
March 2022

Putin's invasion of Ukraine is a defining moment in history. Today, the global developments are a serious threat to peace, freedom and democracy around the world. Post-conflict regions such as the Western Balkans are especially vulnerable from the effects of these global disturbances. Finding itself on the road towards EU membership, the Western Balkans is particularly important as it is both very vulnerable and highly important for European security. Therefore, this situation calls for a prompt response from the governments of Serbia and Kosovo and the international community to uphold respect for peaceful resolution of disputes, the rule of law, solidarity, and human rights in the Western Balkans. It reiterates the importance of dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia for securing sustainable peace, prosperity, and the well-being of all citizens.

Recommends that the civil society in Serbia and Kosovo continue with their efforts to promote peace, tolerance, stability and reconciliation between Serbia and Kosovo; between Serbs and Albanians, and in the Western Balkans region by:

- Continuing with cooperation and dialogue with a view to broaden the environment for civil society actors to have a transformative impact on their societies and on relations between both Serbs and Albanians and between Kosovo and Serbia;
- Assuming a leadership position in which civil society works together on principles of common values and a common interest to provide a sustained foundation for collective action to deal with problems of the past and create a peaceful future;
- Leading by example through shunning inflammatory rhetoric and hate speech in Kosovo and Serbia, and working collaboratively and with good will, to move past existing political divisions and build relations between people from different communities;
- Fighting intolerance, discrimination and ethnic hatred and working to prevent ethnic-based conflict and violence against individuals or communities.



Nikola Burazer

Executive Director
Centre for Contemporary Politics



Astrit Istrefi

Executive Director
The Balkan Forum
