

Universal Declaration Against Genocide

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Preamble

Recognizing that genocide represents one of the gravest crimes against humanity, causing irreversible harm to individuals, communities, and the moral fabric of societies,

Affirming the principles set forth in the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* (1948) and other international human rights instruments,

Acknowledging that despite existing legal frameworks, genocides have continued to occur, often with inadequate prevention or accountability,

Emphasizing the shared responsibility of nations, institutions, and individuals to prevent genocide, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure justice,

We, the undersigned, declare our unwavering commitment to the eradication of genocide and pledge to uphold the following principles:

§1 Definition and Recognition

Genocide shall be understood in accordance with the 1948 Genocide Convention, encompassing acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.

This Declaration affirms that genocide also includes systematic cultural destruction, forced displacement, and other forms of erasure that threaten the existence of a people.

All states, organizations, and individuals must remain vigilant to early warning signs of genocide and recognize their duty to act in response to such threats.

§2 Prevention and Early Action

All nations and international bodies must prioritize genocide prevention by:

1. Establishing early warning mechanisms to identify risk factors and potential threats.
2. Strengthening legal frameworks to criminalize and prosecute incitement to genocide.
3. Promoting education and awareness about genocide, historical cases, and methods of prevention.
4. Encouraging responsible media and social platforms to counter hate speech, misinformation, and propaganda that fuel genocidal ideologies.

§3 Accountability and Justice

Genocide, in all its forms, must be met with swift and impartial justice. To this end:

1. Perpetrators, including political leaders, military actors, and ideological propagators, must face prosecution under national and international law.
2. No statute of limitations shall apply to genocide-related crimes.
3. States must fully cooperate with international courts, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), and ensure no safe haven for individuals accused of genocide.
4. Truth and reconciliation mechanisms should be established to address historical genocides, ensure justice for victims, and promote healing.

§4 Protection and Support for Victims

The international community must provide comprehensive support to genocide victims and survivors by:

1. Ensuring humanitarian aid, psychological support, and resettlement assistance.
2. Recognizing and preserving the historical memory of genocides through education, memorials, and public acknowledgment.
3. Establishing reparations programs for affected communities to restore dignity and rebuild lives.
4. Upholding the right of displaced persons to return to their ancestral lands, if they choose, and safeguarding their cultural and religious heritage.

§5 Responsibility of Governments and Organizations

All governments, institutions, and civil society actors have an obligation to prevent and combat genocide by:

1. Implementing policies that promote tolerance, diversity, and inclusion.
2. Rejecting political, religious, and ideological extremism that incites violence against groups.
3. Strengthening international cooperation in intelligence-sharing, law enforcement, and military interventions when necessary to prevent or stop genocide.
4. Ensuring that state sovereignty is never used as a shield to justify inaction in the face of mass atrocities.

§6 Education and Cultural Responsibility

A critical tool in preventing genocide is education and cultural responsibility:

1. Schools and universities must include genocide studies in curricula to teach historical cases, ethical responsibilities, and means of prevention.
2. Museums, archives, and historical institutions must work to document and preserve the stories of genocide victims.
3. Artists, filmmakers, writers, and the media have a duty to portray genocidal events responsibly and counter denial or distortion.
4. Religious and community leaders should actively promote peace and condemn any ideology that dehumanizes or incites violence against others.

§7 Global Cooperation and Intervention

1. The international community must not remain passive in the face of genocide. The principle of *Responsibility to Protect (R2P)* must guide swift action when a population is at risk.
2. Multilateral bodies, such as the United Nations, must be empowered to take decisive action, including sanctions, peacekeeping missions, and, if necessary, military intervention.
3. States and organizations must provide resources and funding to genocide prevention initiatives and survivor assistance programs.
4. A global network of genocide prevention experts should be established to provide real-time assessments and recommendations to policymakers.

§8 Cultural and Ethical Commitments

1. The memory of past genocides must be preserved, and denialism must be actively countered.
2. Indigenous perspectives and historically marginalized groups must be included in discussions on genocide prevention and justice.
3. Ethical leadership requires that all public figures, educators, and influencers use their platforms to promote peace, respect, and coexistence.
4. Future generations must be equipped with the moral and historical knowledge necessary to prevent genocide from occurring again.

Conclusion

We, the undersigned, commit to upholding this **Universal Declaration Against Genocide** as a binding moral and ethical framework. We call upon all nations, institutions, and individuals to actively work toward a world where genocide is no longer tolerated, excused, or ignored.

This Declaration is a promise: **Never Again.**