

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Preventing genocide with threatened communities worldwide

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About the Lemkin Institute

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention has grown from the Iraq Project for Genocide Prevention and Accountability, which was launched in 2017 to address the need for long-term capacity building in genocide prevention in Iraq.

During our travels in Iraq in the wake of ISIS genocides, we saw an enormous grassroots interest in ending the cycle of violence and promoting a lasting peace. We responded with grassroots genocide prevention workshops across northern Iraq, which offered threatened and grieving communities a chance to share and discuss their situations, leading to new partnerships.

When the COVID pandemic arrived, we were forced to pivot to an online format, which also enabled us to work globally. As greater numbers of people, from many different threatened communities, reached out to us for help, we began to develop new approaches and materials that were deeply embedded in the historical and sociological work of Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish jurist who coined the term genocide and ensured that it was recognized as an international crime. We decided to honor his work in our name and we continue to use his insights to reflect on the world around us.

As of October 2023, the Lemkin Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States, registered in Pennsylvania, and working across the world to help threatened communities in preventing genocide and other mass atrocities.

Message from our Executive Director

Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey

2023 has been a year of remarkable growth and significant challenge for the Lemkin Institute.

We have grown in size and scope and now work with over 25 volunteers at any given time to issue timely and relevant analyses of events occurring around the world that threaten our beautiful human diversity. We received recognition as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization from the US Internal Revenue Service. We have expanded our number of partners as well as our regions of focus. With our partners we continue to reevaluate and innovate the work that we do so that it has maximum impact on the world's understanding of and responses to genocidal crises.

We have been challenged by the ever-increasing demand for Lemkin Institute work and especially by the outbreak of new genocidal violence against the Amhara in Ethiopia, against the Armenians in Artsakh, and within the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict. These tragedies have led to much soul-searching about the value of our work and the limits of our capacity. As a consequence, we have added two new mechanisms this year: Active Genocide Alerts and SOS alerts, which we release when prevention-focused activities, including our Statements and Red Flag Alerts, fail to result in positive change. We have also reorganized our administrative structure, adding the Executive Director role as well as a four-person Executive Committee, to better organize our workflow. We continue to be an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.

In 2024 we recommit ourselves to working to protect threatened communities worldwide in order to create a global culture that can truly promise a world without genocide. We realize that this will require active training of grassroots people all around the world, something we have had to put off due to our small budget and limited capacity. However, the time is now, and we are moving forward in the faith that “knock, and the door will be opened to you.”

To that end, we are launching the 2024: Year of Prevention initiative, which, focusing on global youth, will involve a year of training, planning meetings, and local project assistance with teams all over the world, culminating in a December 2024 online Global Youth Summit on Genocide Prevention.

We hope you will join us and we thank you for your continued support!

“

“We believe that the most important prevention work happens at the grassroots level and that true long-term human security is built over time through broad-based internal social and cultural commitments to justice.”

”

MISSION

Connecting the global grassroots with the tools of genocide prevention.

VISION

A world that abstains from genocide.

APPROACH

Geno + cide

The Lemkin Institute is focused on genocide and its prevention. When we engage with human rights violations, we do so from a genocide prevention perspective. **We are one of the few international organizations working with a laser focus on preventing this one crime.**

We are animated by the conviction that the most meaningful prevention work is carried out at the **grassroots** level. Our approach to peace-building is based on the observation that genuine long-term **human security** develops from the ground up and can only be achieved over time through broad-based commitments to **justice**.

The Lemkin Institute works in **solidarity** with threatened communities around the world. This means that we actively **defend** the rights of all people to live in peace and security while also being cognizant that the capacity for genocide exists in every society. We respond immediately to peoples in need, we show up when we can, we analyze, we strategize, we train, and we build capacity.

Our method, our principles, and our understanding of genocide are informed by law, history, and the shifting demands of genocide prevention.

Foundational Principles



Human Security

We believe that human security is a universal imperative which must prevail in all societies in order for communities worldwide to live in dignity and peace.



Genocide Prevention

We believe that genocide can be prevented through grassroots training and concrete official measures at the national and international levels.



Peace Building

We know that peoples around the world are entitled to peace and protection from harm, which requires a comprehensive agenda to address root causes of conflict and mass atrocities by engaging grassroots people as agents of positive change.



Accountability and Justice

We consider truth, accountability, and justice to be the very foundation of reconciliation and lasting peace.

10 Patterns of Genocide

We have incorporated Raphael Lemkin's studies of genocide into the work that we do. Using his research, as well as more recent scholarship on the crime of genocide, we developed our *Ten Patterns of Genocide*. They are a core part of our Genocide Prevention Toolbox, which is available on our website.

01	Gender-Neutral Mass Murder (Characterized by Gendered Atrocity)
02	Mass Murder of "Battle-Aged Men" + Atrocities Against Women and Children
03	Sex-Selective Mass Murder ("Gendercide")
04	Mass Rape
05	Gross Human Rights Violations (Murder, Massacre, Rape, Torture, Violent Humiliation) + Mass Cultural Destruction
06	Man-Made Famine ("Genocide by Attrition")
07	Environmental Despoliation ("Genocide by Attrition")
08	Appropriation/Destruction of Biological Resources ("Ecocide")
09	Denial and/or Prevention of Identity
10	Direct Killing of Women + Killing of Men Through Work

11 PRINCIPLES OF GENOCIDE PREVENTION

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention created this list of principles to ethically guide its work. They also serve as guideposts for other organizations committed to prevent genocide in the twenty-first century..

01

The Lemkin Institute believes that Genocide Prevention cannot be exclusive to elites in governments, militaries, and international non-governmental organizations

02

The Lemkin Institute believes that Genocide Prevention must be a tool for and from the grassroots.

03

The Lemkin Institute supports the popularization of elite knowledge and elite training systems in Genocide Prevention.

04

The Lemkin Institute works to create a global shared language of Genocide Prevention and Peacebuilding as necessary foundations for effective prevention in the 21st century.

05

The Lemkin Institute operates within a decolonial framework that seeks to build horizontal relationships of knowledge production and knowledge sharing across the hierarchical and dehumanizing divides of the global economy.

11 PRINCIPLES OF GENOCIDE PREVENTION

06

The Lemkin Institute eschews concepts of prevention that associate preventative models with specific geographic, historical or civilizational narratives – every society is vulnerable to genocide and almost every society has experienced genocide at some point in its history.

07

The Lemkin Institute works as a bridge between divided communities as well as between those communities, national governmental institutions, and the international community.

08

The Lemkin Institute engages in multicultural, multinational, and multireligious dialogue.

09

The Lemkin Institute endorses the principle of non-exclusion and thus engages in dialogue with all actors relevant to and interested in Genocide Prevention.

10

The Lemkin Institute promotes the values of independence, non-partisanship, and grassroots engagement as existentially necessary.

11

The Lemkin Institute firmly believes that genocide can be prevented through the international collaboration of ordinary people as peacemakers.

OUR GROWTH

25

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF INTERNS EACH
MONTH

6700+

FOLLOWERS ON IG

8,600+

FOLLOWERS ON
TWITTER

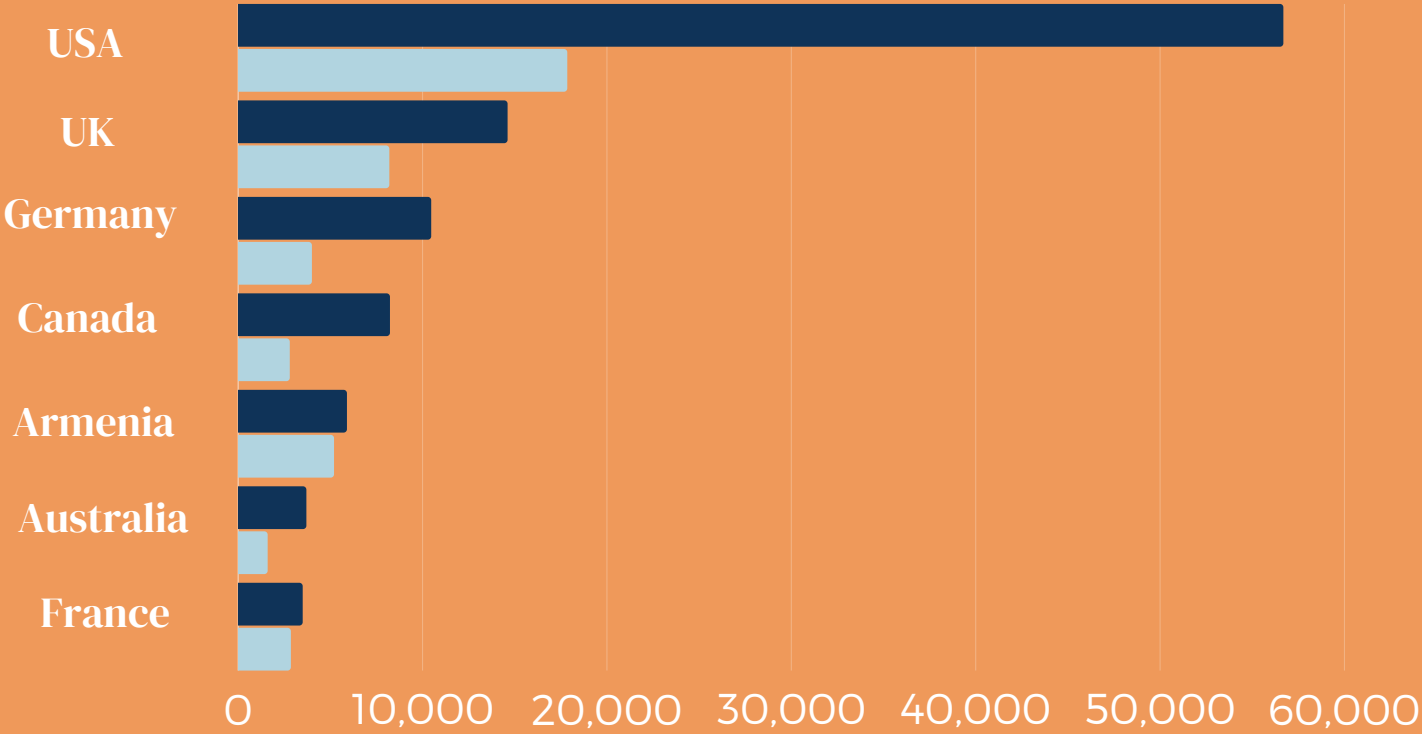
TWITTER

MOST POPULAR
TRAFIC SOURCE

Highlights



Unique visits to our website in 2023 by location compared to 2022 :



Total number of unique visits: 186,9500.

OUR WORK

34

STATEMENTS

11

RED FLAG ALERTS
FOR GENOCIDE

6

ACTIVE GENOCIDE
ALERTS

6

SOS ALERTS

1

REPORT

2

ICC COMMUNICATIONS

40+

MEETINGS WITH
PARTNERS

2

TIMELINES

STATEMENTS

01.

Statement on Artsakh Crisis - January 18, 2023

02.

Statement on the Lunar New Year Massacre in Monterey Park, California - January 23, 2023

03.

Statement on the Police Assassination of Manuel Esteban Paez Terá - January 23, 2023

04.

Statement on the Police Murder of Keenen Anderson in Los Angeles, USA - January 23, 2023

05.

Statement on BBC HARDtalk Anchor Stephen Sackur's Interview with Artsakh State Minister Ruben Vardanyan - January 26, 2023

06.

Statement in Support of an International Investigation of Abiy Ahmed's Crimes in Ethiopia - February 3, 2023

07.

Statement on Ongoing Ethnic Massacres of the Amhara People in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia - February 3, 2023

08.

Statement on the Police Murder of Tyre Nichols in the US State of Tennessee - February 17, 2023

09

Statement Calling for Germany to Directly Negotiate with and Recognize the Individual Claims of Descendants of the Herero & Nama Genocides - February 20, 2023

STATEMENTS

10.

Statement on the Dangers of Ill-Informed Reporting on Genocide & Its Prevention - March 5, 2023

11.

Statement on the Deaths of Afghan Migrants in Bulgaria - March 8, 2023

12.

Statement on UK's Illegal Migration Bill - March 21, 2023

13.

Statement on Political Violence in Somaliland - March 29, 2023

14.

Statement on Azerbaijan's Noncompliance with February 22nd ICJ Order to Unblock Lachin Corridor - April 12, 2023

15.

Statement on The Power Struggle in Sudan - Another Death Sentence for Genocide Survivors in Darfur - April 26, 2023

16.

This is How You Do Genocide Prevention: The Fight for Trans Rights in Nebraska- May 1, 2023

17.

A Peace to End All Peace? Statement on the International Actors Sponsoring So-Called Peace Negotiations Between Armenia and Azerbaijan - May 30, 2023

18.

Statement on Refugee Shipwreck near Pylos, Greece - July 3, 2023

STATEMENTS

19.

Statement in Response to the Open Letter sent by the Rabbinical Center of Europe to the President and Prime Minister of Armenia - September 9, 2023

20.

Statement on Rohingya Refugee Repatriation - September 10, 2023

21.

Statement on the Arrest and Detention of former Artsakh State Minister Ruben Vardanyan by Azerbaijan - September 27, 2023

22.

Statement on the Sentencing of former Artsakh State Minister Ruben Vardanyan in Azerbaijan - September 28, 2023

23.

Statement on the Murder of Six-Year-Old Wadea Al-Fayoume in Illinois and the Role of Genocidal Language in His Death - October 21, 2023

24.

Statement on the Ongoing Imprisonment of Armenian Officials of the Republic of Artsakh by the Republic of Azerbaijan - October 27, 2023

25.

Statement of Mourning for the Gazans and the World - October 27, 2023

26.

Statement on the October 1 UN Mission to Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh
October 28, 2023

STATEMENTS

27.

Statement on the Sentencing of Vagif Khachatryan in the Republic of Azerbaijan - November 13, 2023

28.

Statement on the Rise of Antisemitism Worldwide - November 22, 2023

29.

Statement at the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues - November 30, 2023

30.

Statement Deploing the Inaction of the International Community to Stop Genocide in Gaza, with Special Reference to the Role of the United States - December 8, 2023

31.

Statement on Significance of the Armenian Quarter in East Jerusalem - December 12, 2023

32.

Statement on the Biden Administration's Complicity in Genocide in Gaza - December 20, 2023

33.

Statement on Threats to the Ethnic Russian Identity in Ukraine - December 23, 2023

34.

Statement on Why We Call the Israeli Attack on Gaza Genocide - December 29, 2023

Red Flag Alerts for Genocide

We release RFAs when developments unfold in a country that encompasses multiple genocide red flags. The Lemkin Institute understands red flags as immediate and concrete developments that carry the potential to radicalize and/or coalesce historically destructive trajectories and propel a society toward an event of mass atrocity intended to destroy one or more collective identities.

1	Israel
2	Serbia
3	Azerbaijan Update 6
4	Israel Update 1
5	USA
6	Azerbaijan Update 7
7	Ethiopia
8	Israel Update 2
9	Azerbaijan Update 8
10	Israel Update 3
11	Azerbaijan in Armenia

ACTIVE GENOCIDE ALERTS

The Lemkin Institute issues Active Genocide Alerts when developments occur in countries and regions that show clear signs of genocide in process.

- 01.** Azerbaijan in Artsakh - August 18, 2023
- 02.** Ethiopia in Amhara Region - September 23, 2023
- 03.** Ethiopia in Tigray - October 12, 2023
- 04.** Israel-Palestine: There is No Justification for Genocide - October 13, 2023
- 05.** Sudan - November 16, 2023
- 06.** Ethiopia in Amhara Region - Update 1 - December 10, 2023

SOS ALERTS

We issue SOS Alerts when immediate action must be taken by members of the world community to prevent the mass murder pattern of genocide and save lives.

- 01.** Artsakh - September 19, 2023
- 02.** Artsakh - Update - September 22, 2023
- 03.** Gaza - October 14, 2023
- 04.** Gaza - Update 1 - October 17, 2023
- 05.** Gaza - Update 2 - October 20, 2023
- 06.** Gaza - Update 3 - November 13, 2023

Microcourses

Social media micro courses help spread knowledge and awareness of issues relevant to genocide prevention around the world in condensed and bite-sized formats.

In 2023, the Lemkin Institute developed the following four microcourses:

ONE *one*



Afghanistan

TWO *two*



Artsakh

THREE *three*



Rohingyas

FOUR *four*



Central Africa Republic

REPORT

Risk Factors and Indicators of the Crime of Genocide in the Republic of Artsakh: Applying the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes to the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis in the Republic of Artsakh caused by the Azerbaijani blockade, the Lemkin Institute released an emergency report on **September 5, 2023** that utilized the **UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes** to meticulously outline and analyze the risk factors and indicators for genocide against the Armenians of Artsakh.

The evidence presented in the Report strongly suggested that **the crime of genocide may already have been underway** through the 9-month blockade. The Report also detailed **Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's commitment to eradicating the historical and cultural community of Armenians in Artsakh**, expressed through his many public statements, indicating a special intent to commit genocide.

The report further warned of a potential military assault on Artsakh in the last months of 2023 and **emphasized the need for urgent international action to prevent mass murder and forced displacement.**

The **recommendations** made by the Lemkin Institute underscored the importance of lifting the blockade, addressing root causes, recognizing grievances on all sides, engaging in transformative justice, and ensuring self-determination for the Armenians of Artsakh, as crucial steps towards lasting peace in the region.

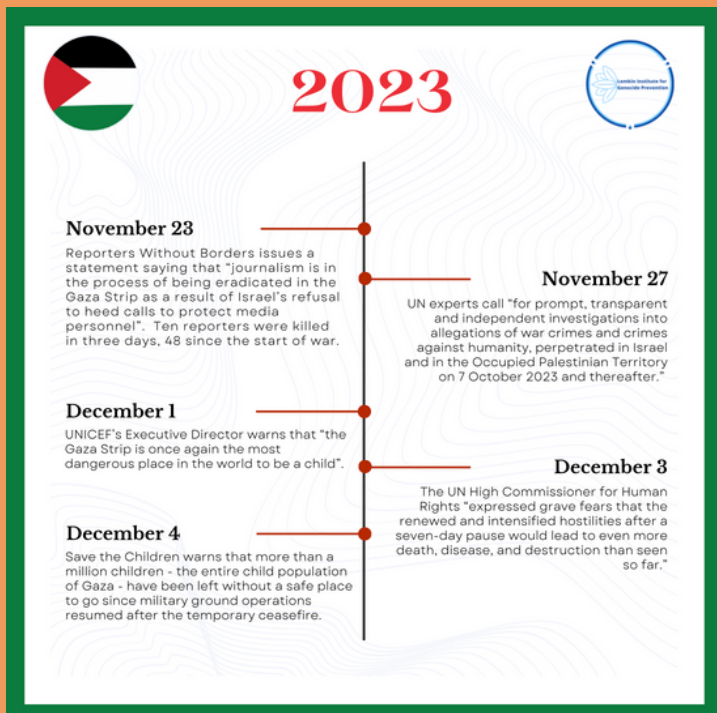
Most importantly, **the Report urged the international community to recognize the threat of genocide posed by the Aliyev regime** to the Armenians of Artsakh and well as in the Republic of Armenia.

Azerbaijan invaded Artsakh on September 19, 2023, committed war crimes, terrorized the entire population into fleeing, and **brought to an end a distinct 4000 year old civilization.** It continues to pose an existential risk to Armenians in the region.

TIMELINES

In 2023 the Lemkin Institute created two timelines of warnings about mass atrocities in specific regions that aimed to document the development of red flags over time, emphasizing that the genocides were not sudden. The goal of these timelines is to advocate for preventive measures, hold responsible parties accountable, and educate decision-makers and the public about the need for proactive action to prevent human rights violations. Ultimately, we hope that the timelines will serve to shape more effective policies, build international pressure, and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of genocide prevention.

Israel-Palestine



Artsakh

We created a timeline of warnings about the risk for mass atrocity in Israel-Palestine to show that genocide prevention and human rights organizations had been sounding the alarm for several years before October 7, 2023.

In response to Western claims of "surprise" regarding Azerbaijan's attacks on Artsakh, we created the following timeline, highlighting key events since the end of the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War and the warnings of escalation issued by NGOs.

Other Work



Podcast

Throughout 2023, the Lemkin Institute team continued to issue a bimonthly short-form podcast called "Genocide News Now," which offers 5-10 minute synopses of genocide in the news.



News

In 2022, the Lemkin Institute made available on our website daily news articles from around the world related to genocide in several languages, including English, Spanish, French, German, and Balkan languages. We hope to expand to Russian, Arabic, Hindi, and Chinese once we have the capacity to do so.

Events

Meeting of the International Coalition of Countries for the Return of Ukrainian Children, Sponsored by the Office of the Ukrainian Ombudsman

On December 8, the Lemkin Institute's Executive Director, Dr. Elisa von Jeoden-Forgey, traveled to Kyiv to attend the First Meeting of the International Coalition of Countries for the Return of Ukrainian Children, Sponsored by the Office of the Ukrainian Ombudsman.

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention has been tracking the genocidal aspects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine since before February 24, 2022, writing three ICC communications with our partners at the Regional Centre for Human Rights in Ukraine.

During this event, our Executive Director spoke about why the transfer of children is a crime of genocide in its own right, as it constitutes an assault on the organizing principle of group identity, which is the family.



Events

United Nations Forum on Minority Issues

On November 30, 2023, two of the representatives of the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, Communications Director Lexi Poston and Editorial Staff Member Sam Adams, traveled to Geneva to participate in the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues.

During this gathering, they called attention to the violation of minority rights in Uzbekistan with particular reference to the Karakalpak people who are suffering from a structural genocide.

They participated in two sessions:

- Socio-economic empowerment
- Challenges to inclusion and equality



United Nations
Forum on
Minority
Issues

Events

Intersessional meeting marking the 75th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

On December 4, 2023, Director of Communications Lexi Poston and our Director of Operations Léa Périllat traveled to Geneva to attend the intersessional meeting commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The gathering tackled the misuse of new technologies, in particular social media platforms, as vectors of hate speech contributing to national, ethnic, racial, or religious polarization.

Genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and hate crimes frequently occur in conjunction with or are preceded by statements from political leaders and public figures endorsing the superiority of a particular race or ethnic group. These declarations demonize persons belonging to minorities, disseminate hostility and prejudice against ethnic, religious, or racial groups, or condone or justify violence against them.



OTHER EVENTS

Our Executive Director represented the Lemkin Institute at several different fora over the year:

Speaker, “Humanitarian Crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh,” Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies Twitter Space, 29 March 2023

Speaker, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Event, Armenian Embassy, Washington, DC, 26 April 2023

Panelist, “20 Years of the Ongoing Darfur Genocide,” Darfur Women Action Network (online), 27 April 2023

Panelist, “Prevention of Atrocity Crimes in the Digital Era,” United Nations, New York City, 29 April 2023

Public Lecture, “Sexual Violence as Dispossession: Rethinking Genocide & 'Ethnic Cleansing',” Rosenbluth Family Charitable Foundation Genocide Awareness Week, University of Arizona, 20 April 2023

Public Lecture, “Shifting the Discourse: Finding the Right Language to Sound the Alarm,” 2nd Annual International Conference on Human Rights and Accountability: A Path Forward for Nagorno-Karabakh, Center for Truth and Justice, Yerevan, Armenia, 3-5 May 2023 (invited)

Director, Genocide and Human Rights University Program, University of Toronto, August 2023

EVENTS

Public Lecture, “DARVO [Deny, Accuse, Reverse Victim & Offender] Tactics in Genocide Denial,” 8th International Conference on “The Politics of Genocide Denial: Global Struggle towards Truth, Recognition and Justice,” Liberation War Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 11 November 2023

Public Lecture, “Tools for Genocide Prevention in the 21st Century,” International Conference on “Contemporary Principles of Human Rights Protection in a Globalizing World,” European University of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia, 30 November 2023 (virtual)

Panelist, “War Crimes against Children: Accountability and Guarantees of Non-Repetition,” First Meeting of the International Coalition of Countries for the Return of Ukrainian Children, Kyiv, Ukraine, 8 December 2023

Video Message, Conference on “The Violation of Human Rights: from Baku to Yerevan - Announce, Prevent, Restore,” Yerevan, Armenia, 10 December 2023

FUNDRAISING

The Lemkin Institute must carefully guard its independence. We do not accept funding from governments or other large entities that might hinder our abilities to warn of red flags or make genocide determinations. We rely entirely on like-minded people around the world for our funding.

CAMPAIGN	AMOUNT RAISED
GIVING TUESDAY	\$350
UN FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES	\$3,500
END OF YEAR DONATIONS	\$830
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT	\$5,000
PERIODIC DONATIONS	\$620
TOTAL	\$10,300

What's Next?



2024 will be a year of growth for the Lemkin Institute.

In 2024 we aim to raise the funds necessary for a permanent, full-time Executive Director and a Program Director position, as well as part-time Communications and Social Media positions.

We will bring back the grassroots genocide prevention training that led to the creation of the Lemkin Institute, optimizing the use of virtual and online technologies.

We will increase the project areas on which we focus.

We will build a Board of Directors and a Board of Advisers.

We will institute new Fellowship opportunities for working professionals.

We will continue our work to bring equitable, judicious and frank assessments of the risk for genocide in all countries around the world without exception.

New Focus Areas in 2024:

- **Free online trainings and courses**
- **Small group discussions with grassroots and civic organizations around the world**
- **Monthly online Symposia**
- **Regular attendance at and participation in UN events**
- **Development of a tagging system for databases that surface the threat of genocide early in conflicts**

2024

YEAR OF PREVENTION



The events of 2023 have shown that the world is still not equipped to prevent genocide. It is disheartening that leaders of powerful nations still resort to genocide as a means to acquire territory, secure access to resources, or eliminate political problems. Nevertheless, we are committed to changing this.

Introducing the "**2024: Year of Prevention**" initiative, aimed at educating people worldwide about genocide prevention tools, with a particular emphasis on the younger generation. Today's youth will shape the future, which must address humanity's shared challenges, including economic inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. We believe that their solutions can also help put an end to genocide.

The Year of Prevention is an inclusive initiative that will consist of online training in genocide prevention, events, local, national, and issue-based small group discussions, webinars, and regular updates on Year of Prevention activities around the world.

In December 2024, we will host a **Global Youth Summit in Genocide Prevention** online, bringing together the young people who participated in our Year of Prevention campaign to share their findings and exchange ideas across borders. The summit will explore what it will take to create a world that is free from genocide in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank:

All threatened communities who reached out to us for support,

All our partners who tirelessly collaborate with us and help us in our mission,

Our dedicated and committed team of volunteers,

Our generous donors who believe in us and support our work.

The courageous peacemakers and truth-tellers who make human life on this planet sustainable and worthwhile.

We thank all our followers for their continued support in our efforts to prevent genocide and help threatened communities across the globe!

CONTACT

Ideas, collaborations, and thoughts are more than welcome! Reach out to us. We respond!

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Instagram: [@lemkinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/lemkinstitute)