



### NOISE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED PEOPLE ALMA'S FIGHT FOR INCLUSION

**"Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people."  
Hellen Keller**

This quote of the famous American writer and activist Helen Keller announced the beginning of the presentation that marked this month's meeting of the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, held on Saturday, 12th of August 2017. The presentation titled "Noise from the Perspective of the Hearing Impaired People – My Fight for Inclusion" was prepared and delivered by our scholarship holder, Alma Mujanovic.

After the opening words and remarks of teacher Ramo and CEO Seid Fijuljanin, Alma excitedly started her lecture about the aforementioned topic. She was born in Montenegro, but moved to Sarajevo when she was ten years old so that she could attend a school for the children with hearing impairment. Today she is in her third year of studies at the Faculty of Health Sciences in Sarajevo, Department of Radiologic Technology.

From the very start, Alma's cheerful demeanor made it clear that her hearing problems never separated her from people, nor dampened her good spirits. Throughout her presentation, she did not merely resort to scientific facts, she included her personal anecdotes, as well as her humorous and witty comments in order to discuss the problems of the hearing impaired people and relay her personal fight. In addition, she clarified on the issue largely unknown to us and gave some advice on how to communicate and approach the people whose hearing is impaired.

Her hearing impairment did not prevent Alma from being an active member of the society, nor from communicating and spending time with her friends, as well as being an excellent student and a scholarship holder that all of us can be proud of. All of this is a result of constant practice and enormous effort she needs to put in so as to be included as much as possible. Thanks to numerous seminars and conferences she attended all around the world, she possesses excellent presentation and communication skills, but also vast knowledge that she successfully shared with those who were present.

Alma's fight, spirit and accomplishments in life can remind us of this famous quote by Beethoven, who had uttered it to one prince:

**"What you are, you are by accident of birth; what I am, I am by myself. There are and will be a thousand princes; there is only one Beethoven."**

Messages Alma conveyed to the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation are motivational and full of optimism and faith in the young people whom she sees as the ones who will bring a better future and be the saviors of our country. Without any exaggeration, her presentation put the wind in the sails of all our scholarship holders and inspired them to reach for the stars that shine only for them.

Mirza Okic



## UNDERCOVERED

izložba fotografija Tesnim Karisik

17. 08. 2017. godine u 14:00h

Galerija:

**Kreativni Butik, HAVA Sarajevo\***

Terezije bb,

Privredni grad Skenderija (ulaz od Coloseuma)

\*U slučaju da Vam treba pomoć pri traženju lokacije, kontaktirajte nas na broj telefona +387 61 922 422. Kontakt osoba: Sabrina Begović - Čorić.

## TESNIM KARISIK IN A DOCUMENTARY "UNDERCOVERED"

As a part of the Competitive Programme of The 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival, Bosnian and Herzegovinian documentary film "Undercovered" premiered on the 16th of August. The film was directed by Nejra Latic-Hulusic and Sabrina Begovic-Coric, and our scholarship holder Tesnim Karisik had a prominent role in it.

There exists an article of clothing that became scandalous throughout the world after the New York 9/11 Attacks; a headscarf. Extensive debates about whether Muslim women should be allowed to wear headscarves in public are still ongoing around the world. The rise of the terrorist group ISIL, which calls itself Islamic yet threatens the freedom of the world, has contributed to headscarves increasingly being perceived as a threatening unfurled flag of terrorism. Meanwhile, in post-communist and post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, young women are frequently choosing to wear them as a statement of freedom to express their faith and belief, and sometimes also to rebel against the capitalist vision of a free woman.

German newspaper "Süddeutsche Zeitung" wrote that this film was a prejudice-shattering stone hurled towards the radical right of the world and an example of how religious values can find their place alongside contemporary societal mores. Directing duo Latic-Hulusic and Begovic-Coric introduces us to six women who are practitioners of Islam. Their belonging to the tradition and religious practices of Islam, as well as wearing hijab, is one of the numerous identities that they embrace.

"And so we meet, among others, an artist, a photographer, a taxi driver, a scientist, a fashion designer – they speak

freely about their personal freedom of choice: decision to cover themselves and put on a hijab. Through its presentation of a series of accounts this film is a completely justifiable documentary slap in the face to the all-pervading stereotype that women cover themselves up because of men, because they are deprived of freedom of choice and making decisions about themselves and their bodies." (Nikola Vucic)

Tesnim Karisik, Lejla Hidic-Elezovic, Amina Ajanovic, Djermana Seta, Merjem Aganovic-Veladzic and Nusejba Mehmedovic helped shatter a stereotype which is prevalent in the Bosnian and Herzegovinian society as well.

As a part of the "Undercovered" premiere, our Tesnim's photography exhibition of the same name, dedicated to the everyday lives of girls who cover themselves, was held on the 17th of August. Tesnim Karisik is widely considered to be a promising young photographer and numerous accolades and prizes won in a short period of time confirm that.

Dzulisa Otuzbir

## THE MIRACULOUS **POWER** of MUSIC

The Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders are, besides their successes, also known for their monthly volunteering with the younger scholarship holders. Apart from discussing the compulsory monthly themes, the ten volunteering hours are often spent doing various activities, hobbies, picnicking etc. A few weeks ago our scholarship holder Mehmed Mehic sent a video to our editorial board that left everyone in the Foundation, and outside of it, breathless.



Mehmed Mehic has been the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder since 2006. He graduated from a primary school in Buzim and then enrolled in the Secondary Art School in Bihac. He is currently a student at the Sarajevo Music Academy. Carrying the title of the Foundation's scholarship holder for almost eleven years, he had many assignments, ranging from fieldwork to administrative duties. He is currently volunteering in Sarajevo, together with our scholarship holder Adna Orascanin, a blind girl from Bosanska Krupa who is in sixth grade at the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Children and Youth in Nedzarici. Their volunteering style is somewhat different. Mehmed spends his volunteering hours trying to fulfill Adna's wish – to learn how to play the guitar, apart from already playing the accordion. With light practice, a couple of tones and classical music they are slowly achieving their desired results.

“Apart from being an excellent pupil, Adna listens carefully and practices to achieve even better results. She has rather exceptional hearing and this can be felt while she plays. Every played tone expresses a special emotion which you can feel in the song “Sve je laz” that we played during our last meeting this month. She can play the classical compositions very well, too”, says her proud mentor.

Adna and Mehmed are an extraordinary example of how volunteering hours can be spent in a right way, if there is will and desire. Everything is possible when education is the choice that comes before any other choices.

Adna and Mehmed's cover of the song “Sve je laz” can be found on our Facebook page, and the video was recorded during their volunteering meeting in Bosanska Krupa.

Hanka Mujkic

The proposal to create something with a decoupage technique came from our scholarship holder Berina Barakovic and the students with whom she volunteers. This decoupage was made during their volunteer meeting.

### MATERIALS AND ACCESSORIES NEEDED:

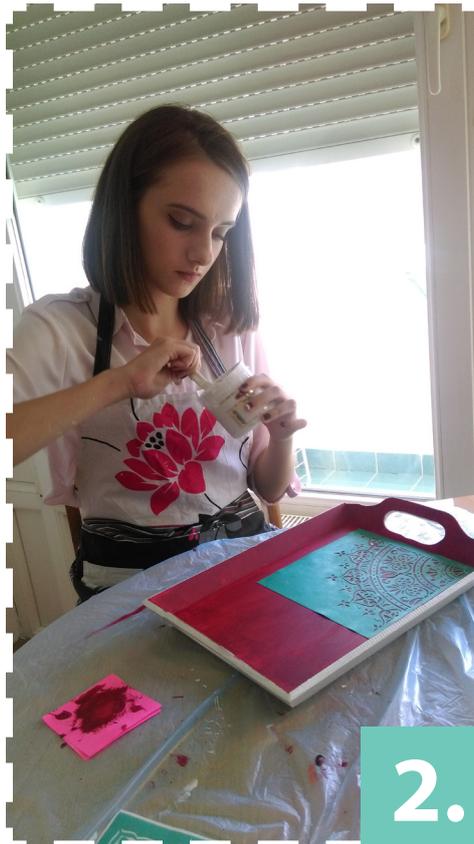
acrylic paint, relief paste, paint, stencils, paintbrushes, putty knife to apply relief pastes, subject on which we are going to work.

### MAKING PROCESS:



1.

Decorate the wooden object with the desired acrylic paint and let it dry.



2.

Paste the stencil to the desired location where you want to paint your relief. Use the putty knife to apply the paste, not too thick, just enough to see the bulge. Smoothly remove the stencil and then wash immediately (the stencil can be used more than once if properly maintained)



3.

Dry the relief paste (it can be optional dyed). Dry it all well and repair if there are some passages under the stencil, and then varnish (it can be varnished in several layers). Then dry well (it takes about 24 hours to dry completely).

Hair dryer can be used for drying. If you find that your acrylic colours are too dense, it is desirable to dilute them with water. It takes about 2 hours to make this.

Kovacevic Seudin scheduled the volunteering for July 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Cultural Centre in Miricina. I decided to attend the first hour of this meeting. Two and a half hours of driving will be needed to get there. At half past six Fadila and I left Vogosca and while listening to the Kalman radio arrived at the Cultural Centre in Miricina at 9 a.m. sharp. I waited for ten minutes, but Seudin was not coming. I called him on his mobile phone, but no one answered. Then I called Bektic Zemira who told me that Seudin had changed his number, but that she knows where he lives so we can go to his house, and I gladly accepted.

Seudin's mother told us: *"Seudin is still asleep."*

I asked her to wake him up, thanked Zemira and told her to go home, and then sat in my car where I waited for Seudin to wake up.

Seudin soon arrived and said: *"I scheduled the meeting at the Cultural Centre at 10 a.m.!"*

I went to a nearby café to have a coffee and wait for it to be 10. It says from 9 on my mobile, and Seudin says from 10. Who was the one to make this mistake I wondered. I had to get up an hour earlier and now also allow Seudin to call the pupils because I have arrived. After 10 o'clock I found myself in Seudin's room where he and the pupils were working according to their plan, and there was chips and other snacks on the table, as well as glasses of juice. I talked with those who were present and then left them to continue with their meeting while Fadila and I left for Vogosca.

Kovacevic Emina and Sivcevic Amela scheduled the meeting in Gornji Rahici, for July 25, at 11 a.m. with eight pupils, and Becirevic Emina in Celic, at 3 p.m. with seven primary school pupils and three secondary school pupils.

I woke up at 6; lightning lit up the sky accompanied with thunder. I was thinking: to Celic and back, over 400 kilometers, but 3 students, 3 secondary school pupils and 15 primary school pupils. They should be visited. Fadila and I got ready and took off. It started raining in Srednje. A car stuck in a ditch near Nisici. I asked the driver if there was anything I could do to help and he said:

*"I have called the towing company, there is no need. Thank you!"*

I went on, and it poured even more, the windshield wipers could barely get the rain off the windshield. A car crash near Stupari. One car on the left side and stuck on the guardrail near the road, the other on the right side and in a ditch; the front side of both cars was damaged considerably. I proceeded with more caution, arrived in Gornji Rahici at 11 and it stopped raining as well. I called Kovacevic Emina and she told me that she was sick.

I asked her: *"Why didn't you call me?"* – no response.

*"Do you know that you will lose your scholarship?"* – no response.

*"Do you have anything to say to me?"*

*"No, I don't!"*, she replied shortly.

*"Alright then"*, I said and ended the conversation.



I found Sivcevic Amela in a classroom with her pupils, working according to their plan for today. She briefly told me what the plan was. The pupils told me that they were good in school and that some of them even won the bonus. I praised them and after giving them brief guidance on how to study during the following school year, I said goodbye and headed toward Celic. It was 3 p.m. and there were no Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders in the City park in Celic. I called Amela to check where Becirevic Emina was. As I was drinking juice with Fadila in a café in the City park, Amela called me and said that Emina scheduled the meeting at 4 p.m. and that the same mistake happened as with Seudin. Another hour lost.

At 4 o'clock Emina arrived and after greeting us she said: *"I was convinced that you would come because Amela had never called me until today."* It was a warm day, but it was very pleasant in the park at 4 o'clock. I stayed with these hard-working pupils longer than planned and at 5 p.m. headed toward Vogosca.

Milak Amela, Djonlagic Daut and Murga Mirza scheduled the volunteering with 14 secondary school pupils in a park in Livno, from 9 am to 2 pm. I began my journey early so I could arrive before it became too hot. Around

10 am I found them in the park, playing volleyball. Daut explained to me that they discussed the compulsory theme during the first hour.

*"We're playing now and later we will visit Duman, the source of the Bistrice river which flows through Livno. Join us perhaps, if you wish?"*

I accepted the invitation and after a conversation we headed toward Duman, Even though the temperature was over 30°C, it was very pleasant at the river spring. Mirza briefly described this place, showing us individual springs and pointing out the value of this place as a tourist attraction, and as a source of drinking water for Livno. After a short conversation about the preparation for the following school year, Fadila and I headed for Vogosca.

While going through Bugojno I met with Mlivo Emira who told me that she had won the first place in the physics and mathematics competitions. While looking at her diplomas, I thought of Hajdarevic Nermana from Busovaca who told me she had finished primary and secondary school as an honorary graduate, which is the greatest recognition given to a pupil by the teachers. One more reason to be proud of our scholarship holders.

Ramo Hastor



It's easy to notice the work of those college scholarship holders who actively fulfill their obligations toward the Hastor Foundation, along with the obligations at faculties. Their work, apart from giving results, is also recognized, which is why this month's title of the scholarship holder of the month was given to Marija Mrdja.



Marija was born in Bosanski Petrovac in 1994 and she spent her childhood in Derventa, where she still lives. She is a graduate at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, University of Tuzla, Department for Behavioral Disorders.

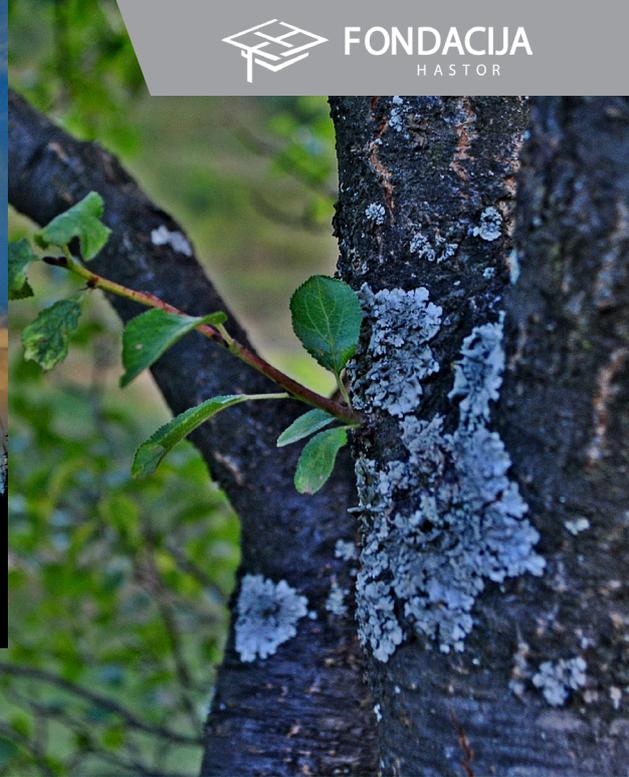
She says that she likes working with people, which she ascribes to being a very talkative and cheerful person. Travels and discovering new things is what fulfills her. She spends her leisure time watching crime series and reading various articles and books about addictions. She also likes to go out and spend time with her friends. She manages to find time for her own peace and quiet and devotes herself to writing poetry, and she gladly remembers the times in primary school when she would act in plays and take part in recital competitions, where she would win the first place.

She has been the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder for 10 years and says that the Foundation is one great family that she can always rely on and ask help from. The Foundation was always very important for her while growing up, and especially so in helping her to grow up to be a mature and responsible person. It always encouraged her to achieve great results in all fields and to also mention freely how successful she is in what she does. The Foundation helped her understand the youth as well due to the monthly volunteering, but also to find the way to gain their trust and establish a connection with them.

In the future, she would like to do all the things that a degree of a social worker/pedagogue brings with it, from working with children to working with juvenile delinquents and even drug addicts. That is why she is grateful to the Hastor Foundation, for always providing well-meaning criticism and support to become more successful, independent and educated people.

Sadzida Kosovac





Hanka Mujkic



Dear Foundation,

*Once again, I want to thank you for everything you have done for me. This year was particularly exciting, because of one big change that happened in my life; I was accepted at the United World College with another 24 students from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The selection process was quite rigorous, and that's why I am particularly proud to be able to share with you this great moment of my life. In these last two years since I became your scholarship holder, you were the kind of a support I needed. I cannot say how much you helped me and I cannot thank you enough for everything. Now, at this turning point, when I have the opportunity to study at this prestigious world college with peers from around the world, in a new city and a new school, it's a great relief to know that you are there for me. Education gives me hope in a more successful and better future, and I hope that in that better future I will find a way to give you something in return for this huge support, and to do what you have been doing all these years - helping Bosnia and Herzegovina be a better place to live in.*

*During this school year I participated in a national spelling bee. I was also a part of the visit to the Karadjoz-bey Madrash in Mostar which was organized by the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina. And I was a part of the student exchange between Trebinje and Gorazde. I have also received a list of community volunteer projects from my college, so I am particularly looking forward to the beginning of a new school year. As for the break, I worked on the ending of my novel, which will finally be completed in July this year.*

*I hope that in future I will be able to surprise you with my successes, and in that way justify your trust.*

Lots of regards,

Lana Parezanin,  
Trebinje

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