



HUMANITY
IN ACTION



Humanity in Action Poland

a three year overview 2006-2008

On behalf of the governing bodies of Humanity in Action Poland, a recently established foundation, I would like to present the achievements of Humanity in Action in Poland in the past three years.

The fellows' reports, action projects, and activities of senior fellows network are the proof that there is a unique potential in and a strong need for human and minority rights educational and leadership initiatives in Poland. Under Communism, because of the political censorship, we could not freely debate and rethink different aspects of our past and act upon it, as did the nations in the West after 1945. Now we can do it, free and taking full responsibility for our own past and future.

The presence of HIA in Poland gives a unique opportunity of bridging the East with the West. The experience of Poles, always rebellious and finally escaping from the political freezer of Soviet communism for more than 40 years is worth transferring to the democracies in the making beyond Polish Eastern borders. Our partners in those countries openly expect us to be with them and get involve in theirs debates and changes.

As a country in transition, Poland, with its multilayered historical and cultural heritage, brings to the HIA community the often-painful experience of a society from this side of the Iron Curtain, with all its achievements and weaknesses.

The challenge ahead is to engage future young leaders from the West and the East in taking common actions to improve the situation in human and minority rights wherever they are violated.

Finally, my special thanks goes to Dr Judith Goldstein and Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobsen who contributed immensely to the establishment of the HIA Poland.

Furthermore we wanted to express our gratitude to our main sponsor the Stiftung "Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft" (Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future") for their ongoing generous support.

We are also grateful to the Robert Bosch Stiftung (Robert Bosch Foundation) for their sponsorship in the initial year.

Moreover, HIA Poland is thankful to all HIA Board Members, Staff, Fellows and associates who were very helpful throughout these past few years.

**Eugeniusz Smolar,
Chairman of Humanity in Action Poland**

HIA is an international charity-based non-profit consortium founded in 1997 which aim is to guide student leaders in the study and work of human rights with a focus on minority issues in democratic countries.

HIA operates in Denmark, France, Germany, Poland The Netherlands, and the United States.

*For more information go to:
www.humanityinaction.org*



Dr Judith Goldstein
with Polish Fellows during the HIA 10th Anniversary Dinner (above) in Warsaw and among part of HIA community in Denmark (right)



"After ten years of successful programming, HIA has assembled an international network of experts in academia, business, government, journalism, media, law, and civil society. As HIA Senior Fellows, board members, and speakers, they are engaged in the work of preserving democratic values and protecting minority rights in a complex and changing world. The HIA network represents a vital resource for corporate, government, and non-government agencies confronting these pressing issues."

Dr Judith Goldstein,
Founder & Executive Director of HIA

HIA MISSION

Humanity in Action is an international consortium which aims to instill the values of human dignity and moral responsibility for the protection of the rights of minorities in a new generation of social, cultural, and political leaders by:

- Engaging student leaders in histories of resistance to institutionalized violations of minority rights in democratic countries;
- Promoting the growth and development of young professionals dedicated to protecting human dignity and the rights of minorities;
- Building a multi-national, intergenerational network of present and emerging leaders in diverse professional fields who share these commitments.

HIA believes that an important test of a genuine democracy is how it treats its racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, and that the commitment to democratic values and the protection of minorities cannot be taken for



granted in the United States and Europe.

Therefore, HIA seeks to engage younger generations in histories of resistance and to inspire them to fulfill their moral responsibilities to protect those in danger from institutionalize violations of minority rights. It seeks to strengthen the commitment of American and European university students to democratic values and foster their

knowledge of resistance to intolerance-past and present.

The Holocaust, the most devastating example of human failure in the denial of rights to minorities, is the historical starting point for HIA. But HIA moves beyond the pathology of evil to explore the little studied norms of decency and human triumphs. Examples of moral rectitude and courage are central to all HIA inquiries. Concentrating on historic and contemporary examples of protection of minorities, HIA seeks to identify the conditions under which people act according to the highest principles, and to encourage university students to become morally responsive citizens.

Each year, the HIA mission and objectives take on a new, unique expression, meaning and dynamic. Among the main factors that make it possible is the leadership, mentorship and support of our Boards. It is thanks to our Board Members that HIA can effectively realize one of its objectives: building a multi-national, intergenerational network of present and emerging leaders in diverse professional fields who share these commitments.

HIA is proud to introduce HIA Poland Board of Directors



Mr. Eugeniusz Smolar
Chairman of HIA Poland
Managing Board

President of the Center for International Relations; Former Director of the BBC World Service, Polish Section; co-founder of Aneks publishing house; former member of the Management Board of Polish Radio.



Mr. Janusz Reiter
President of the HIA Poland
Programming Board

Former Ambassador of Poland to Germany and the US; Former President of the Center for International Relations; Board Member of Presspublica.

Members of the Programming Board

Mr. Zbigniew Bujak

One of the key leaders of the Solidarity Movement; Former MP

Mr. Michał Kowalczewski, PhD

Partner Mercurius Financial Advisors

Mr. Jan Król

Former Deputy Speaker of the Parliament; Advisor to KPMG

Mr. Waldemar Markiewicz

President of the Management Board DB Securities S.A.

Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki

Former Polish Prime Minister

Mr. Roland Sprung

President of SPC House of Media

Professor Dariusz Stola

Vice-Rector for International Cooperation at Collegium Civitas; Research Fellow at Institute for Political Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Mr. Stefan Twardak

Former Country Manager General Electric Poland; Former Executive President BPH Bank S.A.

Mr. Adam Uszpolewicz

President of the Board of Commercial Union Poland

Mr. Andrzej Wielowieyski

MEP for Poland; Former Vice-Marshall of the Senate

Mr. Henryk Wujec

One of the key leaders of the Solidarity Movement; Participant of the 1989 „Round Table” agreement; Former MP; Currently active at the Foundation for Poland / Program for Regional Development



Challenging, draining, daring, important, surprising inspiring ... these are some of the most common adjectives used by HIA fellows when they have been asked to describe their experience during the HIA programs. For HIA Poland, which throughout the years 2006-2008 grew from an independent subproject of HIA Germany to a fully fledged foundation those adjectives could do just as well. It truly was a challenging, draining, daring, important, surprising and inspiring time!

The Polish educational program was designed as a platform for bridging all sorts of gaps-geographical, mental, political, ideological-at the very crossroads of East and West. In practice this means not only embracing a range of subjects connected with human and minority rights, but also providing an opportunity for dialogue and discourse for outstanding students who are promising young leaders and who have a genuine interest in human and minority rights and proved to have some engagement in this field.



Each year the Polish team was comprised of 21 outstanding students hailing from Poland, US, Germany, Ukraine (and in the years 2006-07 also from Belarus).

The diversity was even greater, given that participants' ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds varied substantially. Keeping this in mind, it should not come as a surprise that the biggest challenge during every program was to first find the common ground and that required reaching a mutual understanding. However, it is not an easy thing to achieve as to comprehend contemporary Poland one must have some knowledge of its complicated history and diverging historical narratives. Moreover, there is a very diversified demand for historical knowledge among the participants: Polish fellows experience the same symptoms as most of "host" fellows do, so they are either "fed up" with nationally oriented history or are so immersed in it that discussion it "objectively" requires from them a lot of effort, self-awareness and openness needed for challenging the foundations of ones identity. At the same time the visiting fellows come mostly to the program with limited knowledge and a couple of stereotypes about Poland which is not surprising as Poland is not making to the international news agen-

da as much as other European countries and as a result there are not many reliable sources on Poland in English available.

Nevertheless, throughout the programs, the Fellows were exposed to divergent historical narratives and challenged to analyze their impact on the current situation. They were learning from the past in order to change the future. The Fellows got the chance to study the Holocaust and the Second World War, the multicultural experiences of the Second Republic (Polish State in the years 1918-1939), forced homogeneity of the Polish

People's Republic (1945-1989) and the challenges of the country and society in transition to a viable democracy after 1989. Each year the turning points in the program were the visits either to Auschwitz or Treblinka and meetings with survivors. Those experiences were, in a word draining; but proved that no matter how hard it may seem

apprehension and overtly-polite silence are not solutions.

However, the fellows never backed down from the challenge to find points of agreement and contention concerning their conceptions of culture, history, human rights, politics, policy, the rule of law and religion. Their sense of unity was build upon the foundation of honest discussions, ongoing debates - and sometimes painful confrontations - about challenging human rights and minority issues and preconceived notion about the past and the present.

The Fellows' commitment, engagement, and intellectual input are the main reasons for the Polish Programs' success. It provides hope that they will remain active in the field of human and minority beyond the HIA programs or other HIA driven initiatives.



For the future I would like to wish HIA Poland still having the same attitude as before: never back down from the challenge!

Monika Mazur-Rafal
Director of Humanity in Action Poland



Panel discussion at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
with Halina Bortnowska-Dąbrowska, Marek Antoni Nowicki and Dr Adam Bodnar

- **over 60 outstanding** students who are promising young activists hailing from Poland, Germany, USA, Ukraine, Belarus successfully took part in the three editions of the core program in Warsaw and remain connected to the HIA network;
- **ca. 20 research papers in English** inspired by the HIA programs were prepared as a result of a collaborative efforts of HIA fellows. The topics covered the most burning human and minority rights issues in the Polish context. Many past HIA fellows have used these reports as the basis of published articles, masters' theses, dissertations, and research fellowships;
- **7 HIA Poland alumni** took part in the prestigious internships such as: Lantos/Humanity in Action Capitol Hill Fellowship Program in US Congress, The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), The Pat Cox/HIA Fellowship Program in the European Parliament, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum;
- circa 70 human and minority rights activists, NGOs' representatives, academics, politicians, minority representatives, journalists, artists and public officers have cooperated with HIA Poland;
- HIA Poland **managed to develop links to organizations and institutions dealing with human and minority rights and education of the future responsible citizens**, such as: Amnesty International, Center for International Relations, Collegium Civitas, Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Forum for Dialogue Among Nations, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University, International Organization for Migration/Central European Forum for Migration Research, Organization for Security and Cooperation, Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, Migrants' Center, Ministry of Interior and Administration, Polish Humanitarian Organization, The Feminist Foundation eFKa, Treblinka Memorial and Museum, Women Rights' Center;
- HIA Poland cooperated with HIA The Netherlands on **the creation and implementation of the first cross-generational program for HIA Senior Fellows on "The Relevance of the Holocaust"** in Cracow and Auschwitz;
- **9 outstanding Polish students** were selected and recruited by HIA Poland to take part in the HIA Inc. programs in the NYC and internships in San Francisco;
- Polish Alumni of HIA programs created in 2006 a Polish Senior Fellows' Network (SFN) which meets in Warsaw regularly once a month under the lead of Dariusz Dybka and Małgorzata Dziewanowska (since 2008). Polish HIA SFN is currently conceptualizing its future endeavors.



Meeting & discussion with Andrzej Wajda



Marta Galecki (Intern at the first Polish Program 2006 & a 2004 HIA Senior Fellow) shares her impressions of the Polish Program.

At first it seemed like there was nothing unusual about the topics we discussed in the 2006 Polish program. Turn on the radio or television in Poland, and you will often hear callers or guests talking with hosts about historical remembrance and minority issues. Labeled as Polish issues, these historical and political topics have largely been limited to Polish-Polish discussions. During the Communist era, Poles mastered these discussions through impromptu underground forums, held in places like churches or at the family dinner table.

"The truth was that it was our various backgrounds that allowed us to present fresh views on old topics, and to have very different kinds of discussions than those that had taken place before in Poland."

And so I questioned throughout my internship with the program where a Polish-American perspective like my own fit into present-day discussions about Poland? And with an international group of fellows, I wondered what place other American perspectives had in the discussion? How about Belarusian, Ukrainian, or German points of view? But perhaps

most importantly-beyond the label of any particular nationality-the question we ended up trying to answer as students from these diverse backgrounds was "where does a minority, or more broadly, a human rights perspective fit into all of this?" But it took time for me to recognize the potential of that last question in the Polish context. As the intern in the 2006 program with both a Polish and an American identity, I was divided on some of the topics we discussed-an ironic dilemma considering I felt that my position in the group should generally be a neutral one. Nevertheless, I thought that the more closely I connected with whatever it means to be Polish, the better I might understand the complexity of the issues. The truth was that it was our various backgrounds that allowed us to present fresh views on old topics, and to have very different kinds of discussions

than those that had taken place before in Poland. I had the sense that we were in uncharted territory that summer, establishing a novel forum for discussing Poland's past and future.



Marta Galecki (third from the left on the photo above) graduated from Michigan University.



"We were the first year of the first Eastern European HIA program and the most nationally diverse group in HIA history - trailblazers in every sense of the word.

Some of us dove right into the challenge; others of us waded in more tentatively. While few of us came to the table with similar expectations, I believe we all had the same goal: a meaningful cultural and intellectual exchange focused on issues of human rights."

Jessica Mowles (US Fellow in HIA Polish Program 2006) graduated from Macalester College. Her HIA Action Plan entitled: "Voices from Cape Town" involved in raising awareness in South Africa of the gross human rights abuses occurring in Zimbabwe.

Please visit humanityinaction.org to learn more about HIA Fellows



What HIA Poland brings to HIA?

Jeffrey Hochstetler (Intern at the Polish Program 2007 & a 2005 HIA Senior Fellow) discusses the importance of HIA Poland within HIA.

It becomes quite clear after a very little time in Warsaw that this place lives with a heavy remembrance of the past, from the "Old Town" that has been completely rebuilt after total destruction at the hands of the Nazis, to the "Palace of Culture" which looms over the entire city-center, Stalin's "gift" to Communist-controlled Poland.

I think what makes the atmosphere so different from my more Western-European HIA experiences is precisely how recently Poland has struggled politically and economically, and how present is its experiment with democracy, national identity, and liberal tenants.

The discussion is not rote, here, and thus it is difficult. During lectures it is not taken for granted among the various participants-Polish, American, Ukrainian, German, Christian, Jewish, Muslim-that secularism secures the most progressive democratization, for example, or that underrepresented groups like women or homosexuals should be on more equal footing within Polish society. Likewise, after touring the incredibly unsettling death camp of Auschwitz, it is not assumed that one narration of suffering during WWII ought to take precedence over another, or even that we share similar emotions after the tour. Indeed, nothing was assumed during HIA Poland-not a common ideology, not a common goal, not even a common sense of social trust among all

participants, different as we all were.

I observed that it took very hard work to build goodwill, to gain respect for an opposing opinion, and even to listen to another side in the first place. And this is why Poland is so unique within HIA:

building a democratic future and understanding a tumultuous past is not a sure thing here, it is a work in progress. And we can expect nothing less than hard work in the process.

Inquiring into the past, present, and future of human rights in Poland from this dynamic is clearly a difficult task. From my time among the fellows-living in the same hostel, attending the same lectures and site visits, trying to listen and learn from difficult conversations, and of course having plenty of fun navigating the new and occasionally disorienting streets and neighborhoods of Warsaw-I took to heart a very deep challenge: to discuss human rights at all, we often need to be willing to explore the much broader question of what it might mean to be human, and very different humans, in the first place.



Jeffrey Hochstetler (second from the right) graduated from Wheaton College. Currently working in a law firm in New York City.



"It is not only that I learned so much about Polish society and politics in the lectures, discussions and visits that we had - I also learned so much about myself. It was not rarely that I felt powerless and frustrated about what's going wrong in the Polish society (remark: you can replace 'Polish' with any nation!), but in the end it was exactly this recognition of the wide variety & coherence of problems concerning human rights that makes you want to act."

Henrike Korte (German Fellow in HIA Polish Program 2007) graduated from Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster. She was a co-author of the HIA research report on the right-wing nationalism in Poland.

In the search of truth(s): HIA Research Reports



During the programs the Fellows meet with recognized leaders of human rights organizations, politicians, diplomats, philanthropists, journalists, scholars, artists and authors in the context of lectures, seminar, site visits, and focus group activities. This phase of the program culminates in a period of research and writing (circa nine days), when international teams of Fellows focus on past and present minority issues in Poland, producing a written report. HIA Publishes these reports on the website. Fellows are also encouraged to submit these reports for publication in other media outlets.

Many past HIA fellows have used reports written as part of their HIA core fellowship program as the basis of published articles, masters' theses, dissertations, and research fellowships.

What is truly unique about the HIA research reports is that Fellows are not afraid to pose challenging questions and investigate controversial issues. And they do so with a great deal of awareness, curiosity and perceptiveness.

2006 Topics

1. **Center Against Expulsions — Issue of Human Rights or Political Provocation?** by Magdalena Kaj (PL), Frank M. Esser (GER)
2. **Tolerated Stay': A Tolerable Policy? : On Chechen Refugees and 'Tolerated Persons' in Poland** by Olivia Andrzejczak (US), Katerina Barushka (B), Elena Wasylew (PL)
3. **Contemporary Discourse on Anti-Semitism in Poland** by Dariusz Dybka (PL), Yulia Gogol (U), Andrew Maki (US)
4. **HIV Positive in Poland: Evolving Activism and Everyday Life** by Vasyl Kvartiuk (U), Claire Lauterbach (US), Justyna Szewczyk (PL)
5. **Too Cool for School? The Education of the Roma Minority in Poland** by Kimberly Ang (US), Kinga Sielicka (PL), Christine van Kan (GER)
6. **Love Your Neighbor, But Not Too Much: Political and Religious Involvement Within Sex Education in Polish Public Schools** by Susanne Heuck (GER), Jessica Mowles (US), Aleksandra Puchta (PL)
7. **From 'Imagined' Homogeneity to National Solidarity?: The Struggle Over Gay Rights in Poland** by Dmytro Chybisov (U), Joanna Średnicka (PL), Jesse Van Tol (US)

2007 Topics

1. **Airing the Dirty Laundry: Exploring the Challenges of Domestic Violence in Poland** by Małgorzata Dziewanowska (PL), Viktoriya Khomuk (U), Liat Krawczyk(US)
2. **The Quest For Right-Wing Nationalism in Poland: Character, Appeal, and Roots** by Rachael Dizard (US), Henrike Korte (GER), Anna Żamejć (PL)
3. **More than a Beautiful Game: Soccer, Sex Trafficking and Euro 2012 Poland-Ukraine** by Przemysław Iwanek (PL), Daria Kalenyuk (U), Robert Vainshtein (US)

4. **The Effectiveness of Social Campaigns in the Polish Context** by Gagan Gupta (US), Monika Kozuń (PL), Lidia Semenkova (B)
5. **Political Clash, or Just Low on Cash? An Examination of the Bases for Vietnamese Immigration to Poland** by Carmine Grimaldi (US), Aleksandra Lipczak (PL), Kemal Önel (GER)
6. **Hate in the Headlines: Media Reactions to Homophobic Rhetoric in Poland** by Lydia Downing (US), Johanna Lieser (GER), Agnieszka Meller (PL)
7. **Justice or Revenge? The Human Rights Implications of Lustration in Poland** by Irina Marchuk (U), Megan Metzger (US), Magdalena Pająk (PL)

2008 Topics

1. **A Kosher Shrimp? The New Museum in the Context of Holocaust Tourism in Poland** by Aleksandra Jankowska (PL), Simone Müller (GER), Ella Street (US)
2. **Forever Illegal? The Possibilities and Realities for Illegal Immigrants to Transcend their Status in Poland** by Agnieszka Dąbek (PL), Asan Egizov (U), Michael Ewart (US)
3. **Leaving the Ghetto: Learning to Embrace Physical Disabilities in the Polish Labor Market** by Christine Holtkamp (GER), Shoshana Iliach (US), Przemek Pietraszek (PL)
4. **Roadblocks to Jewish Restitution: Poland's Unsettled Property** by Maxwell Minckler (US) and Sylwia Mitura (PL)
5. **Swept Beneath the Mat Once More: Reproductive Rights in Poland from Communism to Democracy** by Marta Kozłowska (PL), Julia Podaenko (U), Natalie Sullivan (US)
6. **"We're Treating Them As Homeless": Health Care Access for Undocumented Migrants in Poland** by Benjamin Larson (US), Paulina Sypniewska (PL), Zacharias Ziegelhöfer (GER)
7. **Witamy w Polsce: The Dilemma of Language Learning among Poland's Growing Immigrant Community** by Monika Bednarek (PL), Allison Kenney (US), Svetlana Pinchuk (U)

Please visit humanityinaction.org to read full research reports.



HIA Fellows take action & move forward!

Having finished HIA Programs the fellows are expected to put their knowledge into practice. They are required to plan and implement within a year after the program an independent or collaborative action project under the auspices of HIA. So far, the Polish program fellows have implemented their action projects in a variety of cultures and countries including Belarus, Germany, Kenya, Kosovo, Poland, Ukraine, USA and Zimbabwe. Their action projects dealt with a wide range of topics ranging from political (Chechnya, Middle East, participation of youth in political life) social issues (Roma minority, homelessness) and health issues (sexual education, HIV/AIDS), human and minority rights education and awareness raising, gender equality to multiculturalism in a global perspective. In order to reach a broader public the fellows published essays as well as organized roundtable discussions, workshops, exhibitions and conferences. For some of the fellows their HIA action projects and/or research reports turned out to be a getaway to their career opportunities and advancement. Here are some examples:



Olivia Andrzejczak (2006 HIA Polish Program) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study asylum policy in Poland in 2008. With institutional support from Warsaw University's Center for Migration Research, Olivia was focusing on the topic: "Tolerated Stay: policy, a subsidiary form of protection issued to asylum-seekers from Chechnya. The project was a continuation of research she began during the 2006 Polish Core Program. Moreover, her HIA Action Project was a photo exhibition on Chechnya at the Bernstein Gallery at Princeton. The exhibition belongs to the Honorary Polish Consul for the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria Mr. Adam Borowski, whom Olivia interviewed during the Core Program. As a result of her passion for writing and human rights she was currently accepted into the prestigious Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, and she is also a fellow at the school's Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism.



Magdalena Maria Kaj (2006 HIA Polish Program) when she was 15 she joined Association of Young Democratic Left and started her adventure with politics, which continues till today. Currently she is a member of Board of Polish Socialdemocracy in Poznań. During the HIA Poland program she became interested in the issues related to the Center Against Expulsions and carried out her research report on this topic which later became a foundation for her MA thesis at the faculty of the political science at Adam Mickiewicz University. In 2008 she initiated and coordinated the Poznan Program (for 16 German, US and Polish HIA Fellows) which was designed as a follow-up activity to HIA "Relevance of the Holocaust Program". During the Poznan Program Magda also conducted a lecture on the political debate about the Center

Against Expulsions from the Polish and German perspectives. Currently, she is working in a project conducted by ex-member of Parliament, Sylwia Pusz and supported by European Social Fund, helping young mothers return on labor market and she is also working for the One World Association (Polish Branch of Service Civil International) on peace-building projects.



Vasyl Kvartiuk (2006 HIA Polish Program) having been deeply interested in the patient safety decided to devote his action project to this issue. In 2007, he organized a Roundtable "Patient Safety: New Challenge - New Approach" at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Among the participants were representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Parliamentary Committee on Healthcare, and the World Alliance for Patient Safety, and other leading NGOs. The meeting resulted in the Kyiv Declaration expressing participants' commitment to the development of national action plan. At the moment Vasyl is one of the key young leaders in Ukraine concerning patients' rights and patients safety and works professionally in this field.

Monika Kozuń (Intern at the Polish Program 2008 & a 2007 HIA Senior Fellow) characterizes networking within HIA.

After working voluntary for over five years as a student; being involved in social projects, making people actively participate in their communities, there comes the moment when you start hearing: "Well, maybe it is high time you started doing something 'serious' and find a 'real' job? And if you are not lucky enough to be surrounded by people who support you and believe in what you are doing, your motivation eventually comes to an end. Fortunately, I was one of those lucky ones to find myself among people who not only think that fighting for your ideals makes sense but also prove that you can shift your actions on a professional level.

The backbone of HIA network are the fellows-having different origins, coming from different fellowship programs, constituting different generations and acting in a variety of fields (e.g. politics, law, science, medicine, journalism). Although we choose different life paths, shared values and vision make us stay connected and merge across boundaries to act together for a common purpose. To work more efficiently, we decided to create Senior Fellow Association/Networks.

National Associations of Senior Fellows are membership organizations which maintain the ties between the senior fellows in a program country and - through co-operation with the senior fellow groups in other countries - with members of the HIA community worldwide. They aim at providing a forum for communication and exchange of ideas, supporting the conceptualization and realization of the HIA fellowship programs as well as ensuring assistance and connections for the successful development of senior fellows' activities and careers. Functioning of SFA solely depends on fellows' will, energy and perseverance.

Another level for fellows' interaction is provided by the Senior Fellows Reunions. These gatherings are organized annually both in the United States and Europe and serve further personal development of the fellows but at the same time create a space for exchange of information on the advancements of HIA network. Moreover,

with the institutional support of HIA Centers based in Europe and U.S. the capacity for organizing senior fellow cross-border meetings of different type (e.g. conferences, training workshops) increases.

Yet, the goal of HIA to "build a multinational, intergenerational, network of present and emerging leaders in diverse professional fields who share its commitments" would not be possible if not the supportive and dedicated to the cause stakeholders, namely the board members, staff members, advisors, partner organizations and speakers. Only mutual cooperation allows of developing

young leaders and involving them in the study and promotion of human rights. Me myself recognized the importance of HIA network taking advantage of established connections to enhance my action project.

Last but not least, it is a common notion that networks function only partially on a rational level- part of

the communication is usually based on personal relationships. And that is where the strength of HIA network lays. Thanks to the inimitable HIA summer core programs, there exist strong emotional ties among all the members of HIA network. In result, a unique "community" of young people sharing common values and fully committed to advancing human rights is gradually emerging.



Monika Kozuń holds M.A. in International Relations and continues her education in the area of Global Development within postgraduate studies at University of Warsaw. Honorary member and ex-president of European Students' Forum AEGEE Gdansk; trainer on global education in Polish Humanitarian Organization. In the nearest future plans to expand and deepen her knowledge in the area of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law within a EU Master Program and proceed with a project in one of the countries of Global South.



- **Over 700 students have completed HIA Core Fellowship Program.** HIA has engaged students from Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, The Netherlands, Ukraine and the US.
- **Senior Fellows Networks (SFN) more than 500 Senior Fellows** sustain engagement with HIA internationally. SFN provide on-going professional development opportunities, organize annual conferences, undertake project in the field of human and minority rights.
- **More than 230 Fellows have completed HIA internship programs** e.g.: Anne Frank Foundation, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Interpol, the European Parliament, The United Nations, The United States Congress.
- **HIA Fellows have a remarkable record of achievement as young professionals in diverse fields** such as in government, non-profit organizations, media and the private sector and most importantly they remain sensitive to the human and minority issues of today's world.

HIA POLAND EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO ITS MAIN SUPPORTER:



HIA Poland would also like to thank *the Robert Bosch Stiftung* (Robert Bosch Foundation) *for its sponsorship in the initial year*. Further, we are also grateful to our partners: Collegium Civitas and the Center for International Relations for their support.

CREDITS:

Edited by Monika Mazur-Rafał & Magda Szarota
Design by Magda Szarota

Humanity in Action Polska

Aleje Jerozolimskie 49/5
00-697 Warszawa

Mailing address:

Humanity in Action Poland
skryt. poczt. nr 242
00-950 Warszawa

phone/fax: +48 (0) 22 629 48 69
skype: HIAPoland
e-mail: poland@humanityinaction.org