



STaR JOINT STATEMENT – OUR COMMON MISSION/VISION

We, Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, Center for Peacebuilding Sanski Most, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, PRONI and Small Steps, are collaborating on a joint project called STaR (Societal Transformation and Reconciliation) which is supported by USAID. You can find us in Brčko, Bijeljina, Sanski Most, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Amherst and Denver.

We wish to create a safe space in which people can understand each other and one another's perspectives, build relationships with people of different backgrounds, and begin dealing with and healing from the past. It is our aim to advocate for a better life and provide a platform where people of different backgrounds can meet one another with open hearts, treating each other with dignity and respect. We want to join together to develop a greater capacity to resist hatred, hostility and violence.

Our primary target groups and the main people with whom we are collaborating in these activities are religious leaders, religion teachers, and youth in ten communities (Velika Kladuša, Banja Luka, Jajce, Mostar, Stolac, Sarajevo, Sokolac, Olovo, Bijeljina, and Doboj). The secondary groups with whom we will work are these ten communities themselves, local government officials, and community leaders.

We will open Youth Centers and organize meetings between religious leaders and teachers of different faiths. Young people will participate in our Peace Camps, Peace Caravans, and Human Rights Training. They will also attend trainings to recognize hate speech and monitor hate speech in the local media. We will offer participants basic peacebuilding education and teach them skills for developing a culture of peace in their communities. Later, we will do conflict analysis and action planning with municipal leaders who are trying to make certain changes in society sustainable. Finally, we hope to integrate youth projects into the Sarajevo Film Festival and MESS Theatre Festival, with the aim of bringing young people together and giving them opportunities to learn about human rights in a different format.

You can be involved in this project by participating in film showings, trainings, being active in our Youth Centers, Peace Camps, Peace Caravans, and Human Rights Training, or by simply being sincere, honest, and friendly in your relationships with others.

Peacebuilding is YOU!

