Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

Stemming out of the mandate of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide as outlined in a 2004 letter addressed by the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/567), the dedicated Office works to support the following core functions:

Information collection and analysis, in particular from within the United Nations system, on massive and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law of ethnic and racial origin that, if not prevented or halted, might lead to genocide;

Early warning to the Secretary-General, and through him to the Security Council, by bringing to their attention potential situations that could result in genocide;

Recommendations to the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, on actions to prevent or halt genocide;

Liaison with the United Nations system on activities for the prevention of genocide and work to enhance the United Nations capacity to analyze and manage information relating to genocide or related crimes.

The methodology employed entails a careful verification of facts and serious political analyses and consultations. The Special Adviser does not make a determination on whether genocide within the meaning of the Convention has occurred, but helps the Secretary-General to define the steps necessary to prevent the deterioration of existing situations into genocide and enable the United Nations to act in a timely fashion. As of 2019, the Office is the United Nations' focal point for the implementation of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.





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