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INSTITUTI I KRIMEVE TË KRYERA GJATË LUFTËS NË KOSOVË
INSTITUTE OF CRIMES COMMITTED DURING THE WAR IN KOSOVO
INSTITUTU ZA ZLOČINE POČINJENE TOKOM RATA U KOSOVU



Call for Papers

From war to recovery: A multidisciplinary approach to Kosovo's war trauma

The Institute of Crimes Committed During the War in Kosovo (ICCW) focuses on researching and documenting crimes committed during the Kosovo war, from January 1, 1998, to June 20, 1999. It also covers crimes and actions related to the war that occurred earlier but led to the war, and after this period, up to December 31, 2000, as specified in Article 2, Point 3 of the ICCW law.

The ICCW focuses on the research and documentation of war crimes committed from multiple perspectives, including historical, military, legal, ecological, cultural, psychological, medico-legal, and sociological. Its primary goal is to build and preserve collective memory through comprehensive and systematic research and documentation of the events that occurred during the Kosovo war.

The Kosovo War inflicted severe suffering on the ethnic Albanian community through orchestrated campaigns of violence carried out by Yugoslav and Serbian regimes. This systematic assault included forced expulsions, widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, and numerous acts of mass violence. The deliberate targeting of civilians through executions, killings, and widespread sexual violence left deep psychological wounds that continue to affect survivors. These traumatic experiences underscore the necessity of approaching war-related trauma with both rigorous interdisciplinary research and a humanitarian sensitivity that honours the resilience and voices of those affected. This traumatic legacy continues to shape the lived experiences of survivors, underscoring the importance of centring their voices within interdisciplinary and

humanitarian examinations of war's impact. Understanding the complex manifestations of such trauma requires not only empirical investigation but also a sensitive and ethical engagement with the enduring suffering borne by war victim-survivors.

This conference endeavours to investigate the enduring legacy of war through an interdisciplinary lens, situating the discourse within the broader context of Kosovo's complex and often painful historical heritage. Central to this exploration is the imperative to amplify and center the voices of those most affected—the victim-survivors themselves. A key objective is to foreground the perspectives and voices of those directly affected by war, thereby contributing to a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of trauma in post-conflict contexts.

In addition to rigorous empirical investigation into the place-based psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of war-related trauma, the conference aims to engage with these phenomena through a humanitarian and ethical framework. Scholars are invited to submit contributions that not only elucidate the complex manifestations of trauma among victim-survivors and ongoing generations and places but also demonstrate a reflective and sensitive engagement with their lived experiences. Through fostering scholarly dialogue that integrates methodological rigor with ethical consideration, the conference aspires to deepen academic discourse and promote recognition of the multifaceted consequences of war on individuals and communities.

Recognizing the essential nexus between policy development and scholarly research, the ICCW has successfully cultivated enduring and substantive academic partnerships, thereby strengthening its role in facilitating sustained collaboration with the academic community. To initiate this connection, the ICCW is currently welcoming manuscript submissions for an upcoming edited volume focused on crimes committed during the war in Kosovo. The collection will be edited by Professor Catherine Althaus (University of New South Wales, Australia) and Associate Professor Blerina Kellezi (Nottingham Trent University, UK). While the ICCW will oversee the collation of the chapters, the finished collection will be published by an independent academic publisher.

We invite local and international researchers to contribute original manuscripts based on rigorous scientific research; we especially encourage researchers to use materials available in the ICCW

archive, including photos, video and audio recordings, documents, publications, and other resources, located at the ICCW premises. Please note: submitted manuscripts must be original and should not have been published elsewhere.

This edited volume focuses on these key areas of research conducted by the ICCW. Contributors may choose to focus their writing on one or more of the following topics:

The Impact of war-related trauma on the health of victim-survivors: Scholars are invited to contribute to explore the multifaceted impact of war-related trauma on the physical, emotional and mental health of victim-survivors. Submissions may address the short- and long-term health consequences of exposure to violence, including psychological disorders, chronic illnesses, and intergenerational effects. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary approaches that deepen understanding of trauma's complex effects and inform effective interventions to support the recovery and well-being of affected individuals and communities.

The social impact and integration of war victim-survivors within society: this subject area calls for scholarly engagement and contributions that explore the social impact of war trauma on victim-survivors and their processes of integration within and across society. Contributions may examine themes of social and place-based recovery, including how individuals and communities rebuild social ties and navigate post-conflict challenges across generations. Submissions addressing collective cultural coping mechanisms and their role in managing war-related trauma and its aftermath are especially encouraged, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches that illuminate pathways toward resilience and social cohesion.

Transitional justice and the protection of war victim-survivors: This subject seeks abstracts examining the role of transitional justice mechanisms in safeguarding the rights and dignity of war victim-survivors. Contributions may address legal, social, and political dimensions of accountability, reparations, and reconciliation processes aimed at addressing past atrocities. We encourage studies that critically assess challenges and opportunities in implementing transitional justice frameworks in post-conflict settings in Kosovo.

Memory and Documentation: Engaging Kosovo's Dark War Legacy Through Collective Narratives: Researchers are encouraged to submit scholarly work that examine the processes

of memory formation and documentation related to Kosovo’s dark war legacy, focusing on how collective narratives shape and preserve the experiences of trauma and conflict. Contributions may explore diverse modes of cultural engagement, including literature, visual arts, oral histories, and commemorative practices, that serve as vehicles for both remembering and critically reflecting on the past. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary approaches that investigate how collective memory functions to acknowledge suffering and contribute to social healing and reconciliation in post-conflict societies.

Procedure:

The ICCW will accept abstracts up to the 1st of October 2025. We will notify authors about their acceptance or rejection within four weeks. Following this preliminary review, authors will submit a first draft by the 1st February 2026. All contributors will be invited to attend a conference in Prishtina on the 17th – 20th of February 2026 to present their work; travel and accommodation costs will be covered for all presenters. Following the conference, the manuscripts will undergo a review process by the volume’s editorial board. After the review, the board will email authors with comments and suggestions. Authors should revise their manuscripts based on this feedback and submit the final draft by the 1st of May 2026.

Abstract Guideline Form:

Title of paper
Name of author/authors Institutional affiliation and email address 50 word bio of each author
The abstract should be between 300 and 500 words and include 5-7 keywords. It must clearly and concisely outline the research topic, field, methodological approach, and general content of the manuscript.

After the acceptance of the abstracts, manuscripts should be submitted by the specified deadline. Contributors must first sign a statement affirming that the paper is original and has not been published or is under review by any other scientific journal.

Manuscript Guideline Form:

The manuscript The manuscript should be written in English and must be original and analytical. It should be approximately 8,000 words in length and must not exceed this limit.	(Times New Roman, Font Size 12, Double Spacing)
Title of chapter Title of chapter Title of subchapter	Times New Roman, Font Size 14, Bold) Heading 1 (Times New Roman, Font Size 14, Bold) Heading 2, 3 and so on (Times New Roman, Font Size 12, Bold, All Capslock)
Bibliography References should be formatted according to APA style. In the bibliography, list references in alphabetical order, categorizing physical and electronic resources separately. Include a separate subsection in the bibliography for all figures used in the text.	(Times New Roman, Font Size 12)

Deadlines:

Title and Abstract Submission	1 st October 2025
Notification of abstract acceptance and invitation to submit full chapter	1 st November 2025
Chapter Submission	1 st February 2026
Review and verification	1 st – 31 st March 2026
Submission of revised chapters	1 st May 2026
Response from the editorial board regarding the acceptance or rejection of the chapter	15 th July 2026
Book publication	November 2026

Please submit your abstracts to info.ikkl@rks-gov.net no later than October 1st.