



FOR TOO LONG THE WORLD HAS STOOD BY
IN THE FACE OF MASS ATROCITY CRIMES.
THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT IS A
COMMITMENT TO SAVE LIVES. THE **GLOBAL
CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO
PROTECT** WORKS TO ENSURE WE KEEP
THAT COMMITMENT.

**THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT
SAVES LIVES BY MOBILIZING
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
TO ACT IN SITUATIONS WHERE
POPULATIONS ARE AT RISK OF
MASS ATROCITY CRIMES.**



Residents of Yarmouk, a Palestinian refugee district in Damascus, Syria, gathered to await food distribution from the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in January 2014. UNRWA Photo.



UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2165 on aid delivery to Syria. UN Photo/Mark Garten.

**“THE BIRTH OF THIS NEW INITIATIVE
HOLDS GREAT PROMISE IN SUPPORTING
THE ENDEAVORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY TO TAKE THE PRINCIPLE OF
THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT FROM
CONCEPT TO ACTUALITY, FROM WORD
TO DEED.”**

**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON
AT THE GCR2P LAUNCH, FEBRUARY 2008**

WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT?

The Responsibility to Protect - known as R2P - is an international norm that seeks to ensure that the international community never again fails to halt the mass atrocity crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It was unanimously adopted in 2005 at the UN World Summit, the largest gathering of Heads of State and Government in history. R2P encompasses three pillars of responsibility:

- I. Every state has a responsibility to protect all populations within its borders from these four mass atrocity crimes;
- II. The wider international community has the responsibility to encourage and assist individual states in meeting that responsibility;
- III. Should a state manifestly fail in its obligations to uphold its responsibility to protect, the international community must be prepared to take appropriate collective action, in a timely and decisive manner and in accordance with the UN Charter.

While the primary responsibility lies with individual states, the UN Security Council, as the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, also remains a key actor in the implementation of R2P. It does so by responding to early warning signs with preventive action, and reacting to the commission of mass atrocity crimes by authorizing appropriate measures.



A man grieving over his son's grave in Vitez, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where more than 100 people were killed in April 1993. UN Photo/John Isaac.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The memorial at Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany declares “Never Again!” in five different languages. Yet, in the seventy years since the Holocaust, millions have died as a result of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Across the world, from Sudan to Syria or from Nigeria to North Korea, millions of men, women and children continue to face the threat of mass atrocities. International responses to assist and protect populations remain inconsistent and sometimes inadequate.

OUR COMMITMENT: MAKING R2P A GLOBAL REALITY

To make the promise of R2P a reality, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) was established in 2008 by supportive governments, leading figures from the human rights field (including former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson), as well as five of the world's leading international non-governmental organizations (Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group, Oxfam International, Refugees International and the World Federalist Movement).



GLOBAL CENTRE
FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROTECT

IT HAPPENED,
THEREFORE IT CAN
HAPPEN AGAIN.
THIS IS
THE CORE
OF WHAT
WE HAVE
TO SAY.
PRIMO
VI
THE WORLD HAS
EMBRACED THE
RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROTECT,
NOT BECAUSE
IT IS EASY,
BECAUSE
IT IS RIGHT.
BUT NO-MORE



Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, delivering the keynote address at the Global Centre's Fourth Annual Gareth Evans Lecture, October 2014. David Anthony Wayne Anderson.

“THE GLOBAL CENTRE IS A LEADING, IMPORTANT VOICE PRESSING THE WORLD TO MEET ITS DECLARED BUT OFTEN UNFULFILLED RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM MASS ATROCITIES.”

**KEN ROTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, MARCH 2012.**

To advance the international commitment to R2P, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect focuses on three main areas:

1. Clarifying R2P

In-depth research and analysis for policymakers. Focusing on real world case studies and “lessons learned,” the Global Centre is the leading international authority on applying the R2P lens to crisis situations.

2. Advocating for R2P Implementation

Influencing decision-makers to act to prevent mass atrocity crimes. The Global Centre works closely with governments, regional organizations, the UN Security Council and the UN Secretariat. It provides policymakers with advice and helps mobilize meaningful action.

3. Strengthening and Institutionalizing R2P

Building dedicated institutions and capacities at the national, regional and international level to effectively respond to the threat of mass atrocity crimes. The Global Centre focuses on long-term solutions to prevent mass atrocity crimes and protect human rights. The Global Centre is assisting states in building a “community of commitment” against mass atrocities.

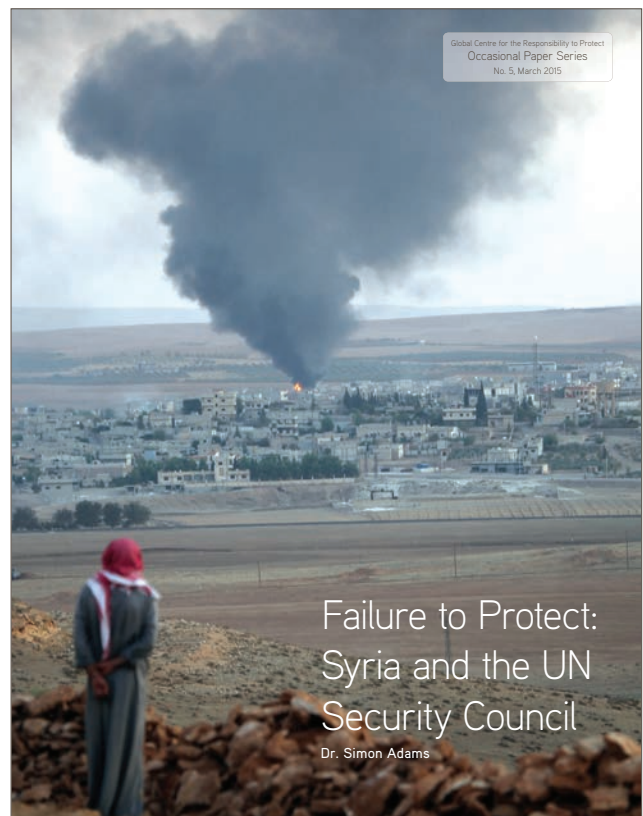
1. CLARIFYING R2P

The Global Centre clarifies understanding of R2P for practitioners through its research and analysis, focusing on countries where there is a risk of mass atrocity crimes and on past case studies where lessons on prevention and response can be examined and learned.

These activities include:

- Publishing **briefing papers** for policymakers, in order to foster greater clarity on how the commitment to R2P can help protect populations.
- Undertaking **front line research and assessment** trips to countries where mass atrocities are threatened or are already occurring in order to improve the Global Centre's policy recommendations to governments and the UN Security Council.
- Producing **Occasional Papers** with in-depth analysis of mass atrocity situations, such as Darfur (2010), Burundi (2011), Libya (2012), Kenya (2013) and Syria (2015). This research can shape our understanding of success and failure in the field of mass atrocity prevention.
- Co-hosting an annual **R2P Ministerial Meeting** during the opening of the UN General Assembly. The 2011 meeting was described by the UN Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, as an excellent annual opportunity for "charting the way forward." Other attendees to date have included the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Special Advisers on Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect and more than 25 Foreign Ministers from around the world. These meetings allow high-level policymakers to debate and discuss issues related to implementation of R2P.
- Holding the annual **Gareth Evans Lecture**, where eminent public figures share their experiences in the field of mass atrocity prevention, international diplomacy and human rights. Previous distinguished speakers have included Lord Christopher Patten (2010), Lieutenant-General Roméo A. Dallaire (2012), Dr. Michael Ignatieff (2013), former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay (2014) and Nobel Peace Prize Recipient José Ramos-Horta (2015).
- **Media outreach** to explain the R2P perspective on current situations where populations are experiencing, or at risk of, mass atrocities. Staff regularly appear on Al-Jazeera, Chinese Central Television and BBC and have been quoted in Reuters, New York Times, CNN and many other international news sources.

**DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND
SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ARE INTERRELATED AND
MUTUALLY REINFORCING.
UN WORLD SUMMIT OUTCOME
DOCUMENT, 2005**



Occasional Paper Series, No. 5, 2015



“THE REAL CHOICE IN SYRIA TODAY IS ... BETWEEN ACTION ENABLING FURTHER CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY TO TAKE PLACE AND ACTION DEDICATED TO ENDING IMPUNITY FOR SUCH CRIMES ONCE AND FOR ALL.”

SIMON ADAMS, NEW YORK TIMES

“UNLESS WE QUICKLY CHANGE COURSE, 20 YEARS FROM NOW WE’LL BE LAMENTING THE INSUFFICIENT RESPONSE TO YET ANOTHER PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY IN THE HEART OF AFRICA. CONSCIENCE DEMANDS WE WRITE A NEW SCRIPT IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.”

EVAN CINQ-MARS, TIME

“AFTER RWANDA THE U.N. LEARNED THE PAINFUL LESSON THAT ITS IMPARTIALITY COULD BE MANIPULATED AND BECOME AN EXCUSE FOR INACTION AND INDIFFERENCE TO EVIL.”

SIMON ADAMS, HUFFINGTON POST

“THE HOLOCAUST AND RWANDAN GENOCIDE HAVE SHOWN US WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A MINORITY POPULATION IS SYSTEMATICALLY DEHUMANIZED, DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS, FORCED TO LIVE IN SEGREGATION, AND DENIED ASYLUM ELSEWHERE... YET TODAY IN MYANMAR, THE ROHINGYA FACE INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSECUTION.”

CASEY KARR AND NAOMI KIKOLER,
JAKARTA POST

“PERPETRATORS WANT SILENCE, BUT VICTIMS NEED ACTION.”

SIMON ADAMS, CNN






L.Gen Roméo A. Dallaire, former Commander of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda, speaking with Executive Director Dr. Simon Adams at a press conference marking 20 years since Dallaire sent his “genocide fax” to the UN. UN Photo/Evan Schneider.

2. ADVOCATING FOR R2P IMPLEMENTATION

The Global Centre engages in situation monitoring and high-level advocacy at the UN in New York and Geneva to encourage member states to act when mass atrocities are threatened.

These activities include:

- Publishing the bi-monthly **R2P Monitor**, a unique resource for monitoring current crises in the world where mass atrocity crimes are occurring or are at imminent risk of occurring. R2P Monitor is a well-respected and practical tool for policymakers and conflict analysts from governments, the UN and civil society.
- Serving as a **credible voice** with UN Security Council members, urging them to uphold their commitment to R2P in specific crisis situations. The Global Centre works with Security Council members to protect civilians and advance R2P.
- Convening **private briefings** for UN Security Council members and other UN member-states to share information directly from the field and encourage action to respond to mass atrocity crimes.
- Serving as a valued **independent advisor** to the UN Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect.



“THE WHOLE POINT OF THE R2P DOCTRINE, IN THE MINDS OF THOSE OF US WHO CONCEIVED IT, WAS ABOVE ALL TO CHANGE THE WAY THAT THE WORLD’S POLICYMAKERS, AND THOSE WHO INFLUENCE THEM, THOUGHT AND ACTED IN RESPONSE TO EMERGING, IMMINENT AND ACTUALLY OCCURRING MASS ATROCITY CRIMES.

IT WAS TO GENERATE A REFLEX INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE THAT GENOCIDE, OTHER CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND MAJOR WAR CRIMES HAPPENING BEHIND SOVEREIGN STATE WALLS WERE EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS, NOT NOBODY’S.”

GARETH EVANS, FORMER AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND CO-CHAIR OF GCR2P’S INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

An aerial view of Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan, which has hosted up to 100,000 Syrian refugees. UN Photo/Mark Garten.

SERIOUS CONCERN

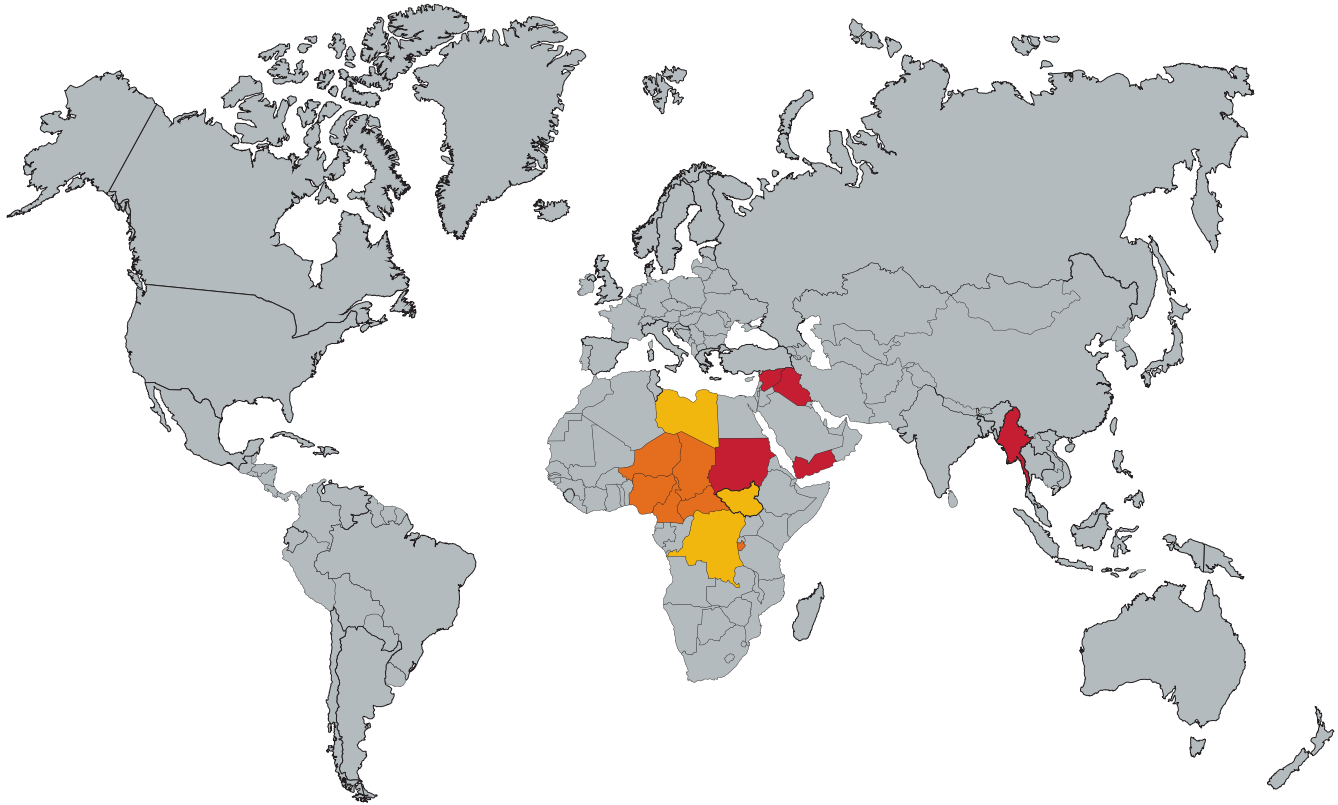
There is a significant risk of occurrence, or recurrence, of mass atrocity crimes within the foreseeable future if effective action is not taken.

IMMINENT RISK

The situation is reaching a critical threshold and the risk of mass atrocity crimes occurring in the immediate future is very high if effective preventive action is not taken.

CURRENT CRISIS

Mass atrocity crimes are occurring and urgent action is needed.



R2P MONITOR

Since 2012 the Global Centre has published **R2P Monitor**, a bi-monthly bulletin that:

- Provides **background** on populations at risk of mass atrocity crimes, with particular emphasis on key events and actors and their connection to the threat, or commission, of such crimes.
- Offers **analysis** of the country's history in relation to mass atrocity crimes, the factors that have enabled their commission, or that prevent their resolution, and the receptivity of the situation to influences that would assist in preventing further crimes.
- Tracks the **international response** to the situation with a particular emphasis upon the actions of the UN, key regional actors and the International Criminal Court.
- Suggests **necessary action** to prevent or halt the commission of mass atrocity crimes.

The **R2P Monitor** is widely praised by UN Security Council members and policymakers from UN member states as the leading publication for understanding how R2P relates to practical questions of civilian protection and mass atrocity prevention in the world today.

In its first twenty-five issues, **R2P Monitor** featured analysis of situations in: Burma/Myanmar, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.



Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC meets with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. UN Photo.

3. STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING R2P

The Global Centre helps build dedicated institutional capacity for mass atrocity prevention at the national, regional and international level by:

- Acting as the secretariat for the **Global Network of R2P Focal Points**. Over 50 governments from across the globe are already involved in this initiative, including the United States, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Korea, Liberia, Guatemala, Rwanda and Jordan.
- Providing strategic guidance to the UN-based governmental **Group of Friends of R2P** on how to consolidate support for R2P. This is now one of the biggest “Friends” groups at the UN in both New York and Geneva.
- Convening **policy workshops** with key regional organizations in order to build international capacity for mass atrocity prevention and response. Recent efforts include work with ECOWAS in West Africa, as well as joint civil society-government workshops in India, Brazil, Chile, Liberia and South Africa.
- Developing a training program, in partnership with the **Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre** in Ghana, aimed at equipping peacekeepers, military and police with the skills to identify indicators of mass atrocity crimes and implement effective strategies to prevent them.

UN-Based Group of Friends of R2P

The Group of Friends of R2P is a large cross-regional group of UN member states that share a common interest in advancing R2P within the UN-system. Since its inception in 2008, the Global Centre has worked closely with the co-chairs of the Group of Friends, Rwanda and the Netherlands, in strengthening support for R2P at the UN.

In 2015, at the request of member states, the Global Centre was asked to assist in establishing a similar Group of Friends of R2P at the UN in Geneva.



The third meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points in Accra, Ghana, June 2013.

GLOBAL NETWORK OF R2P FOCAL POINTS

An R2P Focal Point is a senior official within a government who facilitates national mechanisms for atrocity prevention and promotes international cooperation by participating in the Global Network. Appointment of an R2P Focal Point is a step that can be implemented by governments to demonstrate their commitment to mass atrocity prevention, regardless of their capacity.

The Global Network of R2P Focal Points was launched in September 2010 by the governments of Denmark and Ghana in collaboration with the Global Centre at the annual Ministerial Meeting on R2P held during the opening of the UN General Assembly. Since then the governments of Australia and Costa Rica have also joined the facilitating group. The Global Network has expanded to include more than 50 senior-level representatives from countries in all regions of the world.

Acting as the Secretariat of the Global Network, the Global Centre has also co-convened the annual meeting of R2P Focal Points since 2011. Meetings have been held in New York, USA (2011, 2012), Accra, Ghana (2013), Gaborone, Botswana (2014) and Madrid, Spain (2015). During these annual meetings the R2P Focal Points discuss their role within their governments as well as substantive ways to prevent mass atrocity crimes and protect vulnerable populations.

THE GLOBAL CENTRE IS AN INDISPENSABLE RESOURCE FOR PROMOTING R2P AND MASS ATROCITY PREVENTION. AS SECRETARIAT OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF R2P FOCAL POINTS THEY PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ENCOURAGING MUTUAL COMMITMENT AND FACILITATING A SPACE FOR STATES TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN BUILDING THEIR CAPACITY TO PREVENT MASS ATROCITIES.

DR. JENNIFER WELSH, UN SPECIAL ADVISER ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN R2P HISTORY

2014

The UN Security Council passes its first thematic resolution on the Prevention of Genocide. Almost 50 governments – one-quarter of the total UN membership – have appointed an R2P Focal Point. The UN Security Council invokes R2P in resolutions concerning Syria, South Sudan and Central African Republic.

2012

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declares 2012 the “Year of Prevention,” proposing a 5-year action plan that includes “advancing the responsibility to protect agenda.” The UN Security Council invokes R2P in resolutions concerning Mali and Libya.

2010

The Joint Office for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect is created following the UN General Assembly’s debate on R2P in 2009.

2008

The Global Centre is formed in New York. Supporters include leading figures from the global justice movement including Kofi Annan, Gareth Evans, Mary Robinson and Desmond Tutu.

2006

UN Security Council resolution 1674 affirms the centrality of R2P to the future prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

2001

The International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, established by the Canadian government, introduces the concept of the “Responsibility to Protect.”

2015

R2P is 10-years-old. No longer a principle, it is an established norm. But despite progress we still have far to go to make the promise of “Never Again” an enduring reality. The UN Security Council invokes R2P in resolutions concerning situations in South Sudan, Central African Republic, Syria, DR Congo, Mali and Sudan. The Council also holds its first Arria-Formula meeting on R2P.

2013

A new Special Adviser on R2P is appointed. France begins work on an initiative calling for the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to restrict their use of the veto in mass atrocity situations. The UN Security Council invokes R2P in resolutions concerning South Sudan, Mali, Central African Republic, Libya and Somalia.

2011

The first Pillar III invocation of R2P is made by the UN Security Council in response to atrocities in Libya. R2P is also invoked in UN Security Council resolutions concerning crises in Côte d’Ivoire, South Sudan and Yemen. R2P features for the first time in several UN Human Rights Council resolutions.

2009

The UN Secretary-General releases his first report on R2P and the first UN General Assembly debate on R2P is held. The three-pillar framework of R2P is introduced.

2007

Following a disputed election, ethnic violence erupts in Kenya. The UN calls upon Kenyan leaders to “meet their responsibility to protect the civilian population.” Through sustained diplomatic action, conflict escalation is avoided. R2P emerges as a practical tool in the prevention of mass atrocities.

2005

The historic UN World Summit unanimously endorses the concept of the “Responsibility to Protect” in paragraphs 138-139 of its Outcome Document.



Peacekeepers from MINUSCA in Central African Republic. The Global Centre has undertaken several assessment missions to the country since the crisis escalated in December 2013. UN Photo.

“THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE DID HAPPEN AND THE WORLD ENDORSED A NEW REFORMIST DOCTRINE TO PROTECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF INDIVIDUALS ABOVE THE STATE WHEN MASSIVE ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS OCCUR, OR ARE ABOUT TO. THE GLOBAL CENTRE IS THE CATALYST FOR OPERATIONALIZING THIS R2P DOCTRINE AND IS STRIVING TO MAKE IT A MAINSTREAM PRIORITY...”

L.GEN THE HON. ROMÉO A. DALLAIRE (RET'D)

EXCEPTIONAL MOMENT

R2P is an idea whose time has come. Between 2005 and 2010 the Responsibility to Protect was invoked in four UN Security Council resolutions. By comparison, between 2011 and 2015 it has been invoked in more than 30 major resolutions concerning crises in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, South Sudan, Syria, Central African Republic, Mali, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as thematic resolutions concerning the prevention of genocide, prevention of armed conflict and restricting the trade of small arms and light weapons. These resolutions and their related preventive and – as a last resort – coercive measures, have demonstrated that collective action to protect populations at risk is possible.

There is enormous potential in the R2P doctrine, but much work must be done to ensure that R2P is effectively and consistently utilized as a tool to prevent future mass atrocity crimes.

The Global Centre is uniquely positioned to advance the implementation of R2P because it is an independent organization, a trusted guide to governments from the global North and South, and a close collaborator with UN officials and leading civil society advocates. The Global Centre is exclusively focused on making the promise of R2P a global reality.



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PATRONS:

Kofi Annan, Lloyd Axworthy, Jan Eliasson,
David Hamburg, Lee Hamilton, Prince El
Hassan bin Talal, Sadako Ogata, Fidel V.
Ramos, Mary Robinson, Desmond Tutu

ASSOCIATED CENTERS:

Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility
to Protect (Australia), Auschwitz
Institute for Peace and Reconciliation,
Instituto de Investigación en Ciencias
Sociales (Chile), Kofi Annan International
Peacekeeping Training Centre (Ghana)

FOUNDING PARTNER NGO'S:

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Group, Oxfam International, Refugees
International, WFM—Institute for Global Policy

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Front Cover: Two Rwandan genocide survivors
compare scars. Mark Baker, 2011.

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