



THE DISCUSSION

The Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria signed the Red Cross petition „Stop indifference. Protect humanity“



Varna, 29 September 2015

On a roundtable on the problems of refugees participants and guests of the XVI International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films joined the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement campaign „Protect humanity“ and signed the petition that appeals to governments and public to accept protection of migrants as universal responsibility.

The Forum was opened by President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, Hristo Grigorov. In his speech Hristo Grigorov gave a brief overview of the humanitarian crisis, a result of massive refugee wave in Europe and preparedness of the Bulgarian Red Cross to response to this crisis.

Mette Petersen, representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, Zone Europe outlined the parameters of refugee crisis in Europe and the current situation in Hungary, Serbia and Macedonia where she has been in recent days.

Mariana Stoyanova, Director of Refugee-Migrant Service of Bulgarian Red Cross and also a co-president of the Platform of the European National Societies for refugees and migrants presented how is realized the coordination between the National Societies.

In his speech Ahmet Lutfi Akar, President of the Turkish Red Crescent outlined the current activities and the scale of aid which has so far amounted to 400 million dollars provided by Turkish Red Crescent.

The Director General of Bulgarian National Television, Viara Ankova shared with audience the motives of the media to support the campaign of the International Red Cross Red Cross Movement to create positive public attitudes towards refugees and to raise more voices in support of humanity. The Bulgarian National Television as a public television will continue to be one of the main partners of the BRC and to promote principles of humanity.

The roundtable finished with a deep emotional speech of the Vice- President of Republic of Bulgaria, Margarita Popova. She once again expressed her human empathy to people seeking asylum in foreign lands. The Vice-President appeals to politicians to assume their responsibility and find a quick solution to deal with the biggest wave of refugees in Europe after World War II. Margarita Popova once again supported actions of the BRC in response to humanitarian challenges with the refugees and calls politicians and humanitarian organizations together to find the solution. The Vice-president unreservedly supported the campaign of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement „Stop indifference. Protect humanity“. Margarita Popova signed the virtual petition.



HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVELATOR



Serbia, 2014, 99 min., drama, color
 Director - Dusan Milic
 Script - Dusan Milic
 Cinematographer - Petar Popovic
 Music - Aleksandar Randjelovic
 Cast - Nikola Rakocevic, Boris Isakovic, Khetanya Henderson, Adrian Elizondo, Michael Joiner, Jack Dimich
 Producers - Dusan Milic, Goran Susljik
 Production - Film Deluxe International, Eye To Eye, Parthenon Films

Slav, 18, eager first person shooter gamer, is hired as the best among his friends, to be a real-life killer for the Serbian mob. A war refugee, born in Slovenia, thus in rare position not needing valuable American visa, he accepts the latest assignment trip to Las Vegas to gun down a criminal insider under Serbian state witness protection program. Slav enters the neon city's high style living, spots and tails the target and his two official bodyguards, eyeing their habits

and behavior. The closer he is, the deeper he penetrates into the corruption and arrogance of the criminal classes of the Serbian society. Slav fathoms the deeds the villain did in past as a cruel warlord. Today he is even protected by his fatherland to indict and expose important political opponents, getting freedom and money in return. And Slav never had either of them. Anger overwhelms him as he realizes he himself is a product of such war atrocities and social circumstances, a part of the human debris on the very bottom, even maybe 'the son' of the rapists. Now the time has come for the 'father' who must be killed!

MEET...

Would you introduce yourself to audience and participants of the XVI International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films?

My name is Ahmet Lutfi Akar, President of the Turkish Red Crescent. I am here with my team and I am quite glad that we participate in the Festival program with 5 movies. This event is very important to us. We hope that our regional structure in Tuzla will make a similar event at some point. Bulgarian Red Cross has always been our friend. We have a long-standing



friendship with Hristo Grigorov and excellent relations with Preslava Lilova, Head of the International Department of the Bulgarian Red Cross. I am extremely pleased with our presence here. I just shared with the Vice President Margarita Popova our attitude towards the refugee crisis and I am glad that the BRC have the same opinion on this topic. We will work tirelessly in support of humanity, to help all those exiles worldwide.

MEET...

Would you introduce yourself to the audience and participants of the XVI International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films?

Hello, my name is Mette Petersen, representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, Zone Europe.

Do you think that the slogan of the festival „Through Humanism Towards peace and Friendship“ sounds relevant today? Is there a need for change?

The slogan is excellent, especially with the current situation and increased migration. I would rather change the title from International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films to Festival of Humanitarian Movies. There would be a wider spectrum which would better reflect the essence of the Festival and would attract a greater global interest.



Are you interested in such initiative and would you support it in the future?

I am very glad for this initiative and I would support it in the future.

I liked the round table today on the problems of refugees because it showed that Wenders movie „The Salt on the Earth“

Here became clear that when the raw facts are presented with human beings stories they can rather work in favor of humanity and so all together we can find a lasting solution to the humanitarian crisis in which the world is today. It was very emotional. The Vice President of Bulgaria, Margarita Popova herself touched by the story of Salgado was proof that the vivid pictures and real stories speaks more than texts and we must work in this direction. There was a little lack of the corporate sector presence.

The campaign „Protect humanity“ is realized with this purpose. Other international organizations have similar initiatives and through them we can reach more people with the message to respect others. Eventually the refugees contribute to the community with their diversity. They carry not only diseases and fear, but also different perspectives, different cultures, colors and foods. Your Festival is doing the same, asks who and what the others are.

Do you have a favorite film or director?

Wim Wenders, whose film we saw yesterday is doing quite interesting things, for example his musical Buena Vista Social Club. Many good things with strong message.