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Dear editor

The First EMDR Conference in Bosnia & Herzegovina in Sarajevo between 3-4/11/2017; the Bosnia war still resonated through conference presentations.

Trauma Aid UK (previously HAP UK & Ireland) has managed to train around 120 psychotherapists over the last 8 years. The Association of EMDR therapists in Bosnia & Herzegovina was founded in 2014 currently headed by the elected president Prof. Mevludin Hasanović. The Association has managed to organise the first scientist conference on the 3th of November 2017 for two days. The first day was devoted to presentations by the members of the Association on their clinical and research experience. There were 20 presentations that ranged between case report, case series to case analysis and surveys. The traumas of the 1990s war in Bosnia still resonated in the case presentations of soldiers and civilians that suffered the consequences of that war.

I have presented also at the first day the experience of the Middle East EMDR training that started in 2013 and in which over 100 mental health professionals who mainly work with Syrian refugees in the region. We at the Middle East following the sister Bosnian experience with great interest to follow through. Personally meeting Prof Mevludin Hasanović during my basic EMDR training was a great motivator for me to take the training back to the Middle East where I come from we both worked independently after that with Sian Morgan,

President of Trauma Aid UK to take the training back home. It was fortunate for me also to meet Prof Mevludin at the EMDR consultant training and at the trainers training. So, it was a great honour to be invited by him to the First EMDR Conference in Bosnia & Herzegovina in Sarajevo to talk about the work in the Middle East. I had a great and friendly reception of support and enthusiasm from the Bosnian participants in the conference. The first day ended with conference dinner with beautiful and moving Bosnian Music.

The Second day presentations were undertaken by EMDR trainers and consultants from the UK who contributed to the EMDR training in Bosnia. Sian Morgan the president of Trauma Aid UK gave a moving presentation on the progress of trauma Aid UK training in Bosnia and elsewhere. Sandi Richman who did most of the EMDR trainings in Bosnia presented Attachment Trauma: Impact on EMDR psychotherapy over three hours with translation from Sanja Oakley who is Trauma Aid UK Trustee who coordinated the Bosnia EMDR trainings over the years. This was followed by presentations by Debra May and Jane Ware who both presented on aspects of using EMDR therapy with children.

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