



BULGARIAN  
HELSINKI  
COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

### Facing our Past Conference

Sofia, 5-7 October 2012

*Radison Hotel, 4 Narodno Sabranie Square ♦ House of Cinema, 37 Ekzarh Joseph Street*

#### 5 October, 2012 (Friday)

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##### 09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome and opening remarks**

- ♦ Krassimir Kanev, *Chair, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee*
- ♦ Tsetska Tsacheva, *Chair of the National Assembly, welcome address*
- ♦ His Excellency Matias Hopfner, *Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Bulgaria*

##### 09:30 – 10:50 **First Plenary Session**

Moderator: Solomon Bali

- ♦ Nikolay Poppetrov, *historian, Institute for the Study of History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 'Context and Reasons for the Fate of the Jews Living on Bulgarian Lands in 1941-1944'*
- ♦ Prof. Michael Berenbaum, *scholar, 'How Are We to Assess Bulgaria's Role During the Holocaust: Considering the Past, Building the Future'*
- ♦ Prof. Todor Chepreganov, *Skopje Institute of National History, 'Facing our Past: Collective Memory and History'*
- ♦ Gabriele Nissim, *writer, author of the book The Man Who Stopped Hitler, 'The History of Dimitar Peshev. The Moral Attitude of Dimitar Peshev in His Action for the Salvation of the Jews'*

##### 10:50 – 11:10 **Discussion**

##### 11:10 – 11:40 **Coffee break**

##### 11:40 – 13:10 **Second Plenary Session**

Moderator: Antoni Georgiev

- ♦ Prof. Antony Todorov, *political scientist, New Bulgarian University, 'The Shy Silence about Anti-Semitism: Holocaust Discourses in Modern Bulgaria'*
- ♦ Sonia Combe, *Université de Paris-Ouest, 'Looking Back on an Investigation in Collective Memory in 1992 About Who Saved the Jews in Bulgaria'*

♦ Ed Gaffney, writer and filmmaker, author of 'Empty Boxcars', 'B'tselem Adonai – In the Image and Likeness of God: Reflections of a Historian, Lawyer, and Theologian on Photographic and Documentary Evidence of Genocide'

♦ Prof. Lilyana Deyanova, sociologist, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, 'Why Now. New Political Uses of the Unserved Jews'

13:10 – 13:35 **Discussion**

13:35 – 14:50 **Lunch**

14:50 – 16:10 **Third Plenary Session**

Moderator: Mihail Ivanov

♦ Vania Gezenko, Central Historical Archive, 'Alexander Belev and His Role in the Establishment and Activities of the Commissariats for Jewish Affairs'

♦ Steven Sage, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 'Facing the Past Through the World's First Holocaust Trail: Sofia, People's Court VII, March –April 1945'

♦ Toni Nikolov, philosopher and journalist, editor-in-chief of *Kultura* portal, 'About the Long-Delayed Apology (the French case)'

♦ Albena Taneva, Sofia University, Center for Jewish Studies, 'The Modern Life about the Topic for Persecution and Salvation of the Jews in Bulgaria'

♦ Josif Melamed, secretary general, Shalom Organisation of the Jews in Bulgaria

16:10 – 17:00 **Discussion**

17:00 **End of the first day of the conference**

**6 October, 2012 (Saturday)**

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9:00 – 10:20 **Fourth Plenary Session**

Moderator: Antoni Todorov

♦ Viktor Mizrahi, Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews of Macedonia

♦ Teon Dzingo, Skopje Institute of National History, 'Implementation of the Anti-Jewish Law in Macedonia'

♦ Vladimir Paunovski, Jewish Museum at the Sofia Synagogue, 'The Fate of the Jews from Vardar Macedonia and Aegean Thrace from 1941-1943 in Recent Discussions in Bulgarian Media'

♦ Paul Hagouel, Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, 'The Annihilation of the Jewish Greeks from Eastern Macedonia and Thrace in Context and Perspective: Facts from the Past, Lessons for the Future'

10:20 – 10:50 **Discussion**

10:50 – 11:20 **Coffee Break**

11:20 – 12:20 **Fifth Plenary Session**

Moderator: Anna Krasteva

♦ Premiere of the book by Leah Cohen, publicist, *You Believe* – presented by Krassimir Kanev, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

12:20 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:40 **Sixth Plenary Session**

Moderator: Anna Krasteva

♦ Yulina Dadova-Mihailova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, *'The Rescue of the Bulgarian Jews between Myth and Reality'*

♦ Georgi Todorov, publicist, *'National and Personal Sovereignty, Responsibility, Mythology, History. The Fate of the Jews in Bulgaria during World War II'*

♦ Goran Sadikarijo, Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews of Macedonia

15:40 – 16:10 **Discussion**

16:10 – 16:20 **Closing of the conference**

♦ Krassimir Kanev, chair, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

*The working languages of the conference will be Bulgarian and English. Simultaneous interpreting will be provided.*

### **Film day, 7 October, 2012 (Sunday)**

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*The program on 7<sup>th</sup> October will take place in the House of Cinema, 37 Ekzarh Joseph Street*

10:00 – 10:10 *'1943 Chronicles'*, newsreels from the Bulgarian National Film Archive

10:15 – 11:45 *'Empty Boxcars'*, director Ed Gaffney

11:45 – 12:30 Meeting with the film director, Ed Gaffney

12:30 – 13:30 *'Borislav and the Balkans'*, director Yulii Stoyanov