



“The Role and Position of Victims in Contemporary Society”

Conclusions from the Round Table held in Ljubljana on June 16th, 2025.

Introductory Welcome Address

Prof Dr Samo Uhan, Vice-Dean of FDV UL

The Vice-Dean welcomed everyone present and highlighted the complexity of the current times, as it has always been. History and memory play an important part in a world where humanity leans towards hatred on one and towards empathy and reflection on the other hand. As we are not able to hear all voices and signs, it is important to talk about and name things as what they are. We are living in times where Fascism is returning, when businesspersons speak of such ideas with the same spark in their eyes. It seems that being coldly neutral is the way to go, but that is not the case. We must be committed to the pursuit of the truth, as not everything is relative. Fascism is the absolute evil.

Ceremonial Address

Mag Urška Klakočar Zupančič, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

The President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia reminded the participants of the fact that the era of the Second World War is the darkest period of history. It was an unthinkable tragedy, which had its beginnings long before the attack on Poland and was made possible with the rise of extremist movements.

Local conflict and expansionist behaviours alluded to its happening. The Second World period was also defined with the powerlessness of the international community. History is our teacher and the current world is not immune to similar occurrences as global and local politics is being defined by aggressive rhetoric. Because of the interests of the largest powers, the United Nations are at a standstill and cannot adopt measures, while some countries even take measures against international organisations.

In the Middle East, we are witness to genocidal acts, to deaths of civilians and children, to expansionism characterised by the expansion of Israeli settlements on the West Bank. She reminded of the inability of the international community and what it had let do in the past, such as in the case of Rwanda. There are many parallels to be drawn between today and the period of the Second World War. We have fewer living witnesses to the tragedy and the question posed on the position of victims in contemporary society points to the following answer: victims are dehumanised as they were in the past. Compassion and care for others is drowning, with the word peacemakers being offensive to some, a new arms race going on and war being treated as a violent video game.

Have we as individuals really become indifferent to the horrors of war? We are all victims of war – directly or indirectly. She suggested thinking about oneself and asking what kind of society we wish to live in. At multilateral meetings, she highlights the absolute dehumanisation where parts of the world are being turned into children's graveyards and total perversion is present. She warned that there will be victims again and voiced concern about events in the Middle East. In the battle over who will prevail, we forget what makes us human.

She continues to hope for Slovenia as an oasis of peace and common sense, a country of peace, solidarity and compassion. She concluded by addressing the younger generation with the main message: to be better and let hatred cease to spread.

Greetings from the Organisers

Prof Dr Ljubica Jelušič, FDV UL

Professor Jelušič, as the coordinator for the Slovenian side, outlined the project for the participants. Referring to the President of the National Assembly, she highlighted the fact that in the beginning, it seemed the project rummaged through history, but it is clear that victims are victims of the current times as well. The younger generation will carry the responsibility of making sure that history and the victims are not forgotten. She announced the organisers and carriers of the project; Marijan Križman (President of the Association of Fighters for the Values of the National Liberation Movement of Slovenia – ZZB NOB RS), Franjo Habulin (President of the Association of Anti-Fascist Fighters and Anti-Fascists of the Republic of Croatia – SABA RH), Fabio Valon (President of the National Association of Italian Partisans Trieste – ANPI VZPI Trieste) and Vesna Teršelič (Director of Documenta).

Marijan Križman, President of ZZB NOB RS

Mr Križman highlighted the culture of behaviour, describing the attitude towards others as fundamental. The current times need projects such as this one, as the subject matter is not being found in concentration camps, but in the fact that a new war and genocide is right before us. He questioned the need for so many victims. In lieu of that, he thanked the participants of the project and mentioned the motivation to carry out projects that are similar. Speaking to the younger generation, he wishes for them to adopt the values ZZB NOB RS represents, that is to continue making progress through work, attitude and example, to ensure Slovenia remains war and hatred-free.

Franjo Habulin, SABA RH

Addressing and thanking everyone that contributed to the realization of the project, he highlighted the main principle for applying for the project – to bring the topic closer to younger people – which was achieved with the help of the participating professors and partners ZZB NOB RS, ANPI VZPI and Documenta, all connected by friendship and characterization towards antifascism. Pointing out the values such as freedom, equality and social justice, which guided the fight against occupying forces, he stressed the need to pass them on to the younger generation. He concluded with the message that wars have the same laws and same consequences, and the culture of remembrance plays an important role in this context.

Fabio Vallon, President of ANPI VZPI Trieste

Mr Vallon underlined that the three Associations have long cooperated in preserving the values of antifascism, which is currently being scrutinised by revisionism. This is why continuity in preserving antifascist values is important.

Vesna Teršelič, Director of Documenta

Mrs Teršelič outlined the project in which students realised their research projects by discovering monuments in their hometowns, visiting the archives and researching the stories of partisans and other victims. She hopes for further cooperation between universities and civil society organisations. The support from the European Union is crucial. She urged the participants to read the research of the students, as they are sources of inspiration in the promotion of antifascism and prevention of dehumanisation.

- **PANEL I: “WHO WERE THE VICTIMS OF FASCISM AND NAZISM?”**

Prof Emeritus Dr Maca Jogan, FDV UL, Why preserve memories of the horrors of war?

Professor Jogan started by saying that even though one was not alive during a certain event, they can still have the proper attitude towards them. No matter the time passed, with resources available it is possible to establish it towards Fascism and Nazism even now.

The first category of victims are the direct victims, the deceased, the murdered, the butchered. Various atrocities were committed during the Second World War. There is a difference between the active role and the subordinate role of the victim; if, as was the case during Second World War, the perpetrator's role is supported by the entire institutional order and all available material means of destruction, then it is impossible to overlook this and to equalise it post festum. After 1990, in Slovenia, as in other Yugoslav countries, this is precisely what happened: differences were simply erased. This must not happen because the evil that was done, which is commonly referred to as the Holocaust, affected not only members of one community but many

others as well. As Primo Levi stated, "It is not easy or pleasant to explore this abyss of evil, but I believe it must be done, because what was possible yesterday may be attempted again tomorrow, and it may affect us or our children."

Addressing the students she quoted the words of Alvin Gouldner that If we focus exclusively on the technical skills of our students and reject any responsibility for their moral sense, then we may one day be forced to accept responsibility for having raised a generation ready to serve in a future Auschwitz.

Regarding what we are witnessing today, she stated that the distinction between those who were members of the resistance movement and Partisan units, who were members of the Liberation Front, is being erased and equated with those who collaborated with the German and Italian occupying forces. There is a rhetoric that they were all soldiers, but this is a concept that can have different meanings. Some fought for their homeland, while others systematically and institutionally collaborated with the occupiers, whose goal was to exterminate the nation. At the level of labelling, this essential difference is thus erased. The main targets of anti-communism and revisionism are the Partisans and the Liberation Front.

Everything is ideology; the question is what kind of ideology it is, whether it is the ideology of superhumans and the tendency to subjugate others, or whether it is the ideology advocated by the Slovenian national anthem.

Vesna Teršelič, Documenta, How to research and confront the past?

Mrs Teršelič outlined the methodology of the project, which was a result of the collective work of Documenta. The project was conducted between students from Slovenia, Croatia and Italy, and it focused on the remembrance of the victims of conflicts in the 20th Century. The methodology combined simple steps; each student prepared a case study combining historical research, fieldwork and interviews. Documenta has a large collection of special memories, more than 500 of them, recorded precisely to preserve the memories of these events from the personal perspective of the protagonists. Stories are passed down through families, but also through silence, which one must know how to listen to. The students researched local memorials, war stories and the fates of the protagonists, with the main research

question being how the memory of victims and survivors is preserved in today's world. They used primary and secondary sources.

She cited the words of student Valter Kolenc from University of Ljubljana, who wrote in his research: "Just a few metres from my home is a monument that I often passed on my way to school, but I never read the actual text on the monument itself." In Croatia many antifascist memorials have been destroyed since the 1990s, which is fortunately not the case in Slovenia. However, even if the monument is not destroyed, the problem of not knowing its subject matter is still present.

Student research on this topic is extremely important. Antifascist values must be confirmed through cooperation of researchers from civil organisations and associations for promoting such values.

Žana Drimel, FDV UL, Youth in the Auschwitz camp

Student Žana Drimel highlighted in her project the importance of recording memories of the victims. She had the privilege of researching about her great-grandmother Marija's story of surviving Auschwitz, which she recorded in a diary. She titled it "My Mother's and Mine Exile and Curse" and wrote it from the beginning of her captivity on 7 July 1942 until she arrived home on 30 July 1945. It begins with her imprisonment in Stari Pisker, a prison in Celje, where political prisoners were captured and executed in Styria. Her father, because of his participation in the organisation of National Liberation Movement in occupied Rogaška Slatina, was also executed there. They were then transferred to Borl Castle and at the end of August 1942 they were sent to Auschwitz camp.

Marija turned twenty during her imprisonment, making her a couple of years younger than Žana has now, whose life is only beginning. She is finishing her education, is starting to work, while her great-grandmother had already gone through the most difficult experience of her life at this age. Her experience was extremely difficult, and she does not want to put herself in her shoes; waking up every day with an acute existential question is something she cannot comprehend. Marija died every day in the camp; when she was captured as a political prisoner; when she arrived in Auschwitz; when she became very ill and did not receive medical care; when she met Josef Mengele, known as "Angel of Death" (he was Nazi commander of Medical

Department in Auschwitz, where he executed horrible medical surveys on live people); when she ate slop, when she and her mother witnessed a suicide, when a man threw himself onto an electrified wire fence and they thought about doing the same. That is why it is extremely difficult to draw parallels between their lives. But they did share the same values.

Žana delivered the main message, which was that the younger generation is aware of freedom being a privilege, which is exactly why the younger generation is much more proactive in pointing out that something like the Second World War should never happen again. Precisely because they have not experienced war, they are more passionate about drawing attention to violations of international law and human rights in the world today – and passing on the values of the victims. This is an important topic of research, as the memory of the Second World War and its victims remains an important factor in shaping social and political debates – social and political discourses threaten the understanding of the history of the victims of the Second World War. Young people are terribly disturbed by the politicisation of these victims, because they are not burdened by it in this period, nor should they be. Selective memory and the use of history for today's political goals are extremely passé, with the sole purpose of dividing society. Victims should not be used as tools in political disputes, and this disrespectful attitude towards them denies their dignity and humanity and instrumentalises their deaths.

Ksenija Kraljevska, FDV UL, Heroes of War and Peace

Ksenija comes from Northern Macedonia and has been thinking about who our heroes are, how we view heroes in Slovenia, and how heroes are viewed in Macedonia. She focused on researching war heroes in Ljubljana and the question of whether their legacy is being adequately commemorated.

The main subjects of her work were:

-Edvard Kardelj: often remembered for his political work, but during the war, his strategic acumen and ideological clarity helped shape the structure of resistance throughout Yugoslavia. His legacy has been politicised and often reduced to his post-war political role.

-Milan Česnik: young Partisan fighter, who joined the Liberation Front and organized sabotage actions. He did not witness a liberated Ljubljana.

-Malči Belič and Vida Janežič, two young women fighters: both helping the Liberation Front in their own ways. Ksenija quoted Vida Janežič's last words: "We are the foundation upon which a new world will be built."

Ksenija conducted a survey among her Slovenian and Macedonian peers. The results were clear: in both countries, the majority of young people believe that these personalities are not sufficiently honoured today. They attribute this neglect to the generation gap, educational systems and the absence of stories about heroes in public discourse. Both groups gave surprisingly similar responses: we need more interactive and multimedia education, visits to museums and memorial sites, and impartial commemorative ceremonies focusing on individuals' stories.

It is the responsibility of young people to continue the work of those who are no longer with us and to ensure that their courage is not reduced to a single paragraph but lives on.

Žan Črnič, FDV UL, Leaders in Peace, Exiles in War – Dr Juro Adlešič

Žan Črnič spoke about the story of his ancestor Juro Adlešič, who was the mayor of Ljubljana from 1935 to 1942 and who, according to him, has been unjustly labelled a collaborator. He began by explaining his achievements: Adlešič was responsible for the first women's shelter. He built the Žale cemetery, purchased the land for Ljubljana Castle, thereby realising Plečnik's dream of it becoming the Slovenian acropolis, established the Supreme Social Council, he tackled unemployment, he eliminated begging by minors and restricted begging by the elderly, he established an institution for lonely citizens, he built children's shelters and school kitchens, he defended Litija beekeepers pro bono in a beekeeping dispute, he recorded the oldest audio recording of folk singers, he established the Plečnik Award (Jože Plečnik was a world known architecture), he dealt with emigration issues, he sponsored the second warship of the Yugoslav army 'Ljubljana', opened Navlje Park, built social housing and student residences, built the National University Library, the Ljubljana Market, and more.

Žan said that Adlešič was the first post-party official, and even the political police acknowledged that he selected his collaborators based on their abilities and not political affiliation.

Regarding his post-war treatment, he explained that, in accordance with international law, he handed over the keys to the city to the occupier, but he also strongly opposed the appointment of an Italian deputy mayor, repeatedly asked to be dismissed, and was then replaced by Leon Rupnik. After the assassination of Marko Natlačen, he went into exile abroad. After the war, he was treated as a collaborator, so he did not return to Yugoslavia. In 1946, he was sentenced to imprisonment, one year of forced labour, loss of civil rights for a period of five years, and confiscation of property. He was not accused of a political offence, but of collaborating with the occupiers. Three years before his death, he returned from the United States to Slovenia, where he died in poverty.

Žan describes him as a political victim. He says that at a time when society is polarised, it is even more important to strive for policies that promote social cohesion. He focuses on post-partisanship, an approach that transcends traditional political divisions and focuses on cooperation.

- **PANEL II: “CULTURE OF REMEMBERING”**

Dr Federico Tenca Montini, Italy, Monumental Landscape in Border Areas

Dr Montini's research focuses on how the border towns in Italy preserve memories of the Second World War. He researched the history of Trieste and the Italian Slovenian border and mentioned the plurality of political actors in Gorizia and Trieste. In Friuli region, this was not the case. Trieste and Gorizia were liberated by Partisan forces, Udine province was liberated by Anglo-American forces. In Italy, the Liberation at the end of the WW2 was not the end of Fascism. Montini presented the practice of desecration of monuments with fascist symbols and widespread vandalism. More so in Trieste than Gorizia, with Italians being responsible. He highlighted this as individual acts rather than group effort.

Prof Jelka Kokol-Plošinjak, Ptuj Gymnasium High School, Who were the students and teachers of Ptuj Gymnasium High School who died in World War II?

Professor Kokol-Plošinjak, who is professor and tutor of pupils in Ptuj collective project described the process of the project in the Ptuj Gymnasium High School in cooperation with ZZB NOB Ptuj, in which thirty-six students from ten classes participated on a voluntary basis. From February to May 2025, they researched who were the deceased students and professors from their school in the Second World War. Students participated in different ways, some searched for information, while others helped with the computer processing of data, some did drawings, and one even wrote a poem titled Bojišče (The Battlefield). Their project results were presented on the 27 April at the local municipality commemoration of the Day of Resistance against occupators, and 8 May commemoration (The Day of Europe) in the form of an exhibition and commemoration in which students presented their findings.

Their research consisted of compiling information on the eighty-nine deceased. They gathered statistics of their birthplaces, birth years, places of death, ages, death causes (most of them had been killed because of their cooperation with the Partisans) and more. Some of the more prominent victims they researched were Tone Žnidarič, Maks Bračič, Tone Tomšič, Dušan Jereb, Dr Maks Kovačič, Tone Šifrer and Mimica Legvart.

She described students as being touched by the project and the stories of the victims, with the exhibition being a success (the whole school visited the opening ceremony of the exhibition). A great achievement of the project was the creation of a copy of a memorial plaque of the victims, which now has a place inside their school.

Tajra Abdaković, FDV UL, Drča Monument and Tomb, Vrhnika

Tajra Abdaković researched the Drča Partisan Monument and Tomb in Vrhnika. Speaking of the story of a group of partisans, who made a pact to build a monument to the deceased comrades after the war, she highlighted the intersection of values, history and identity. In March of 1946, a committee was established. They gathered resources and built the tomb by 1949. The monument is the work of sculptor Boris

Kalin and architect Boris Kobe; however, noble people like Viktor Klobučar (which dug out the remains of his comrades and reburied them), Franc Garhold, Zala Grom and Angela Grom all participated in the realization of the promise to make sure no one is forgotten.

It is a story of a common project, a poignant reminder that in hard times, because of strong values the community was able to transcend the pain and a story of commitment of battle comrades to take care of each other. Tajra highlighted togetherness and caring for others, recognising values as key. She concluded with the main message that a society, which can take care of the past, knows how to build the future.

Matija Bešter, FDV UL, What the monuments of National Liberation Movement mean to young people?

Student Matija Bešter researched the meaning of NOB monuments to young people. His work was divided into two parts; in the first, he studied the monument in Besnica near Kranj, using data from Geopedia, Sistory and the town's chronicles. He outlined the history of the town during the war and found it interesting there was not much political division between the people, and it was spared of much damage, especially given the fact of its close proximity to Dražgoše, which had been burnt down as a revenge of German occupator against the Partisan Units.

In the second part, he conducted interviews with peers in the local area on how they view the victims and what they mean to them. His findings were that knowledge of local monuments and memorials is lower – young people know of them, however not much on its subject matter. They are grateful for the victims, which carry credit for the Slovenian state, freedom and the future, and empathise with them. The interviewees expressed the desire for a more detailed treatment of the topic in schools, but also a difference in the sentiment on commemorations. They see commemorations in schools as something positive, but the same cannot be said for commemorations such as the one held every year in Dražgoše, as it is important how these themes are spoken about. It affects young people's understanding in the long term. Memorials in themselves do not mean much if they are not linked to a personal story that has great power to speak to young people. Young people's

attention to the subject would be better if there was a practice of linking the stories to how the values of antifascism relates to the present and why they are important to them. The sentiment of war being bad is internalised, however other values are losing out.

Input from listeners of the panel:

Alojzija Židan, professor of didactics: It is important to combine many sciences and new and traditional didactic approaches in teaching of this subject matter. Especially since the younger generation implements these values differently than the older.

- **PANEL III: “The Younger Generation and the Values of Antifascism – Way Ahead”**

Prof Dr Hrvoje Klasić, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, Official and Unofficial Narratives about (Anti)Fascism in Croatia

Professor Klasić (online) spoke about attitudes in schools towards antifascism. The first issue is the form of lessons, which are too long, given the shorter attention span of younger people. A reform of the school system is needed. Professor mentioned the uninteresting textbooks overloaded with information. The content of the teachings depends on the goals and the starting point, the issue is there is no consensus in the Croatian society on whom to educate. If the goal is to educate a critical person, the current conditions will not work. If the goals are to raise obedient Croatians, they will. He mentioned that it was said that Croatian textbooks should speak about Croatian truths and be adapted to it. He added that textbooks, schools and institutions are not the main source of information for young people, which are bombarded with information through social networks, the internet, deep fakes and the creation of fake news.

In the context of antifascism in Croatia, he spoke of inversion instead of education. The situation in the 1990s changed the meaning of the whole 20th Century; the people evaluate the entire Century throughout the lens of the war in the 1990s. They are educated on the events of Yugoslavia and Partisans through that. One aspect is

also the nationalisation of international movement; there was not just a single-state Partisan movement, they all had one supreme leadership and fought for the independence of everyone in Yugoslavia. However, in Croatia only Croatian deaths are being honoured. A historical fact that is difficult to understand; the Partisan movement would not have existed and be successful without the Communist Party, but the communists in the Partisans were a minority. Since the 1990s, Croatians are running away from Communism and with that the Partisan fights, portraying them as criminals. They are much more tolerant towards Ustasha (Fascist Movement in Croatia during WW2) and speak of them more in the context of post-war massacres.

The Croatian reality is the following: in the 1990s antifascism was included in the Constitution, however in practice the Croatian public is more anti-antifascist, which is seen in the fact of many Partisan monuments being demolished, in the rhetoric of Ustasha being heroes and victims. We see this in pop-culture; young people have no issues with going to concerts of people connected to Ustasha values or to war criminals, as in the case of Thompson (Croatian singer) and Ceca (Serbian singer), even though they lean more towards the left political option.

He gave input on how the educational system can improve: young people must lead the role of antifascism; they must learn about the Partisans as inspirations. However, their antifascist battles are not against Rupnik or Hitler, but against the challenges they live in. We must think about what the Fascists are dealing with and representing today. We must include the challenges of the modern world, bring new methods and approach through concerts, actions and other, which they will devise. Here he highlighted that every hour brings new challenges, but evil must be fought and can be won.

Replies to questions from listeners of the panel:

-The role of the Catholic Church in Croatia is interesting, they collaborated with the fascist, but many also helped in the partisan fight, which is a fact of which they are ashamed. They speak more of Ustasha, which relocated to Argentina and those who were victims. On the question whether teachers in Croatia have the appropriate pedagogical education – they do, but they cannot be isolated from society. He also

pointed out that professors like him are the mainstream and have access to all media.

After Professor Klasić, a video of the Slovenian students' research was played to the participants. The author of video Krištof Jagodic gave the explanation on how it was prepared.

The roundtable continued with the short presentations of the students' projects.

Ian Omerza, FDV UL

Student Ian researched an event that happened around two decades before the Second World War; the first victims of Fascism in Slovenia. Kids in Strunjan, which were playing by the railroad, were shot by Fascists for unknown reasons. His other focus was on the memory of the event, which is still alive in the local community to this day. In his interviews with residents, he found that every family living there keeps a memory of this event and empathises with the killed children, as everyone experienced Fascism. This theme is discussed a lot in the local primary schools and a commemoration for the event is held every year.

Teja Pečnik, FDV UL

Teja spoke of the story of Stolen Children. These were children of Slovenian Partisans, which were stolen from their families by the Nazi occupiers. The children were put in special educational institutions and in foster families in Germany and Austria to Germanise them, to destroy their connections to Slovenian roots. The trauma of losing their families, culture and language is unimaginable. Many were never returned to their families and place of origin, as they were too young when it happened. The term stolen children was first introduced by publicist Stane Terčak, describing this as one of the most tragic aspects of Nazi politics towards Slovenians. In her research, she included the story of Marija Brlek who survived a Nazi concentration camp as a baby and later returned to her homeland.

Castle Borl was a collection camp for political prisoners and deportees during the Second World War. There, families were separated, and it was decided who was to

be deported, who will lose their parents and whose identity will be erased. After war, it became a refuge for orphans from the Greek Civil War.

Nina Svetina, FDV UL

Nina researched the story of a young Partisan called Marjan Štoka. In 1944, a fifteen-year-old Marjan joined the Partisans during the mobilisation of Partisans in the village Prosek. Two days later he was captured by Germans and was brutally tortured for information on his comrades-in-arms. He did not give out any information and as a result he was hung from a telegraph pole and finally shot to death. This story is important for all the villagers – his monument stands by the main road, and everyone is reminded of his story when passing through the village. For this researched Nina spoke with an older lady, a courier for the Partisans, which was sixteen years at that time and knew Marjan. She highlighted that this is a story of courage.

Jakob Metod Lemm, FDV UL

Jakob researched the Stalag VXIII D concentration camp in Maribor, which was a Nazi prisoner-of-war internment camp for captured soldiers, officers and non-commissioned officers from the Western Allied Coalition and the Soviet Union. It was originally intended for the captivity of captured Western Allied soldiers, which fell under provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and were registered with the Red Cross. However, Red Army soldiers were excluded from the provisions of the Geneva Convention, as the Soviet Union was not a signatory state. Soviet prisoners of war consequently received the worst treatment and many died. The campsite is being upkeep from donations of private investors and the Russian Federation. Jakob highlighted that deaths should not be politicised.

Bojan Motika, FDV UL

Bojan Motika is a student from Bosnia and Herzegovina. He researched a monument close to his apartment in Zadobrova Sneberje. He passed the monument daily but did not know of its background. He contacted a man whose mother cooperated with Partisans and was therefore a target for Nazis and collaborators. His research was also on the stories of the people named on the monument.

As a person from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bojan pointed out that in comparison to Slovenia, the monuments in Bosnia are being destroyed, similarly as in Croatia. The negation and revision of history is prevalent. As Professor Klasić stated, the events in the 1990s changed the picture of the Second World War. In Bosnia, they do not speak of people like effendi Muhamed Šefket, who saved more than a thousand of his Serbian neighbours in 1942, which were targets of the Ustashe. Bojan concluded by stating that we must not count the red cells of the victims.

Erik Nalić, FDV UL

Erik researched the monument of the fallen Partisans in Gramozna jama, where Italian occupying forces executed at least 185 hostages. Speaking to family members of Aleš Stanovnik, he found that families had a difficulty coping with such losses and wished to highlight how such a loss affected everyone that survived. In primary school walking the Trail of Remembrance and Comradeship, they walked past this monument.

Djordje Lilkić, FDV UL

Soldiers of other nationalities also fought for the freedom of the Slovenian grounds. Student Djordje, originally from Montenegro, researched the story of Colonel Milovan Šaranović, which was sent away from his homeland to Slovenia to teach strategy to the resistance troops. He was killed in Šumberk and is buried in the Tomb of National Heroes, alongside other Slovenian Partisans like Franc Rozman – Stane and Boris Kidrič. A barracks in Bežigrad, Ljubljana was also named after him, but it has since been demolished. In Montenegro one named after him still stands, the Ministry of Defence of Slovenia gifted the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro with seven cannons in honour of the common victims, which fell in the fight for the liberation of the whole country.

Turner J.S. Brown, FDV UL

Allied forces troops also died on Slovenian grounds. On the Slovenian American friendship day, student Brown (native of United States of America) attended the commemoration in honour of fallen troops of the B-17 Bomber called Dark Eyes, American soldiers who were overthrown on 19 March 1944 in the village Andraž nad

Polzelo. He pointed out the main theme of the ceremony – unity. He called for friendship, solidarity, commitment and respect for objective facts without politicising the deaths of victims.

Vid Palčnik, FDV UL

Vid studies journalism and has much experience in leading the ceremonies and commemorations, organized by the veteran associations in the Kozjansko area. He provided with advice to make the commemorations more attractive to younger generations by shortening them, focusing on specific values each year and including young people in the programme.

Concluding remarks:

Marijan Križman, President of ZZB NOB RS

The roundtable gave many pointers on how to move forward. He welcomed the many aspects of research, including the early Fascism in the Slovene Littoral Region even before the Second World War. A lot of material, key messages and ideas to share with others were gained throughout this event and project. He concluded with the main message that the convinced must not speak to the convinced.

Prof Emeritus Dr Maca Jogan, FDV UL

Professor Jogan explained that this roundtable has showcased the grand meaning of research. She pointed out the meaning of comprehensive memory and warned of the dangerous politicisation of memories of past events by those currently in power. She concluded that we must take history as inspiration so that we do not experience a repeat of the past.

The Roundtable was attended by 48 participants in vivo from Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina and by 17 participants on zoom online from Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sažetak na hrvatskom jeziku

Dana 16. lipnja 2025. na Fakultetu društvenih znanosti Sveučilišta u Ljubljani održan je okrugli stol „Uloga i položaj žrtve u suvremenom društvu“, u sklopu CERV projekta. Sudionici iz Slovenije, Hrvatske, Italije i Bosne i Hercegovine raspravljali su o važnosti kulture sjećanja, antifašističkim vrijednostima i ulozi mladih u očuvanju povijesne istine.

Uvodni govori

Prof. dr. Samo Uhan istaknuo je važnost istine i moralne odgovornosti u suočavanju s porastom fašističke retorike. Neutralnost nije rješenje – fašizam je apsolutno zlo.

Urška Klakočar Zupančič, predsjednica slovenskog parlamenta, podsjetila je na paralelizme između današnjice i razdoblja prije Drugog svjetskog rata. Upozorila je na šutnju međunarodne zajednice prema genocidima, osobito u Palestini, te dehumanizaciju žrtava.

Prof. dr. Ljubica Jelušič predstavila je projekt, naglasivši da su žrtve i dalje prisutne i da je zadatak mladih očuvati njihovu memoriju.

Govori organizatora

Marijan Križman (ZZB NOB RS) i Franjo Habulin (SABA RH) naglasili su važnost međugeneracijskog prijenosa vrijednosti antifašizma i kulture sjećanja.

Fabio Vallon (ANPI VZPI) istaknuo je važnost kontinuiteta u borbi protiv revizionizma.

Vesna Teršelič (Documenta) opisala je studentski istraživački rad u Hrvatskoj, Sloveniji i Italiji koji uključuje istraživanja lokalnih spomenika i priča žrtava.

Panel I: Tko su bile žrtve fašizma i nacizma?

Prof. emer. dr. Maca Jogan: Žrtve nisu samo statistike; one su ljudi čije je postojanje bilo izbrisano sustavno i institucionalno. Upozorila je na izjednačavanje partizana i kolaboracionista nakon 1990. godine.

Vesna Teršelič je predstavila metodologiju rada sa studentima i važnost prenošenja obiteljskih i lokalnih sjećanja.

Studentica Žana Drimel iznijela je potresnu priču o svojoj prabaki Mariji koja je preživjela Auschwitz.

Ostali studenti (Kraljevska, Črnič) istraživali su uloge ratnih heroja, političkih figura i njihovu marginalizaciju u suvremenoj naraciji.

Panel II: Kultura sjećanja

Dr Federico Tenca Montini: Na primjeru pograničnih talijanskih gradova prikazao je kako vandalizam i zaborav ugrožavaju kulturu sjećanja.

Prof. Jelka Kokol-Plošinjak predstavila je projekt učenika iz Ptuja koji su istraživali poginule profesore i učenike škole.

Studenti su istraživali značenje spomenika NOB-a, priče partizana, zločina i prešućenih herojskih čina. Naglašena je važnost osobne priče u približavanju povijesti mladima.

Panel III: Mladi i antifašizam – pogled unaprijed

Prof. dr. Hrvoje Klasić govorio je o nesuglasju u hrvatskom obrazovnom sustavu, revizionizmu i dominaciji nacionalne perspektive nad antifašističkim naslijeđem. Mladi moraju prepoznati suvremene oblike fašizma i boriti se protiv njih u skladu s izazovima današnjice.

Zaključci

Prof. Jogan i Marijan Križman: Potrebna je sveobuhvatna memorija, izbjegavanje politizacije žrtava i prijenos vrijednosti mladima kroz suradnju obrazovnih institucija i civilnog društva.

Sintesi in lingua italiana

Il 16 giugno 2025, presso la Facoltà di Scienze Sociali dell'Università di Lubiana, si è tenuta la tavola rotonda "Il ruolo e la posizione della vittima nella società contemporanea", nell'ambito del progetto CERV. I partecipanti provenienti da Slovenia, Croazia, Italia e Bosnia-Erzegovina hanno discusso l'importanza della memoria storica, dei valori dell'antifascismo e del ruolo delle nuove generazioni nella conservazione della verità storica.

Interventi introduttivi

Prof. Samo Uhan ha sottolineato la necessità di riconoscere il male assoluto del fascismo, affermando che la neutralità morale non è un'opzione.

Urška Klakočar Zupančič, presidente del Parlamento sloveno, ha evidenziato i pericoli della disumanizzazione delle vittime e le analogie tra la situazione odierna e quella che ha preceduto la Seconda guerra mondiale.

Prof. Ljubica Jelušič ha presentato il progetto e ribadito che le vittime non appartengono solo al passato, ma anche al presente. I giovani devono custodirne la memoria.

Rappresentanti delle organizzazioni partner

Marijan Križman (ZZB NOB RS) e Franjo Habulin (SABA RH) hanno parlato della necessità di trasmettere i valori dell'antifascismo alle nuove generazioni.

Fabio Vallon (ANPI VZPI) ha avvertito dei pericoli del revisionismo storico.

Vesna Teršelič (Documenta) ha descritto le attività degli studenti nel riscoprire monumenti e storie locali delle vittime del fascismo.

Panel I: Chi erano le vittime del fascismo e nazismo?

Prof. Maca Jogan ha spiegato l'importanza di distinguere tra resistenza e collaborazione con gli occupanti. Dopo il 1990 si è cercato di equiparare partigiani e collaborazionisti, un grave errore storico.

Teršelič ha illustrato la metodologia della ricerca condotta con studenti che hanno raccolto testimonianze locali.

Studenti come Žana Drimel hanno raccontato storie familiari di sopravvivenza nei campi di concentramento.

Altri hanno investigato figure storiche come Kardoelj, Česnik o eroi dimenticati, rivelando una mancanza di riconoscimento pubblico.

Panel II: Cultura della memoria

Dr. Federico Tenca Montini ha analizzato i monumenti nei territori di confine italo-sloveni, evidenziando episodi di vandalismo e rimozione.

Prof. Jelka Kokol-Plošinjak ha presentato un progetto scolastico in cui studenti hanno ricostruito le biografie degli alunni e docenti caduti.

Gli studenti hanno ribadito che i monumenti devono essere accompagnati da narrazioni personali per parlare davvero alle nuove generazioni.

Panel III: Giovani e antifascismo – prospettive future

Prof. Hrvoje Klasić ha criticato il sistema educativo croato che ha favorito una narrazione nazionalista e revisionista dopo gli anni '90. Gli studenti devono identificare le nuove forme di fascismo contemporaneo e reagire con gli strumenti del presente.

Conclusione

Prof. Jogan e Marijan Križman hanno sottolineato l'importanza della memoria integrata e non politicizzata, e il dovere di trasmettere valori umani fondamentali come pace, solidarietà e giustizia sociale attraverso l'educazione.

Povzetek v slovenščini

Dane 16. junija 2025 je na Fakulteti za družbene vede Univerze v Ljubljani potekala okrogla miza »Vloga in položaj žrtve v sodobni družbi«, v okviru projekta CERV. Udeleženci iz Slovenije, Hrvaške, Italije in Bosne in Hercegovine so razpravljali o pomenu zgodovinskega spomina, antifašističnih vrednotah in vlogi mladih pri ohranjanju zgodovinske resnice.

Uvodni nagovori

Prof. dr. Samo Uhan je poudaril, da nevtralnost ni rešitev – fašizem je absolutno zlo, proti kateremu se moramo jasno opredeliti.

Urška Klakočar Zupančič, predsednica Državnega zbora, je opozorila na paralele med današnjimi konflikti in dogodki pred drugo svetovno vojno ter nevarnost dehumanizacije žrtev.

Prof. dr. Ljubica Jelušič je predstavila projekt in dejala, da žrtve niso le del zgodovine, ampak tudi naše sedanjosti.

Nagovori predstavnikov organizacij

Marijan Križman (ZZB NOB RS) in Franjo Habulin (SABA RH) sta govorila o pomenu prenosa vrednot antifašizma na mlade.

Fabio Vallon (ANPI VZPI) je opozoril na nevarnosti revizionizma in pomembnost kontinuitete spomina.

Vesna Teršelič (Documenta) je izpostavila sodelovanje študentov pri raziskovanju lokalnih spomenikov in življenjskih zgodb žrtev fašizma.

Panel I: Kdo so bile žrtve fašizma in nacizma?

Prof. Maca Jogan je poudarila razliko med odporniki in kolaboranti. Izenačevanje partizanov in sodelavcev okupatorja po letu 1990 je nevarno in zgodovinsko napačno.

Teršelič je opisala metodologijo raziskovanja z dijaki in študenti.

Žana Drimel je predstavila zgodbo svoje prababice, ki je preživela Auschwitz.

Drugi študenti so raziskovali partizanske junake, lokalne spomenike in zgodbe pozabljenih posameznikov.

Panel II: Kultura spominjanja

Dr. Federico Tenca Montini je govoril o političnih napetostih okoli spomenikov v obmejnih italijanskih mestih.

Prof. Jelka Kokol-Plošinjak je predstavila šolski projekt o padlih profesorjih in dijakih ptujskega gimnazije.

Mladi so poudarili, da so zgodbe tiste, ki dajejo spomenikom pomen – ne zgolj kamen, temveč človeška izkušnja.

Panel III: Mladi in vrednote antifašizma – prihodnost

Prof. Hrvoje Klasić je opisal stanje na Hrvaškem, kjer je po letu 1990 prišlo do izkrivljanja zgodovine. Poudaril je, da morajo mladi razviti svoj pristop k antifašizmu in se spoprijeti z današnjimi izzivi, kot so sovražni govor, populizem in manipulacija resnice.

Zaključek

Prof. Jogan in Marijan Križman sta izpostavila pomen celostnega in kritičnega zgodovinskega spomina, izogibanje politizaciji žrtev in nujnost prenosa vrednot prihodnjim generacijam.

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