

<b>Country/entity</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (former)
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Sarajevo Declaration on the Humanitarian Treatment of Displaced Persons
<b>Date</b>	11 Apr 1992
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Intrastate/intrastate conflict

**Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)**

Former Yugoslavia

The disintegration of former Yugoslavia post cold war saw conflicts which became mediated and produced peace agreements in Slovenia (where the brief independence conflict was mediated by the EC Troika in 1991), Croatia (between Croatian and Serb populations 1991-1995), in Bosnia (between Croatian, Serb and Bosniak populations 1992-1995), in Macedonia (where mediation played a key pre-emptive role in preventing large scale conflict in 2001), in Kosovo (between Kosovar Albanians and Serbian population and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but also between FRY and NATO, 1998-1999), and a conflict in the Presevo Valley (between Albanians in South Serbia and FRY, 2000-2001). The continued fall-out of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia also saw mediated agreement and ultimate dissolution of the Union between Serbia and Montenegro.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, after nationalist parties won the first multi-party elections in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a violent process of disintegration commenced. With its mixed population, Bosnia-Herzegovina became the centre of the following civil war that began in 1992 between the newly formed army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mostly Muslim Bosniacs), and the parastatal forces of self-declared Bosnian Croat (Herzeg-Bosnia) and Bosnian Serb (Republika Srpska) entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported by Croatia and Serbia, with various, often short-lived, coalitions. The General Framework Agreement (Dayton Peace Agreement), signed in 1995, split the country into two ethno-federal entities, the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska, and included continued peacekeeping and institutional administration by international actors.

Kosovo

The conflict between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians has a long history and always involved territorial disputes as well as ethno-political, cultural and linguistic factors. The most recent phase of the conflict began in November 1997 when the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA or UCK) began their campaign for the independence of Kosovo from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY – then Serbia and Montenegro). The subsequent war lasted until the NATO intervention, which undertook bombing campaigns of Belgrade and other places in Serbia during spring 1999. The main agreements solving the conflict were internationally driven and, finally, a UNSC resolution imposed a post-conflict arrangement in the wake of what was essentially a NATO military victory. In February 2008, Kosovo's parliament declared independence, but independence is still internationally disputed.

Close

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

**Stage**

Pre-negotiation/process

<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Bosnia peace process
<b>Parties</b>	Alija Izetbegovic, President, Party of Democratic Action; Radovan Karadzic, President, Serbian Democratic Party; Miljenko Brkic, President, Croatian Democratic Community
<b>Third parties</b>	Under the auspices of: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, signed by Jose Maria Mendiluce, Special Envoy of the High Commission
<b>Description</b>	This short agreement between the leaders of the three main political parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina contains commitments to agreed humanitarian practices for responding to the displacement of civilians and related issues.

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**Agreement document** [BA\\_920411\\_Sarajevo Declaration on the Humanitarian Treatment of Displaced Persons.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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## Groups

<b>Children/youth</b>	Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical Page 1, Untitled preamble Concerned by the tragedy of tens of thousands of people, most of them women, children and the elderly, who all suffer the bitter consequences of the conflict equally, regardless of their ethnic, religious or national origin.
<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Elderly/age</b>	Groups→Elderly/age→Rhetorical Page 1, Untitled preamble Concerned by the tragedy of tens of thousands of people, most of them women, children and the elderly, who all suffer the bitter consequences of the conflict equally, regardless of their ethnic, religious or national origin
<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Racial/ethnic/national group</b>	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical Page 1, Untitled preamble Concerned by the tragedy of tens of thousands of people, most of them women, children and the elderly, who all suffer the bitter consequences of the conflict equally, regardless of their ethnic, religious or national origin
<b>Religious groups</b>	Groups→Religious groups→Rhetorical Page 1, Untitled preamble Concerned by the tragedy of tens of thousands of people, most of them women, children and the elderly, who all suffer the bitter consequences of the conflict equally, regardless of their ethnic, religious or national origin

**Indigenous people** No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons** Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive  
Page 1, paragraph 1

Considering the particular problems of displaced persons in Bosnia and Hercegovina,

Page 1, paragraph 2

Acknowledging that they were compelled to leave their homes as a result of the conflict and tensions which affect the neighbouring Republics and some areas of Bosnia and Hercegovina, and which continue to generate new displacement,

Page 1, paragraph 4

Pledging to promote the respect of internationally recognized human rights, including those applying to displaced persons,

Page 1, paragraph 5

Affirming that voluntary return with full guarantees of security and non-discrimination is the basic right of the displaced and the best means to achieve a lasting solution to their plight,

Page 1, paragraph 6

Acknowledging the deteriorating economy in the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, and the urgent need for increased assistance from the international community to alleviate the situation of the displaced and their host families,

Page 1, paragraph 7

To adhere to the principle that the treatment of displaced persons is to be based on strictly humanitarian, non-political and non-discriminatory criteria and that the drama of displacement is not to be misused for politics or sectarian ends,

Page 1, paragraph 8

To promote initiatives at the regional, municipal and local levels aimed at preventing further displacement and at establishing adequate guarantees to allow for the return of the displaced in Bosnia and Hercegovina to their places of origin or former residence,

Page 1, paragraph 9

To support the initiative to establish a tripartite commission between the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina and UNHCR to define principles, guarantees and procedures aimed at facilitating the return of displaced persons to the Republic of Croatia,

Page 2, paragraph 1

To express their gratitude and firm support to UNHCR for the role it is playing in assisting and protecting the displaced and in particular, for the initiatives being undertaken to encourage negotiation and dialogue among all relevant parties

Page 2, paragraph 2

To call upon all political structures and the supporters of the signatory parties, the military, the republican, municipal and local authorities and the inhabitants of Bosnia and Hercegovina, to cooperate with UNHCR and other international humanitarian organisations and to provide them the protection and support required for the fulfilment of their humanitarian functions,

Page 2, paragraph 3

To draw the attention of the international community to the grave economic situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina, aggravated by the presence of close to 100,000 displaced persons in the Republic and to seek international support and cooperation both of a

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## **Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** Page 1, paragraph 3  
Concerned by the tragedy of tens of thousands of people, most of them women, children and the elderly, who all suffer the bitter consequences of the conflict equally, regardless of their ethnic, religious or national origin

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## **Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties reform** No specific mention.

**Civil society** Page 2, paragraph 2  
To call upon all political structures and the supporters of the signatory parties, the military, the republican, municipal and local authorities and the inhabitants of Bosnia and Hercegovina, to cooperate with UNHCR and other international humanitarian organisations and to provide them the protection and support required for the fulfilment of their humanitarian functions,

Page 2, paragraph 3  
To draw the attention of the international community to the grave economic situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina, aggravated by the presence of close to 100,000 displaced persons in the Republic and to seek international support and cooperation both of a bilateral and multilateral basis, through UNHCR or other humanitarian agencies,

**Traditional/religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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## **Power sharing**

**Political power sharing** No specific mention.

**Territorial power sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power sharing** No specific mention.

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## Human rights and equality

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** Page 1, paragraph 4  
Pledging to promote the respect of internationally recognized human rights, including those applying to displaced persons

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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## Rights related issues

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups  
Page 2, To call upon all political structures and the supporters of the signatory parties, the military, the republican, municipal and local authorities and the inhabitants of Bosnia and Hercegovina, to cooperate with UNHCR and other international humanitarian organisations and to provide them the protection and support required for the fulfilment of their humanitarian functions,

**Other** No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance  
Page 2, paragraph 4  
To promote the strengthening of the local, established relief structures in order to ensure the efficient distribution of assistance according to non-political, non-sectarian criteria,

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** Page 1, paragraph 6  
Acknowledging the deteriorating economy in the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, and the urgent need for increased assistance from the international community to alleviate the situation of the displaced and their host families

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian rights or access** No specific mention.

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## **Security sector**

**Security Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

<b>Police</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Armed forces</b>	Page 2, paragraph 2 To call upon all political structures and the supporters of the signatory parties, the military, the republican, municipal and local authorities and the inhabitants of Bosnia and Hercegovina, to cooperate with UNHCR and other international humanitarian organisations and to provide them the protection and support required for the fulfilment of their humanitarian functions,
<b>DDR</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Intelligence services</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	Page 1, paragraph 2 Acknowledging that they were compelled to leave their homes as a result of the conflict and tensions which affect the neighbouring Republics and some areas of Bosnia and Hercegovina, and which continue to generate new displacement,
	Page 1, paragraph 3 Concerned by the tragedy of tens of thousands of people, most of them women, children and the elderly, who all suffer the bitter consequences of the conflict equally, regardless of their ethnic, religious or national origin
<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.

<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	No specific mention.

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**Implementation**

<b>UN signatory</b>	Under the auspices of: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, signed by Jose Maria Mendiluce, Special Envoy of the High Commission
<b>Other international signatory</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Referendum for agreement</b>	No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar**

Page 1, paragraph 9

To support the initiative to establish a tripartite commission between the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina and UNHCR to define principles, guarantees and procedures aimed at facilitating the return of displaced persons to the Republic of Croatia,

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To express their gratitude and firm support to UNHCR for the role it is playing in assisting and protecting the displaced and in particular, for the initiatives being undertaken to encourage negotiation and dialogue among all relevant parties

Page 2, paragraph 2

To call upon all political structures and the supporters of the signatory parties, the military, the republican, municipal and local authorities and the inhabitants of Bosnia and Hercegovina, to cooperate with UNHCR and other international humanitarian organisations and to provide them the protection and support required for the fulfilment of their humanitarian functions,

Page 2, paragraph 3

To draw the attention of the international community to the grave economic situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina, aggravated by the presence of close to 100,000 displaced persons in the Republic and to seek international support and cooperation both of a bilateral and multilateral basis, through UNHCR or other humanitarian agencies,

**Enforcement mechanism**

No specific mention.

**Related cases**

No specific mention.

**Source**

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 749 (1992), Annex III, pp.12-13  
<http://repository.un.org/discover>

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