

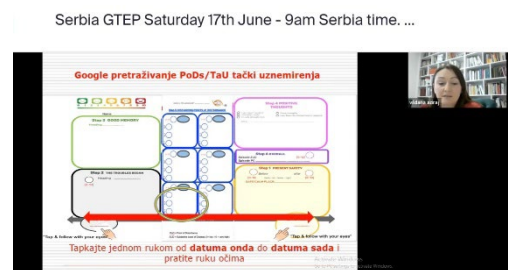


**TRAUMA AID UK**  
EMDR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

## G-TEP TRAINING: FROM TRAGEDY TO BUILDING BRIDGES BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA AND SERBIA EMDR ASSOCIATIONS UNITE

Reported by Vildana Aziraj-Smajić

Following the school shooting in Belgrade, Serbia last month where a 13 year old student killed nine children and one adult and injuring six more, a UK based Serbian colleague reached out to Elan Shapiro for training in GTEP who asked Shiraz Farrand, a senior GTEP trainer, to help.



In 2019 Trauma Aid UK trained 30 Bosnian colleagues in GTEP and a few had gone on to use the protocol in similar critical incidents. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Vildana Aziraj-Smajić, supervised by Shiraz, led the training of 36 Serbian EMDR therapists under the coordination of the President of the EMDR Association of Serbia, Vesna Bogdanovic. The online training, conducted in the Bosnian language, was facilitated by Šemsa Šabanović, Selvira Draganović, Sedin Habibović from the Association of EMDR Therapists Bosnia & Herzegovina, as well as Daryl Joyce from Scotland.

The feedback from the attendees was "more than positive" according to Vesna. They expressed gratitude to the training team and that what they learned will be very useful in the critical incident last month, a few of whom were working directly with the school children and parents affected.

The President of the Association of EMDR Therapists of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Professor, Dr Mevludin Hasanović, joined the attendees at the end of the workshop. He highlighted the importance of networking among EMDR professionals in the Balkans and joining forces in responding to such unfortunate incidents. A similar, but largely unreported, tragedy had occurred the previous week in Bosnia. This type of cooperation opens the new ways to acceptance and trust building among EMDR therapists from Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina.