

GLOBAL CENTRE
FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROTECT



2025

IMPACT REPORT

WHO WE ARE

The [Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect](#) is the leading international authority on atrocity prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). Since its inception in 2008 the Global Centre has been one of the only organizations in the world that systematically monitors and researches all current and potential atrocity situations around the globe, and works with various governments and the United Nations in translating this research into actionable policies that save lives.

This document provides insight into the work of the Global Centre during 2025. Hyperlinked text and images will take you to the Global Centre's website, published pieces, interviews, videos, social media posts and more.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	4
MOBILIZING ACTION	6
FRAMING THE NARRATIVE	14
STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENT AT R2P'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY	16
BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF COMMITMENT	27
PUBLICATIONS	30
BREAKING SILOS	34
MEET THE TEAM	37
THANK YOU	38



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Throughout 2025 – the 20th anniversary of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) – the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect worked to turn the promise of R2P into meaningful action. This milestone year offered a powerful reminder of how far the norm has come and how urgently it is still needed. Through high-level events, publications and our podcast, *Expert Voices on Atrocity Prevention*, we convened leading practitioners, policymakers and community advocates to share lessons learned, explore cross-cutting issues, highlight practical successes and chart a path toward more effective protection. These conversations did not remain theoretical; they directly informed policy debates and reinforced the essential role of early warning, prevention and accountability.

At the heart of our work were the voices of affected communities. We supported

local partners, creating spaces to reflect on protection gaps, exchange strategies and build networks amid shrinking civic space. Their insights shaped our advocacy efforts on Sudan, Myanmar (Burma), Venezuela, Ethiopia and other country situations, and guided our engagement across the UN system. Our teams in New York and Geneva, worked to ensure that deliberations at the UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Security Council and beyond reflected on-the-ground realities, incorporated the atrocity prevention lens and accounted for the needs of those most at risk. These efforts contributed to more informed debates and a growing recognition of the importance of community-driven approaches to protection.

Yet this anniversary year also underscored the scale of the work ahead. The horrific civilian suffering amid atrocities in the Occupied

Palestinian Territory, Sudan, Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo and other crises revealed the ongoing gap between global commitments and meaningful action. The persistence of this disconnect – between the unanimous pledge to protect populations from atrocity crimes and the inconsistent implementation of that obligation – remains one of the greatest political and moral challenges facing the international community. Too often, preventive action is obstructed or derailed by narrow political interests within institutions capable of making a difference.

This year likewise coincided with the UN’s 80th anniversary, a moment to reflect on how far the multilateral system has come and the challenges it now faces. Eight decades after its founding, the UN stands at a crossroads. The principles of the UN Charter remain as vital as ever, yet they are tested by protracted conflicts, geopolitical fragmentation, the erosion of longstanding norms and widening inequality. These challenges underscore the urgent need to reinvigorate multilateral cooperation and pursue bold reforms that strengthen global protection mechanisms.

At a time of escalating conflicts and threats to multilateralism and international justice, the UN must provide a clear and

principled vision for the future, one with the consistent implementation of R2P at its core. Strengthening the UN’s protection architecture, supporting human rights institutions and ensuring that protection mandates are fully resourced are essential steps toward preventing new atrocities. We continue to champion these priorities in our daily engagement with UN member states, governments, UN officials and regional organizations.

The work ahead is significant, but it is also filled with possibility. We have learned that prevention succeeds when communities are heard, when institutions act early and decisively and when political will is strengthened through sustained engagement. R2P is a promise to protect people whose lives and futures are threatened by the gravest crimes. The Global Centre remains steadfast in its commitment to making this promise a reality. With the support of our partners and donors, we will continue to close the gap between obligations and action and work toward a world where the prevention of atrocities is not aspirational but expected.

Savita Pawnday
New York, December 2025

MOBILIZING ACTION

Mobilizing members of the international community on country situations where populations are at increased risk of atrocity crimes, or where atrocity crimes are already occurring.

SYRIA

Since the outset of [Syria's](#) political transition in late 2024, we have maintained the centrality of [Syrian civil society](#) and consistently advanced protection-centered messaging, including advocating for [multilateral assistance](#) that reinforces Syrian agency and safeguards against the recurrence of abuses and atrocities.

YEMEN

As a member of the [Yemen Justice Coalition](#), we continued to be a leading advocate calling on national actors, regional powers and the international community to ensure transitional justice is embedded in all peacebuilding efforts.

MYANMAR

We worked to refocus international attention on the escalating threats facing the [Rohingya](#), using a high-level conference and sustained engagement with affected communities to elevate their protection priorities in multilateral forums and policy discussions.

ETHIOPIA

By convening the Working Group on Accountability for Atrocities in [Ethiopia](#), we helped sustain international pressure for action on atrocity risks and advanced efforts pushing for accountability for past and ongoing crimes across the country.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

We continued our efforts to raise awareness of the most salient atrocity risks to populations in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo's \(DRC\)](#) eastern provinces, mobilizing the UN Human Rights Council to create accountability mechanisms.

CENTRAL SAHEL

Amid the deteriorating security situation in the [Central Sahel](#), we continued our [advocacy efforts](#) to influence and strengthen policies and practices that prioritize atrocity prevention and civilian protection.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



Photo Source: AFP Photo



Protecting Palestinian Lives and Centering Palestinian Agency in the Push for a Lasting Ceasefire

The Global Centre's overarching aim since October 2023 has been to advocate for a ceasefire in [Gaza](#) that not only halts ongoing atrocity crimes but also centers Palestinian sovereignty, self-determination and agency in the international response. Our strategy has focused on the protection of civilians and embedding justice and accountability as essential to ending impunity, addressing root causes and preventing atrocity crimes.

In the pursuit of this goal, we have urged the international community to resolutely uphold R2P – without double standards – as the framework for decisive, collective action in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Through detailed analysis, including our [February 2025 commentary](#) contextualizing the ceasefire agreement at the time and an urgent [call to action](#) in September, we provided timely recommendations to guide state engagement and highlight the risks of continued impunity.

As international inaction and failure to halt the genocide in Gaza persisted, the Global Centre sought to open political space for accountability-focused responses. In September we organized a briefing for UN member states and civil society partners featuring Palestinian civil society – in Gaza and abroad – and legal experts. This was followed by

a coordinated civil society roundtable that generated shared strategies for strengthening global action to halt ongoing atrocities in Gaza.

We also pushed for concrete steps to address structural drivers of harm and overlooked risk factors for atrocities. Ahead of the 60th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), we urged stronger engagement on Israel's long-standing and escalating use of abusive administrative detention, calling for meaningful action during the Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

To advance a permanent, rights-based ceasefire, we worked [publicly](#) and through private diplomacy with a broad coalition of Palestinian, regional and international organizations. Together, we called for measures that would alleviate suffering on the ground, advance accountability and prevent the commission of further atrocity crimes.

As discussions around state recognition gained momentum, the Global Centre consistently emphasized that any pathway toward a two-state solution must be anchored in halting Israel's ongoing atrocity crimes and upholding Palestinian agency, ensuring that political recognition is matched with concrete protection.

SUDAN

Centering Sudanese Civil Society in Global Responses to Atrocities



Photo Source: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

Since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023, the Global Centre's core aim has been to ensure that affected communities' voices shape the international community's understanding of the crisis in [Sudan](#) and pathways for action. Our advocacy initiatives have focused on elevating Sudanese human rights defenders and civilians as essential for the design and implementation of atrocity prevention strategies and accountability efforts.

To advance this aim, we consistently engaged with UN member states, civil society actors and the UN Secretariat to emphasize that Sudan's multidimensional conflict requires tailored responses rooted

in Sudanese-informed analysis of specific atrocity risks.

Throughout 2025 the Global Centre organized various roundtable meetings bringing together member states, including UN Security Council (UNSC) members, civil society organizations, Sudanese human rights defenders and humanitarian experts. These meetings provided member states with unique access to firsthand knowledge of the atrocities taking place, enabling more informed discussions on the escalating crisis and strategies to strengthen the international response.



“ If the international community is serious about ending the cycle of violence in Sudan, it must stop prioritizing what is politically convenient and start acting on what is morally imperative. **”**



Screenshot and a quote from the Global Centre's Sudan expert Julienne Paauwe's commentary on R2P20 and atrocity risks in Darfur, Sudan. Bottom row: Julienne Paauwe delivers remarks during a briefing on the situation in Sudan with UN Security Council members, February; Global Centre Executive Director Savita Pawnday speaks during a private briefing with Sudanese civil society co-hosted by the Global Centre and Luxembourg, September.



During High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly's 80th session, the Global Centre co-organized a roundtable with the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg featuring a diverse group of Sudanese civil society representatives, UNSC members and other stakeholders. The discussion underscored urgent steps needed to address the humanitarian crisis and ongoing atrocities, while highlighting longer-term strategies for accountability, civilian protection and sustained support for Sudanese civil society.

To draw attention to the imminent threat of atrocity crimes and genocide in Darfur, the

Global Centre released two urgent alerts in [February](#) and [October](#). Marking two decades since the genocide in Darfur and the adoption of R2P, a [commentary](#) by the Global Centre's Sudan expert, Julienne Paauwe, reinforced the consequences of failing to center civilian protection in international responses.

Following the fall of El Fasher in late October and the heightened risk of further atrocities, our sustained advocacy contributed to the convening of a UNSC meeting, ensuring that voices calling for urgent protection measures and atrocity risk analysis remained front and center.



Photo Source: SANAULLAH SEIAM/AFP via Getty Images

AFGHANISTAN

A New Independent Investigative Mechanism Established

In 2025, following sustained advocacy by [Afghan](#) civil society and international partners, the HRC [established a new independent investigative mechanism on Afghanistan](#). The Global Centre supported this process, underscoring the need for a mandate that collects and preserves evidence of international crimes, maps patterns of violations and prepares files to support fair and independent accountability efforts.

Once operational, it will be the only international body examining abuses

committed by the Taliban de facto authorities, as well as those linked to the former government, international forces, warlords and non-state armed groups.

The Global Centre continues to engage with UN member states and Afghan women human rights defenders to ensure the mechanism is adequately resourced, gender-competent and victim and survivor-centered.

IMPACT IN FOCUS

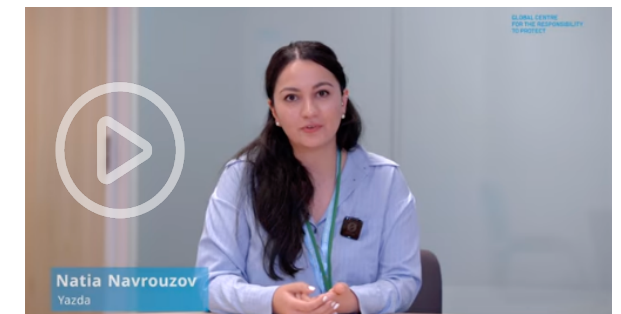
The Global Centre works in close [partnership](#) with civil society, human rights defenders and survivor and victim communities to ensure their voices and expertise shape policy and decision-making on atrocity prevention and response. We facilitate briefings and direct engagement between affected communities and governments to mobilize action that reflects their needs and priorities.

These partnerships – including those forged through our role as the Secretariat of the [International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect](#) (ICR2P) – have been instrumental in advancing international accountability, including the establishment of investigative mechanisms, and in strengthening the integration of atrocity prevention, human rights protection and R2P across multilateral processes.



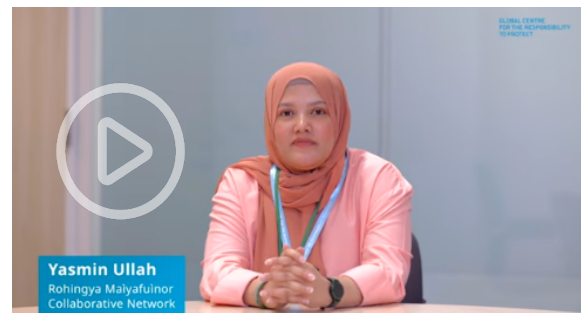
Ahmad Helmi
Ta'afi Initiative

SYRIA
Ahmad Helmi - Ta'afi Initiative



Natia Navrouzov
Yazda

IRAQ
Natia Navrouzov - Yazda



Yasmin Ullah
Rohingya Maiyafu'inor Collaborative Network

MYANMAR/BURMA
Yasmin Ullah - Rohingya Maiyafu'inor Collaborative Network



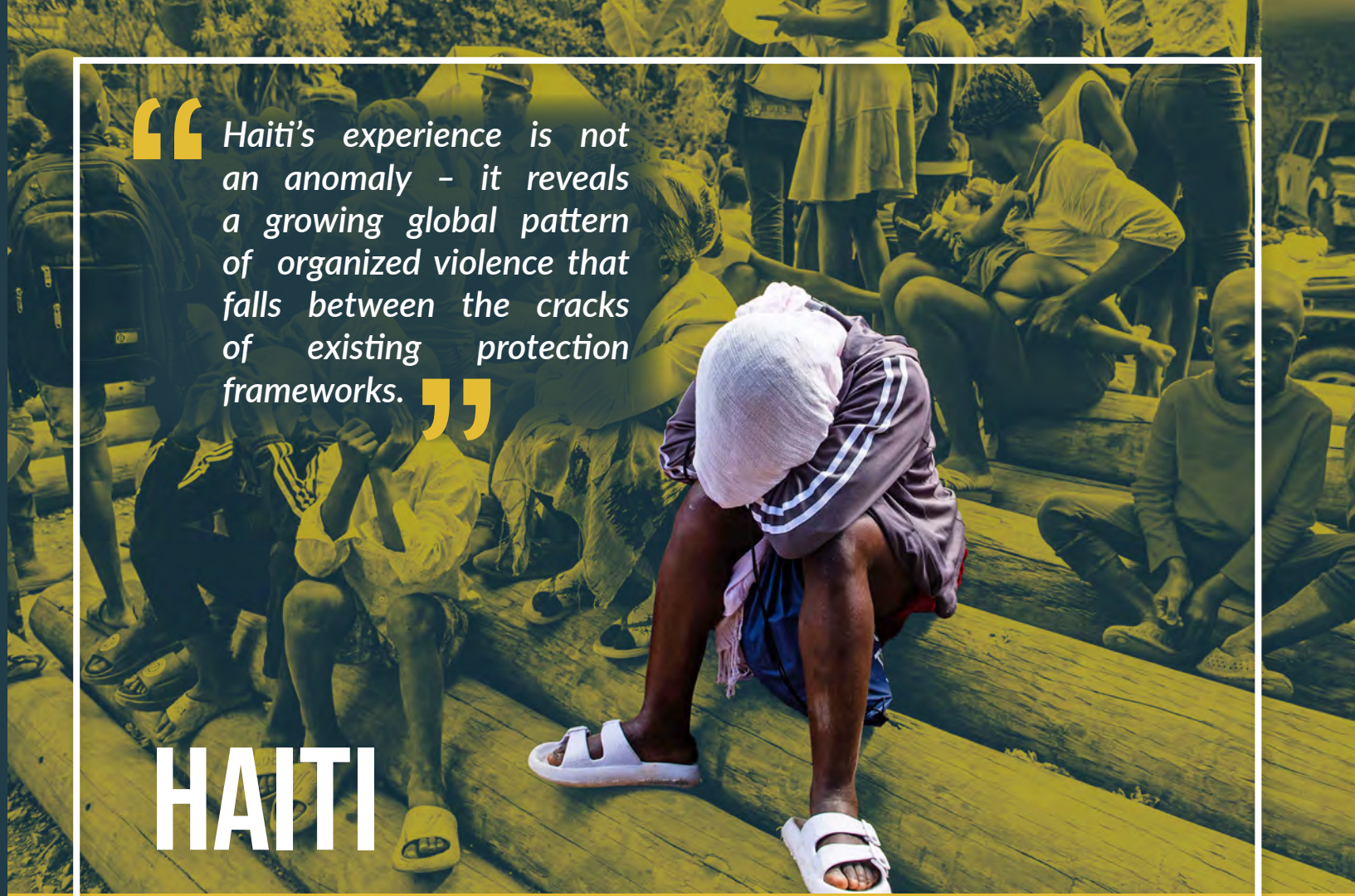
Feliciano Reyna
Acción Solidaria Venezuela

VENEZUELA
Feliciano Reyna - Acción Solidaria



FRAMING THE NARRATIVE

An important part of the Global Centre's work is [framing the narrative](#) around country situations to account for atrocity risks, encouraging stakeholders to expand their understanding of such situations beyond conflict resolution, democracy promotion or counterterrorism action.



“Haiti’s experience is not an anomaly – it reveals a growing global pattern of organized violence that falls between the cracks of existing protection frameworks.”

HAITI

The Global Centre has [consistently](#) elevated [Haiti’s](#) crisis through an atrocity prevention lens, highlighting how existing protection frameworks and policy responses have largely failed to account for violence perpetrated by gangs and other criminal governance structures. Our advocacy underscores the urgent need to adapt atrocity prevention frameworks to contemporary forms of organized violence – an emerging pattern that Haiti exemplifies. A [commentary](#) by the Global Centre’s Haiti expert, Christine Caldera, reinforced this messaging.

Through publications, [NGO letters](#) and bilateral engagement with experts, the Global Centre provided targeted, timely

recommendations and pushed for greater recognition of atrocity risks facing civilians. After more than two years of sustained warnings, 2025 marked a notable shift: UN officials and bodies increasingly used atrocity prevention language when addressing Haiti, reflecting the growing impact of our advocacy in shaping the global understanding of the crisis.

By maintaining pressure and [visibility](#), the Global Centre has helped ensure continued international attention on the protection challenges confronting Haitians at a moment of escalating, unprecedented risk.

Quote from the Global Centre’s Haiti expert Christine Caldera’s commentary on atrocity risks in Haiti; Photo Source: CLARENS SIFFROY/AFP via Getty Images

STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENT AT R2P'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Throughout 2025, we reflected on the significant milestones and voices that have shaped the evolution of R2P. The Global Centre brought together experts to explore challenges, identify best practices and share lessons learned through a variety of events, publications and our podcast. These outputs strengthen the Centre's public engagement and reinforce our visibility as a thought leader on R2P.

COMMENTARY SERIES

This year the Global Centre published a series of staff commentaries reflecting on norm development and implementation. Each piece addressed timely issues and explored the norm's relevance to contemporary challenges. The cumulative effect of each commentary has helped shape how R2P is understood across different spaces and shows how the Centre is intentionally making connections between R2P and other protection agendas.



[Twenty years of R2P and the unfulfilled promise in Darfur](#) by Juliette Paauwe, April.



[The Perils of Loosening Hate Speech Protections](#) by Sarah Hunter, July.



[Strengthening the safety net: Reflecting on 20 years of the UN HRC and R2P](#) by Elisabeth Pramendorfer, September.



[R2P and the Overlooked Threat of Gang Violence](#) by Christine Caldera, November.

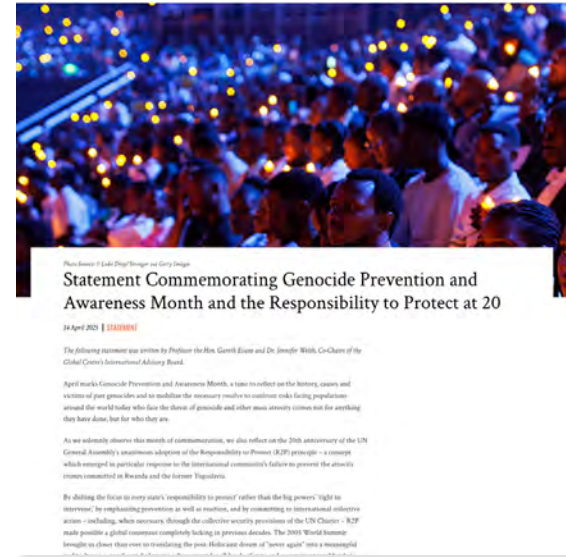
PODCAST SERIES

This year we featured a special series of interviews with experts, practitioners, academics, civil society and human rights defenders who reflected on the conceptual and operational development of R2P over the past two decades, as well as the impact of R2P and atrocity prevention on their work.



CO-CHAIR'S STATEMENT

During April the co-chairs of the Global Centre's International Advisory Board, Prof. the Hon. Gareth Evans and Dr. Jennifer Welsh, released a statement to commemorate Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month and the 20th anniversary of R2P. The statement reflects on the progress made and the work that still lies ahead.



MEETINGS

Throughout 2025 the Global Centre equipped governments, UN actors and civil society with the knowledge, networks and tools needed for early warning, coordinated action and ensuring accountability to strengthen the international system's capacity to protect populations and prevent atrocities. Through bilateral meetings with 52 UN member states, high-level speeches at the HRC and international conferences and events in Slovenia, the Republic of Korea and Geneva, the Global Centre elevated prevention and protection strategies, shaped multilateral policy discussions on R2P and fostered political will to close protection gaps. These efforts ensured that R2P remains an actionable principle, guiding international responses to emerging risks and protracted crises and reinforcing the international community's commitment to protect vulnerable populations.

Photo captions from left to right, starting with the top row: Savita Pawnday addressing the HRC's 58th session during a panel discussion on Early Warning and Genocide Prevention in March.

Savita Pawnday during a visit to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia; Savita Pawnday with H.E. Ibrahim Olabi, Permanent Representative of Syria to the UN; Savita Pawnday and Research and Advocacy Officer Julia Saltzman with H.E. Fabian Oddone, Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina.

Geneva Director Elisabeth Pramendorfer and Program Associate Priscila Vazquez with H.E. Emmanuel Kwame Asiedu Antwi, Permanent Representative, and Felix Osei Boateng, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the UN in Geneva; Savita Pawnday with former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the R2P conference in the Republic of Korea during November; Savita Pawnday and Director of Advocacy Juliette Paauwe with Mark Zellenrath, Director for Multilateral Organizations and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and R2P Focal Point; Savita Pawnday with H.E. Sheikha Hanouf Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Director of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar.

Savita Pawnday at the 7th Responsibility to Protect in Theory and Practice Conference in Slovenia in May; Elisabeth Pramendorfer briefs the EU's UN Working Party during April; Savita Pawnday during the R2P Conference in Seoul; Global Centre staff during UN High-Level week in September.



“ R2P is not just a principle – it is a promise to the world’s most vulnerable populations. Let us honor that promise not with words, but with action. The credibility of the very system that made us gather here today, and the lives of countless people, depend on it. Protecting populations from atrocity crimes requires courage, not convenience. ”

Savita Pawnday
Executive Director



R2P20: REAFFIRMING OUR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO PREVENT ATROCITY CRIMES

The Global Centre, together with the Permanent Missions of Guatemala, Luxembourg and Morocco – co-chairs of the Group of Friends of R2P in New York – convened a ministerial-level meeting during the opening of the 80th UN General Assembly. Co-sponsored by Australia and Sierra Leone, the event reaffirmed global commitment to preventing atrocity

crimes and revitalizing international cooperation around R2P. With 50 member states engaging and 24 delivering national statements, the meeting reinforced R2P as a living, evolving principle – and demonstrated the Global Centre’s central role in sustaining momentum for global atrocity prevention at a time of mounting international challenges.



R2P20 HIGH-LEVEL COMMEMORATIVE EVENT IN GENEVA

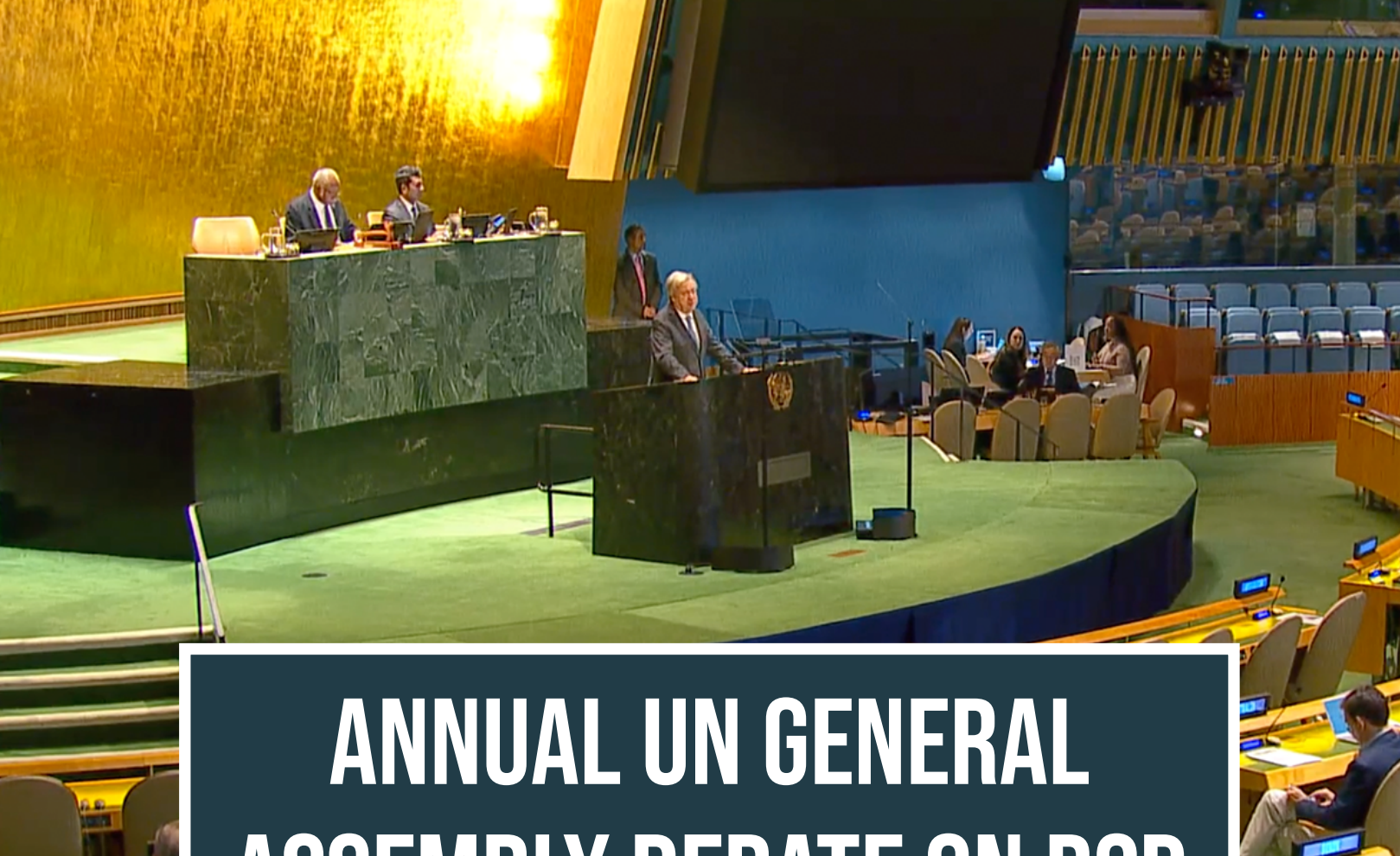
The Global Centre, with the Permanent Missions of Australia and Sierra Leone, co-hosted this event that brought together more than 70 participants, including cross-regional ambassadors, senior UN officials and civil society leaders. Speakers included the Global Centre's International Advisory Board Co-Chair, Prof. the Hon. Gareth Evans; UN Special Adviser on R2P, Mò Bleeker; and the Chief of Branch at the Thematic Engagement Division at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Michael Camilleri.



“ This anniversary cannot be symbolic. R2P was never meant to be remembered - it was meant to be realized. The challenges we face today...demand that we be bold, consistent, and united. Atrocity prevention is not a moral obligation. It is a strategic imperative for peace and stability.

Chaloka Beyani
UN Special Adviser on
the Prevention of Genocide





ANNUAL UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON R2P

The UN General Assembly held a [plenary meeting](#) on the “Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity” on 25 June and 1 and 25 July, as part of its 79th session. Marking the 20th anniversary of R2P’s adoption, the debate served as a pivotal moment for reflection on progress, challenges and the need to renew global commitment to effective prevention.

The Global Centre engaged in sustained advocacy to encourage member state participation, resulting in broadened engagement, with countries such as Senegal, [Burundi](#), Sierra Leone and Thailand speaking for the first time in years. In total, one regional organization and 58 member states spoke on behalf of 99 countries and

one observer mission, demonstrating strong and diverse support for R2P.

The high-level attendance of the UN Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and other senior officials underscored institutional commitment to the principle. The Global Centre also produced a [post-debate analysis](#) summarizing key themes and participation trends and released a [summary](#) of the Secretary-General’s 17th annual report on R2P, which assessed two decades of efforts toward principled and collective action to prevent atrocities.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres presenting the 20th report on R2P to the UN General Assembly, June.



R2P IN GENEVA AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

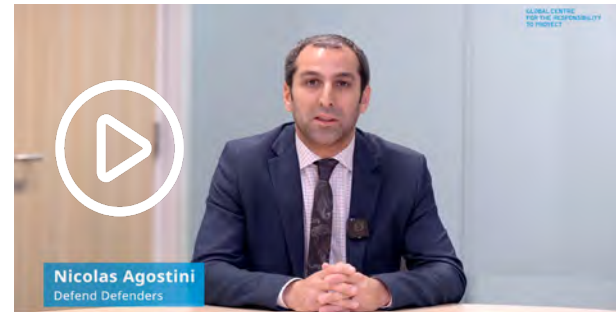
The Global Centre played a pivotal role in reinforcing the HRC’s capacity to prevent atrocity crimes. Through extensive bilateral outreach, advocacy initiatives with NGO partners and joint letters, we urged consistent political follow-up, translating findings and analysis from UN Special Procedures and investigative mechanisms into meaningful and timely action. The Global Centre in Geneva continues to stress the importance of strengthening the UN human rights system’s role as an anchor for prevention and protection of populations at risk. We also shared analysis and practical recommendations to respond to ongoing crises through [letters to HRC members](#) ahead of each session.

The Global Centre helped secure the [renewal](#) of the Fact-Finding Mission

(FFM) on Sudan during the 60th session – building cross-regional support at a sensitive political moment. Following the fall of El Fasher in late October and the imminent risk of further atrocities, the Global Centre called for urgent international action, [contributing to the convening of a special session](#) and the HRC mandating the FFM to conduct an immediate inquiry into international law violations in El Fasher.

Despite an unprecedented political and liquidity crisis, the HRC adopted a stronger-than-expected resolution establishing an independent investigative mechanism for Afghanistan, following coordinated and sustained advocacy by Afghan civil society and international partners.

Coordinated advocacy by civil society, international partners and the Permanent Mission of the DRC in Geneva led the HRC to convene a special session on 7 February and adopt a resolution urgently establishing a FFM to investigate violations of International Humanitarian Law in North and South Kivu since January 2022.



Global Centre Impact in Focus statement by Nicolas Agostini, Representative to the United Nations in Geneva at DefendDefenders.

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON INVESTIGATIVE MECHANISMS

HRC-mandated investigative mechanisms are critical for uncovering the truth about atrocity crimes and advancing accountability, justice and prevention. To ensure these mechanisms drive real-world change, the Global Centre **launched** an annual workshop in 2022 that equips cross-regional diplomats with the knowledge and tools to translate investigative findings into action.



On 31 January, together with the Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Principality of Liechtenstein in Geneva, we organized the third annual training workshop. The workshop brought together current and incoming diplomats from more than 30 missions in Geneva, as well as leadership from OHCHR, the Independent Mechanisms on Syria and Myanmar, members of HRC-mandated investigative teams, Justice Rapid Response, representatives from the International Criminal Court and human rights defenders from atrocity situations.



R2P AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

The Global Centre has invested deeply in supporting elected members of the UNSC to ensure that they are better equipped to recognize and respond to atrocity risks and have the necessary tools, knowledge and perspectives – especially from affected communities – to take early, coordinated and protective action. By providing timely analysis, strategic guidance and tailored briefings, we help E10 members identify where and how civilian protection measures can be incorporated into resolutions, mandate renewals and public statements.

create a shared understanding of atrocity prevention priorities.

In 2025 we collaborated particularly closely with five elected members of the Security Council – Denmark, Panama, Slovenia, South Korea and Sierra Leone – as well as with the United Kingdom and France, supporting their leadership on thematic files and crisis-affected country situations. These engagements strengthened the Global Centre’s role as a trusted advisor, helping ensure that atrocity prevention and R2P remain central to the Council’s decisions.

This work is grounded in our close relationships with governments that are part of the [Group of Friends of R2P](#) and the [Global Network of R2P Focal Points](#). These partnerships enable consistent dialogue, ensure continuity across Council cycles and

Photos: Savita Pawnday meets with Denmark’s UNSC team in Copenhagen, Denmark, during November. Savita Pawnday delivers remarks and participates in the eighth Elected Ten and Incoming Five Annual Dialogue, hosted by Slovenia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ljubljana and Bled in September.

UNSC BRIEFINGS

The [NGO Working Group on the Security Council](#) has created a direct channel for civil society perspectives to inform UNSC decision-making.

As the Secretariat, the Global Centre leverages this platform to achieve concrete protection outcomes:

1. EXPANDING CIVIL SOCIETY ACCESS:

Regular off-the-record briefings connect members with UNSC ambassadors and UN officials, enabling timely, actionable exchanges.

2. SHAPING POLICY ATTENTION:

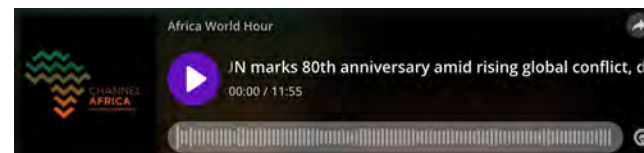
Through these briefings, Global Centre representatives consistently raise situations of concern, ensuring that populations at risk are visible to key decision-makers.

UN80

The Global Centre led targeted advocacy to ensure atrocity prevention priorities are embedded in the UN80 reform process. Our interventions, including the publication of a set of concrete [recommendations](#), helped shape how member states and other stakeholders understand and engage with prevention and protection mandates as UN80 deliberations progressed.

[High-profile media commentary](#), including a Devex article by Executive Director Savita Pawnday and International Advisory Board member Natalie Samarasinghe, underscored that UN80 reforms must reaffirm the UN's founding purpose – protecting civilians and preventing mass atrocities. Other media engagements, including a feature on [Channel Africa](#), amplified the urgency of upholding human rights in structural reform amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

To advance member state engagement, the Global Centre convened the Group of Friends of R2P in New York with the Chair of the UN80 Task Force and a member of the UN80 Secretariat from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. This exchange deepened delegations' understanding of how UN80 intersects with the UN's human



rights, protection and prevention mandates, particularly those of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and R2P.

In October the Global Centre's Geneva Director briefed member states in a confidential roundtable organized by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the International Commission of Jurists, ensuring that atrocity prevention and accountability considerations were factored into member state preparations for UN80. In order to mobilize global civil society efforts, in September Global Centre staff briefed members of ICR2P, which is comprised of over 75 organizations from across the world.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF COMMITMENT





R2P FOCAL POINTS MEETING AND CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP

CIVIL SOCIETY

On 14 May the Global Centre convened a closed-door workshop, “Voices from the Frontline,” bringing together over 15 grassroots human rights defenders and representatives of affected communities from around the world. Participants shared firsthand accounts of the abuses they confront and described how their advocacy focuses on multilateral solutions.

Participants underscored the crucial role of partnerships with internationally focused civil society organizations, including the Global Centre, in amplifying local expertise and perspectives, drawing connections across country situations and advancing intersectional, early action approaches to protection. Through collective discussion, participants also exchanged successful advocacy strategies, identified shared challenges and formulated recommendations for how states and multilateral bodies can more meaningfully

integrate civil society, especially affected communities, into decision-making processes.

Insights from the workshop directly informed the R2P Focal Points meeting, ensuring that frontline perspectives shaped global policy discussions on preventing and responding to atrocity crimes.



R2P FOCAL POINTS

The Global Network of Focal Points of R2P held its 11th meeting on 15–16 May in Brussels, hosted by the Global Centre with support from the European Union (EU). Bringing together senior government officials, human rights defenders and UN representatives, the meeting fostered strategic dialogue on strengthening multilateral responses to atrocity risks. Participants shared lessons on effective prevention, measuring impact and overcoming political barriers to timely action. The Global Centre subsequently published an outcome document capturing key insights and practical strategies to enhance global efforts to protect vulnerable populations.



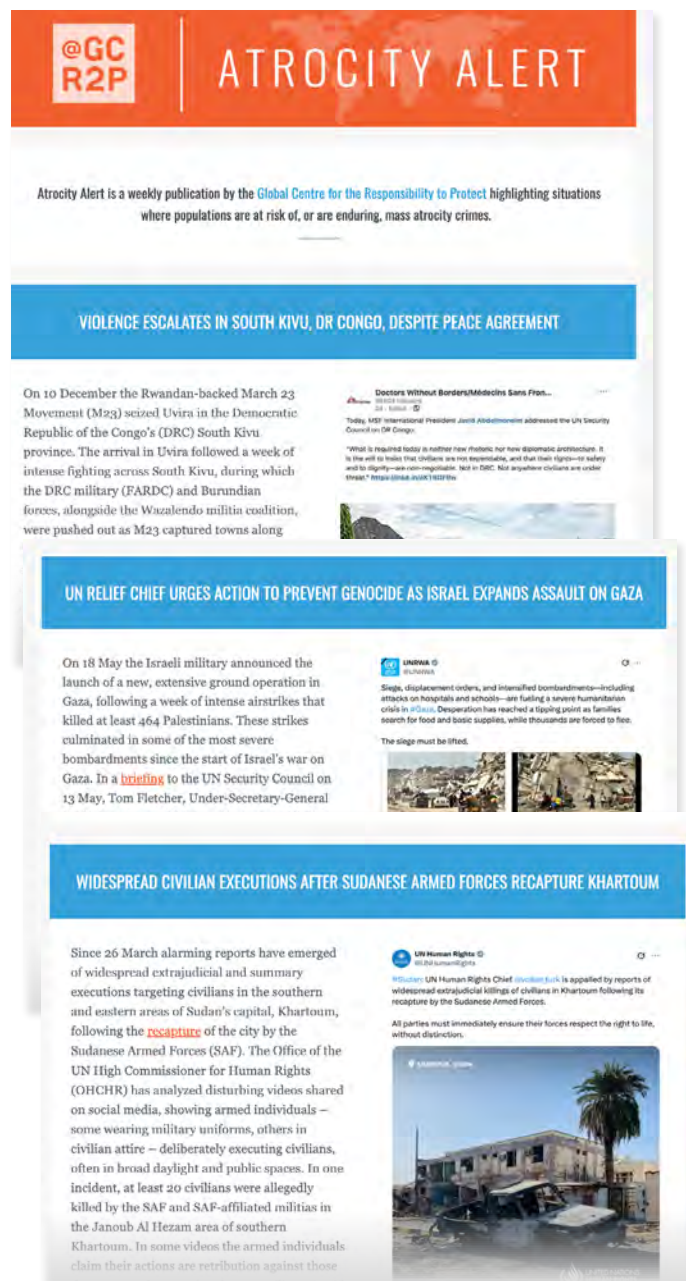
PUBLICATIONS

FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION: ATROCITY ALERT

An essential part of the Global Centre's impact lies in shaping the global narrative on atrocity risks and informing timely, preventive action. Through publications such as *Atrocity Alert* and in-depth country analysis, the Global Centre provides governments, UN officials and civil society partners with policy-relevant research and practical guidance on operationalizing R2P. These publications offer reliable, timely analysis and recommendations on atrocity prevention, making complex issues accessible to audiences ranging from policymakers to the general public.

In 2025 the Global Centre monitored and analyzed 29 situations through country updates, *Atrocity Alert* and targeted letters. These publications directly influenced decision-making by prompting policy discussions within governments and strengthening UN country teams' understanding of evolving atrocity risks.

Atrocity Alert is a weekly email bulletin providing concise, accessible analysis of emerging crises. Each issue highlights three situations and offers early warning of where atrocity risks could escalate without urgent action by governments or international actors. In 2025 the Global Centre published 42 issues addressing populations at risk, as well as thematic and cross-cutting issues. By linking these issues to atrocity prevention frameworks, the Global Centre's publications continue to strengthen early warning and promote holistic approaches to protecting vulnerable populations.



NEW PUBLICATION IN 2025: R2P IN FOCUS

As part of the Global Centre's commemoration of R2P20, we launched *R2P in Focus*, a monthly newsletter designed to inform, connect and mobilize the atrocity prevention community. The newsletter provides subscribers with accessible, timely insights on global developments related to mass atrocity risks, R2P implementation and atrocity prevention, while also highlighting relevant publications, events and advocacy.

Circulated to nearly 5,000 subscribers, including policymakers, civil society partners, academics and practitioners, and promoted across the Global Centre's social media channels, *R2P in Focus* has expanded the reach of our activities and outputs, fostered sustained engagement with the R2P principle and reinforced the Global Centre's role as a trusted source of expertise on R2P.

TOP 3 COVERED CRISES IN ATROCITY ALERT

IOPT: 26 ISSUES
SUDAN: 18 ISSUES
MYANMAR: 11 ISSUES

R2P IN FOCUS

R2P in Focus is a monthly publication by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect highlighting recent events and publications on mass atrocity prevention and R2P.

RECENT RELEASES MARKING R2P'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

REFLECTIONS ON TWENTY YEARS OF R2P

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of R2P, the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect launched a video series featuring practitioners and leaders to share their insights and lessons learned on prevention, protection and the future of R2P.

FROM GLOBAL CENTRE STAFF



Savita Pawnday
Executive Director



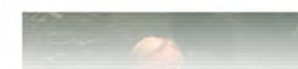
Elisabeth Pramendorfer
Geneva Director

FROM OUR BOARD LEADERSHIP



Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans
Global Centre International Advisory Board Co-Chair

FROM UN LEADERSHIP

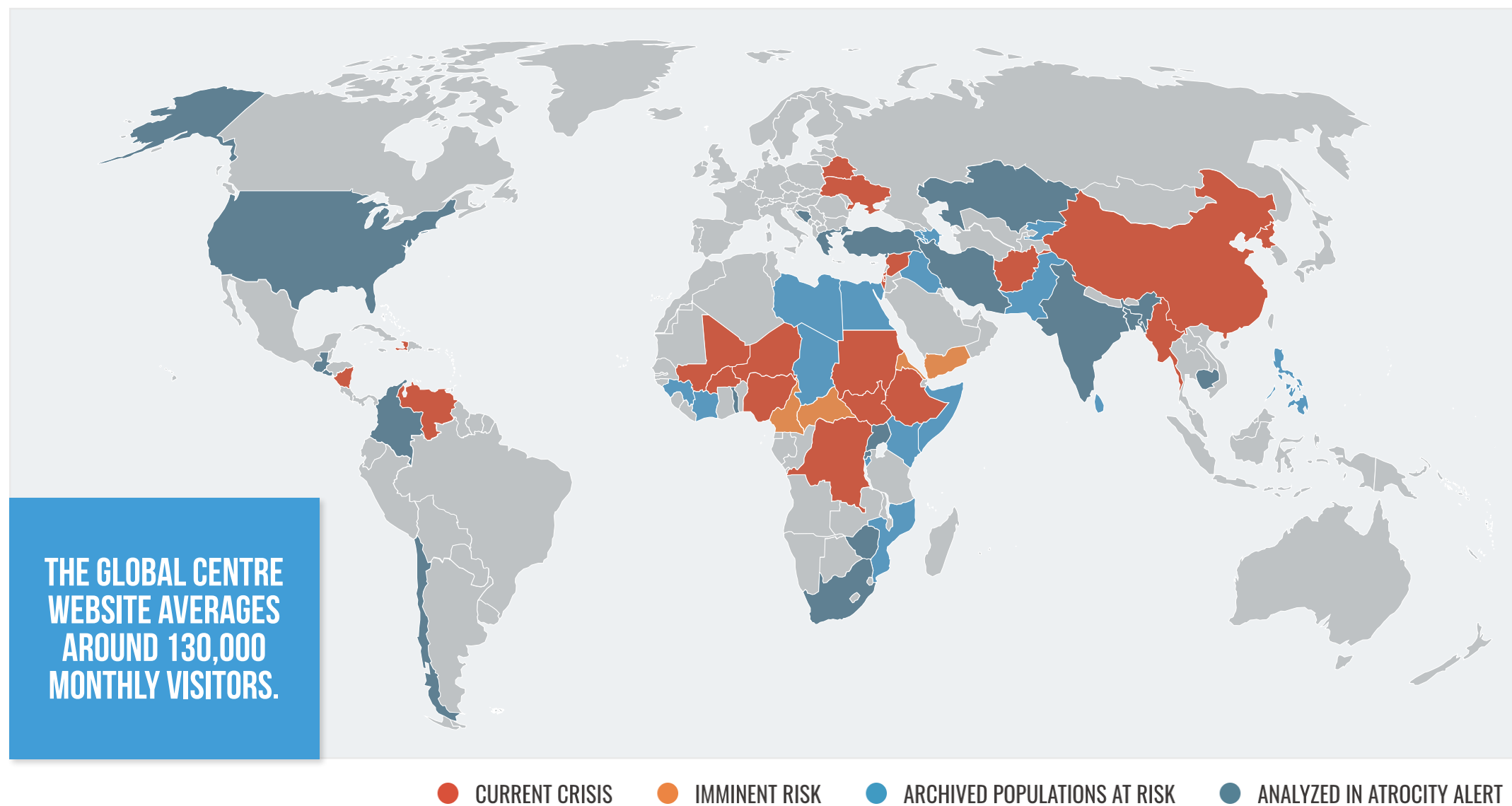


INCREASING VISIBILITY THROUGH OUR UPDATED POPULATIONS AT RISK

In 2025 we updated our *R2P Monitor* publication to improve how atrocity risks are tracked and communicated. Updated country analysis is now shared with our mailing list three times a year, in March, July and November, providing policymakers and partners with more regular, timely analysis and recommendations. These updates apply an atrocity prevention lens to situations where populations are at risk of, or currently facing, mass atrocity crimes.

We also updated our interactive map to provide a clearer, more comprehensive and accessible overview of the full range of countries and situations monitored through *Atrocity Alert* and other publications. As a result, users can more easily identify patterns, compare risks across contexts and understand the scope of atrocity threats around the world.

These improvements have strengthened the visibility and reach of the Global Centre's work. The website consistently ranks among the top search results for information on atrocity situations, alongside UN news and leading international NGOs, demonstrating credibility and influence in the field. Website analytics also show sharp increases in engagement during key international moments, indicating increased use by stakeholders during periods of heightened risk.



OTHER WEBSITE UPDATES INCLUDE:

NEW COUNTRY ADVOCACY PAGES

Our Country Advocacy pages supplement our Populations at Risk analysis, providing a more holistic picture of our work on various atrocity crises around the globe.

NEW CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES PAGES

The thematic advocacy pages better illustrate our efforts to break silos and ensure atrocity prevention remains a priority throughout the international system.

UPDATED UN ADVOCACY FRAMING

We refreshed our UN advocacy pages to better demonstrate the relationships we consistently build and maintain across the UN system.

BREAKING SILOS

Acknowledging the multi-dimensional nature of atrocity situations, the Global Centre routinely highlights in its events, research and advocacy the [linkages](#) between mass atrocity prevention and other issue areas, including human rights protection, peacebuilding, youth and intersectionality and more, through events, research and advocacy to influence a holistic and appropriate international response.

These initiatives reinforce the Global Centre's commitment to ensuring that atrocity prevention efforts reflect diverse perspectives and cross-cutting issue areas, as well as strengthen protection for those most at risk.



PEACEBUILDING

Growing recognition of the Global Centre's expertise in linking atrocity prevention with broader policy agendas led partners to request tailored briefings ahead of key discussions around the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR).

In June the Global Centre and Peace Direct presented our findings from our joint policy brief during the Baha'i International Community's "Promise of World Peace" discussion series, helping to advance a more coherent approach to peace and security within the UN system.

In April our Geneva Director, Elisabeth Pramendorfer, briefed the UN Working Party of the European External Action Service on the current state of atrocity prevention, R2P and the 2025 PBAR. The session strengthened EU stakeholders' understanding of policy coherence between atrocity prevention and peacebuilding and opportunities for action.

The Group of Friends of R2P, supported by the Global Centre, convened an ambassador-level meeting on 26 February with the Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Elizabeth Spehar, to examine the links between R2P, atrocity prevention and peacebuilding. The discussion identified concrete opportunities for member states to engage in the 2025 PBAR and strengthen prevention across the UN system.

GLOBAL CENTRE
FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROTECT



When Peace Starts Local, Prevention Works: Reimagining the UN's Approach to Atrocity Prevention and Peacebuilding

September 2025 marks 20 years since states gathered at the UN World Summit and unanimously adopted the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and established key components of the UN's peacebuilding architecture. At a time of significant shifts within the multilateral system and unprecedented global conflict, this year presents a critical opportunity for the international community to understand the connections between conflict prevention, peace processes, atrocity prevention and R2P, and to recommit – with renewed urgency – to upholding the enduring individual and collective responsibility to consistently protect the world's most vulnerable populations.

In light of the 20th anniversary of R2P and the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and Peace Direct have co-authored a policy brief that examines the essential linkages between atrocity prevention and peacebuilding. The brief highlights the shared objectives and overlapping tools of these two fields and emphasizes the central role of locally-led efforts and national ownership when designing and implementing prevention and peacebuilding programs.





USE OF MERCENARIES

On 7 November the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries, the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN and the Global Centre co-hosted a hybrid [event](#) addressing the role of military and security enterprises in perpetuating violence and instability. Our Deputy Executive Director, Jaclyn Streitfeld-Hall, delivered remarks building upon the Global Centre's ongoing analysis of proxy-related risks featured in our country reports and *Atrocity Alert*, advancing efforts to mitigate the harmful impact of these actors on civilians.

POLICY BRIEFS

In 2025 the Global Centre released two policy briefs that break silos in atrocity prevention assessments and analysis by addressing vulnerabilities and risk factors often treated separately. Together, these briefs advance a more integrated, comprehensive understanding of atrocity risks and equip partners with actionable recommendations to strengthen protection efforts across diverse contexts.



**BREAKING SILOS IN *ATROCITY*
ALERT WITH ISSUES ON**

**EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK
GLOBAL LANDMINE MONITOR REPORT
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
COP30
CONFLICT-RELATED FOOD INSECURITY**

MEET THE TEAM



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The work of the Global Centre is also supported by a team of dedicated interns. We are grateful for their commitment to upholding human rights and working towards a more just world.

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THANK YOU!

The Global Centre extends its deep appreciation to our donors for their generous support and steadfast commitment to preventing and halting atrocities worldwide. Your partnership strengthens the multilateral protection system, helping to build communities of commitment for prevention, accountability and the consistent implementation of R2P. We are profoundly grateful to the governments, international and regional organizations, foundations and individual donors that supported the Global Centre's work in 2025.

We would like to thank the governments of Australia, the EU, Switzerland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. We would also like to thank the Geneva Canton, Open Society Foundations and other anonymous donors for supporting our work.

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

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