ATROCITY CRIMES PREVENTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS:
IMPLEMENTING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

DUBROVNIK ATROCITY PREVENTION SCHOOL

11-15 May 2020

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 preventions, 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 11-15 May 2020 at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Participants are expected to arrive on Sunday 10 May and have to register online link no later than Monday, 23 March 2020. Availability is limited.
Objectives

The Dubrovnik Atrocity Prevention School will introduce participants to the foundations and challenges of atrocity prevention and put special emphasis on the 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 participate in an optional exam in order to achieve 5 ECTS. Details will be announced prior to the course. After the course, all participants are expected to be able to apply their new knowledge on atrocity prevention in 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 will be 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 Alex Bellamy, Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for R2P, University of Queensland, Australia
2. Assistant Professor Mario Kresic, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia
3. Associate Professor Martin Mennecke, University of Southern Denmark, Academic Adviser to the Danish Focal Point on R2P in the Danish Foreign Ministry, Denmark
4. Associate Professor Cristina G. Stefan, Co-Director of the European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, University of Leeds, UK
5. Professor Ivan Simonovic, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, and Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia, former UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on R2P

Course Guest Lecturers in 2020

Each year, the Dubrovnik Atrocity Prevention School is joined by a couple of guest lecturers who can make a special contribution to the course due to their expertise and experience in the field of atrocity prevention implementation. In 2020, there will be two guest lecturers:

1. Simon Adams, Executive Director, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
2. Noel Morada, Director of Regional Diplomacy and Capacity Building, Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, University of Queensland
3. Vasilka Sancin, Associate Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Course Fee, Accommodation and Course Venue

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

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

For more information on different options for accommodation please see the IUC website: [https://www.iuc.hr/accomodation.php](https://www.iuc.hr/accomodation.php). For further information on this you can also contact the IUC office: iuc@iuc.hr.

Each participant is responsible for funding his/her own travel, accommodation and food.
COURSE SCHEDULE

11 – 15 May 2020

SUNDAY, 10 MAY

Arrival of all participants and lecturers

16:00 – 18:00 Guided city tour of Dubrovnik

18:00 Informal welcome dinner for all participants and lecturers

MONDAY, 11 MAY

10:00 – 11:00 Introductions and overview of the course

11:00 – 12:15 Opening lecture: How to be an R2P Advocate – The Role of Civil Society in Promoting and Implementing R2P (Simon Adams)

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch break

13:15 – 15:30 Seminar 1: The actors of R2P implementation: who is doing what – and who should be doing what?
   o National Focal Points for R2P and other national actors
   o Regional organisations
   o United Nations

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 Seminar 2: Atrocity prevention, risk assessment and early warning

TUESDAY, 12 MAY

10:00 – 11:30 Seminar 3: Atrocity prevention and human rights

11:30 – 13:00 Seminar 4: R2P and gender

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30 Seminar 5: R2P and transitional justice

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 Simulation 1: Advising your National R2P Focal Point

**WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY**

10:00 – 11:30 Presentations and discussion: Your advice to the National R2P Focal Point

11:30 – 13:00 Seminar 6: Atrocity prevention in practice: challenges and lessons learnt

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00 Seminar 7: R2P case studies (students spend approximately 40 mins on each case-study before changing to the next case; the number and exact content of the case studies will be decided in due course)

- case 1: Croatia, Denmark and the European Union
- case 2: Guinea and the African Union
- case 3: Myanmar and ASEAN

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16:30 – 17:30 Joint discussion of the case studies

**THURSDAY, 14 MAY**

10:00 – 12:00 Seminar 8: R2P controversies inside and outside pillar 3

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 17:30 Simulation 2: Atrocity prevention simulation: crisis in Mendu

**FRIDAY, 15 May**

10:00 – 11:30 Small group discussions: what steps must be taken to turn R2P from rhetoric into reality both at the global and the national level?

11:30 – 13:00 Groups report back on their findings and general discussion

13:00 Evaluation and conclusion of the course
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. All participants are expected to read the following readings to ensure that all participants have a common starting point for the discussions:

- ‘Implementing the Responsibility to Protect’ and ‘Accountability for Prevention’, Reports of the United Nations Secretary-General, 2009 and 2017 respectively
- European External Action Service, EU Responsibility to Protect – Atrocity Prevention Tool Kit, September 2018
- Martin Mennecke, *Denmark and the Responsibility to Protect*: How to Put Atrocity Prevention into Practice in Danish Foreign Policy, 2017

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

- Cecilia Jacob and Martin Mennecke (eds.), *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: A Future Agenda* (London: Routledge, 2019)
Doc of 21 February 2020

• Alex J. Bellamy and Tim Dunne (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook on the Responsibility to Protect* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

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)