ATROCITY PREVENTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS:
IMPLEMENTING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT
IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

DUBROVNIK ATROCITY PREVENTION SCHOOL

26-30 September 2019

Background

The prevention of atrocity crimes (genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity), is one of the great challenges of our times. This course offers a unique opportunity to study atrocity prevention and examine the ways in which prevention is practiced in the field alongside some of the world’s leading practitioners and scholars. It examines the causes of atrocity crimes, and how they escalate from patterns of human rights violations, the challenge and practices of early warning and the practical dilemmas associated with translating early warning into early preventive action.

Participants will explore the challenge of assessing the effectiveness of different types of prevention, focusing on preventive diplomacy, field operations, humanitarian action, civil society action, economic inducements and other mean of prevention. During this course, participants will learn different ways of examining and evaluating atrocity prevention, to understand and compare the different actors engaged in this work, to consider the relationship between gender, human rights, and the prevention of atrocity crimes, and to understand, assess and utilise key tools such as preventive diplomacy, peaceful measures, coercive measures, the protection of civilians in complex operations, transitional justice and accountability, and the prevention of recurrence. These insights and skills will be put to the test in a series of exercises.

Important Dates

The course will take place 26-30 September 2019 at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Participants have to register online or directly with one of the course directors no later than Monday 26 August 2019.
Objectives

The Dubrovnik Atrocity Prevention School will introduce participants to the foundations and challenges of atrocity prevention and put special emphasis on the practice and implementation of the “responsibility to protect” (R2P) principle agreed by all UN member states in 2005. More specifically, course participants will, inter alia, learn to:

- identify risks for atrocity crimes in a given society
- understand the relationship between certain types of human rights violations and atrocity crimes/risks
- consider which preventive and responsive measures are available in such situation
- analyze the challenges that exist at the national, regional and international level to effective and timely atrocity prevention
- understand the gendered dimensions of atrocity crimes and prevention
- examine good practices that exist in the field of atrocity prevention
- evaluate the potential and impact of various mechanisms and institutions that work on atrocity prevention at the national, regional and international level
- assess the role civil society and regional organizations can play in atrocity prevention

The course will apply a participant-centered learning approach and employ case-studies, presentations, simulations, and excursions. Each course will draw on expert guest lecturers, including members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points and other practitioners who will be invited to share their experience of working on atrocity prevention.

After completion of the course, student participants can register for an optional exam to obtain 5 ECTS for their successful participation. For all participants it is expected that they after the course will be able to apply their new knowledge on atrocity prevention to, respectively, their own field of studies or work assignment.

Participants

The course targets graduate students with a strong academic record and a documented interest in the field of atrocity prevention and R2P.

All course participants are expected to participate actively in the classroom discussions. All teaching is conducted in English.

Expected Outcomes

The course will create a new group of young leaders on atrocity prevention. The Dubrovnik Atrocity Prevention School will offer all alumni the ability to join an online network to build on the course experience and remain connected with other participants as well as the course directors and other resource persons. This will help to build a community of R2P practitioners.
Course Directors

The Dubrovnik Atrocity Prevention School is co-organised by leaders in the field of atrocity prevention with rich experience both in R2P research and implementation:

1. Professor Ivan Simonovic, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, and Professor, Law School, University of Zagreb, Croatia, former UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on R2P
2. Associate Professor Martin Mennecke, University of Southern Denmark, Academic Adviser to the Danish Focal Point on R2P in the Danish Foreign Ministry, Denmark
3. Dr. Cristina Stefan, Co-Director of the European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
4. Professor Alex Bellamy, Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for R2P, University of Queensland, Australia

Course Fee, Accommodation and Course Venue

The course will take place at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Details regarding the venue can be found here: https://www.iuc.hr/

As part of the registration, each participant has to pay a course fee of 100 Euros to the Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik. Payment details will be announced in due course.

Rooms are available from 40 Euros per night at the Inter-University Centre. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travels and for making their own bookings here: https://www.dormitory.hr/
THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER: DAY 1

10:00 – 13:00 Arrival of participants

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 Introductions and overview of the course

15:00 – 16:30 Seminar 1: The responsibility to protect: challenges of implementation

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee

17:00 – 18:30 Seminar 2: The actors of R2P implementation: who is doing what – and who should be doing what?

FRIDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER: DAY 2

10:00 – 13:00 Seminar 3: Atrocity prevention café (students spend 45 mins each with an expert focused on one specific issue)

- topic 1: Risk assessment and early warning, followed by
- topic 2: Mobilizing early action, followed by,
- topic 3: Applying it in practice: a risk assessment to your own country and who to mobilize for early action and how?

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 Each of the groups reports back on their perspectives and ideas

15:00 – 16:30 Seminar 4: Atrocity prevention in practice: the view from international organizations and individual states
SATURDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER: DAY 3

10:00 – 12:00 Seminar 5: The role of civil society organizations
   - Advocacy organizations
   - Human rights (international and national)
   - National and local organizations

12:00 – 16:00 Free time

16:00 – 18:00 Seminar 6: Atrocity prevention in practice: learning lessons
   Small group discussions followed by plenary session: what are the principal challenges confronting atrocity prevention?

SUNDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER: DAY 4

9:00 – 11:00 Free time

11:00 – 13:00 Seminar 7: Atrocity prevention café (students are divided into 3 small groups and spend time with an expert focused on a specific issue before rotating to the next group)
   - Group 1: UN reform and atrocity prevention
   - Group 2: Human Rights and atrocity prevention
   - Group 3: Gender and atrocity prevention

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00 Seminar 7 (continued from before lunch): Atrocity prevention café (students are divided into 3 small groups and spend time with an expert focused on a specific issue before rotating to the next group)

16:00 – 17:00 Each of the groups reports back on their perspectives /ideas

MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER: DAY 5

10:00 – 13:00 Seminar 8: Preventing recurrence: accountability, reconciliation and peacebuilding

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00 Small group discussions: what steps must be taken to turn atrocity prevention from rhetoric into reality both at the global and the national level?

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30  Groups report back on their findings and general discussion

17:30 – 18:00  Evaluation

18:00  Conclusion of the course

Departure of participants

PRE-COURSE READINGS

A working background knowledge of international relations, global governance and human rights is assumed, but not specific knowledge about the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and atrocity prevention. Two weeks prior to the course, all participants will be emailed a reading pack, which they will be expected to read to ensure that all participants have a common starting point for the discussions.

This will include:

- ‘Implementing the Responsibility to Protect’ and ‘Accountability for Prevention’, Reports of the United Nations Secretary-General, 2009 and 2017 respectively

Students may also wish to familiarize themselves with some key books, including

- Cecilia Jacob and Martin Mennecke (eds.), *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: A Future Agenda* (London: Routledge, 2019)
Many of these books contain extensive case studies. Students should familiarize themselves with the key contemporary and historical cases, some of which are listed above, as the course will make frequent reference to them. Students may also examine some practitioner accounts, including:

- Romeo Dallaire, 2004. *Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*. London: Da Capo Press. (Dallaire was commander of UN forces in Rwanda)