

and a need for activism within the official religious communities to help bring down barriers to sincere and honest dialogue.

We would like to single out two of the associated events as of particular importance for the cultural life of our city and the country as a whole, from the perspective of fostering better interfaith relations between groups who have been taught by their religious and political leaders that hatred of the other is a natural response and that the common is to be denied and denigrated.

The first was the extremely moving and affecting exhibition organized by the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments, which presented a stunning series of panels of major cultural and historical monuments in Bosnia and Herzegovina from all the major religious traditions which suffered damage during the war, often explicitly intended to mark the triumph of one group and the victimisation of another. While such monuments are to be found all over the world, what was particularly significant in this exhibition was the emphasis on monuments whose reconstruction, preservation or even survival is being hindered intentionally by the political and religious authorities as part of the ongoing war against coexistence between religious and cultural and ethnic groups.

The second event is the publication of the Bosnian Psalter, by International Forum Bosnia, a facsimile edition of an original from 1404 C.E., with an accompanying voice recording of the psalm being read aloud in mediaeval Bosnian on cd, the first such attempt to reconstruct past ways of reading and transmitting our common religious heritage. The significance of this and similar publications by International Forum Bosnia for the social and cultural reintegration of our country around a core heritage common to all the major religious traditions present here cannot be overestimated. Bosnia's identity as a home to all her peoples and traditions is under constant threat by those who would deny pluralism in the name of nationalist or fundamentalist homogenization. This is relevant to two aspects in the case of the psalter, firstly that it represents the core heritage of all the Abrahamic traditions, present in them all, and secondly that it represents a cultural heritage, Bosnian Cyrillic mediaeval literature, whose very existence is denied on all sides as part of their denial of a common, shared history. The publication of such historical monuments of our common past is a vital contribution to building a common future.