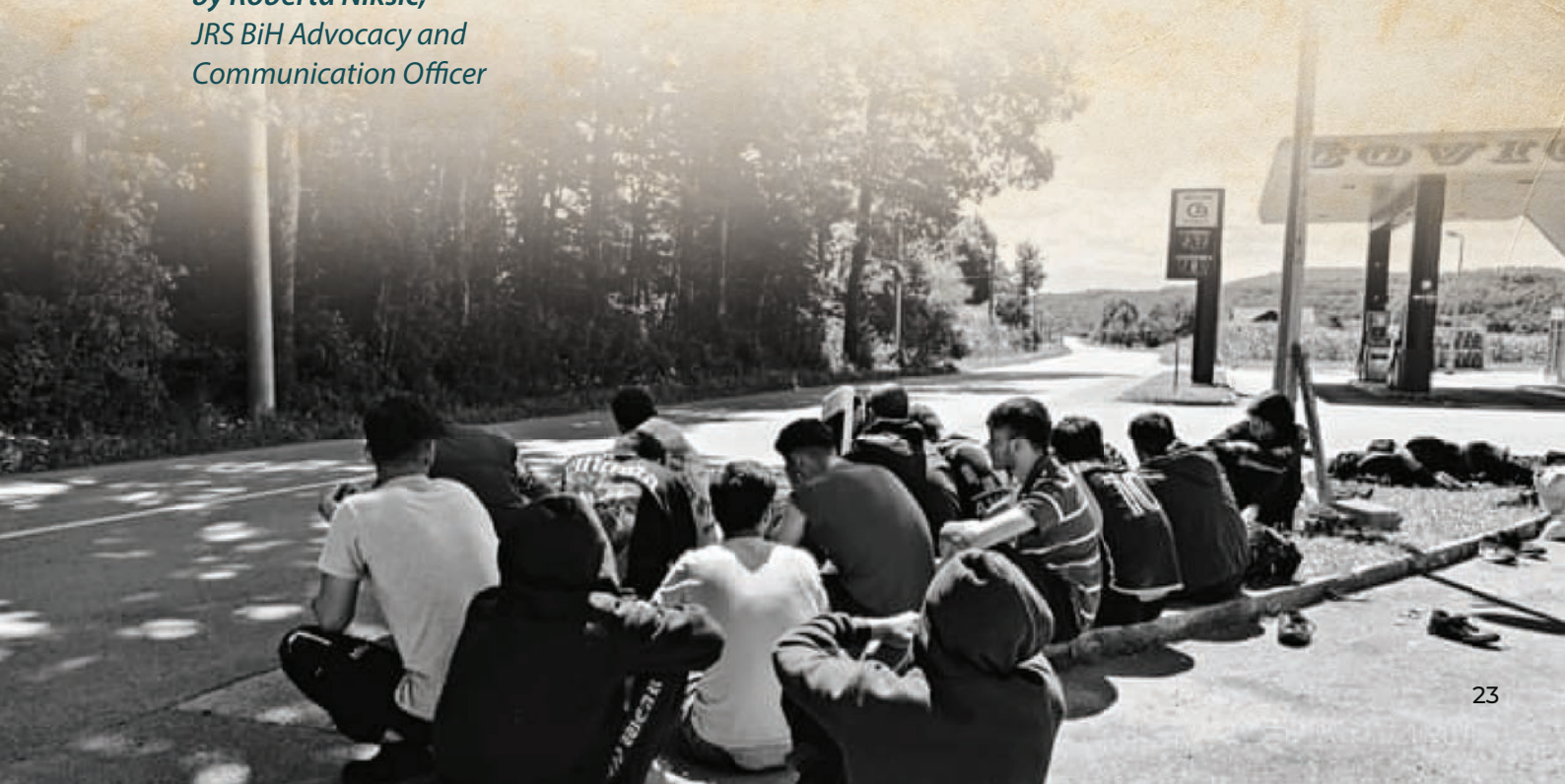
*Sends signals to the carrier of once injured bones and he knows what is coming to him*

*So migrants unmistakably know when to set off*

*And they know which cheek to turn and which bone to offer*

*When the weather betrays them.*

**by Roberta Nikšić,**  
*JRS BiH Advocacy and  
Communication Officer*





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***Support our cause.***

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