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# What Does It Mean to Prevent Genocide?

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## Four Points for Genocide Prevention:

1. Genocide is a process, not an event.
2. Genocide can be prevented.
3. Intervention is not prevention.
4. Genocide derives primarily from within a society and therefore must be prevented primarily from within a society.

# United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- a) Killing members of the group;
- b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

# The Eight Stages of Genocide

(© 1998 Gregory Stanton. Originally presented as a briefing paper at the U.S. State Department in 1996.)

- 1) Classification
- 2) Symbolization
- 3) Dehumanization
- 4) Organization
- 5) Polarization
- 6) Preparation
- 7) Extermination
- 8) Denial

# Toolbox for Prevention

- Early warning (by NGOs, the media, the UN, civil society)
- Institution- or capacity-building
- Reducing economic inequalities
- Security sector reform
- Strengthening legal protection of disadvantaged groups
- Fostering inclusive government
- Transitional justice
- Weapons control



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## What does it mean to prevent genocide?

It means (1) government decision makers  
(2) with identified points of  
accountability (3) committed to long-  
term solutions (4) using existing tools (5)  
viewing every situation through a  
“genocide prevention lens” (6) focusing  
their efforts on their own societies.