INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HONOUR OF THE WINNER OF THE VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE 2015

THE STORY OF A REFUGEE: EUROPE OF DREAMS AND REALITY

Prague, 30 September 2015 Prague Crossroads

Organizers: Vaclav Havel Library and Charta 77 Foundation
Prague, 2015
VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHT PRIZE

The Prize is awarded in memory of Václav Havel, playwright, opponent of totalitarianism, architect of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic and an enduring symbol of opposition to despotism. Nominations of any individual, non-governmental organisation or institution working to defend human rights are taken into consideration. The Prize consists of a sum of €60 000, a trophy and a diploma.

On 25 March 2013, the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize was launched at a ceremony in Prague with the signature of the Co-operation Agreement by the President of the Assembly, Jean-Claude Mignon, the Director of the Václav Havel Library, Marta Smolíková, and the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Charta 77 Foundation, František Janouch, in the presence of Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg.

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize replaces the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize, which was created in 2007 and awarded every two years, for the first time in 2009 to the NGO British Irish Human Rights Watch and then, in 2011, to the Russian NGO Committee against Torture.
LAUREATES OF THE VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

LYUDMILA ALEXEYEVA (RUSSIA)
2015
Lyudmila Alexeyeva is a veteran human rights defender in her native Russia. In her youth, she gave up a promising academic career to join the Soviet dissident movement, going on to become a founding member of the Moscow Helsinki Group. Forced to emigrate to the US in 1977, she returned to Russia in 1989 to continue her work, becoming President of the International Helsinki Foundation and later joining the Russian President’s Commission on Human Rights. She has worked relentlessly for the protection and promotion of the rule of law.

ANNAR MAMMADLI (AZERBAIJAN)
2014
Annar Mammadli is a prominent Azerbaijani human rights defender who has made an extensive contribution towards defending the right to free elections. He is the founder and chairperson of an influential and experienced organisation in Azerbaijan dedicated to observing elections. Since 2001, his Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre (EMDS) has been carrying out independent election monitoring in Azerbaijan. Anar Mammadli contributed to programmes and events on monitoring of elections, voter participation and voter education, as well as design of materials and reports during 13 elections in Azerbaijan. He was arrested in December 2013, accused of “abuse of power” and other matters, and sentenced to 5,5 years in prison in May 2014.

ALES BIALIATSKI (BELARUS)
2013
From the start of the 1980s, Ales Bialiatski, a young Belarusian writer and graduate of the Gomel University Faculty of History and Philology, joined the national democratic movement. While the world was still divided by the Iron Curtain, he became a founding member of the Belarusian Popular Front. Helping to create a young writers’ association that he chaired for several years, Ales went on to join the Belarusian Writers’ Union. Later, he organised the first demonstrations against totalitarianism. This commitment led to his imprisonment in 1988, marking the start of a long series of arrests and harassment. In 1996, in the face of the increasing repression of the Lukachenko regime, Ales Bialiatski created the Human Rights Centre Viasna. In 2007, just three years after joining International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Ales Bialiatski was elected its Vice-President, the first representative of the former Soviet countries to be elected to the FIDH International Board.
VÁCLA V HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE FINALISTS
At a meeting in Prague on 25 August 2015, a selection committee headed by Anne Brasseur, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, selected a short-list of three finalists: Lyudmila Alexeyeva (Russia), Women for Afghan Women (Afghanistan) and The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Balkan region).

LYUDMILA ALEXEYEVA
Lyudmila Alexeyeva is a veteran human rights defender in her native Russia. In her youth, she gave up a promising academic career to join the Soviet dissident movement, going on to become a founding member of the Moscow Helsinki Group. Forced to emigrate to the US in 1977, she returned to Russia in 1989 to continue her work, becoming President of the International Helsinki Foundation and later joining the Russian President’s Commission on Human Rights. She has worked relentlessly for the protection and promotion of the rule of law.

WOMEN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN
is the largest shelter-providing NGO in Afghanistan, working in 11 provinces to protect the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls. A grassroots organisation, it has helped young women who have suffered mutilation, torture, attempted murder and rape, among others. Its activities include running womens’ shelters, family guidance centres, children support centres and “halfway houses” for women leaving prison.

THE YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
works to re-establish bonds between young people in the Balkan region, protecting victims of human rights abuses and promoting transitional justice. Projects managed by its different regional organisations include organising youth exchanges, helping activists in isolated communities, facilitating dialogue on human rights issues, and working to demystify the recent past and build mutual trust.
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THE STORY OF A REFUGEE: EUROPE OF DREAMS AND REALITY

Prague, 30 September 2015 Prague Crossroads

8.30 –9.00  REGISTRATION

9.00–9.15  OPENING
Opening address from JIŘÍ DIENTSBIER, Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation

9.15–10.00  INTERVIEW WITH PRIZE LAUREATE/FINALIST
MICHAEL ŽANTOVSKÝ, Václav Havel Library

10.00–11.30  PANEL 1
MIGRATION, NATURAL AND FORCED
Causes and consequences of current waves of migration, military conflicts and poverty, human trafficking as a tool of organised crime, main migration routes.

CHAIRMAN: MARTIN PALOUŠ.
Václav Havel Library Foundation

PANELISTS:
ŠIMON PÁNEK, People in Need
ANASTASIA HAGEN, model
LYUDMILA ALEXEYEVA, finalist of the VH Prize

11.30–12.00  COFFEE BREAK

12.00–13.30  PANEL 2
BORDERS OF EUROPE, BORDERS OF HUMANITY
A Europe of dialogue or a Europe of quotas? Are current developments sustainable? Is there a limit to European countries’ absorption capacity lie? Are quotas a solution? It is possible to deal with the problem in Europe, or should it be dealt with in countries of origin? Can the problem best be resolved militarily, using the police, through instruments of migration and asylum policy, or by development aid?

CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL ŽANTOVSKÝ, Václav Havel Library

PANELISTS:
JIŘÍ PŘIBÁŇ, Cardiff University
TOMÁŠ JUNGWIRTH, think-tank AMO
MOHAMMED KAZKJI, Syrian refugee
ALMA MASIC, Youth Initiative for Human Rights (finalist of the VH Prize)

13.30–14.15  LUNCH

14.15–15.45  PANEL 3
SHOULD WE FEAR OUR OWN FEAR?
Social, political and cultural problems linked to the current wave of migration: Solidarity vs. xenophobia, tolerance vs. extremism, cultural identity vs. globalisation, responsibility of the media and of politicians.

CHAIRMAN: MARTIN ŠIMEČKA, Respekt

PANELISTS:
KATRINE CAMILLERI, Jesuit Refugee Service Malta
SAFA HASSANI, psychiatrist
MANIZHA NADERI, Women for Afghan Women (finalist of the VH Prize)

15.45–16.00  CONCLUSION
Closing comments from KAREL SCHWARZENBERG, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of deputies

The conference will be translated simultaneously in Czech and English. The online streaming by the Czech television will be available here: www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/extra/ More information and registration at www.vaclavhavel-library.org
PARTICIPANTS BIOS

LYUDMILA ALEXEYEVA
(laureate of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2015)
is a member of the Soviet human rights movement since
1960s. She was one of the founders and first members of
the Moscow Helsinki Group (1976). Ludmila was involved
in the origins of the international Helsinki movement. Au-
thor of the monograph “History of Dissent in the USSR. The
Newest Period.” Anchored Radio Free/Radio Liberty and
Voice of America shows. Chair of the Moscow Helsinki
Group since 1996.

KATRINE CAMILLERI
Maltese, lawyer, Director of JRS Malta, holder of the 2007
Nansen Refugee Award (United Nations Refugee Award) in
recognition of her work for the rights of boat people flee-
ing across the Mediterranean Sea. In 2002, the number of
asylum seekers and economic migrants arriving in Malta by
boat increased sharply, a situation faced by several Europe-
an countries around the Mediterranean. After first helping
to prevent the deportation of a Libyan asylum seeker who
risked persecution if returned home, Ms. Camilleri’s inter-
est in refugee protection grew. In 1996, she started to work
with the Malta office of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS),
first as a volunteer, then part-time and eventually full-time.
JRS became the first organization to offer professional le-
gal services on a regular basis to detainees in Malta. Since
1997, Katrine Camilleri has provided legal advice to hun-
dreds of persons kept in administrative detention centres
in Malta, focusing her efforts on the most vulnerable. (Je-
suit Refugee Service Malta was one of the finalists of the
Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2014.)

JIŘÍ DIENTSBIER
Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legis-
lation; Chairman of the Government’s Legislative Council.
Graduate from the Faculty of Law of the Charles’ University
in Prague, long-term member of the Czech Social Democratic
Party (CSSD). In 1990–1992 a Member of Parliament in the
Chamber of People of the Federal Assembly, in 1994–1998
and since 2006 an elected councillor for Prague 2. From July
2010 he was shadow Minister of Justice for CSSD. In 2010
he was the leading candidate for CSSD in the City of Prague
elections. From March 2011 to March 2013 he was the Deputy
Chairman of CSSD. In March 2011 he was elected Senator for
the district of Kladno. Until January 2014, when he became
minister, he was the Deputy Chairman of the Senators’ Club
of CSSD, member of the Constitutional and Legal Committee
and the Organisation Committee of the Senate. He was also
a member of the Standing Committee of the Senate for the
Constitution of the Czech Republic and Parliamentary Pro-
cedures. He was re-elected Senator in 2014 in the constitu-
ency of Kladno and Praha-zapad.

ANASTASIA HAGEN
A former Ukrainian model and actress. Although living in the
Czech Republic since 2011, she was granted permanent res-
dence by the Czech Ministry of the Interior after protracted
administration as late as in September 2013. She is a mother
of three.

SAFA HASSANI
Originally a doctor in Afghanistan and a key worker for Break-
ing the Circle – an NGO based in Brno, one of the first to help
drug addicts in Afghanistan. He was kidnapped by the Tal-
iban in 2006. When released, he fled to the Czech Republic
in fear for his family. He is a children’s psychiatrist in Velka
Bites, near Zdar nad Sazavou, today. He lives in Brno.

TOMÁŠ JUNGWIRTH
An analyst in the Association for International Affairs.
A co-founder of the Czech Welcomes Refugees initiative
which tries to convey a different approach than that current-
ly prevailing in society into the debate on refugees and mi-
gration. He is preparing to graduate in democracy and human
rights, focusing on the West Balkans, at the universities in
Bologna and Sarajevo.

MOHAMMED KAZKJI
from Damascus, Syria. After losing some relatives in the con-
flict in Syria, he fled forcible conscription in the army, then
lived for months in Libya, witnessed the escalation of law-
lessness there, boarded a boat that sank on 11 October 2013,
was rescued by the Maltese coastguard and taken to Malta,
then illegally entered the Netherlands and was returned to
Malta. He still lives in Malta, where he was granted inter-
national protection and works as an electrician (though his
dream would be to complete his studies in electrical engi-
neering).

ALMA MAŠIĆ
(The Youth Initiative for Human Rights, finalist of the Václav
Havel Human Rights Prize 2015)
possesses a BA in Business Management and Administra-
tion, Trinity College and University, Dover, Delaware and is
Senior Chevening Fellow, Conflict Prevention and Resolution
Course, at The University of York, PRDU (Post-war Recovery
and Development Unit) Department and visiting speaker at the London School of Economics (LSE, London). During the war, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alma worked on the settlement of refugees and IDP’s and on providing humanitarian assistance in refugee camps and collective centers. Since 1994 she has been involved in the creation and development of the civil society sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has extensive knowledge of civil society development and democracy issues in the Balkan region, with a primary focus on issues related to dealing with the past and transitional justice among victims groups and young people.

MANIZHA NADERI
(Women for Afghan Women, finalist of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2015)

was born in Kabul and raised in New York. She joined WAW in 2002 as a volunteer. She soon became Women for Afghan Women’s first full time staff person, and helped launch WAW’s Queens Community Outreach Program in New York. In 2006, she moved to Kabul to launch WAW’s work in Afghanistan. Since 2006, under Ms. Naderi’s leadership, WAW has opened 12 Family Guidance Centers, 12 women’s shelters, 4 halfway houses and 4 Children’s Support Centers. These facilities are staffed by 650 local Afghan women and men. Ms. Naderi has also set up a massive women’s rights awareness-raising training program that has reached over 250,000 Afghans. Ms. Naderi’s goal is to have FGCs and shelters in every province in Afghanistan. Ms. Naderi has a BA in English Language Arts from Hunter College.

MARTIN PALOUŠ


ŠIMON PÁNEK

Šimon Pánek was a student activist during Czechoslovakia’s Velvet Revolution in 1989 and is today executive director of the humanitarian organization People in Need (Člověk v tísni), which he co-founded in 1992. People in Need (PIN) has become the biggest non-governmental organisation in Central and Eastern Europe and works worldwide to mitigate the suffering of people in times of crisis. Due to its international and national efforts, PIN has become highly respected in the Czech Republic and abroad. In 1988, Mr. Pánek and Jaromír Štětina were the main organizers of humanitarian assistance in Armenia, collecting materials to help people affected by an earthquake. One year later, in 1989, Mr. Pánek became a student leader during the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia; he organised anti-regime occupation strikes and became co-chairman of the Central Students Strike Committee. In 1992, he founded the news agency Epicentrum, specialised in reporting on global conflicts. The same year he co-founded Nadace Lidových novín (The Lidové noviny Foundation), now known as People in Need (PIN). He was also a foreign policy specialist on the Balkan region and human rights issues abroad in the presidential administration of Václav Havel. Since 2004, Mr. Pánek has chaired the Czech NGO development platform FoRS. He received the Czech State Medal of Merit in 2002 and the European of the Year Award in 2003. He has also chaired the board of the Open Society Fund Prague, is a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and is on the boards of the European Partnership for Democracy and Eurostep.

JIŘÍ PŘIBÁŇ

is a professor at Cardiff University. He was appointed Visiting Professor of Legal Philosophy and Sociology at Charles University by President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel (2002). He has also been a visiting professor or scholar at the European University Institute in Florence, New York University (Prague Office), the University of California in Berkeley, the University of San Francisco, the University of Pretoria and the University of New South Wales, Sydney. He is an editor of the Journal of Law and Society and a regular contributor to the BBC World Service, Czech TV, newspapers and other periodicals. Prof. Přibáň has published extensively in the areas of sociology of law, legal philosophy, constitutional and European comparative law and the theory of human rights. He is the author of Legal Symbolism: on law, time and European identity (Aldershot, 2007)
MILAN ŠIMEČKA
writer and journalist, born in Bratislava, grew up in the family of the dissident and novelist Milan Šimečka. Until 1989 he was an active literary dissenter, publishing several books in samizdat and serving as editor at the Slovak samizdat magazine Fragment K. After 1989 he was editor-in-chief of the Slovak publishing house Archa, from 1999 to 2006 he was editor-in-chief of the Slovak daily SME, and from 2006 to 2008 he was editor-in-chief of the Czech weekly Respekt, where he is today an editor and reporter. He goes under the signature Martin M. Šimečka, is married with two children, and lives in Prague and Bratislava. He has been a member of the board of trustees of the Václav Havel Library since September 2015.

KAREL SCHWARZENBERG
former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the TOP 09 party. He has already served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007–2009) and was a member of the Senate of the Czech Parliament (2004–2010). During the first half of 2009, he also served as the President of the Council of the European Union. He was President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (1984–1991) and former Chancellor to President Václav Havel. Founder of the Václav Havel Library. In 1991, together with Lech Walesa, he was awarded the Council of Europe’s Human Rights Award.

MICHAEL ŽANTOVSKÝ
is a diplomat, politician, writer, and translator. He studied psychology at Charles University in Prague and McGill University in Montreal, Canada and worked as a research psychologist. From 1980, Mr. Žantovský worked as a freelance translator and author. He has translated more than 50 works of contemporary English and American fiction, poetry, drama and nonfiction into Czech. He was a contributor to the samizdat press and the Prague correspondent for Reuters, the international news agency. In 1989 he was a founding member of the Czech chapter of P.E.N., the international organization of writers and translators that had been banned in Czechoslovakia during the Communist era. In November 1989 he was a founding member of the Civic Forum, an umbrella organization that coordinated the overthrow of the Communist regime, and became its press spokesman.

In January 1990 he became the Spokesman and Press Secretary for President Václav Havel. In July 1992 he was appointed Ambassador to the United States. In 1996 he was elected to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and served as the chairman of its Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security. He served as the Czech Ambassador to Israel from 2003 till 2009. From 2009 till August 2015, he was the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Court of St. James’s. He is a regular contributor to the World Affairs Journal and Aspen Review Central Europe. Since 2012, he has served as the President of Aspen Institute Prague. His biography of his longtime friend Václav Havel: A Life was published in English, Czech and several other languages in November 2014 to great acclaim. On September 1, 2015, Mr. Žantovský became Executive Director of the Václav Havel Library in Prague.

PRIZE SELECTION PANEL

ANNE BRASSEUR
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

FRANTIŠEK JANOUCH
Chairman of the Board of the Charta 77 Foundation

MARTY DICK
Swiss politician, former state prosecutor

NUALA MOLE
Senior Lawyer, Founder of the AIRE Centre

MAREK (ANTONI) NOWICKI
Human Rights Lawyer, President of the UN Human Rights Advisory Panel in Kosovo

MARTIN PALOUŠ
Former Ambassador of the Czech Republic, President of Vaclav Havel Library Foundation in New York and Board member of Vaclav Havel Library

CHRISTOS POURGOURIDES
Former Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus. Former Member of the Parliamentary Assembly
The Václav Havel Library serves as a centre for the documentation and research of modern Czech history, with an emphasis on promoting the ideas and works of Václav Havel: playwright, fighter against totalitarianism, leader of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Czechoslovak and Czech president, and a symbol of vigilance against despotism. The Václav Havel Library runs an electronic archive containing over 45,000 entries, a library and a reading room, as well as issuing publications and organising conferences, debates and arts events for the public.

www.vaclavhavel-library.org

The Charta 77 Foundation, founded in Stockholm in 1978 by František Janouch, started out defending human rights in the broader sense and supporting persecuted dissidents and independent culture but has turned into an organisation supporting a very broad range of arts and humanitarian activities and become a civil society pioneer. For 20 years the foundation’s key project has been BARRIERS Account, which provides grants to eligible applicants in the social and health spheres in particular and works to defend the human rights of the handicapped.

www.kontobariery.cz

The Prague Crossroads, an international spiritual centre, is one of the projects of Dagmar and Václav Havel Foundation VIZE 97, which is also intended to preserve and administer this unique space. Prague Crossroads is located in a long-deconsecrated church, founded by St Wenceslas in 927 A.D. The main inspiration for the creation of the Prague Crossroads came from the former Czech President - the dissident, writer and dramatist Václav Havel. His concept was an evocative venue for all kinds of meetings, where lectures, discussions, concerts, performances, exhibitions, meditation and happenings can take place in a spirit of respect for the multicultural diversity of the modern world. Its main objective is to respond to the now widely felt need for open-minded and creative dialogue among people of different faiths, convictions and professions about the present state of our civilisation, the dangers threatening it, and the hopes for the future.

www.vize.cz
_VACLAV HAVEL LIBRARY_
The Library’s task is to document and research modern Czech history, emphasising the ideas and work of Vaclav Havel, playwright, campaigner against the totalitarian regime, the leader of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Czechoslovak and Czech president and the symbol of awareness against any misuse of power.

_EVENTS_
The general public is addressed especially through the Library’s “club” programme consisting of various seminars, readings by authors, debates, concerts and theatre performances. It also collaborates with its partners on conferences and other events, such as the awarding of the Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize.

_PERMANENT EXHIBITION_
An exhibition entitled Vaclav Havel or Havel in a Nutshell gives visitors an insight into the personality of Vaclav Havel with collages of photographs and quotations. Touch screens present detailed information and audio recordings to put the stages of his life, namely his family, the theatre, dissent and presidency, into a broader cultural and historical context. A large-scale interactive map gives visitors a graphic idea of the global “footmark” left by Vaclav Havel.

_DIGITAL ARCHIVE_
Unique documents offer visitors a rare opportunity to acquaint themselves with the work and life of Vaclav Havel and his friends, with the unofficial Czech culture in the latter half of the 20th century and the topic of human rights and civil society. The repository currently holds more than 45 thousand photographs, manuscripts, audio-visual documents, audio recordings, memoirs and letters.

_PUBLICATION PROGRAMME_
The programme is focused mostly on presenting the work of Vaclav Havel, his family background and the work of his friends.

PERMANENT EXHIBITION ON VACLAV HAVEL, OR VACLAV HAVEL IN A NUTSHELL
The exhibition is open daily from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Mondays.

_ARCHIVE_
The study center is open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or upon prior arrangement.
Online archive: http://archive.vaclavhavel-library.org/

_PROGRAMME_
www.facebook.com/VaclavHavelLibrary
www.youtube.com/knihovnaVaclavahavla
twitter.com/KnihovnaVH

_E-SHOP_
http://www.vaclavhavel-library.org/en/activities/shop