

Conflict Resolution and Genocide Prevention

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How do we 'see' a genocide?

**Moving beyond
the scandal of the day after**

Why a genocide?

Because someone had the motivation to conceptualizing it, the capacity to organizing it and finds the conducive environment to implementing it.

Motivation
Capacity
Conducive environment

**Genocide is a product
of human intentionality**

The 'positive' intentionality of the perpetrators

**The 'negative' intentionality
of all the others**

**There is 'agency' in both:
doing and let doing.**

In its pure form genocide is not a conflict; violence is monodirectional and the lethality is high in part because of that.

**The genocidal mind think:
'If they exist we don't'**

**The genocidal voice says:
'Because if they exist we don't,
they must be eliminated'**

**The genocidal power says:
‘We all know that if they exist we
don’t, and they must be eliminated,
so let’s be organized because to
eliminate them is a duty’**

**How can the thoughts, the voice and
the power of the perpetrators
get un-noticed?**

The first failure is not knowing

**One of the reason of our collective
'not knowing' is a diffuse sense of
denial and a shared perception that
genocide is beyond the scope of
comprehension, that 'there is
nothing we can do' and therefore
there is no point in 'knowing'**

Conflict resolution literature and practice can help overcome this sense of overwhelming magnitude by demonstrating that genocide -as other negative human construct- can be understood, analyzed and properly responded to.

**The perpetrators are as strong as
the bystanders allow them to be**

The structures of all UN Member States are meant to serve the interests of their state

**Therefore we must ask: is the lack of
attention to genocidal violence
structural?**

There are signs that UN Member States are ready to overcome this structural obliviousness

... and are ready - maybe as never before - to admit that genocide is not in their own interest.

The International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was a product of 1948 diplomacy that correctly identified genocide as a ‘threat’.

There was a consensus that genocide was indeed a threat to peace and security and that proper responses were indispensable because in the interests of all.

**The Outcome Document of 2005
move in the direction of
reconstituting that original
'consensus'**

We are in a system creation phase

**The responsibility to know,
understand, respond, verify rest with
all of us**

The Center for International Conflict Resolution has launched an Advanced Training on Genocide Prevention for representatives of all UN Member States.

Military, intelligence, diplomatic personnel with political analysts and human rights officer of states met in NYC for a an intensive week of work

Among the participants were representatives of Bangladesh, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria, Poland, South Korea, Sweden, and Uganda.

Responsibility of states...

**... but also of others,
including civil society, especially
academic institutions**

**When and how should 'we'
intervene?**

Now and well

**We intervene all the time because we
are part of the system**

If we do not respond we neglect.

If we neglect we are co-responsible.

**To speak about genocide is to speak
about human intentionality**

Let's move our collective human intentionality towards the prevention of genocide every day a bit more.