



BIOGRAPHY – Dr. Simon Adams

Dr. Simon Adams is Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. Established in 2008 with the support of international human rights leaders including former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, as well as supportive governments and organizations such as Refugees International, Oxfam and Human Rights Watch, the Global Centre carries out advocacy with the UN Security Council, Human Rights Council and various governments regarding preventing or halting crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. The Global Centre has offices in New York and Geneva and works with a network of human rights monitors in conflict zones around the world. The Global Centre is the world's leading organization for advancing the international norm of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at the United Nations and beyond.

Dr. Adams has worked extensively with civil society organizations in South Africa, East Timor, Rwanda, and elsewhere. Between 1994 and 2002 Dr. Adams worked with Sinn Féin and former IRA prisoners in support of the Northern Ireland peace process. He is also a former anti-apartheid activist and former member of the African National Congress of South Africa.

Dr. Adams is the author of four books on international conflict. He has also written for the New York Times and appeared as an expert commentator on Al-Jazeera, BBC and numerous other media regarding issues of mass atrocity prevention and international justice. Dr. Adams has spoken at the Canadian, German, UK and European parliaments, and is regularly invited to address high-level meetings at the United Nations. Dr. Adams has also held senior appointments at various universities, including as Pro Vice Chancellor (International Engagement) at Monash University, and as Vice President of its South African campus between 2008-2010.

Among his other commitments, Dr. Adams is also currently a member of the board of Catalpa International, an East Timorese not-for-profit information technology and development organization. He is also Co-Chair of the International Advisory Board of Skateistan, an award-winning non-profit organization dedicated to using skateboarding to expose Afghan, Cambodian and South African children to sport, education and leadership development opportunities. Skateistan was rated one of the top 100 most influential and innovative NGOs in the world during 2017.