



*the MAX VAN DER STOEL award*

*2018 Programme*

osce  
HCNM



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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*Max van der Stoep, first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, 1992–2001*

## *Max van der Stoel*

Max van der Stoel was appointed as the first High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE HCNM) in 1992. He served an unprecedented eight and a half years in this post. Born in 1924, van der Stoel is a senior statesman who had a long and distinguished career. As well as being twice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (1973–1977 and 1981–1982), he held seats in both the upper and lower houses of the Dutch Parliament. He was also a member of the European Parliament (1971–1973) and the North Atlantic Assembly (1968–1973, 1978–1981) as well as the Council of Europe Consultative Assembly and the Western European Union Assembly between 1967 and 1972. Between 1983 and 1986 he served as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations and in 1991, he was awarded the honorary title of Minister of State by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands for his exceptional accomplishments. The following year he was appointed by the UN Commission on Human Rights as Special Rapporteur on Iraq.

Van der Stoel became familiar with the work of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE, later OSCE) in his roles as Foreign Minister during the Helsinki consultations from 1973 to 1975, as Chairman of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee for several years and as head of the Netherlands delegation during the CSCE conferences on the human dimension in Paris, Copenhagen and Moscow. After several renewals of his mandate as OSCE HCNM, he was succeeded, in July 2001, by the Swedish diplomat, Mr. Rolf Ekéus.

In 1999 van der Stoel was awarded the Order of the Golden Lion of Nassau; the first citizen of the Netherlands to receive the award since 1919. Several honorary doctorates have also been awarded to him, including the Cleveringa Chair at Leiden University. The Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award at the University of Tilburg is named in his honour.

## *The Max van der Stoel Award*

The Award of €50,000, named in honour of Mr. Max van der Stoel – a prominent Dutch statesman and the first to hold the position of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities – was established by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001. It is awarded biennially<sup>1</sup> to an individual or an institution in recognition of their extraordinary and outstanding achievements aimed at improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE participating States.



### *Award Winners*

- 2018 High school students from the municipality of Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2016 The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), Cyprus
- 2014 Spravedlivost, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan
- 2011 Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje
- 2009 Integration and Development Center for Information and Research, Crimea, Ukraine
- 2007 European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest, Hungary
- 2005 Memorial Historical, Educational, Human Rights and Charitable Society, Moscow, Russian Federation
- 2003 Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies, Riga, Latvia.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2013 Award was postponed to 2014 to avoid overlapping with the change in HCNM.

# *Foreword*

## *by Lamberto Zannier*

*Chairperson of the Max van der Stoel Jury  
High Commissioner on National Minorities*

A group of young people from Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina, have demonstrated great tenacity in their belief in an education system that promotes diversity for current and future generations. These high school students campaigned against a decision by the education authorities to separate students based on ethno-centric curricula. Instead of sitting idly, the students advocated for an approach that takes into account differences in curricula without the need for classroom segregation. Their clarity of purpose and perseverance in maintaining their activism, despite significant peer and community pressure, has sent a clear signal of hope for an inclusive future. The Max van der Stoel Award Jury, which I chaired this year, is therefore pleased to honour these students, represented through the Student Council of the Secondary Vocational School Jajce, with this year's award.

The 2018 Max van der Stoel Award coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HCNM. This third Max Van der Stoel Award in the field of education is a testament to the importance placed by successive High Commissioners to initiatives in this field. Education has been at the forefront of the institution's work since the appointment of the first High Commissioner in 1993. As the first High Commissioner, Max van der Stoel, once said: "In the medium and long term, it is education that can defuse inter-ethnic tension". This is as valid today as it was during his time in office. Unfortunately, we see across the OSCE region financial limitations placed on the development and promotion of education policy. In certain instances, these policies can even be designed to strengthen the identity, historical narrative and cultural values of one particular group. Without minimizing the importance of maintaining and developing cultural and linguistic identity, we observe time and again how ill-developed educational policies can have an adverse impact on the cohesion of diverse societies.

Segregation of children of different ethnic backgrounds represents an extreme and problematic result of such policies. This derives, in part, from the belief that children should receive education following a curriculum that is developed solely for their ethnic group. As a corollary, we often witness the complete

physical separation of classes, schedules and playgrounds. Despite living in the same community, playing in the same parks and watching the same films in the local cinema, children find themselves having less contact with those outside of their ethnic kin. Neighbours may even come to fear one another as their familiarization and engagement with other communities is reduced. This can create fertile ground for tensions and conflict. It is this concern that has driven successive High Commissioners to devise initiatives that promote inclusive and non-conflictual educational policies.

This same spirit underpinned the considerations by the International Jury of this year's Max van der Stoep Award. While many strong nominations were received this year, the group of high school students from Jajce stood out for their fight against segregation in the field of education, in the firm belief that this was not a good investment for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This belief united them and spurred them in their activism against a policy decision to separate them according to ethno-centric curricula. They succeeded and through their actions they became a symbol against those advocating for mono-ethnic curricula and divisive educational policies.

Today, more than ever, this beacon of light is needed in the OSCE for students, educators, civil society activists and decision-makers. I hope that the example set by these students in Jajce may serve as an inspiration to all of us.



# Foreword by Stef Blok

*Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands*

The recognition that ethnic tensions can endanger peace and stability was the catalyst for the creation, 25 years ago, of the position of High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM). The decision was taken in July 1992 when all participating States at the Helsinki Summit agreed to establish an instrument of conflict prevention, in order to foster friendly relations both between and within States.

The creation of the institution reflected the political situation in Europe at the time, but its mandate remains equally relevant today. The need to identify possible tensions at an early stage and to find ways to defuse them has not diminished. On the contrary. Tensions can – and do – arise in all of our societies and must be dealt with before they develop into conflicts.

Today we mark the 25th anniversary of the HCNM. We can look back on a period in which successive High Commissioners have done their utmost to implement the mandate with discretion and independence. To the public, the High Commissioner's involvement is more often than not hidden from view. This is one of the strengths of the office. It is quiet diplomacy at its best.

While many efforts may go unnoticed, the lessons learned over the years are available to us all. The sets of recommendations and guidelines that have been formulated and published cover a wide spectrum of issues affecting the position of ethnic minorities, and reflect the experience and knowledge of the HCNM. Examples include the 1996 *Hague Recommendations regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities* and the *Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on Ethnic Minorities in Inter-State Relations*, published 10 years ago.

Anniversaries are always a time for reflection, but also prompt us to look forward. And when thinking about the future, the role of young people inevitably comes to mind. That brings me to the second main feature of today's proceedings: the 2018 Max van der Stoep Award.

The story of this year's winners is impressive and inspiring. Impressive because of the courage these students displayed. The courage to say 'no' when they found themselves confronted with a decision that would deeply impact their lives, their school and the future of their community.

Instead of accepting proposed segregation, they organized. They rallied around the slogan 'segregation is a bad investment' and opposed the decision. It wasn't easy. But they won.

We can all take inspiration from this tenacious group of young people who stood up for their convictions, for their ideals and for each other.

Education rights of national minorities is an issue that the High Commissioner has focused on since the very beginnings of the institution. The young people of Jajce are living proof of the importance of this theme. I applaud these students, represented by the Student Council of the Secondary Vocational School, worthy winners of the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award.

*The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities  
has the honour to invite you to the presentation  
ceremony of the Max van der Stoel Award*

In 2001, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands established an award honouring the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the late Mr. Max van der Stoel.

The prize is awarded biennially to a person or institution in recognition of their extraordinary and outstanding achievements aimed at improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE area.

This year the prize will be awarded to

**The High School Students from the  
Municipality of Jajce in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Represented by the Student Council of the  
Secondary Vocational School Jajce**

The ceremony will take place on  
9 November 2018 at 15:00  
in the Academy Hall of the Peace Palace,  
Carnegieplein 2, The Hague.



# 2018 Programme

Master of Ceremonies:

*Henrik Villadsen, Director, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*

**14:30**  
**Registration**

**15:00**  
**Welcome Remarks**

H.E. Lamberto Zannier  
High Commissioner on National Minorities

H.E. Thomas Greminger  
OSCE Secretary General

Erik de Baedts  
General Director of the Carnegie Foundation - Peace Palace

Keynote Speech  
by H.E. Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President of the European Commission

Opening of Exhibition  
by H.E. Lamberto Zannier  
High Commissioner on National Minorities

Coffee  
&  
Time to visit the exhibition



**16:30**  
**2018 Max van der Stoel Award Ceremony**

Music to open the ceremony

Welcome Speech by H.E. Lamberto Zannier  
High Commissioner on National Minorities

Short Film about the Winner of the 2016 Max van der Stoel Award

Statement on behalf of the Jury  
by H.E. Lamberto Zannier  
High Commissioner on National Minorities

Presentation Speech by H.E. Stef Blok  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Short Film about the Laureate

Congratulatory speech by H.E. Mirsada Čolaković  
Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Netherlands

Congratulatory speech by H.E. Bruce Berton  
Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Acceptance Speech by Laureate  
Ms. Azra Keljalić  
President of the Student Council of the  
Secondary Vocational School Jajce

**18.00**  
**Reception**



## *A vision of unity: Jajce's student movement for inclusive multi-ethnic education*

“My motive to campaign against the new school was a desire for unity,” says Ajla Vrebac, former student from Nikola Šop secondary school in Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>1</sup> “Three constituent peoples live in our country, and it is wrong that we are being taught only about our differences. I believe that when we work together, we can achieve much more.”

Ms. Vrebac, alongside several peers from the Nikola Šop secondary school and nearby Jajce secondary vocational school, demonstrated courage and determination as they took to the streets to campaign against a proposal they felt would contribute to the further segregation of Jajce's ethnically polarized communities.

Education is one of the most important tools for furthering integration and social cohesion in post-conflict and multi-ethnic societies. Overcoming segregation in schools and improving co-operation between different ethnic communities within the education system is a prerequisite to building and sustaining just, stable and peaceful countries. However, education systems are also prone to divisive discourses and policies, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina multi-ethnic education has remained a sensitive and controversial topic for a quarter of a century.

In the summer of 2016, the Central Bosnia cantonal authorities decided to establish a separate school solely for Bosniak students. Given the limited facilities available, the school was to operate independently within the already existing Nikola Šop premises. The new school was to provide a parallel educational setting whereby Bosniak students would learn from their national curriculum, rather than the Croatian curriculum that they had been following thus far.

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<sup>1</sup> *Bosnia and Herzegovina is comprised of two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. Formally part of both entities, the Brčko District, is a self-governing administrative unit. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is further divided into ten cantons, each with its own administrative government and relative autonomy in domains such as education and health care. The majority of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina belongs to one of the country's three constituent peoples: Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs. The three constituent groups are explicitly mentioned in Bosnia and Herzegovina's constitution and are not considered minority populations. Bosnia and Herzegovina does, however, recognize numerous national minorities as belonging to the country. It is common practice that schools across the country teach the respective curriculum associated with one of the country's constituent groups.*



*High School students from Jajce Secondary Vocational School in the municipality of Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina, (© Photo: OSCE HCNM / Damjan Jugovic)*

Displeased with the lack of consultation from the cantonal authorities and refusing the prospect of attending classes divided along ethnic lines, the secondary school students stood firm against the cantonal decision and campaigned throughout the summer of 2016. Many students from the community felt that classroom segregation – a practice that is generally applied at the elementary school levels in the municipality – would not address the challenges at the core of the education debate. For the students of Jajce, it was their cherished friendships and their shared learning experiences that defined their determination to preserve diversity through ethnically-mixed classrooms.

Fully aware of the risks associated with segregation, the students organized marches, awareness campaigns, and information sessions where they envisioned inclusive and quality education throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ivica Jukanović, a former student from Jajce secondary school, is convinced that “young people need to be consulted more, and they need to make more independent decisions about their future.”

Despite both a lack of resources and experience in activism, the students successfully pressured the cantonal authorities to halt the implementation of a separate school. They gained widespread support from community members and activists alike, who celebrated their grassroots initiative that exemplified

the values of pluralism, perseverance and creativity. The students' campaign against the further segregation of their schools embodied the dissatisfaction that many felt with the education system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, it invigorated a drive for quality and inclusive education as a means of promoting societal cohesion. Mr. Jukanović pointed out that the obstacles were manageable because the movement was "led by ideals and not by interests."

Speaking about the recipients of this year's Max van der Stoep Award winners, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) Lamberto Zannier stated "Students and young people who see their successful futures in their own country under threat should be heard. Their fight for integrated education should be recognized. This year's award recipients fought to promote and preserve the concept of integration and are an inspiration for others to follow, both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad. This is why this year's Max van der Stoep award is being presented to a group of young people rather than an individual or an organization."



*"Led by ideals and not by interests": the students of Jajce mobilized themselves to lobby for quality and inclusive education (© Photo: OSCE HCNM / Damjan Jugovic)*



### *The persistent practice of “two schools under one roof”*

The practice of “two schools under one roof” refers to schools that are managed by distinct administrative bodies and teaching staffs. Students attending these schools are separated along ethnic lines and follow a curriculum tailor-made for each of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s three constituent peoples. Since many of these segregated schools are housed under the same facility – hence the commonly accepted terminology – precautions are often taken to ensure that interactions between students of different ethnic backgrounds are kept to a minimum. Different operating hours and individual entrances for the respective students have become common practices that further regulate and enforce segregation.

This practice continues to prevail in the Central Bosnia, Zenica-Doboj, and Herzegovina-Neretva Cantons. Across the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s ten autonomous cantons, cantonal authorities are granted decision-making powers over the educational policies. In Jajce, it is the Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Education that directs the regulation over educational programming and requirements. The root of this practice remains a result of the structural legacies from the 1992 and 1995 international armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the subsequent constitutional framework that was enacted through the Dayton agreement to maintain peace in the country.

“Since the war, the country’s education system has been characterized by division and segregation, with the vast majority of children learning separately according to ‘their’ ethno-national group,” says Ambassador Bruce G. Berton, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. “This division does not promote the values of a democratic society, respect for diversity or the process of reconciliation. On the contrary, it entrenches divisions along ethnic lines. Furthermore, segregated education deprives the children of this country from receiving quality education that is free from political, religious, cultural and other biases.”

Efforts and legal measures to revoke the practice are hampered by the decentralization of the country’s educational systems. In 2014, the Supreme Court ruled that the practice of dividing students on ethnic grounds and issuing curricula on ethnic principles was discriminatory. However, it is still up to the cantonal authorities to decide on the educational policies in their area of jurisdiction.



*Pliva waterfall: one of the most renowned features in the town of Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo: © OSCE HCNM / Silvin Kondan)*

The HCNM and the OSCE, as well as other international organizations, have been strong proponents of initiatives promoting educational reforms. Given the importance of education in fostering integration and social cohesion, Ambassador Berton explains that “in the immediate post-war period, some interim measures (such as “the two schools under one roof” practice) were understandable as parents wanted to avoid exposing their children to an unwelcoming school environment. But twenty-two years later, these concerns are far less grounded. The continued perpetuation of such fears is more a reflection of broader societal mistrust and polarization rather than an objective assessment of teaching environments.”

### ***“Segregation is a Bad Investment”***

As societal segregation continues to affect the lives of citizens in the country, the students of Jajce have been wary of the continuation of ethno-nationalist rhetoric. Nikolas Rimac, a student activist from Jajce vocational school, explains that “by dividing students, we are losing prosperity and the essence of our people and youth. Young people are not leaving these areas just to look for better jobs; they are also leaving because they do not know how to confront these isolationist policies.” Azra Keljalić, the President of Jajce vocational school’s student council, echoes this sentiment: “segregation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is more expensive

than the price of improving our quality of education.” To this end, the student activists truly believe that the “two schools under one roof” practice has too many risks and not enough benefits.

Amela Kavazbašić, a secondary school teacher from Jajce and an avid supporter of the students’ initiatives, agrees with her students that schools should contribute to an environment which appreciates diversity instead of diminishing it. “I am very proud of the fact that a group of students from the school questioned a political decision affecting them, rejected it as harmful, and successively demanded different solutions using all the available democratic tools. I am immensely honoured to know them and to be part of their story on the freedom to openly express their disagreement with something that matters to them and directly affects their future.” Convinced that success requires hard work and persistence, the students of Jajce are pleased with their achievements regardless of some of the obstacles that they faced. Tarik Šehić, a student from Nikola Šop, explains that the students “were not even aware of what they went through until they reflected on it later, and then realized that they had protected their rights and won against this system.”

### *Community Reaction*

While the students were grateful for the support they received from community members in Jajce, it was often the students themselves who inspired others around them: “The students showed courage and maturity and gave a lesson to the adults around them. We must never forget that we are here for the students, and not them for us,” commented Zdenko Ištvančić, the Director of Jajce secondary school. Likewise, the Mayor of Jajce, Edin Hozan, pointed out that the student movement affected the community as a whole: “We are proud of all of [the students] and I am really glad that this happened in Jajce – and that we, the citizens of Jajce, have declared that we want a better education system and better quality of life.”

Alongside the words of commendation from their community, the students also encountered some resistance. Proponents of segregated schools claim that ethnically mixed classrooms allow one ethnic group to retain control over the others. Specifically, issues on the language of instruction and ethnically-sensitive subjects remain serious points of contestation across the country. The teaching of history and geography, subjects that are permeable to ‘us versus them’ narratives, have impacted the communities’ willingness to accept inter-ethnic education systems. Meanwhile, the one-sided historical narratives continue to threaten the cohesion of society through the perpetuation of divisions and mutual grievances that are rooted in the 1990s conflict.

The movement by the daring student activists, against the reluctance of their communities to envision a shared future, is of extraordinary merit. The students maintained the stance that there are major benefits from a shared learning environment with anti-discriminatory and inclusive curricula. Mr. Šehić expressed his belief that the movement was not initiated to “impinge upon someone else’s rights, but to learn together about the history and geography of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country that we all live in.” International organizations and partners in the region have also advocated for the implementation of an educational system with a curricula that could mediate and promote critical thinking and diverse perspectives.

Former student and community activist, Samir Beharić, believes that the students will require the continuous support of both the local and international communities. “I see the engagement of the Jajce students not only as a possibility, but as their duty and responsibility,” explains Mr. Beharić. “The students from Jajce need the unreserved support of their parents, teachers and local politicians. They also need the diplomatic engagement and lobbying of foreign ambassadors and members of the international community in order to completely abolish segregation in the education system.”

### *A Message to Others*

The student activists from Jajce admit that there is much more to do to push for inclusivity and quality education. Activism against segregated schools requires effort from all members of society and, given the politicization of education policies, the abolition of the “two schools under one roof” practice requires a long-term investment. Nonetheless, the students and their campaign against segregation have had a durable impact in Jajce and on the community members around them.

Summing up her experiences with the campaign and her expectations for next year’s student council, Ms. Keljalić explained that, “we have learned a lot, but I would like to point out that we definitely need to continue being persistent, a little bit stubborn, and definitely unique in achieving the goals we envision.” Similar sentiments were also felt by Ms. Vrebac, who added that “unity is a tool to reach success. As long as we stick together, we can change anything!”



*"We create in unity!" Graffiti sign on a school wall in Jajce.  
(© Photo OSCE HCNM / Damjan Jugovic)*

Sending a message to their peers, those students with the right convictions have many words of encouragement. "It is worth standing alone sometimes, it is worth fighting the invisible, and it is worth being patient," explains Mr. Rimac.

Acknowledging the tenacity and morale authority of these courageous students, as well as recognizing the need to nurture their quest for inclusive and better quality education, the Jury made the unanimous decision to reward the students from Jajce, through the Student Council of the Secondary Vocational School Jajce, with the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award. The award is sponsored by the Dutch government in honour of Max van der Stoel - a prominent Dutch statesman and the first person to hold the position of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. It is awarded biennially by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in recognition of extraordinary and outstanding achievements aimed at improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE area.



*Jajce's wooden watermills (Mlinčići) on the river Pliva were declared "National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina" in 2009. Following renovation, five are in working order today.  
(Photo: © OSCE HCNM / Silvin Kondan)*

***Official justification for awarding the 2018  
Max van der Stoel Award  
to the High School Students from the Municipality  
of Jajce in Bosnia and Herzegovina***

The Jury of the Max van der Stoel Award has decided to honour the High School Students from the Municipality of Jajce in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) with the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award in recognition of their outstanding courage and inspirational activism which led to the prevention of further segregation in schools in Jajce, as well as across the country.

Education is one of the most important tools for furthering integration and social cohesion in post-conflict multi-ethnic societies. However, it is also prone to divisive discourses and policies and, over the past quarter of a century, education has remained sensitive and controversial in BiH.

Recognizing that the root causes of conflicts are often deeply embedded in cultural and structural forms of violence, overcoming segregation in schools and improving co-operation between different ethnic communities is a prerequisite to build and sustain just, stable and peaceful democracies.

In the summer of 2016, the students in Jajce upheld these principles when they stood against a cantonal decision to establish a new school solely for Bosniak students. The cantonal decision had been taken along the “two schools under one roof” policy of ethnically segregated schools in the country which deepens the estrangement between the communities.

To pursue their goal and fulfil their aspirations, brave students of all ethnic backgrounds in Jajce gathered around the “Segregation is a bad investment” slogan and other inclusive messages. True to their commitment, they achieved, after a year-long battle, an unprecedented victory against a government decision to further divide them along ethnic lines.

Acknowledging the tenacity and morale authority of these courageous students, as well as recognizing the need to nurture their quest for inclusive and better quality education through, *inter alia*, investing in innovative means of instruction and placing them at the disposal of all students, the Jury made the unanimous decision to reward the students from Jajce, represented by the Student Council of Secondary Vocational School Jajce, with the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award.

## *Max van der Stoep Award 2018 Jury*

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### **Rainer Hofmann**

Dr. iur. Hofmann is Professor of Public Law, Public International Law and European Law at Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

Rainer Hofmann is the President of the German Association of International Law; a Member of the Executive and Management Board of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Vienna (Austria), representing the Council of Europe; and former President of the Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

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### **Nataša Kandić**

Founder of the Humanitarian Law Center, Belgrade, the Republic of Serbia

Nataša Kandić has a B.A. in Sociology and was founder of the Humanitarian Law Center in Serbia in 1992 where she held the position of Executive Director until 2012. At present, Kandić is Co-ordinator of the RECOM Process/Human Losses in the Wars in the Former Yugoslavia. She has received 26 human rights awards and acknowledgements for her persistent and fearless work on documenting war crimes and the most serious human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia.

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### **Alexander Verkhovsky**

Director of the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, Moscow, Russia

Alexander Verkhovsky's areas of research are political extremism, nationalism and xenophobia, religion and politics, as well as the misuse of anti-extremism policies in contemporary Russia. He has authored or co-authored several books on these issues, including: *Criminal Law in OSCE Countries against Hate Crimes, Incitement to Hatred, and Hate Speech*.

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### **Barbara Oomen**

Barbara Oomen is professor of the Sociology of Human Rights at Utrecht University, based at University College Roosevelt, in Middelburg, Netherlands.

Barbara Oomen has published extensively on the realization of human rights worldwide – like in *Global Urban Justice: The Rise of Human Rights Cities* (CUP 2016). She worked at the University of Amsterdam, Columbia University and the European University Institute in Florence. Her most recent research is supported by the Vici program of the Netherlands Science Foundation and concerns the relevance of international human rights law

to the way in which local authorities throughout Europe welcome and integrate refugees. She sits on a wide range of advisory boards like the Roosevelt Foundation and the Foundation Freedom lectures.

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### **Daniel Serwer**



Director of the Conflict Management Program at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C., United States of America.

Daniel Serwer has worked on preventing interethnic and sectarian conflict in Iraq and has facilitated dialogue between Serbs and Albanians in the Balkans. As a minister-counselor at the U.S. Department of State, Serwer directed the European office of intelligence and research and served as U.S. special envoy and co-ordinator for the Bosnian Federation, mediating between Croats and Muslims and negotiating the first agreement reached at the Dayton peace talks.

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# *Rules of Procedure*

## **1. GENERAL**

- 1.1 The Max van der Stoep Award will be presented in recognition of extraordinary and outstanding achievements aimed at improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE area. It will be awarded to international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, government bodies or individuals with a record of excellence in this field.
- 1.2 The Award shall be presented every two years.
- 1.3 The Award shall consist of a cash sum of €50,000 and a certificate.
- 1.4 Award winners must indicate in advance how they wish to receive the cash award.
- 1.5 Award winners may spend the cash award as they deem appropriate. No restrictions may be imposed in this respect.

## **2. MANAGEMENT**

The management of the Award will be executed by the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (OSCE HCNM) in The Hague.

## **3. THE JURY**

- 3.1 The HCNM will be responsible for the constitution of the Jury.
  - 3.2 Members of the Jury shall be appointed for a maximum period of three terms leading to the presentation of the Award. When selecting candidates for the Jury, preference shall be given to persons with an international reputation for their work on behalf of national minorities and European security policy in relation to national minorities.
  - 3.3 If a member of the Jury has a hierarchical or comparable relationship with a prospective Award winner (e.g. is on the board or the supervisory council of a legal entity or is a relative or partner of a natural person), the Jury member in question shall not take part in compiling the list of five nominees for the Award. If, at the deadline for nomination, a relationship of this kind exists between more than two members of the Jury and prospective Award winners, the Jury shall be dissolved for one year. A new Jury shall be appointed for a period of eight months, consisting of the uncontested members of the previous Juries and the reserve members next in line on the reserve list, subject to the rules set out above concerning hierarchical or comparable relationships.
  - 3.4 The Jury shall formulate, in writing, the grounds on which the Award is given.
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#### **4. NOMINATIONS**

- 4.1 Nominations for Award winners shall be submitted to the Jury by:
- a) the OSCE Missions and Institutions;
  - b) the OSCE Participating States through their Permanent Representations with the OSCE in Vienna; and
  - c) the OSCE HCNM in The Hague.
- 4.2 The Award may not be shared.

#### **5. AWARD CEREMONY**

- 5.1 The Award shall be presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the HCNM. The Minister shall incorporate in his speech the grounds for the Award, as formulated by the Jury.
- 5.2 Two representatives of the winning organization, or, if the winner is a natural person, the winner and one other person, shall be entitled to travelling expenses to The Hague and hotel accommodation for three nights, and shall receive the equivalent of the UN daily subsistence allowance (DSA). An extra allowance shall be granted if hotel bed and breakfast rates exceed 50 per cent of the UN DSA rate.
- 5.3 In consultation with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the HCNM shall produce the certificate and a book for all guests present on those occasions.

#### **6. ACCOUNTABILITY**

The HCNM shall submit biennial reports to the Security and Defence Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval by the Ministry's Financial and Economic Affairs Department. Both the Ministry's internal and external accountants shall be authorized to inspect and comment on the reports.

