



SARAJEVO DECLARATION FOR A NONKILLING BALKANS

**NONKILLING
BALKANS** FORUM
nonkillingbalkans.org

Center for Global
NONKILLING
Measurable, Inspirational, Transformative



Gathered in the convergence of commemorations of WWI and WWII, two of Europe's most dreadful wars, we abhor the vision of the Balkans as a place of bloodshed. On the contrary, we seek to reinstate and celebrate our Common Nonkilling History and Balkan contributions to a peaceful killing-free world: from Bogomil pacifist spirituality to early peace research; from centuries of peaceful multicultural coexistence to the first calls for unconditional nuclear disarmament; from daring antiwar activism in the midst of battle to applied nonviolent civil disobedience.



This Common Nonkilling Legacy and the fact that during the entire history of this region the vast majority of people, even in the course of war, have not killed and would not kill, leads us to uphold the principle of the right of every single person not to be killed and the right and responsibility of everyone not to kill. History teaches us that killing only leads to more killing through creation of hatred and desire for retaliation. The examples of multi-ethnic communities that renounced killing each other during wartime or were able to achieve true reconciliation in times of peace reinforce this view.



The positive media attention and public responses to the publication of the translation of *Nonkilling Global Political Science* into Central South Slavic (*Svjetska Politička Nauka Neubijanja*), to the celebration of the 2014 Nonkilling Balkans Exploratory Forum, and to presentation of the first Nonkilling Communities Flag and Award to the municipality of Bosanski Petrovac, provide additional encouragement for receptivity of the nonkilling approach to problem-solving and community-building across the Balkans. At the same time, these actions resonate with many other initiatives that are currently being developed throughout the region.



Considering that the time is ripe and building from the momentum of recent success and attention, the undersigned participants call for the establishment of a permanent nonkilling structure involving local scholars, activists, public institutions, and others. We suggest that this structure be incorporated as a nonprofit "**Center for a Nonkilling Balkans**", with an associated "Nonkilling Balkans Observatory" to monitor killing and nonkilling initiatives throughout the region, and a "Nonkilling Balkans Academy" to train young leaders for building future nonkilling communities in the Balkans.



Following discussions of the Nonkilling Balkans Exploratory Forum, the participants have agreed to publish a joint collective volume under the title *Nonkilling Balkans* that will further disseminate its findings and promote the consideration of its nonkilling thesis among decision-makers, civil movements and the general public. The key findings from this book will be summarized and presented in a *Nonkilling Policy and Research Recommendations Report*.



We hope that our findings in the fields of education, psychology, anthropology, politics, philosophy, history and the media will provide useful insights for review of the 1914-2014 period from a nonkilling perspective and will help transition from a Century that has been ostensibly marked by a Culture of Killing to a future based on a Nonkilling Culture in tune with the Common Nonkilling Legacy of the Balkans.

THEREFORE:

In remembrance of all who have been killed, of all the killers, of all who have not killed, and all who have worked to end killing, guided by the scientific, historical and cultural premise of the universal value of human life, we –participants of the “Nonkilling Balkans Exploratory Forum” held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on August 28-19, 2014– present this Declaration and call upon all people of the Balkans and the world to join in support.

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