

“ As soon as we landed here, my eyes kind of opened. I was not the same any more. I didn't need to close myself up any more. I knew I was safe.”

**RINA AHMETAJ**  
MEDIA GRADUATE  
MANCHESTER

“ This happened in the 20th century.  
It’s the age of the internet.  
It’s the age of computers and you still have  
people with the mentality of emptying a whole  
country, which doesn’t make sense.

We had 24 hours to leave.

There’s still close to 2,000 people missing  
from the war. ”

**BLEDAR BUJUPI**

FILM EDITOR

MANCHESTER

“ People were just disappearing...we didn't have any clothes...we didn't have anything with us.

We just left the house with a bag...all our memories, toys, books, little baby clothes...all gone. ”

**BLETA KABASHI**

BRONZE FOUNDRY TECHNICIAN

OSWESTRY AND MANCHESTER

“ Working with MaK is the proudest achievement of my life. Not only did we make it possible for the Bogujevci witnesses to become the first children in history to testify at a UN war crimes trial but we also exposed one of the killers of Podujevë, hiding in Canada. We were instrumental in Canada’s first ever extradition of a war criminal, which led to more convictions in Serbia, including those who’d taken part in the Srebrenica massacre of 1995.”

**PARESH PATEL**

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST - BBC NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

MANCHESTER

“ I try not to think about it too much...  
to go back too often. It is part of my life.

There's a time and a place; obviously this  
is one of them. ”

**RINA AHMETAJ**  
MEDIA GRADUATE  
MANCHESTER

“ Peace, through justice and truth. ”

**NATASA KANDIC**  
HUMANITARIAN LAW CENTRE  
BELGRADE

“ In the early years, we heard some horrendous stories. I would sit there, a grown man, with other grown men and I would just cry, you know, my face streaming. And I said to one guy, one chap, ‘I’m so sorry. I’m crying.’ He said, ‘Don’t be sorry. All our tears have dried up now. ”

**PAUL GUEST**

CONVOY PARAMEDIC AND FORMER CHAIR OF MaK  
MANCHESTER

“ When the war came we had to leave.  
All together, in the night, into the mountains.  
We were chased every step.  
We didn't have any food.  
We didn't have any clothes.  
We slept in the open air.  
Whenever we found food we would share  
it with everyone. ”

**FAZLI BLAKÇORI**

LMU PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT POST-GRADUATE  
MANCHESTER

“ I think the stories are very, very inspiring. They are definitely about life. They’re about people moving on. Despite difficulties, people getting on with their lives and having really good lives and incredibly, not being bitter about things, not holding onto the darkness but moving beyond that.”

**NAOMI HAMILL**

ORAL HISTORIES MANAGER, WRITER  
MANCHESTER

“ The music project was a gift.

It helped with the darkness.

It lifted me to another place.”

**PAM DAWES**

MaK LEADER

MANCHESTER

“ Working on the park was at once the most harrowing and inspiring experience. Harrowing, because we were working with people who had lost their entire families in the most brutal and inhumane circumstances. Inspiring, because the young people we worked with were full of the future and its possibilities for growth, beauty, friendship, wonder, play.”

**SUE HILL**

CREATIVE TEAM, EDEN PROJECT / WILDWORKS

“ I try to go back whenever I can.  
It feels good to go back. I feel proud to say  
I’m from Manchester as they talk about  
all the good things being done by Manchester  
and I say, ‘Yes, I’m from there’.”

**SELATIN BOGUJEVCI**

MaK LEADER

MANCHESTER

“ It’s not a common thing that a Kosovan girl would marry an English man. That’s not something that would happen.

He said, ‘Have you got a boyfriend?’  
I said, ‘No. Nobody loves me.’ I kind of did the lip as well, like I’m gonna start crying because nobody loves me. And he said, ‘Well, I like you.’”

**BLETA KABASHI**

BRONZE FOUNDRY TECHNICIAN

OSWESTRY AND MANCHESTER (WITH MIKE AND ALBERT)

“ Everybody tried to assist us.

We simply cannot forget that:  
the kindness of ordinary people.”

**AMIR LAMAXHEMA**  
EULEX INTERPRETER  
FERIZAJ, KOSOVO

“ I first met Saranda and Jehona Bogujevci in July 1999. I was the general surgeon attached to 22, the British field hospital that deployed when NATO had to move into Kosovo to deal with the genocidal cleansing that was going on. The local hospital in Pristina had just been abandoned by all its Serbian staff. There were even some booby traps inside.

We quickly received Kosovar patients...children...elderly...women: the innocent victims of war.

At last, a plane was going to leave from Pristina, carrying 4 people: one young lad who had been shot through his abdomen, going to Salford; the patient with the missing face, whose wife was expecting a baby, had been accepted by Manchester hospitals; and these two young girls. It made sense to send them all to one city so they were all going up to Manchester. ”

**COL. DAVID VASSALLO**

CONSULTANT GENERAL SURGEON - ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

MaK PATRON