



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
Federal state autonomous educational institution of higher education «Nizhny Novgorod State  
N.I. Lobachevsky University»  
(NNSU)

### **Information letter № 1**

Dear colleagues,

Russian-Serbian scientific-practical conference work will be organized within the framework of “Week of Serbia” in Nizhny Novgorod State N.I. Lobachevsky University on April 7–8 of the year 2015.

### **HUMANITARIAN DISASTERS of the XX century World Wars: Historical, political-legal and socio cultural aspects**

The years 2014 and 2015 are marked not only with 100 years anniversary of the beginning of the First World War and 70 years anniversary of the end of the Second World War but also with a row of anniversaries that actualize the topic of *crimes against humanity*. Chemical weapons of the First World War, Genocide of Armenians, purposeful extermination of Slavonic peoples – Serbians, Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Poles, Horrors of Oswiecim (Auschwitz), Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain in memory as the most tragic pages of the XX century History and they will be numerously reflected in mass media and noted in acts of official commemorations in the coming months. Earlier “dehumanization locus”, that happened in the second half of the XIX century – beginning of the XX century, connected with formation of special mental frames, which admit single time mass murder of defenseless persons, under pretence of “absolute hostility” or “under humanity”, shall not be forgotten against the above mentioned background. Such was for example a concentration camp in Austrian Talergof (1914–1917), such were other concentration camps of the First World War that were intended, first of all, for incarceration of Serbian intelligentsia and became common pain of that part of Slavonic world which retaliated to the challenges of Austria-Hungary, Germany and their allies. Recollection of various aspects of practice of total dehumanization of real and imaginary enemies during the biggest armed conflicts of the XX century – is our tribute to the memory of innumerable sacrifices which were laid and are being laid to the altars of centuries’ struggle between political reason and blind desire of power.

It is suggested to review and discuss wide range of issues related to the below mentioned problems during the conference:

- Historical witnesses of humanitarian disasters and their descriptions / reconstructions by contemporary people and professional researchers;
- Practices of immortalizing of memory of victims of mass murder and genocide in XIX–XX centuries;
- Political – legal assessments of actions that lead to mass murder of civilian residents and prisoners of war during armed conflicts of the present time;
- Crimes against national and common to mankind cultural heritage;
- Overcoming of psychological and cultural consequences of humanitarian disasters caused by external and internal armed conflicts, revolutions, overturns.

Russian and foreign researchers are invited to participate in the conference. Applications and brief annotations (summaries) of speeches (up to 1000 characters) in Russian or English will be accepted till **March 22, 2015**. Address: [hum-disasters@yandex.ru](mailto:hum-disasters@yandex.ru)

An application shall contain:

1. Family name, name, father's name.
2. Position and place of work.
3. Academic degree and title.
4. Theme of the speech.
5. Contact telephone and e-mail address.

Payment for travel to Nizhny Novgorod is to be done by the sending party. Organizational committee of the conference reserves the right to reject an application without indication of reasons. Results of applications selection and additional information on the order of the conference work will be forwarded with information letter №2 within March 25-31, this year.