



Alliance for the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes

A Project of The Duty Legacy Ltd

PRESENTED BY
The Duty Legacy

CONTACT:
apac@thedutylegacy.com

Table of Contents

Vision, Mission and Objectives	04
Empowering Parliamentarians: The Strategic Value of APAC	05
Strengthening Civil Society: Partnering with the APAC for Global Impact	07
Advancing Research: Collaborating with the APAC for Academic and Policy Impact	08
Meet the APAC Team	09
Institutional Partners	10
Contact Information	11
Appendix	12

A Message from James

Dear Prospective Partners,

Despite the international consensus that facilitated the signing into law of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948, we have failed to make 'Never Again' a reality.

The vicious cycle of atrocity crimes encourages violence, begets impunity, inhibits economic development, and destabilises regions. It causes enduring individual and collective trauma for victims and diaspora. Despite this, atrocity crimes continue.

Breaking this cycle requires the effective prevention of, and response to, atrocity crimes. This can only be achieved through a global effort towards improved policy. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I announce the establishment of the Alliance for the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes (APAC).

In forming APAC, we seek to empower policymakers to create and improve policy that prevents and responds to atrocity crimes. In these efforts, we will foster greater collaboration and coordination between policymakers, survivors, civil society, and academics. It is through this collective endeavour we will improve the development of national policy and end the vicious cycle of atrocity crimes.

I invite all like-minded individuals and organisations to join us in this crucial mission. Together, we can build a more just and peaceful world for generations to come.

Sincerely,

James



James Joseph

Founder & Managing Director,
The Duty Legacy

Vision and Mission

Our vision is a world where all states have the means to effectively prevent and respond to atrocity crimes built into their national policy.

Our mission is, therefore, to empower policymakers to create and improve national policy with respect to atrocity prevention by providing them with the knowledge and tools they need to develop this policy. To achieve this, APAC connects policymakers with survivors, diaspora, civil society, and academics.

APAC welcomes parliamentarians, academics and civil society groups eager to work collaboratively to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes. APAC aims to usher in a strategic overhaul of how the international community confronts atrocity crimes. By advocating for a survivor-centric approach and fostering a cooperative parliamentary effort, this initiative holds the promise of steering us closer to an era where justice prevails, and the wounds of atrocities can find meaningful redress and healing.

Objectives

Close the gap between civil society and policy

Our membership is broad and diverse. In this diversity, there is the potential to change atrocity prevention globally by connecting policy makers with survivors, civil society and academics working in the field. We bring our members together on thematic topics, such as transitional justice, and country specific crises to share knowledge, lived experience and ideas.

Inform policy development

Central to our mission is fostering an environment for policy innovation that directly addresses atrocity crimes. The foundation of our cross-sector collaboration is our pragmatic approach to responding to atrocities. APAC underscores the need for informed interventions that safeguard and rebuild societies at risk.

Advocate for change

APAC brings together civil society and parliamentarians, to amplify calls for change through unity. Together, we will lead efforts for change in local, national and supranational governance. We will add our voice to those urging decisive action.

Empowering Parliamentarians: The Strategic Value of APAC

As a member of parliament, your role in shaping policies and legislation is crucial for preventing and addressing atrocity crimes. APAC offers a unique platform for you to amplify your impact and contribute to a global movement dedicated to upholding human rights and promoting peace.

By joining APAC, you will connect and collaborate with not only other parliamentarians from around the globe, but civil society members, academics, and others who seek to achieve the same goal: addressing and preventing atrocity crimes. APAC supports you in influencing legislative change by providing resources and research for drafting, promoting, and implementing legislation aimed at preventing atrocity crimes and ensuring justice for victims. This collective effort helps build a stronger, more informed approach to tackling these critical issues.

Enhanced oversight and accountability are essential components of effective governance. APAC strengthens your capacity to oversee national policies and initiatives related to atrocity prevention and response. Knowledge sharing and capacity building are also integral to APAC's mission.

By joining APAC, parliamentarians become part of a powerful coalition dedicated to preventing atrocity crimes and promoting justice and human rights worldwide.

Strengthening Civil Society: Partnering with APAC for Global Impact

As a member of civil society, your involvement is crucial in the global fight against atrocity crimes. APAC values the unique perspectives and contributions that civil society organizations bring to this cause. By partnering with us, you can help shape effective policies, advocate for human rights, and promote peace and justice worldwide.

Joining forces with parliamentarians and academics from around the globe, APAC offers opportunities for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. This partnership allows civil society organizations to share their insights, experiences, and best practices, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of atrocity crimes and effective strategies for prevention and response.

By working together, civil society organizations and parliamentarians can draft, promote, and implement legislation aimed at preventing atrocity crimes and ensuring justice for victims. Your advocacy efforts will also help in the ratification and implementation of international treaties and conventions, enhancing global standards and protections.

By partnering with APAC, civil society organizations become part of a powerful coalition dedicated to preventing atrocity crimes and promoting justice and human rights worldwide. Together, we can create a safer, more just world for all.

Advancing Research: Collaborating with APAC for Academic and Policy Impact

As an academic, your research and expertise play a vital role in understanding, preventing, and addressing atrocity crimes. APAC offers a unique opportunity for scholars to contribute to global efforts to uphold human rights and promote peace through evidence-based research and policy recommendations.

Collaboration with parliamentarians and civil society organizations through APAC provides a platform for academics to share their research findings, insights, and best practices. This exchange of knowledge helps inform legislative processes and policy-making, ensuring that responses to atrocity crimes are grounded in rigorous academic research.

Engaging with APAC also enhances your ability to contribute to accountability and oversight. Through collaborative efforts with parliamentarians and civil society organizations, academics can help hold governments accountable for their actions and policies related to atrocity crimes. Your research can provide the evidence base needed to advocate for effective and responsive national policies.

By collaborating with APAC, academics become part of a powerful coalition dedicated to preventing atrocity crimes and promoting justice and human rights worldwide. Together, we can create a safer, more just world for all.

Meet the APAC Team



Eleanor Smith

APAC Coordinator & Principal Advisor, Genocide and Atrocity Prevention

Eleanor is responsible for the overall management of APAC. She has supported in the development of our goals and continues to work on research, policy and the coordination of working groups. Outside APAC, she is a PhD candidate at King's College London, researching nation state atrocity prevention strategies.

Giovanna Weinman

APAC Coordinator & Advisor, Genocide And Atrocity Prevention

Giovanna assists in the coordination, research, and development of APAC. Her work includes qualitative research, policy development, and coordinating working groups. She is completing a Master's of International Relations at the University of San Diego, specializing in research on conflict-related sexual violence and human rights violations.



Alyssa Sperrazza

APAC Coordinator & Legal Advisor, Genocide and Atrocity Prevention

Alyssa assists in APAC management and supports the development of our organizational goals. She is involved in legal research, policy development, and coordinating working groups. She is completing a J.D./M.A. at OU College of Law, focusing on International law and global affairs.



Institutional Partners



Contact Us



www.preventingac.org



@APACTDL



apac@thedutylegacy.com



@

Appendix

"Atrocity" doesn't have a single, universally accepted legal definition. However, in international law, atrocities typically refer to certain grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. These include genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Here are the definitions of these crimes under international law:

Genocide:

Defined in Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group:

- Killing members of the group;
- Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Crimes Against Humanity:

Defined in Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998), crimes against humanity include any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

- Murder;
- Extermination;
- Enslavement;
- Deportation or forcible transfer of population;
- Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law;
- Torture;
- Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;
- Persecution against any identifiable group or collectively on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, or gender grounds;
- Enforced disappearance of persons;
- The crime of apartheid;
- Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally cause great suffering or serious bodily or mental injury.

War Crimes:

Defined in Article 8 of the Rome Statute, war crimes include severe violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict and non-international armed conflict.

This includes:

- Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, such as wilful killing, torture, inhuman treatment, unlawful deportation, and taking hostages;
- Other serious violations of the laws and customs of war include intentionally directing attacks against civilians, civilian objects, and humanitarian missions.

Demarcating “Prevention” and How it is Measured in the International Community:

A comprehensive strategy incorporating social, political, legal, and economic measures is needed to prevent atrocity crimes. Early warning and risk assessment are crucial components that involve setting up mechanisms to track and gather information on possible risk factors and warning indicators, such as political unrest, discrimination, hate speech, and human rights abuses. The use of risk assessment frameworks facilitates the identification of vulnerable groups and areas at risk of atrocity crimes.

Creating and enforcing stronger laws is also essential. This includes making sure that nations ratify and execute critical international treaties, like the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Genocide Convention. In addition, states must pass and enforce national laws that make atrocity crimes illegal and establish accountability frameworks. It is essential to create specialized government units dedicated to these initiatives and strengthen institutional capacity through human rights and atrocity prevention training and education for government officials, security forces, and civil society.

Promoting good governance and the rule of law aids the prevention of atrocity crimes. This requires implementing anti-corruption measures and maintaining an independent judiciary that can hold offenders accountable. Conflict prevention and resolution measures—such as participating in diplomatic mediation and supporting peace building initiatives—are essential to address complaints that might develop into atrocity crimes.

One important aspect of prevention is building community resilience and civil society. Public awareness campaigns, community empowerment, and support from civil society organizations working on human rights and atrocity prevention can all help educate the public about the warning signs and potential consequences of atrocity crimes. Nations at risk must receive technical and financial support from other countries and engage with international organizations to coordinate efforts.

Justice and accountability are essential elements of preventing atrocities. Addressing historical atrocities and preventing their recurrence can be accomplished by establishing truth and reconciliation commissions and supporting international justice mechanisms like the ICC. The risk of atrocity crimes can be decreased by providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations and putting policies in place to protect women, children, and ethnic minorities from exploitation and violence.