



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



Nadace Charty 





Nadace Charty

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.

VÁCLAV 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.

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



Nadace Charty

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 DIENSTBIER**, 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

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). Ludmilla was involved in the origins of the international Helsinki movement. Author 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 fleeing 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 European 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 interest 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 legal services on a regular basis to detainees in Malta. Since 1997, Katrine Camilleri has provided legal advice to hundreds of persons kept in administrative detention centres in Malta, focusing her efforts on the most vulnerable. (Jesuit 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 Legislation; 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 Procedures. He was re-elected Senator in 2014 in the constituency 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 residence 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 Breaking the Circle – an NGO based in Brno, one of the first to help drug addicts in Afghanistan. He was kidnapped by the Taliban 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 currently prevailing in society into the debate on refugees and migration. 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 conflict in Syria, he fled forcible conscription in the army, then lived for months in Libya, witnessed the escalation of lawlessness 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 international protection and works as an electrician (though his dream would be to complete his studies in electrical engineering).

ALMA MAŠIĆ

(The Youth Initiative for Human Rights, finalist of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2015)

possesses a BA in Business Management and Administration, 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

Martin Palouš is President of the Vaclav Havel Presidential Library Foundation in New York and Senior Fellow at the School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University in Miami. In his previous diplomatic career he was Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York (2006-2011) and to the United States in Washington (2001-2005). He is the author of numerous publications, including the chapter on the Czech Republic in the European Commission publication *Democratization in Central and Eastern Europe* (1998); "Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism", in the *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict* (1999, 2nd ed. 2008); "Between Idealism and Realism: Reflections on the Political Landscape of Postcommunism", in *Between Past and Future*; "The Revolutions of 1989 and their Aftermath" (2000), "What Kind of God Does Human Rights Require?", in *Does Human Rights Need God?* (2005); "Common Sense and the Rule of Law", in *Philosophy, Literature and Politics* (2005); Jan Patočka's Socratic Message for the 21st Century, in: eds. Ivan Chvatik and Erica Abrams, *Jan Patočka and the Heritage of Phenomenology* (2011); *Revolu-*

tions and Revolutionaries, Lessons of the Years of Crises, in: ed. Vladimír Tismaneanu, *Promises of 1968. Crisis, Illusion, Utopia*, (2011)

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 novin (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.

JÍŘÍ PŘIBÁN

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. Pribán 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 Vaclav 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 Uni-

versity 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 JANOUC

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 PALOŮŠ

Former Ambassador of the Czech Republic, President of Václav 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

Nadace Charty

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>



KNIHOVNA VÁCLAVA HAVLA, O. P. S.
VACLAV HAVEL LIBRARY
OSTROVNÍ 13, PRAHA 1, 110 00
<http://www.vaclavhavel-library.org/en/>
info@vaclavhavel-library.org

