



Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention

Mediterranean Basin
Online Edition

October 24 – December 4, 2022

Goals

- 1 To introduce participants to the concepts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, and the processes by which genocide occurs.
- 2 To empower participants with the practical competencies (foundational knowledge and skills) necessary to prevent mass atrocities from ever taking place, prevent further atrocities once they have begun, and prevent future atrocities once a society has begun to rebuild after mass violence.
- 3 To examine critically and reinforce the emergent norm of the Responsibility to Protect, recognizing that sovereignty is not a privilege, but a responsibility.
- 4 To foster an open and respectful exchange between individuals with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and practices, with a particular focus on the role played by discrimination and “otherness” in fostering inequality.
- 5 To develop a worldwide network of state officials who will act to prevent genocide and mass atrocities.

Overview

The Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (AIPG) developed the **Mediterranean Basin Edition** of the **Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention**, a unique **six-week online program**. The asynchronous, flexible format allows participants to engage in a virtual dialogue with the course instructor and their colleagues on Canvas, AIPG's teaching platform.

This online program is grounded in the belief that preventing genocide and other atrocity crimes is an achievable goal. That is, there are ways to recognize their signs and symptoms, and viable options to prevent them at every turn if stakeholders are committed and prepared. The program begins with a case study of the Holocaust, focusing on the Holocaust as a process. The second week is dedicated to an overview of the concepts of genocide, mass atrocities, and prevention. The remaining four weeks of the program are structured around three stages in a **continuum of prevention strategies** – primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary prevention is **upstream prevention**: the “before” analysis of the longer-term governance, historical, economic, and societal factors that leave a country at risk for genocide and other mass atrocities and the inoculation avenues open to mitigating those risk factors. Secondary prevention is **midstream prevention**: the immediate, real-time relief efforts “during” the crisis – political, economic, legal, and military – that are direct crisis management tactics to slow, limit, or halt the mass violence. Finally, tertiary prevention is **downstream prevention**: the “after” efforts to foster resiliency by dealing with the acute long-term consequences of mass violence through pursuits of justice, truth, and memory to help stabilize, heal, and rehabilitate a post-genocide society.

Agenda

Week One | The Holocaust as Process

- Case Study of the Holocaust as a Social and Political Process.
- Virtual Tour of Auschwitz- Birkenau State Museum

Dates: October 24 – October 30, 2022

Week Two | Concepts in Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

- The Road to the Genocide Convention (from Raphael Lemkin to the UN)
- Concepts of Mass Atrocity and Prevention

Dates: October 31 – November 6, 2022

Week Three | Upstream Prevention: Early Warning and R2P

- The Genocide as Social and Political Process
- Risk Factors for Atrocity (Governance, Conflict History, Economic Conditions, Social Fragmentation)
- Introduction to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Dates: November 7 – November 13, 2022

Week Four | Midstream Prevention: Becoming Evil and Response Tools

- Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Mass Killing
- Accelerants and Triggers in Provoking Mass Killing
- Cooperative and Coercive Response Tools (Political, Economic, Legal, and Military)

Dates: November 14 – November 20, 2022

Week Five | Downstream Prevention: Transitional Justice

- Introduction to Transitional Justice
- Processes of Truth, Justice, Reparations, and Reform

Dates: November 21 – November 27, 2022

Week Six | Downstream Prevention: The Role of Memory and Memorialization

- Concepts of Public/Collective Memory
- Memorials and Sites of Memory

Dates: November 28 – December 4, 2022

“Human rights are universal and indivisible. Human freedom is also indivisible; if it is denied to anyone in the world, it is therefore denied, indirectly, to all people. This is why we cannot remain silent in the face of evil or violence; silence merely encourages them.” – Václav Havel

Participants

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