

**Background:** On July 11, 1995, a small town in Eastern Bosnia suffered horrendous crimes against humanity, including genocide, when Serb forces overran the the United Nations' safe zone. Within a week, more than 8,000 men and boys were killed in and around Srebrenica in an act of genocide aimed at destroying the area's Muslim population. Most of the town's survivors were women who had lost their male relatives, their homes, and their source for financial security. Beba Hazdic, a refugee from Srebrenica who was cleansed from her house to the city of Tuzla after the war broke out, started an organization to meet the needs of other women rebuilding their lives during and after the war. BOSFAM continues to create a supportive space for displaced women of all ethnicities to weave traditional rugs and crafts - the act of weaving together provides an emotional outlet while profits from the sale of goods generates a small income for the weavers.

**Project Description:** Over the course of six months, I will be working with Beba Hadzic and the other women of BOSFAM to advance and grow the organization's mission. Fifteen years have passed since the Srebrenica genocide, but women survivors continue to struggle to meet their emotional and financial needs. My time with BOSFAM will likely include three main goals:

1. Ensure that the Srebrenica genocide and post-genocide issues remain "on the map" in the national and international community.
2. Increase BOSFAM's sale of carpets and goods to create greater revenue for weavers.
3. Build capacity for BOSFAM's new multi-ethnic community center recently built in Srebrenica.

In order to make progress on these overarching goals, I will use communications for both outreach and internal capacity building. The women of BOSFAM have incredible stories of survival; such stories are the organizations greatest strength, and thus much of my role will be working with women to have their voices heard by more stakeholders who may advance the organizational mission. In addition to my own narrative through a weekly blog post, I will partner with BOSFAM women to produce profiles of weavers that add a human face to their products. I will also work with these women to train them in technology, including online communications, so as to enable them to tell their own stories in their own languages, even after I've left the country.

In addition to working with BOSFAM to increase carpet sales and advocacy through online communications, I will be present at the Srebrenica genocide memorial and burial on July 11, 2011. I plan to propose some modest media outreach to the national and foreign journalists covering the event - I hope to arrange interviews with some of the BOSFAM women with journalists to increase the visibility of the organization and its current goals. Finally, I will work with found Beba Hadzic to assess the needs of the newly-opened center in Srebrenica, and begin to coordinate a strategy to have such needs met.