



NEVER AGAIN

FORGING A CONVENTION FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY



The Crimes Against Humanity Initiative was launched in 2008 by the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute at Washington University School of Law

- ▶ To study the need for a treaty on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity,
- ▶ Analyze the elements of such a convention,
- ▶ Prepare a draft treaty, and
- ▶ Support the adoption of a new global treaty on crimes against humanity by the international community

The Initiative is directed by a seven-member Steering Committee

- ▶ Professor Leila Nadya Sadat, Chair
- ▶ Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni
- ▶ Ambassador Hans Corell
- ▶ Justice Richard Goldstone
- ▶ Professor Juan Méndez
- ▶ Professor William Schabas
- ▶ Judge Christine Van den Wyngaert





Since 2008, the work of the Initiative has progressed in phases:

▶ Phase I (2008)

- ▶ Project preparation and methodological development

▶ Phases II and III (2009-2013)

- ▶ Private study through commissioning working papers by leading experts and collaboratively discussing draft treaty language at expert meetings, followed by public discussion and adoption of the *Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity*
- ▶ Publishing *Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (Cambridge University Press, 2011 and 2013) and translating the *Proposed Convention* into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish
- ▶ Promoting the *Proposed Convention's* strengths and innovations and advocating for a new treaty with members of the UN International Law Commission, academics, government officials, civil society representatives, and other international stakeholders

▶ Phase IV (2014-2019)

- ▶ Hosting regional consultations and conferences around the world to engage a wide-variety of international stakeholders
- ▶ Producing a film, *Never Again: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (2017)
- ▶ Supporting the work of the UN International Law Commission (ILC) regarding the preparation of Draft Articles for a new United Nations treaty

▶ Phase V (2019-Present)

- ▶ Following the second and final reading of the ILC Draft Articles for a new treaty
- ▶ Adoption of the Treaty by the international community

For more information, go to
CrimesAgainstHumanity.wustl.edu

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