



the auschwitz institute
for peace and reconciliation

2015 Annual Report

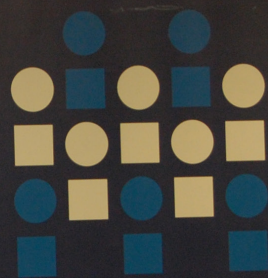


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Through education, training, and technical assistance, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) supports states to develop or strengthen national mechanisms for the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities. AIPR also encourages and supports states to cooperate through regional and international arrangements to advance prevention.

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Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar



The Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention is one of the primary pillars of the programming organized by the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR). Operating continuously since 2008, the program is named after Raphael Lemkin (1900–1959), a Polish-Jewish lawyer who coined the term genocide - from the Greek *genos* (“family,” “tribe,” “race”) and the Latin *cide* (“killing”). Lemkin spearheaded the successful campaign in the United Nations for the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948.

Organized in partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the UN’s Joint Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect. Each iteration of the program brings together twenty to twenty-five government officials from at least fifteen States ranging from at-risk, in crisis, and post conflict States, to donor countries and those inactive in the international human rights arena. The Lemkin Seminar welcomes participants who have professional responsibilities in relevant areas, including atrocity prevention, human rights, international criminal justice, among others.

The location of the Global Lemkin Seminar at the former German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Oświęcim, Poland, allows participants to immerse themselves, both emotionally and intellectually, in the topic of genocide.

Through the “power of place” offered by this unique locale, AIPR provides participants with the opportunity to make a personal investment in the material, resulting in an authentic and lasting commitment to the field of genocide prevention. The Auschwitz Institute has learned that the creation of this emotional connection is essential to maintaining its participants’ level of motivation long after they have returned home.

Through the Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar, AIPR is creating a community of government officials who are educated in the latest genocide prevention policy strategies and support each other in identifying best practices for dealing with the process of genocide. Together, they achieve an understanding of the process and are empowered with practical competencies to develop the means to prevent this phenomenon.

The ninth edition of the Global Lemkin Seminar took place on November 8-14, 2015. AIPR hosted 24 participants from Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, the Philippines, Morocco, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Slovenia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Argentina, Brazil and the Netherlands at the weeklong program in Krakow and Oświęcim, Poland.

To date, over 225 participants from 71 countries have attended the Global Lemkin Seminar.

Latin American Programs



The Auschwitz Institute serves as the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. Launched in March 2012, the Latin American Network is the world's leading initiative fostering capacity building and policy development in this field, with the participation of 18 states from the region: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

According to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the Latin American Network “demonstrates how shared objectives and lessons learned from past experience may help States identify effective protection strategies.”

Among its goals, the Network aims to institutionalize a culture of genocide prevention throughout Latin America's governments, which can serve as an example to be followed in other regions worldwide. As such, the Network provides a space for an exchange of best practices for public officials.

As Technical Secretariat, the Auschwitz Institute supports all participating institutions of member states of the Network by co-organizing training seminars and by assisting in the development of a unified national policy on genocide prevention.

The Declaration of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity

Prevention was adopted at the IV Focal Points Meeting of the Network, which took place on May 29, 2015 in Santiago, Chile. The document reflects the history of the initiative and represents a further step towards the consolidation and formalization of the objectives and areas of work agreed upon by the Focal Points at the launch of the Network in 2012.

Following the successful adoption of the Declaration, the member states of the Latin American Network received a congratulatory letter from the United Nations Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng. In the letter, Special Adviser Dieng reiterated his continued support and described the Network as a “global reference for good practices.”

From May 25-28, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, the Human Rights Directorate of Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Stanley Foundation co-organized the Latin American edition of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. This Seminar completes the second cycle of the trainings, which began in October of 2014 with a Lemkin Seminar in Poland.

AIPR also coordinated the IV and V Focal Points Meetings of the Latin American Network in 2015 alongside the host countries of these meetings. On May 29, the Network held the IV Focal Points Meeting in Santiago, Chile and on December 3-4, the V Focal Points Meeting was conducted in Brasilia, Brazil.

Africa Programs



At the moment, AIPR's Africa Programs are currently working on several different initiatives across the African continent. Under the MOU signed with the African Union Commission (AUC), AIPR has focused much of its recent work on partnering with member states in the Great Lakes Region.

Through membership in various regional intergovernmental organizations, many of these states have a binding obligation to establish and maintain a National Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. AIPR works directly with these Committees to facilitate their launch, develop national action plans that respond directly to their local needs, and further build the capacity of these committees to fulfill their mandate.

On January 7-9, alongside Germany's Federal Foreign Office, the Stanley Foundation and the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), AIPR co-organized an event for relevant regional and national committees devoted to genocide and atrocity crime prevention in Kampala, Uganda. The three-day activity gave ICGLR and state representatives a space to share best practices and learn about the latest trends in prevention.

In collaboration with the Kenyan National Committee for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, AIPR conducted a training seminar for members of the Committee in Nairobi, Kenya between July 29 and 31, 2015.

The training featured a review of the concepts of genocide and mass atrocities in the context of international law, and examined the role of prevention in a national context.

On December 14-16, AIPR brought together 7 AUC member states from throughout East and Southern Africa to partake in a regional seminar in Kampala, Uganda. Carried out with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, the seminar worked to examine and analyze the work of National Committees in the Great Lakes Region and to provide policy and programmatic recommendations towards sustainability and the expanded institutionalization of the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities.

AIPR's Director for Africa Programs, Dr. Ashad Sentongo, also participated in several regional events including a conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on November 19-20. The event, titled "Peace in the Horn of Africa: Can Federalism Help?", was hosted by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in collaboration with the Center for Federal Studies at Addis Ababa University.

Dr. Sentongo also participated in a workshop organized by the East African Community (EAC) in Nairobi, Kenya on August 5-7. The event functioned as a follow-up to the 2nd EAC Peace and Security Conference, which took place in Bujumbura, Burundi in November of 2013.

2015 Programs and Activities



January 7 – 9, 2015: AIPR co-organized a meeting for ICGLR regional and national committees devoted to genocide and mass atrocity prevention in Kampala, Uganda.

January 13, 2015: AIPR and the New York City Bar Association hosted a panel discussion, “Preventing Genocide and Mass Atrocities: International Law and the Responsibility to Protect.”

February 26 - 27, 2015: Samantha Capicotto joined colleagues from across the globe to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect norm at a conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

March 19 – 21, 2015: AIPR held a Raphael Lemkin Seminar for National Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

March 23 – 24, 2015: With the office of the Ombudsman of Panama, AIPR co-organized the first national seminar on genocide and mass atrocity prevention in Panama City.

March 24, 2015: AIPR’s Academic Programs Director, Dr. James Waller, delivered the Ralph L. Harris Memorial Lecture at Sonoma State University, California.

April 8 – 10, 2015: AIPR co-organized an atrocities prevention course with the US Institute of Peace in Washington, DC for current and former Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) and sub-APB members.

April 27 – 28, 2015: Dr. Ashad Sentongo and Eugenia Carbone participated in the Special Courts for Africa Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

April 21, 2015: AIPR participated in a national activity in Guatemala in order to introduce the Latin American Network on Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

May 1, 2015: AIPR coordinated a videoconference between Argentina and Honduras regarding the implementation of an anti-discrimination plan.

May 4, 2015: AIPR launched the 2014 Annual Report of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention at the law offices of White & Case LLP.

May 25 – 28, 2015: AIPR, as Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network, co-organized the Raphael Lemkin Seminar, Latin American edition, Cycle II, Part II, in Santiago, Chile.

May 29, 2015: AIPR co-organized the IV Latin American Network Focal Points Meeting, held in Santiago, Chile.

June 8-9, 2015: AIPR, in collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsman of El Salvador, co-organized the country’s first national seminar on tools for genocide and mass atrocities prevention, focusing on human rights violations, memory, truth and justice.

2015 Programs and Activities



June 9, 2015: AIPR launched the first annual edition of its Booklet on National Mechanisms for Genocide and other Mass Atrocity Prevention at the law offices of White & Case LLP.

June 11-12, 2015: AIPR, in collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador, co-organized a high-level panel and workshop on transitional justice and genocide prevention.

June 12, 2015: AIPR participated in a workshop with Paraguayan and Ecuadorian officials on the topic of transitional justice and the construction of reparations.

June 22-24, 2015: AIPR participated in the 5th annual meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points in Madrid, Spain.

July 29-30, 2015: AIPR participated in the 2nd Focal Points Meeting of the UNESCO Latin American Network for Education about the Holocaust and Genocide, held in Chile.

August 10-11, 2015: AIPR participated in a presentation to the Paraguayan National Congress of a bill for the creation of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities.

October, 14-16, 2015: In Stockholm, AIPR participated in the High Level Policy Dialogue on Guarantees of non recurrence, organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence and the Swedish government.

November 2-14, 2015: AIPR completed a series of consultation meetings with stakeholders for an upcoming training seminar in Uganda.

November 4-6, 2015: AIPR participated in the Augusto Ramirez Ocampo Seminar, dedicated to the implementation of international humanitarian law in Colombia.

November 5-6, 2015: AIPR co-organized a national seminar on genocide and mass atrocity prevention with a focus on the fight against discrimination in Uruguay, together with the Uruguayan Focal Point and the participation of the OSAPG.

November 8-15, 2015: AIPR conducted the 2015 Global edition of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar in Oswiecim and Krakow, Poland. This year's Seminar welcomed 26 participants, 11 instructors, and 3 observers.

November 9-11, 2015: In Uruguay, AIPR participated in the Annual Assembly of the IberoAmerican Ombudsman Federation to give an update on the progress of the activities developed in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2014 between the two organizations.

November 18-20, 2015: AIPR's Senior Adviser for Latin America Programs, Andrea Gualde, conducted high-level meetings with the goal of increasing the visibility of, and continuous support for, the Latin American Network and to support the further participation of Latin American countries.

2015 Programs and Activities



November 24-26, 2015: AIPR participated in the Periodic Meeting of High Level Representatives of Human Rights of MERCOSUR.

November 30-December 2, 2015: AIPR co-organized a National Seminar on Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in Brazil (focused in memory, truth and justice, as well as the protection of vulnerable groups), alongside its Brazilian Focal Points and the participation of the UN OSAPG.

December 3-4, 2015: AIPR, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Latin American network, provided assistance to the V Latin American Network Focal Points Meeting, held in Brasilia, Brazil.

December 14 -16, 2015: AIPR organized a training seminar in Kampala, Uganda entitled “Mass Atrocity Prevention in East and Southern Africa Today: National Committees for Genocide Prevention” with support from the German Federal Foreign Office.

AIPR Global Staff



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