



## **Activist Network of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Croatia**

### **VISION**

Over the past fifteen years, The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Youth Initiative) has gained recognition as an organization that, in addition to advocating for and educating on human rights issues, as well as dealing with the past in relation to the legacy of the wars of the 1990s, also serves as a hub for educating and empowering young people to make positive changes in the society in which they live.

By establishing the Activist Network, we hope to provide another opportunity for all those who are seeking a platform to express themselves, share their ideas and struggles, and actively and practically apply what they have learned. We also hope to encourage people to adopt new knowledge about topics related to the past and understand how it affects their present and future, as well as to express themselves creatively in efforts to build an environment of solidarity.

We want to give young people the opportunity to, in a collaborative process with the Youth Initiative team, explore topics that interest them and motivate them for further work on creating a society based on the respect for human rights. The success of the Youth Initiative is visible only if young people are encouraged, empowered and educated to fight against nationalism and reverse policies that are regressing our society.

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH THE PAST?**

Young people are a generation that is in the process of learning, formal education, development and formation. Society in which young people live today greatly influences what kind of values they will represent in adulthood. Our society today is trapped in nationalist and conservative narratives. That is why we see young people as agents of positive change.

Although they were not even born when the war events took place in these areas, young people also bear the responsibility of participating in the process of healing society by fighting against stereotypes and prejudices based on nationalist myths and exclusivity.

### **WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?**

"Peer to peer" exchange of knowledge, film screenings, visits to museums and cultural facilities followed by discussions with guest lecturers, book club, research and writing of professional articles and columns, fact checking, meetings with peers at regional youth exchanges, trips to (un)marked sites of suffering during the 1990s and conversations with witnesses of the events, developing creative advocacy strategies towards the authorities for the purpose of improving memory policies and fostering an inclusive culture of memory, empowerment workshops, organizing protest actions, etc.

### **WHO CAN JOIN THE ACTIVIST NETWORK?**

- Participants of the activities of the Youth Initiative and other organizations that operate in the field of human rights in a progressive and inclusive manner, and the young people they recommend
- Young people (18-30 years old) who have not participated in the activities of the Youth Initiative, but are interested in contributing to the development of the mission and vision of the Youth Initiative
- Young people who wish to cultivate an activist culture and work towards positive social changes

**JOIN THE ACTIVIST NETWORK OF THE YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY  
EXPRESSING AT [croatia@yihhr.org](mailto:croatia@yihhr.org)**