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## THE PERVASIVE THREAT OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND GENOCIDE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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### ABSTRACT

*Everything, everything in war is barbaric. But the worst barbarity of war is that it forces men collectively to commit acts against which individually they would revolt with their whole being.” — Ellen Key (on the psychological erosion caused by systemic violence).*

*Genocide and crimes against humanity continue to pose a significant and grave threat to human rights, as well as to the maintenance of international peace and security in the twenty-first century. The complex interrelationship between factors such as nationalist sentiment, ideological extremism, and globalization plays a critical role in the emergence and perpetuation of these heinous acts. Insufficient international collaboration, ineffective institutional frameworks, and the absence of well-defined accountability measures are the primary obstacles that impede effective responses to address crimes against humanity and genocide.*

*The international community should prioritize the prevention and prosecution of crimes against humanity and genocide to improve responses to these acts. Addressing these crimes may necessitate collaborative efforts, diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, and humanitarian intervention to avert and address them.*



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## INTRODUCTION

When we talk about the power dynamics in the international geopolitics, there is an old saying “**The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must**” which unfortunately has inspired a lot of national leaders which led to infringing the international sovereignty of other nations leading to wars in multi-dimensional facet. Even with the establishment of the Law of War through treaties and rulings by international courts, the devastation caused by warfare has reached unprecedented levels in both the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.<sup>1</sup>

Genocide which is often called the "crime of crimes," is defined as a specific legal and sociological concept which describes the intentional destruction of a group of people. While the practice is ancient, our modern legal understanding of it is less than a century old.<sup>2</sup>

However, in 21<sup>st</sup> century The definition of crimes against humanity is expanding beyond traditional battlefield atrocities that includes invisible and non-kinetic threats. Traditional "kinetic" war crimes involve physical force—bombs, bullets, and bayonets. In contrast, "non-kinetic" threats achieve the same devastating results—death, injury, and suffering—through indirect or digital means. As of late 2025, the ICC Prosecutor’s office has formally integrated cyber-enabled crimes into its investigative strategy like Infrastructure Sabotage, Mass Surveillance etc. These days, it is common to distinguish between international human rights law, which governs how nations treat their own citizens, and international humanitarian law, which governs war between states. The community's desire to defend everyone's fundamental rights serves as the impetus for human rights legislation.<sup>3</sup>

### *Objectives:*

- 1. The aim is to investigate whether crimes against humanity and genocide occur in the 21st century.*
- 2. To analyse the various factors that contribute to the occurrence of these atrocities, including nationalism, extremism, and globalization.*
- 3. To discuss the challenges in preventing and responding to crimes against humanity and genocide.*
- 4. To emphasize the importance of unified effort to halt and eliminate these atrocities.*

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<sup>1</sup> Michael S Bryant, *A World History of War Crimes: From Antiquity to the Present* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edn., Bloomsbury Academic 2016) ePDF ISBN 978-1-3501-0661-1.

<sup>2</sup> William A Schabas, ‘Genocide in International Law: The Crime of Crimes’ in *The Crime of Genocide in International Law* (Cambridge University Press 2022) 1-13 <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009460774.002> accessed 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

<sup>3</sup> Bryant (n 1) 3.



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## AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF GENOCIDE AND CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

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Over time heinous atrocities have taken place. Vulnerable classes have been targeted based on religion, race, caste, sex etc. the horrors of World War I and World War II cannot be forgotten as it led to mass atrocities and devastation with thousands of innocent people losing their lives.

### CONCEPTUALISATION OF GENOCIDE

The United Nations was born out of the ashes of such atrocities, to lead the path of peace and justice. On 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1948, the U.N. ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention)<sup>4</sup>. In addition to this there are other international conventions and treaties on Humanitarian Law, including Hague Convention.

Genocide is defined in Article II of the Genocide Convention as well as in Article 6 of the Rome Statute which states:

*“Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:*

- (a) Killing members of the group;*
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;*
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;*
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;*
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”<sup>5</sup>*

### CONCEPTUALIZATION OF CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

Genocide and War Crimes have been codified in treaties whereas Crime Against Humanity has been evolved by the International Customary Law and was first mentioned under the Nuremberg Tribunal Charter and later in 1946 the United Nations General Assembly validated the concept of Crime Against Humanity.<sup>6</sup> Later in 1990s the concept of Crime Against Humanity was codified in various international treaties as the [Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#) (1993), the [Statute of the International Tribunal for Rwanda](#) (1994) and the [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#) (1998)

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<sup>4</sup> World Without Genocide, ‘Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity’ (World Without Genocide 2020) <https://worldwithoutgenocide.org/genocides-and-conflicts/background-and-overview-information/icc/genocide-and-crimes-against-humanity> accessed 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

<sup>5</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide’ (OHCHR) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-prevention-and-punishment-crime-genocide> accessed 22<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

<sup>6</sup> International Criminal Law Services (ICLS), *ICLS Training Materials: Crimes Against Humanity* (PDF, 2024) <https://iici.global/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/icls-training-materials-sec-7-cah1.pdf> accessed 22<sup>st</sup> January 2026.



Article 7 of the Rome Statute, 1998, defines crime against humanity which states as “Any of the following acts (murder, enslavement, extermination, torture, rape, sexual assault etc) when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.”<sup>7</sup> The term Crime Against Humanity can be used as a broader term to punish all those acts which ‘shock the conscience of mankind’, and thus includes man-made environmental disasters, terrorist attacks.

### **RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL EXTREMISM: A CATALYST TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMES**

*“That until the basic human rights are equally Guaranteed to all, without regard to race, dis a war That until that day The dream of lasting peace, world citizenship, Rule of international morality, Will remain in but a fleeting illusion to be pursued, but never attained. Now everywhere is war, war.”*<sup>8</sup>

Extremism subsumes all behaviours and goals that goes against the ideologies of a constitutional welfare state. The concept of extremism cannot be conceptualized in one single definition as there is left wing extremism and right-wing extremism. The main characteristic of extremism is being anti- democratic and opposing fundamental equality in humans.

In recent times the world has witnessed many forms of violent extremism by taking lives of many innocent people of different races, caste and nationalities. Extremist ideologies can be based on religious, political or ethnics grounds, such ideologies aim to glorify the supremacy of one group while suppressing the other groups and deploying centrifugal force in the society making the society less tolerant and inclusive.<sup>9</sup>

There has been nine-fold increase in the number of deaths from violent extremism from 3,329 in 2000 to 32,685 in 2014. In the recent 2023, deaths from terrorism increased by 22 percent to 8352 deaths and are at the highest level after 2017. The largest terrorist attack is by Hamas led militants in Israel which led to 1200 deaths and the aftermaths of this attack are still unfolding, as of February, 2024 an estimated 25000, Palestinians were killed in retaliation by Israels military.<sup>10</sup>

The drivers of violent extremism can be the regional and global power politics, horizontal inequalities, poverty, unemployment etc. these structural drivers alone do not lead to extremism tendencies but people get pulled through well planned manipulations and socialisation processes, often facilitated by personal, emotional, psychological factors.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Bob Marley and the Wailers, ‘War’ (Island Records 1976), adapted from Haile Selassie I, *Address to the United Nations General Assembly* (4 October 1963).

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, *New definition of extremism (2024)* (14 March 2024) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-definition-of-extremism-2024/new-definition-of-extremism-2024#fnref:3> accessed 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

<sup>10</sup> Institute for Economics & Peace, *Global Terrorism Index 2024* (PDF, Institute for Economics & Peace 2024) <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GTI-2024-web-290224.pdf> accessed 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.



The war crimes have considerably changed since the inception of United Nations. The advancement of technology and unprecedented usage of internet have led extremists to have easy access to general public which allows them to effectively train and recruit people online and further to spread incitement, misinformation and extremist ideologies around the globe. With the growing usage of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning the cyber, biological, and physical attacks are at the verge of increasing.<sup>11</sup>

## **DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND PREVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMES THEREOF**

### *INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT*

*"We are witnessing a dangerous precedent where power, rather than law, dictates who receives justice."* — *Global Civil Society Alarm (2025)*, on the threat of sanctions against the International Criminal Court.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established on July 1, 2002, the date on which the [Rome Statute](#) came into force. Although the treaty was adopted on July 17, 1998, but it required minimum 60 ratifications to officially create the permanent tribunal, which is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. The origin of ICC goes long back in the history which resulted as a continuous effort of holding individuals rather than states accountable for the international crimes. The two major tribunals which set the precedent for this were the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals which are famous for trying and convicting the Nazi leaders of the Axis party after the WWII and to put leaders from the Empire of Japan on trial for joint charges of conspiracy to start and wage war respectively. Subsequently, as a result of serious violations of international law committed in the territories of former Yugoslavia, the UNSC, on May 25, 1993, established the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on an *ad hoc* basis as a subsidiary organ of the UN to determine the criminal responsibility of individuals in trials for crimes committed on the territory of former Yugoslavia since 1991 in an armed conflict under the ICTY statute. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has been set up by UN Security Council acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter<sup>12</sup> following the recognition of the internal conflict in Rwanda as a threat to international peace and security. The Tribunal was established by UNSC's Resolution 955 of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994. The Statutes and the combined jurisprudence of the Tribunals have significantly contributed towards the creation of the ICC Statute. As Jonathan J. Channey states *"The ICTY and ICTR have legitimated the prosecution of international crimes . . . thus created a substantial and tangible body of jurisprudence, which was lacking in the past"* (2001:122). While all three institutions share the goal of *"peace through justice,"* their operational frameworks reveal a fundamental shift from reactive, politically-driven mandates toward a permanent, treaty-

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, 'A New Era of Conflict and Violence' (UN75, United Nations, 2020) <https://www.un.org/en/un75/new-era-conflict-and-violence> accessed 7 February 2026.

<sup>12</sup> Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945, 59 Stat 1031, TS No 933, 3 Bevans 1153, art 39.



based system of global accountability. The primary distinction between these bodies lies in their **legal foundations** and their **interaction with sovereign states**. The Ad Hoc Approach (ICTY/ICTR) were created by UN Security Council resolutions under Chapter VII. Because they were born out of a specific crisis, they possess **primacy** over national courts. They can essentially "take over" cases from a state's domestic system to ensure justice isn't bypassed by local political bias. The Permanent Approach (ICC) is a treaty-based organization. Its cornerstone is the **principle of complementarity**. Unlike the ad hoc tribunals, the ICC is a "court of last resort." It only steps in if a national government is genuinely **unwilling or unable** to prosecute. This respects state sovereignty while creating a safety net for accountability.

### ROLE OF PROSECUTORS AND TRIGGER MECHANISMS<sup>13</sup>

The Prosecutor is supposed to be a "impartial organ of Justice" and look into both sides of the case equally. According to Article 42 of the ICC Statute, the Assembly of States Parties must choose the Prosecutor by secret ballot and an absolute majority. The Prosecutor will then be accountable to the Assembly. The ICC Prosecutor is different from the Prosecutor of the ad hoc Tribunals because article 54 of the ICC Statute says that the ICC Prosecutor must find the truth. There are three different types of trigger mechanism under ICC jurisdiction through which investigation can be initiated. By referral from States, by reference to the Prosecutor by the Security Council, or by the Prosecutor's own decision. Except individual cases wherein initiating an investigation, A situation falling under the Court's authority may be referred to the Prosecutor by Member States and the Security Council. Both referrals, without any authorization can initiate investigation by the Pre- Trial Chamber. he alternative referral option is an independent way to start an investigation. This is also the most important achievement of the ICC Statute, as it confirms the Court's judicial and non-political status. Under the ICC Statute, the Prosecutor has the power to decide when to pursue prosecutions, but according to Article 15, he or she cannot start an investigation alone. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 18, the Prosecutor has duty to inform "*all States parties and those States which taking into account the information available, would normally exercise jurisdiction over the crimes concerned*". Limited to complementary jurisdiction the Prosecutor has the obligation to defer to a national investigation. The intention is to allow interested States to start investigation or prosecution.

### LIMITATIONS TO ICC

There are three restrictions on the autonomous proprio motu investigative power. The first restriction relates to the Security Council's main responsibility for maintaining and enforcing peace. In accordance with Article 16 of

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<sup>13</sup> Ruth B Philips, 'The International Criminal Court Statute: Jurisdiction and Admissibility' (1999) 10 *Criminal Law Forum* 71.



the Statute, the Security Council may use its deferral power to order the ICC to put the investigation on hold for a full year. There is little doubt that the other two restrictions are judicial in origin. To ascertain if there is a legitimate basis to move forward with an investigation, the prosecutor may only perform a "preliminary examination" without first receiving permission from the Pre-Trial Chamber.

According to the UN General Assembly President, coercion and sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC) are "assaults on the core principles of international law itself." Attacks, threats, and coercive actions against the ICC and its staff continued during the 2024–2025 period from States and other external players, posing a serious threat to the Court's mission and the international effort to combat impunity. The States Parties to the Rome Statute were encouraged by civil society worldwide to take all necessary steps to prevent the proposed US sanctions against the ICC. If a non-State Party were to unilaterally impose sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), it would be a full-scale attack on a global court supported by 125 States Parties that the international community depends on to hold those responsible for atrocity crimes accountable. By impeding the last resort to justice, using the global financial system as a weapon to stifle the Court's work, and establishing double standards where power and politics determine which survivors deserve justice, such punishments will forsake numerous victims.<sup>14</sup>

In addition, the Court's workload remained incredibly heavy due to pretrial, trial, and appeals processes, victim compensation, and the Office of the Prosecutor's preliminary exams and investigations. Alongside these advances, there was an increase in confidential activities, especially at the pretrial stage. The Court continues to be extremely concerned about this concerning trend and urges states and the international community at large to act swiftly, decisively, and cooperatively to safeguard the Court, its independence, and its capacity to successfully fulfil its mandate of justice.<sup>15</sup>

### ONGOING PROGRESS

The International Criminal Court's 2023 arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and its 2024 probe of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are landmark cases in international justice that stretch the limits of legal accountability into hitherto unexplored geopolitical areas. The International Criminal Court (ICC) played a major role in the worldwide struggle against impunity for the most heinous crimes that the world community is concerned about during the 2024–2025 period. Notable developments in judicial proceedings include trial judgments convicting the both Yekatom and Ngaïssona, both accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Central African Republic. Pre-Trial Chambers issued or unsealed arrest warrants in relation to

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<sup>14</sup> International Commission of Jurists, 'Joint Statement: Save the ICC & the Rule of Law' (ICJ, 22 September 2025) <https://www.icj.org/joint-statement-save-the-icc-the-rule-of-law/> accessed 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

<sup>15</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the International Criminal Court: Note by the Secretary-General* (UN Doc A/80/342, 18 August 2025) <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/342> accessed 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026.



the situations in Afghanistan, Libya, the Philippines, Ukraine and the State of Palestine. Court-issued public arrest warrants are outstanding against 33 individuals.<sup>16</sup> In early 2026, the International Criminal Court (ICC) continues to advance investigations into, and prosecutions of, grave international crimes. Key focuses include the ongoing situation in Ukraine, alleged crimes in Palestine, and potential gender-based persecution in Afghanistan. Active cases feature arrest warrants for war crimes and corruption.

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY THREATS TO CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND GENOCIDE

### *MODERN GANG VIOLENCE*<sup>17</sup>

In the 21st century, gang-related violence has evolved into a complex, systemic threat that operates both as a localized community problem and a broader challenge to human security. Modern research highlights that such violence is often not an isolated criminal act but a persistent phenomenon rooted in "social contagion," where gun violence spreads similarly to an infectious disease. Even global disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic failed to dislodge entrenched gang conflict, as the "threat or fear of potential violence" remains a primary driver sustaining gang life. This era has also introduced "internet banging," where social media serves as a virtual extension of the street, allowing online provocations and "disses" to rapidly translate into real-world shootings and homicides.

### *INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA AND FOCUSED DETERRENCE*

Social Media platforms have emerged as a threat which facilitates, accelerates and amplify situations crimes across nations. Social media allows for the rapid dissemination of hate speech, often using dehumanizing terms that describe minority groups as "dogs," "maggots," or "invaders," which helps to normalize violence against them. Algorithms today are designed to increase engagement which often promote sensationalist and inflammatory content, creating echo chambers that heighten polarization. The Perpetrators use platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp to coordinate physical attacks, identify targets, and recruit followers. Social media companies have faced criticism for insufficient monitoring, particularly in languages other than English, and slow responses to, or failures to remove, harmful content. Recent examples include Rohingya genocide in Myanmar<sup>18</sup>, where Facebook was used for coordinating the campaign. Similarly in Ethiopia during civil war, Facebook failed in curbing hate speech. The [Houthi de facto regime in Yemen has been mining digital currencies \(such as cryptocurrency\)](#) to

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Matthew Valasik and Shannon E Reid, "The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same": Research on Gang-Related Violence in the 21st Century—Introduction to Special Issue' (2021) 10 *Social Sciences* 225 <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10060225> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

<sup>18</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Myanmar: UN Fact-Finding Mission releases its full account of massive violations by military in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States' (OHCHR, 18 September 2018) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2018/09/myanmar-un-fact-finding-mission-releases-its-full-account-massive-violations> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.



sponsor their illicit activities. Boko Haram have employed WhatsApp to conduct ‘psychological operations’ by sending direct messages to civilians that read: ‘We’re coming’ and ‘You’re next’. During the 2013 West Gate Mall attacks in Nairobi, [al-Shabaab not only live-tweeted](#) the assault and publicly mocked the Kenyan military, but also used direct Twitter messages to communicate with the militants storming the mall.<sup>19</sup>

#### *CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENOCIDE: ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY.*

In 1970, a biologist at Yale University, Professor Arthur Galston used a new word – **ecocide**.

Ecocide means ‘**killing one’s home**’ and that’s what I believe we are doing. In present times, we witness natural calamities like droughts, floods, fires, hurricanes, melting icecaps and rising seas, dead coral reefs and extinct animals and botanical species more often than usual, we are basically killing our home. Gelston advocated for an international agreement to ban ecocide. His definition of ecocide included “devastation and destruction which aim at damaging or destroying the ecology of geographic areas to the detriment of all life, whether human, animal, or plant.”

Since 2014, the U.S. Department of Defence (DoD) had warned that the climate crisis is a ‘**threat multiplier**’ of violence: “There is significant interaction between conflict and climate changes.”<sup>20</sup> The United Nations has issued similar warnings since 2004. In the 2020s, there was a significant push to amend the Rome Statute to include “**Ecocide**” as a fifth international crime, recognizing that the destruction of the environment is a direct threat to human survival.

The only significant stressor is the scarcity of water, which is ultimately causing the Darfur region of Sudan to become more arid and resulting in conflict over water. A genocide has claimed 400,000 lives since 2003. Millions upon millions have been displaced. Drought-related hunger and several years of drought in Rwanda contributed to the country's 1994 genocide. Syria's droughts, which started in 2007, caused catastrophic agricultural loss. President Bashar al-Assad used violence in response to nonviolent protests in 2011. Due to starvation and drought, more over 306,000 people were killed, 13 million were internally displaced, and almost 6.7 million left Syria.

The International Court of Justice on July 23, 2025, [issued a unanimous opinion](#) declaring that all countries have legal obligations under international law to protect the environment and may be held responsible for any harm thereby caused. The ruling recognizes and promotes that a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a basic human right and this precedent could accelerate climate litigation and aid in reshaping global climate policy.

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<sup>19</sup> Rhiannon Neilsen, ‘*What is a cyber humanitarian intervention?*’ (International Affairs Blog, 2 February 2023) <https://medium.com/international-affairs-blog/what-is-cyber-humanitarian-intervention-c9e4ac5be98e> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

<sup>20</sup> J Banusiewicz, ‘*Hagel to Address “Threat Multiplier” of Climate Change*’ (U.S. Department of Defense, 13 October 2014) <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/603440/> accessed 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026.



## SUGGESTIONS

Preventing genocide is a collective responsibility and a part of global governance. International crimes do not happen overnight instead it requires long strategies and deliberations. There are signs which helps to recognise the emergence of such crimes. the State and international organisations have collective responsibility to effectively prevent international crimes from occurring by learning to identify the signs that to lead to international crimes is essential so that such horrors do not occur again.

### *PREVENTION OF ARMED CONFLICT*

War generally is the aggravating point for genocide and crime against Humanity. If the states find the root cause of the violence like intolerance among different communities, hatred, discrimination among different groups, denying the people their basic rights and dignity. The essential resources are distributed unequally among different groups allowing only specific groups to have access to more resources leading to inequality and ultimately disharmony among different groups. The primary responsibility is of the National government to prevent war crimes along with the United Nation which supports humanitarianism, cooperation and human rights activities.

### *PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND MEDIATION AMONG GLOBAL COMMUNITY*

Mediation and Dialogue have direct relation to the prevention of crime. The UN Charter in chapter VI provides for peaceful settlement of disputes and provides Mediation as one of the instruments for such settlement. With the complementarity of actions of various organisations, mediation and preventive dialogue are more effective. The UN have various tools which help to identify risk factors which helps in prevention of these crimes. The framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes was developed by the United Nations to prevent the crime of Genocide. The framework helps to identify the risk factors which works as a catalyst for War Crimes like marginalization, weak national government, history of Human rights violation etc.

Mediation and Dialogue are at the core to initiate talks and restoring communication and further resolving disputes by peaceful means.

### *PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF HATE SPEECH THROUGH MEDIA CHANNELS*

There are various commitments of the UN to combat hate speech among them one of which is through new and traditional media. Media plays an both positive and negative role in disseminating information as media can spread incitement among people by creating and spreading hateful content and misinformation and on the other hand media has social responsibility to counter hate speeches by presenting actual facts among people and ultimately preventing the risk of war crimes.

It is important for media stakeholders to be equipped with required skills and tools to prevent dissemination of hateful speeches and violence. Further it is the responsibility of the state to put in place the policies and



regulations to fully protect the right to freedom of speech and expression. Media if deploy their powers properly then they can act as centripetal force to create a cohesive society.

## **MOVING FORWARD WHILST LOOKING BACK: CONCLUSION**

**"We are witnessing a dangerous precedent where power, rather than law, dictates who receives justice."**

— *Global Civil Society Alarm (2025)*, on the threat of sanctions against the International Criminal Court.

With the development of Nationalism, globalization and liberalization, the threats to humanity have increased and to peace and security. Acts of war challenges the human rights to the point where it seems to collapse. In the recent years the world has seen new forms of atrocities and many innocent people have become prey to the violence. Further development in warfare, is the use of children soldiers like in Africa even a nine-year-old had taken part in the Armed conflict. Along with the child soldiers there is a vast majority of young soldiers especially in the countries where there are more vulnerable classes and fewer opportunities to lead a decent life.

Despite various international organizational developments and various Action plans adopted by the UN there still persist the challenges due to lack of cooperation among various international communities and lack of accountability mechanism. It is the responsibility of the international community to establish robust system to recognize early warning signs and to enforce the international law on all levels. Only through continuous commitment and cooperation among international community can we achieve the objective of UN charter to maintain peace and security among nations.

The collective responsibility lies in the hands of all the states to maintain peace and reduce the dissemination of misinformation among different communities which leads to the intolerance among communities to coexist together which ultimately leads to the foundation of atrocities among communities.



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*MUSIC AND SPEECHES*

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