



BULGARIAN  
HELSINKI  
COMMITTEE

## DRAFT 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*
- ♦ Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*invited*)
- ♦ His Excellency Matias Hopfner, *Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Bulgaria*

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

- ♦ Prof. Michael Berenbaum, scholar (*topic to be announced*)

Nikolay Poppetrov – historian, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (*topic to be announced*)

- ♦ Sonia Combe, Université de Paris-Ouest, ‘*Looking Back on an Investigation in Collective Memory in 1992 About Who Saved the Jews in Bulgaria*’
- ♦ Vania Gezenko, Central Historical Archive, ‘*Establishment and Activities of the Commissariats for Jewish Affairs*’

#### 10:40 – 11:00 **Discussion**

#### 11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

#### 11:30 – 12:50 **Second Plenary Session**

- ♦ Prof. Lilyana Deyanova, sociologist, Sofia University, ‘*Why Now. New Political Uses of the Unsaved Jews*’
- ♦ Antony Todorov, New Bulgarian University, ‘*The Shy Silence about Anti-Semitism: Holocaust Discourses in Modern Bulgaria*’
- ♦ Prof. Todor Chepreganov, Skopje Institute of National History, ‘*Facing our Past: Collective Memory and History*’
- ♦ Ed Gaffney, writer and filmmaker “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*’

12:50 – 13:15 **Discussion**

13:15 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 15:50 **Third Plenary Session**

- ♦ Gabriele Nissim, writer, author “The man who stopped Hitler”, *‘The Moral Attitude of Dimitar Peshev in His Action for the Salvation of the Jews’*
- ♦ Steven Sage, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, *‘Facing the Past Through the World’s First Holocaust Trail: Sofia, People’s Court VII, March –April 1945’*
- ♦ Georgi Todorov, publicist, *‘National and Personal Sovereignty, Responsibility, Mythology, History. The Fate of the Jews in Bulgaria during World War II’*
- ♦ Yulina Dadova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, *‘The Rescue of the Bulgarian Jews between Myth and Reality’*
- ♦ Albena Taneva, Sofia University, Center for Jewish Studies, *‘The Modern Life about the Topic for Persecution and Salvation of the Jews in Bulgaria’*

15:50 – 16:20 **Discussion**

16:20 **End of the first day of the conference**

**6 October, 2012 (Saturday)**

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

- ♦ Viktor Mizrahi, Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews of Macedonia *(topic to be announced)*
- ♦ 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 – 12:45 **Fifth Plenary Session**

- ♦ Svetlana Avdala, musicologist, Pancho Vladigerov Museum, *‘When it darkens, it’s the dawn – Bulgarian Jews, Music, and Musicians During World War II’*

♦ Leah Cohen, publicist, author of the book “You believe”, *Presentation of the Book “You believe”*

♦ Prof. Ana Krasteva, New Bulgarian University, *Presentation of the Book of Leah Cohen, “You Believe”*

12:45 – 14:00 **Lunch**

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

♦ Goran Sadikarijo, Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews of Macedonia  
(*topic to be announced*)

♦ Representatives of Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria Shalom, (*topic to be announced*)

♦ Representative of The Holy Synod (*invited*)

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  
09:30 – 13:30*

“Borislav and the Balkans”, director Yulii Stoyanov

“Empty Boxcars”, director Ed Gaffney

“Chronicles from 1943”, newsreels from the Bulgarian National Film Archive

The guest exhibition “New Sources for the Holocaust”, from the Skopje Holocaust Museum will be set up during the conference (*location to be announced*).