



**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

**High-level event to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime:**

***“A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”***

Friday, 8 December 2023, 11am EST  
Trusteeship Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

---

**WHAT:**

By its resolution 69/323 of 29 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly established **9 December as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime**. This year, **9 December marks 75 years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the Genocide Convention)**.

The **Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide** is organizing a high-level event at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, reflecting on the legacy of the 1948 Genocide Convention, and the impact of the Convention in the areas of accountability, protection and prevention.

---

**WHO:**

**Secretary-General António Guterres**, H.E. **Dennis Francis**, President of the 78th session of the General Assembly, and **Alice Wairimu Nderitu**, Under-Secretary-General and UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

Dedicated panel discussions will feature:

***Panel 1: Accountability***

- Ms. Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, President of the Assembly of States for the Rome Statute
- Mr. Serge Brammertz, Prosecutor of the international Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Mr. Karim A. A. Khan KC, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (TBC)
- Mr. Christoph Safferling, Director, Nuremberg Academy



***Panel 2: Keeping the Memory Alive***

- Mr. Emir Suljagić Director, Srebrenica Memorial Center
- Mr. Honore Gatera, Director, Rwanda Memorial Center

***Panel 3: Prevention***

- Ms. Gatti Santana, President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Ms. Felice Gaer, Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
- Mr. James Waller, Director of the Dodd Human Rights Impact Programs, University of Connecticut
- Ms. Farina So, Principal Deputy Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia
- Mr. David Simon, Director of the Genocide Studies Program at Yale University

The event will present the work of Champions of Prevention from across the world and unveil a dedicated artwork by Italian artist Arrigo Musti on occasion, titled “**Law of Conservation of Life**”.

---

**WHEN:**

Friday, 8 December; 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. EST (New York time / UTC-5)

---

**WHERE:**

United Nations Headquarters, New York, Trusteeship Chamber

In addition, the event will be streamed live on UN Web TV.

---

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Join the social media conversation by following **@UNOSAPG** and using the hashtags **#GenocideConvention75** **#RememberTheVictims**

---

**BACKGROUND**



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, a crucial global commitment that was made at the founding of the United Nations, immediately preceding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At its landmark 75th anniversary, the Genocide Convention remains highly relevant. The 1948 Genocide Convention codified for the first time the crime of genocide in international law. Its preamble recognizes that “at all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity” and that international cooperation is required to “liberate humankind from such an odious scourge”. To date, 153 States have ratified the Convention. Achieving universal ratification remains an important step in advancing genocide prevention. The Genocide Convention includes the obligation not only to punish the crime of genocide, but also to prevent it. During the 75 years since its adoption, the Genocide Convention has played an important role in the development of international criminal law, in holding perpetrators of this crime accountable and in giving a voice to the victims.

The principles set out in the Convention have been utilized by international criminal tribunals to prosecute perpetrators. Moreover, the crime of genocide, as set out in the Convention, today forms part of the core crimes for which the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction. The Convention has also supported national jurisdictions to ensure accountability. At the same time, the prevention obligation of the Convention has provided a framework for promoting early warning and it has spurred national, regional, and international mechanisms focused on prevention.

This year’s event to mark the 75th anniversary of the Genocide Convention will seek to highlight some of the achievements in the prevention and punishment of genocide since 1948, showcasing the legacy of the Convention. The event will also reflect on the challenges that remain ahead of us. Genocide represents a threat to human dignity, peace and sustainable development. Around the world, populations remain at risk of this crime. The need to invest in prevention as envisaged by the Convention’s drafters 75 years ago remains as relevant as ever. The event, therefore, will also seek to showcase the work of champions of prevention and their tireless efforts to protect populations from the scourge of genocide. The event builds upon on a series of expert meetings convened by the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide in the lead up to the 8 December event, aimed to explore in detail the impact of the Convention in the areas of prevention, accountability and memorialization.

---

## **CONTACT**

Dalila Sadinlija at Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide  
([dalila.sadinlija@un.org](mailto:dalila.sadinlija@un.org))