

## **The Duty Legacy Joins Partners in Calling for International Parliamentary Cooperation on Atrocity Prevention**

### **The Alliance of Genocide Victim Communities Holds News Conference on Ongoing Atrocities – The Duty Legacy Statement**

Yesterday, 17th April 2024, our Partners the Alliance of Genocide Victim Communities and Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies (MIGS), held a [conference](#) alongside Canadian Liberal MP Ali Ehsassi to mark Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month; drawing attention to ongoing conflicts around the world and endorse steps to strengthen Canada's response. Representatives from Rwandan, Uyghur, Hazara, Tibetan and Tamil communities spoke about the crisis facing their peoples and called on the Canadian government to act by:

- 1) Acknowledging ongoing genocides,
- 2) Imposing sanctions on perpetrators and,
- 3) Expediting the resettlement of refugees.

Together, MIGS and the Alliance of Genocide Victim Communities reinforced the need to for inter-parliamentary cooperation to prevent and punish atrocity crimes. Kyle Matthews (MIGS) emphasised the critical role Canada has to play in preventing and punishing genocide. Joanne Hodges (Alliance of Genocide Victim Communities) urged the Canadian government to acknowledge ongoing genocide against the Hazara and Tigrayan people as well as recognising the crimes perpetrated against Tibetan and Uyghur peoples. Speakers from across these communities shared their concerns and advocated for the resettlement and protection of genocide victims in Canada. Further, they called for the Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act to its original purpose, of holding perpetrators accountable.

The Duty Legacy is gravely concerned with ongoing reports of genocide and human rights around the world. We are particularly troubled by accounts of transnational repression targeting diaspora communities in Canada, some dating back over 15 years. As such we add our voice to that of our friends in Canada in calling for:

- 1) Thorough public inquiry to understand the full scope of the problem,
- 2) Concrete policy recommendations and legal reforms to protect Canadian citizens from coercion or intimidation by foreign state actors.
- 3) A strengthening of the funding of [The War Crimes Program](#) for investigating war crimes.

Reports of continuing human rights abuses globally are alarming. All governments have a responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes and crimes

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against humanity. We support the expedited use of legal tools available to hold perpetrators of mass atrocities accountable and provide justice for victims.

The Duty Legacy endorses the alliance's message and recommends the Canadian government take meaningful action to uphold human rights and show leadership in the fight against genocide. We call on the Canadian government alongside its international partners, including the UK, to acknowledge the ongoing genocide against the Hazara in Afghanistan, and Tigrayan's in Ethiopia. We call for an investigation into the continuing access to goods produced with Uyghur and Tibetan slave labour. The international community must take swift, decisive action to hold the perpetrators accountable.

Atrocity prevention worldwide requires strong leadership. TDL stands with the Alliance of Genocide Victim Communities in establishing the need for international parliamentary collaboration on atrocity prevention. The voices of survivors, and civil society experts, must be amplified and used to inform policy change.

As such we look forward to working with our Canadian partners to build this Alliance for Prevention for Atrocity Crimes (APAC).

The Alliance for Prevention for Atrocity Crimes (APAC) will bring together parliamentarians, survivors and civil society experts, from around the world to share lived experience and best practice to inform policy change in atrocity prevention. Together, this alliance will improve the prevention of atrocity crimes and end impunity for perpetrators.