

UNITED NATIONS
PRESS RELEASE



Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-CAM) sign a partnership MoU, stressing the importance of collaboration in advancing the development of genocide and related crimes prevention, education and related efforts in the South and Southeast Asia regions, and globally

(5 November 2024, Kigali) Promoting awareness of the causes and dynamics of genocide and other serious international crimes (war crimes and crimes against humanity), alerting relevant actors where there is a risk of such crimes, and advocating and mobilizing appropriate action through the United Nations system remain key tools to effectively prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and their incitement.

To strengthen efforts in this direction, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) and the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) signed a landmark agreement to enhance their collaboration in preventing genocide and other serious international crimes worldwide. The partnership marks a significant advancement in global efforts to address and counter hate speech, which is instrumental for mitigating the risk and ultimately prevent the commission of such crimes.

"This partnership represents a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity," stressed UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu. "By combining the UN's global reach with DC-Cam's deep expertise and regional knowledge, we strengthen our ability to identify and respond to early warning signs of genocide and other serious international crimes, as well as to design and implement effective and sustainable preventative action."

The agreement places special emphasis on preserving and protecting the historical record of the crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979), using these lessons to strengthen prevention efforts across Southeast Asia and beyond. "Understanding our past is crucial to preventing future atrocities," stated M. Youk Chhang, the Executive Director of the independent, non-governmental and non-partisan organization DC-Cam, based in Cambodia. "This partnership reinforces our commitment to ensuring that 'never again' does not remain just a slogan but becomes a life-changing and life-saving reality for vulnerable populations not only in the South Asia region but across the world."

The history of this collaboration began in 2020, and over the past four years, OSAPG and DC-Cam have developed a detailed prevention education program aimed at the prevention of genocide and other serious international crimes for the Southeast Asian region, which has been piloted with teachers in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by DC-Cam and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide will further enhance this partnership towards advancing the prevention of genocide and other serious international crimes globally.

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For media queries please contact:

Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

<http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention>

Email: osapg@un.org