



THE
RIGHT
LIVELIHOOD
AWARD

**GENEVA
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international
humanitaire et de droits humains
Academy of International
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

A Conversation with Right Livelihood Laureates

31 October 2016, 12:30-14

Villa Moynier, Cassese Room

On the Road to Transitional Justice: Memorialization in Russia and the Balkans

The creation of a collective memory in post authoritarian and post conflict countries poses a great challenge to human rights activists in the context of ethnic divisions and state oppression. Through the falsification of facts from the past, the path to transitional justice and a sustainable peace in the present faces significant obstacles. This interactive seminar features two Right Livelihood Award Laureates from Croatia and Russia who address, in their daily work, issues related to memorialization, reconciliation and dialogue among communities. During this event, they will discuss the challenges and opportunities of memorialization in two societies in transition.

The seminar will bring together Geneva Academy students, civil society representatives to address the following questions:

1. How can a culture of memorialization contribute to achieving transitional justice? What are the region-specific opportunities and challenges in the former Yugoslavia and Russia?
2. Which role does memorialization play for nation- and identity-building and how has it changed in the course of history? How can one effectively engage youth in memorialization?
3. How can different actors ensure that dealing with the past in transitional contexts is promoting reconciliation, peace and justice in the present?
4. Which role can, and should be played by, the international community, the state and civil society for the rehabilitation and remembrance of victims of political repression? Where are the differences between official and unofficial commemorations in Russia and the Balkans?

Panelists

Vesna Terselic, Director of DOCUMENTA, Croatia

Grigory Okhotin, Active member of Memorial, Russia

Moderators

Frank Haldemann and Thomas Unger, Directors of the Geneva Academy Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law



Vesna Terselic (Croatia) received the Right Livelihood Award in 1998 jointly with Katarina Kruhonja “for their dedication to a long-term process of peace-building and reconciliation in the Balkans”. She is a peace activist and largely responsible for founding the Croatian Anti-War Campaign (ARK) in 1991. After studying at Zagreb University she became involved in street theatre and environmental issues. Vesna Terselic is currently the director of DOCUMENTA, a centre for dealing with the past, aiming at the establishment of factual truth about the war and strengthening civil society from post-Yugoslav countries. In this role she contributes to building a sustainable peace in Croatia and the region by deepening the dialogue and initiating a public debate on the region’s war history.



Grigory Okhotin (Russia) is a journalist, human rights activist and member of the organization Memorial. Memorial received the Right Livelihood Award in 2004 “for showing, in traumatic times, the importance of understanding the historical roots of human rights abuse, to secure respect for them in the future”. Memorial is a historical, educational, human rights and charitable society founded during the years of perestroika, aiming at the preservation of the societal memory of war developments in the former Soviet Union. Grigory Okhotin is board member of International Memorial and the Human Rights Center Memorial. He is also co-founder of Ovdinfo.org, an independent human rights media project, which monitors political repression. Furthermore, Grigory Okhotin is co-founder of Data4Society - a community of programmers, web-developers and journalists and journalists, whose goal is to strengthen civil society - and has worked for different Russian news outlets in the past.

The Right Livelihood Award is presented annually in Stockholm for ‘outstanding vision and work for people and the planet’. Established in 1980 and known widely as the ‘Alternative Nobel Prize’, the award honours and supports people “offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today”. Today there are 162 Laureates from 67 countries. The Right Livelihood Award Foundation established an office in Geneva in 2015. Located in the Maison de la Paix, the Geneva Office focuses on researching candidates nominated for the award, coordinating the Foundation’s work to protect threatened Laureates, and raising public awareness about the Laureates’ work.

www.rightlivelihood.org

The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights provides post-graduate education, conducts academic legal research and policy studies, and organizes training courses and expert meetings. It concentrates on branches of international law that relate to situations of armed conflict, protracted violence, and protection of human rights.

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