

Who we are

We are a group of UK organisations and individuals working to make mass atrocity crimes less likely to occur.

The responsibility to protect people from identity-based violence, including mass atrocities, is a shared one, and we all have a part in upholding that responsibility, and in strengthening and emboldening others to do the same.

This responsibility can be fulfilled in many ways: from research, advocacy and campaigning on policy to memorialisation, peace building, and education in the UK and abroad - all activities which can contribute to reducing the risk of identity-based violence.

No one organisation can end identity-based violence alone. A stronger, more confident and connected civil society, which engages in collaborative efforts, utilising the strengths and diverse perspectives of different organisations, will make a greater contribution to reducing the risk of identity-based violence and mass atrocities.

We undertake to work together according to our principles of communication, clarity, collaboration, and confidence. This will mean improving how we share information, working towards articulated common goals, engaging in collective efforts and building trust among us.

We will not always agree - we acknowledge that the strength of the Group lies in bringing together our many different voices. Sometimes our lending support to each other may mean speaking publicly with one voice, other times, it may be exchanging knowledge and viewpoints with other members - but always in recognition of our shared aim of ending identity-based violence, and the value of joining-up our thinking in getting closer to that goal.

As members, we will strive to make the Group a positive and inclusive network, which actively seeks diverse perspectives, especially those of the people our work aims to benefit most, and always keeping in mind as our guiding star our shared commitment to a world without mass atrocities.

Ways of Working

Oversight:

- Protection Approaches will act as the Coordinator of the Group
- This will include responsibility for:
 - Convening regular meetings of the Group
 - Supporting regular communication and information sharing between the Group (primarily, though not limited to, using the Atrocity Prevention Google Group and the new Whatsapp Group)
 - Supporting coordination of Group activities (such as collective strategy development and collective advocacy)
 - Working to increase the profile and visibility of the Group

Convening:

- The Group will meet at a minimum twice a year (organised by the Coordinator), at which time every member will endeavour to send at least one representative.
- The Coordinator will also undertake to organise informal events in addition to these, to include bringing experts to speak to the Group and social networking events.
- It may also meet on an ad hoc basis, for instance, to respond to new situations e.g. major changes in the UK government position or in response to emerging threats of mass atrocities.
- Other events will be organised on an ad hoc basis and may be convened by the Coordinator or by any member of the Group. If a subset of the Group wishes to meet on a specific issue of shared interest, the Coordinator will provide support where needed in facilitating this.
- Attendance at these events is welcomed but not expected.

Membership:

- New organisations wishing to join the Group will be asked to fill in a short application form describing their work and why they wish to join; applications will be assessed and approved by the Coordinator.
- An organisation may leave the Working Group at any time by informing the Coordinator of their decision.

Self-care

At times, the work carried out by the organisations and individuals that make up our group can be particularly mentally and physically taxing. Self-care is a critical component of our individual, organisational, and community's mental health. At the Autumn 2019 annual workshop, it was agreed that the working group would place greater emphasis on self-care and mutual support. We are committed to supporting the development of healthy, inclusive, and empathetic strategies for working in this field.

Flag Raising

Beyond providing a means of communication, the Working Group and Google group should be seen as means of sounding alarm or drawing attention to critical moments where coordinated action from the membership could make a difference. Likewise, the Google group and Whatsapp group should be used to flag opportunities for coordinated action.