



NAHLA

CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



Saying yes
requires courage.

Leadership Focus

What is Nahla

A nongovernmental, **nonprofit organization** that has been implementing projects and activities **at a grassroots level since 2000** in the field of **adult education and social research**, with a distinct focus on **empowering women of all ages** through education, networking, advisory and entrepreneurial support, faith and spirituality, advancement of health, sports and recreation.

Vision

An **educated** and **empowered woman** who changes the world.

Mission

Empowering women through **education** and creation of stimulating environment for their **personal development** and competent **participation** in social processes.



Nahla... in the mission of opening new horizons

The world we live in nowadays seems to be relentless of the ordinary individuals, their needs, pursuits and efforts. Messages circulating around most often insinuate about barriers and difficulties, fears and foes... In such an environment it is invaluable to have an **alternative paradigm** that would eventually offer **a new perspective** on the reality. Since the very first days, Nahla has been determined to **shedding light** on the **new possibilities** for our community and **empowering individuals** to pursue the best possible versions of themselves.

Whether they are teenagers, adults or elderly, at Nahla, everyone can seek for the **inspiration** to look for **new horizons** in their lives. Dedication to change *status quo* and seek for new opportunities makes Nahla the loadstar witnessing that opportunities are waiting for those who have **a vision of a better world**.

*Amina Isanović Hadžiomerović,
Advisory Board Member*

HLA
U I ISTRAŽIVANJE
ON AND RESEARCH



How it all started

Nahla's beginnings, our first steps and actions were marked by a **sincere wish** that everything around us becomes better.

For a better world we have been ready to work tirelessly, learn constantly, compensate for the missing, share what we learnt, provide chances, seize opportunities, face fears, understand challenges, leave the comfort zone.

To educate and empower a woman who will be **able to change the world** for the better we have considered to be, above all, a powerful, noble, profound, and an inspiring goal.

We have **learned to recognize the need** for change in our community and the knowledge and skills which will help women become catalysts of that change.

We had to **establish structures and processes**, which will be sustainable, measurable and transparent in order to reach our goal in the fastest and safest way possible.

We became a part of numerous processes that have marked our postwar and post-conflict society – from restoring trust, overcoming prejudices, supporting the rule of law, reducing injustice, and building bridges between groups and individuals.

We chose it as our mission to revive and advance the resources found within each woman, from her inner strength, physical health, spirituality, to social activity and motivation.

For all of this **NAHLA** has to exist!

A place of encounter, acceptance, education, empowerment, support, openness, diversity, excellence and inspiration!

Sehija Dedovic, Founder&CEO



GRADIMO
izvrnost
mijazna ENO
E

BUILDING
excellence
changing SOCIETY
changing LIVES
changing PERSPECTIVES
INCREASING change
IMPROVING economy

Openness – because an open mind builds an open world

Honesty and openness is always the foundation of
insightful dialogue.

Gloria Jean Watkins

For us, openness means **respecting** and appreciating **diversity** and **freedom of choice** of every individual and building a culture of diversity acceptance. We open doors and provide opportunities, we are at the **service of the community** and we are always open to see things from a different perspective. We are proud to have members and beneficiaries who differ in their age, gender, language, religion, worldview, social position and nationality.

I always like to come back to Nahla and recommend it to others. I find it so important in today's society to have such **place** where **acceptance** and appreciation of diversity are **cultivated**, and not only through programs which cover those subjects, but also in action, through all of their work.

Selma, Photography Course participant, Sarajevo

Since the very first moment I set foot in Nahla, I felt it was a place where **I can be myself**, and where I will be **greeted with a smile**.

Gordana, Graphic Designer Training participant, Tuzla

On my journey towards my goals, I was often discriminated against for something I didn't choose. As a **woman with disability**, I have always just wanted to **be an equal** member of the society. I wanted to **learn**, do what I love, work hard, be noticed and **feel worthy**. I wanted someone to hold my hand and look me in the eye when talking to me. **Nahla's staff** selflessly provided **all of that**.

Senaida, young poet and activist, Gracanica




OPENNESS

To **be there when people need someone** to count on, to accept them for who they are, without the need to change them, to support them when they want change, is only possible if we remain open. If we do not take the liberty of assessing other people's values, nor judge them.

If we leave space for **the freedom of choice for every human being** and their own responsibility for their choices. The openness, which Nahla cherishes since its beginnings, gives me the strength to persist in what I do, the freedom to act and **the inspiration to change**.

Azra Ibrahimovic, psychologist and peace activist, Nahla's employee

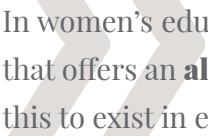




Education – because knowledge is the fastest road to change

Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today. Malcolm X

We believe that **sharing knowledge** is one of the biggest civilizational values and key missions of human existence. We want knowledge to be available to those categories that are usually deprived of education. That's why, through our work, we pay special attention to **give opportunities** to women of all ages and social groups in **building their competence** in accordance to the requirements of our time, in order for them to be able to change themselves and change the world.



In women's education **Nahla is irreplaceable**. It's **rare**, if even possible, to find a similar center that offers an **all-encompassing** range of different fields of **learning**. I wish for something like this to exist in every city.

Hatidza, Business Administration Training participant, Sarajevo

Nahla is an **outstanding educational center** and personally, I am thrilled, first and foremost by the **staff** that is simply **wonderful**. I am so glad that, thanks to your help, I was able to discover myself in a way, and realize what I really want in life and what I want to be doing. **Thank you for existing!**

Tanja, Professional Babysitter Training participant, Sarajevo

Nahla is a daily motivation for all of us to study, think and always try to be the best version of ourselves, both for our own sake and for everyone else around us, no matter what is their color, origin, beliefs or religion.

Irma, School of Islam participant, Sarajevo





The **spirit of selflessness** in sharing knowledge and skills which Nahla nurtures through all of its spheres of activity makes it a **comfortable place** for learning and socializing, and a safe space where a woman can express and enhance her potential. This makes our programs possible in all fields and directions and brings a sense of joy and satisfaction to all participants in that process.

Belma Panjeta-Music,
lawyer and social activist,
Nahla's employee

...NUJE ŽENA ZA TRŽIŠTE RADA:
POSLOVNU SEKRETARKU

HLA

OPĆINA
NOVI GRAD

...mentar: 2015. april 2016.

GRADIMO

IZUŠTI
nijenjama DRUŠT
nijenjama ŽIVOT
nijenjama PERSP
POVEĆAVAMO širak
POKOŠAVAMO kompi
OTKRIJAMO novu
PRUŽAMO p...



Empowerment – because women possess the force of change

There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.

Kofi Annan

Empowering women in all significant aspects of their lives is Nahla's long-term commitment and a value which is woven into all of our programs and activities. We want **each woman** to leave Nahla **feeling empowered** and aware of her value and potential, **encouraged** to take responsibility and make a positive change in her environment.



EMPOWERMENT

We can make a stronger community only if we **invest in each individual person**, with a human touch and devotion, believing in the strength each of us possess and can use to facilitate change all around us. That is a mission which connects me to Nahla.

Amina Sljivo Becic, youth educator, Nahla's employee

Nahla helped me build self-confidence and made me more determined. Looking back at myself before Nahla and now, **I am more satisfied with myself** and have more courage to change the world around me. I think I made a great decision in life when I became a part of Nahla.

Amina, Nahla's Youth Club participant, Bihac

I feel ready to deal with the human rights issues on daily basis, especially when it comes to freedom of religion and belief and our right not to be discriminated on any account. Nahla gave me the opportunity to familiarize myself with this subject, to connect with people who are experts in the field, as well as people who are on daily basis being discriminated against for different reasons. As a student I've learned the theoretical side of things, but only through activism was I able to face real problems with islamophobia and learn methods on how to combat it.

Aida, Education for Human Rights Youth Activists participant, Novi Pazar

We should move beyond passive generations that have no opinion and no voice – on behalf of all, because what are human rights if we're not talking about human dignity? Groups of young activists that are trained by Nahla need to exist in order to objectively and argumentatively stand up for the rights of those who cannot stand up for themselves, and who are being oppressed, discriminated or whose rights are threatened.

Berina, ToT on Freedom of Religion and Belief and Non-Discrimination participant, Sarajevo

Activities & Programs



ADULT EDUCATION

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

- English
- German
- Turkish

IT COURSES

- MS Excel
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- IT certification

LIFE SKILLS TRAININGS

- Personal growth
- Communication skills
- Parenting skills

BUSINESS TRAININGS

- Management
- Customer Service
- Finance and Accounting
- Project and Time Management
- Sales and Marketing
- Social Media

VOCATIONAL TRAININGS

- Business administration
- Women's entrepreneurship
- Online marketing

- Graphic design
- Software QA tester
- Community/social media manager
- Professional babysitter
- Catering master
- Seamstress/tailor
- Geronto hostess

CREATIVE, ART & CRAFT COURSES

- Photography
- Sewing
- Painting (silk, glass, foil)
- Calligraphy
- Embroidery

HEALTH&NUTRITION EDUCATION

- Thematic seminars about women's health
- Pregnancy, birth and baby care seminars
- Cooking workshops

FAITH&SPIRITUALITY EDUCATION

- School of Islam
- School of Qur'an
- Thematic modules
- Interfaith meetings and seminars

INTER-COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

- Peace building and reconciliation
- Cooperation with religious communities
- Building bridges between different social groups



SOCIAL RESEARCH

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Theoretical and empirical research
- Research areas:
 - Woman
 - Women's rights
 - Social engagement and activism
 - Religion and identity

PUBLISHING PROJECTS

- Researches and studies
- Translations
- Master and PHD thesis

REFERENCE LIBRARY

- References about women
- Professional journals and magazines
- Proceedings and papers



CAMPAIGNS&EVENTS

- „Let's ecologize community!“
- „A man worth knowing!“
- Open Doors Day
- Promotions
- Exhibitions
- Bazaars
- 16 Days of Activism



COUNSELLING

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING

- Psychotherapy (individual and group)
- Marriage counselling
- Speech therapy for children

NUTRITION COUNSELLING

- Individual and group counselling
- Help with introducing healthy eating habits
- Special diet plans

BUSINESS COUNSELLING

- Competency passport
- Career counselling



BUSINESS SUPPORT

MENTORING SUPPORT

- Mentoring program for women
- Counselling, guiding, motivating, coaching

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Business Support Fund (interest-free loans for entrepreneurs)
- Reward grants for women entrepreneurs

COMMUNITY&NETWORKING

- Nahla's Business Community
- Partnerships with socially responsible companies
- Conferences and Fairs

EMPLOYMENT MEDIATION

- Connecting with potential employers
- Practice and volunteering engagements
- Full-time engagements



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

TEEN CLUB

- For girls 14-18
- Experiential workshops
- Learning new skills
- Facing teenage years challenges

YOUTH CLUB „TIGNUM“

- Platform for youth activism
- For socially active girls 18-30
- Nahla's scholarship for the best members
- Beginner and advanced group

YOUTH ACTIVISTS EDUCATION

- Special training programs
- Empower students of social sciences in the field of human rights
- Workshops and practical work



SERVICES

LIBRARY&READING ROOM

- Over 3.500 titles
- Free online database&reservation

PLAYROOM FOR CHILDREN

- Constant supervision
- Program for preschoolers
- Book club
- Creative workshops

CAFETERIA

- Cozy ambience
- Suitable for meetings and gatherings

FITNESS CENTER

- Fitness
- Aerobics
- Aeromix
- Zumba
- Pilates
- Boot Camp

TREKKING CLUB

- Healthy lifestyle for whole family
- Strengthening ties with nature
- Spring, summer and autumn tours



Support – because it makes a difference

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

Charles Dickens

To **support a woman** on her path to self-actualization and **give her wings** in moments when she doesn't dare to take a step forward is a task we tirelessly work on every day. We help women know their human rights and strive for equal opportunities in the society. We **support the family** and promote its values in the spirit of developing partnership and mutual respect.

If it weren't for Nahla I would still be daydreaming. Nahla helped me to approach my fears as challenges. **I received support** which made me realize that I could, as a mother and a woman, make my dreams come true. Through education, support, motivation and professional help, **Nahla enabled me to live my dream.**

Silvija, Women's Entrepreneurship Academy participant, Sarajevo

I will always come back to Nahla because there, apart from education, I gain something much more valuable – **I am able to see myself** in for who I truly am. I am growing.

Lidija, Nahla's Business Academy participant, Sarajevo

Nahla is a place where I was given psychological support when I went through a difficult period in my life, and not only support but also **a kind word and guidance** on how to help myself and continue living well. With the help of a psychologist, I've worked through my traumas, trained for a new profession and in the end changed the job I didn't enjoy doing. And now, two years after my first encounter with Nahla, I can say that **my life is significantly different.**

M.S., Psychological Counselling Office client



Cooperation – because together we accomplish more

The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation.

Bertrand Russell

We advocate cooperation and dialogue in all aspects of our work. We believe that **an active exchange of ideas and knowledge** is a guaranty for an equitable and **balanced development of the society**. We are dedicated to creating partnerships with different stakeholders in our society, trying to act as a meeting place for different perspectives on important issues.

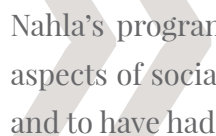


COOPERATION

During all these years of our presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina we have **recognized Nahla as a serious partner** which can achieve the goals we've set through their professional conduct, hard and earnest work. One of the goals of our organization was supporting development and building a stable society, with a special consideration for helping women.

We are pleased by the fact that the **women of Nahla** were exactly the ones who **had the initiative for change** and progress, who make an important link in science and education and who **achieve great results** in a creative and sophisticated way.

Omar Al-Kandari, Rahma International, Kuwait



Nahla's programs, projects and activities give **very positive results in the community**, in all aspects of social life. I am proud to have Nahla as a partner of the The Municipality Novi Grad and to have had a chance to personally collaborate with such a notable organization.

Esad Bazdar, Social Development Advisor, The Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo

Through constant cooperation and dialogue with all societal partners Nahla has proved to know where it is going and that **productive social projects** are built through mutual **trust and responsible** work. In a time where everything in our society seems to be falling – Nahla is defying all laws of gravity.

*Dermana Seta, OSCE/ODIHR Adviser on Combating Intolerance and
Discrimination against Muslims, Warsaw*

No one who has visited Nahla, be it groups or individuals from the region and the world, or renowned members of academia and researchers, was left **indifferent to the results** it has achieved. A country that has such women should not fear for its future.

Ahmet Alibasic, CEO of Center for Advanced Studies





COOPERATION

During the past few years, Nahla developed into a **recognizable provider of programs** in the field of adult education. They are putting effort in training their own staff with the intention of developing quality education for the participants. As a donor and often a supervisor of Nahla's trainings, I would like to emphasize their **individualized approach to each participant** in order to encourage, motivate and include them in social processes.

Emir Avdagic, DVV International



The first step in cooperation with Nahla was our supporting the campaign “1000 members together for one good deed”. The city of **Bihac** has **recognized this noble intent** and with pleasure supported this initiative, which ultimately resulted in success. Cooperation continued through our support to Nahla’s project for unemployed women, with the aim of empowering and creating new opportunities for them. I believe that **we will continue to work together** and contribute to our local community in the future.

Suhret Fazlic, Mayor of the City of Bihac

Center for Education and Research “Nahla” is an organization we are proud to have in our civil society. **Nahla promotes excellence** both within organization and in work with others, encouraging us to be better and more determined in our work. Nahla **inspires, empowers and understands the needs** and works accordingly. Through partnership Nahla includes other organizations into a creative process of solving key social problems, always patiently, adjustably and consistently, **with a focus on social justice**. Results of Nahla’s work are clear, visible and tangible and we look forward to their future activities and innovations that will guide work of other organizations too.

Goran Bubalo, Network for Building Peace





Excellence – because we may not have a second chance

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

Aristotel

For us, excellence is our **constant striving to be better** at what we do and to answer to high expectations of our users, partners and the community as a whole by being responsible, dedicated, professional and eager to establish the best practices in the fields we work in.



NAHLA

CERTIFIKAT

potvrđuje da je

Lejla Fazlić

uspešno završila

obavezni stručni usavršavajući kurs iz oblasti bezbednosti



grams

ceived psychological
counseling

Nahla in numbers 2000–2019

Over 70 partner organizations
and institutions

Over 900 young people empowered
for social activism

Inspiration – because good is worth spreading

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

We want to **encourage women to take part in social change**. Therefore, in our educational centers situated in three cities in BiH we create a stimulating environment which inspires women to **share experiences**, engage in new perspectives and use their own potential in order to find motivation within themselves in order to **change the environment** and bring the joy of life in everyday activities.



I want to live in a **world in which every person** is trying to **inspire others** by their own example. I keep my doors wide open, as well as my mind. In Nahla I have found an environment with a similar vision, which encourages me to constantly push my limits and make new steps.

Meliha Rifatbegovic-Haskic, designer, Nahla's branch manager in Bihac

To be in Nahla means to be a part of the world where your imagination, creativity and freedom can blossom. **Nahla is a true inspiration.** Here you can be who you are, feel like you belong to one big family, and at the same time learn many useful things and build new friendships.

Natasa, Decoupage Course participant, Bihac

As a hardworking bee that collects nectar from flowers and gives delicious honey which is medicine to people, so does **Nahla** as the name suggests, **become an inspiration for every woman** to become the best version of herself.

Aldina, Calligraphy Course participant, Tuzla

Every newly learned letter makes me more proud and gives me inspiration and encouragement to become better person. All generations and life experiences merge into one goal here: **to learn more and more.**

Monika, School of Qur'an participant, Tuzla



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