

Holocaust and Genocide Review (HGR) Information Resources  
New Initiatives in Genocide Studies and Prevention  
*GPN Issue 2, Spring 2010*

Featured Organization in this Issue of *GPN*:

**All-Party Parliamentary Groups in England and Canada**

**The Genocide Prevention All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) UK**

**Email: [anna.macdonald@aegitrust.org](mailto:anna.macdonald@aegitrust.org)**

**URL: <http://www.aegitrust.org/Parliamentary-work/appg-genocide-prevention.html>**

The Genocide Prevention All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) was formed at an inaugural meeting in the House of Commons on the July 19, 2005. At present, over 120 Parliamentarians have joined the group. Administration and

The Genocide Prevention APPG was formed to:

- Ensure that the United Kingdom does all it can to prevent genocides and crimes against humanity;
- Increase the flow of independent information and analysis to British Parliamentarians about genocides and crimes against humanity;
- Support Parliamentarians so as to increase the effectiveness of their scrutiny of government, and;
- Promote understanding of the importance of long term approaches to genocide prevention.

At the group's fourth AGM on the November 10, 2008, John Bercow MP (Conservative) was elected as Chair of the group and Mary Creagh MP (Labour) and Baron Dholakia (Liberal Democrat) were elected as Vice Chairs of the group..

All Party Parliamentary Groups are ad-hoc committees which are formed at the discretion of its members. They are required to have members from all the main UK political parties. You can find more information on APPGs and the British Parliament at:

**<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmallparty/memi01.htm>**

**The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Great Lakes Region of Africa**

<http://www.appggreatlakes.org>

The aims of the Group are:

- To ensure that the Great Lakes region is on the political agenda of the UK government, and is a policy priority;
- To promote conflict resolution and sustainable development in the Great Lakes region;
- To encourage discussion of regional issues;
- To coordinate parliamentary activity on the Great Lakes, including the lobbying of ministers, and ensure that Parliamentarians are fully briefed on Great Lakes issues;
- To provide an official channel for NGOs and academics to direct their recommendations and information;
- To support and develop genocide prevention policy initiatives, within both the UK government and the international community, and warn UK parliamentarians about potential future genocides.

**The Associate Parliamentary Group for Sudan**

**Chair: Mr David Drew MP**

**House of Commons**

**London SW1A 0AA.**

**Tel: 01453 764355**

<http://www.8ung.at/sudanplattformaustria/bmpapril02.pdf>

The Associate Parliamentary Group for Sudan was formed in 1996 in response to concerns expressed by Sudanese Diaspora groups about the situation in their country and from the desire of Parliamentarians to try to achieve progress.

They have a membership of over 70 Parliamentarians, drawn from both Houses of Parliament. The Group is developing a very positive role to promote peace, human rights, justice and development for all the people of Sudan across Westminster and Whitehall.

In particular they have regular group meetings that are very well attended and kept well informed of the latest developments by large numbers of Sudanese people living in the United Kingdom.

The Group was particularly concerned that its delegation to Sudan should consider four major issues:

- The peace process
- The need for humanitarian aid and development.
- The role of oil in the conflict, and,
- Human rights and good governance

**The All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and other Crimes Against Humanity (Genocide Prevention Group)**

**Room 879, Confederation Building, Parliament of Canada**

**Tel.: (613) 995-8955**

**Cell: (613) 799-9059**

**Fax: (613) 996-5323**

**E-mail: [prev-gen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:prev-gen@parl.gc.ca)**

**<http://www.preventiongenocide.org>**

### **Description**

Inspired by the success of the Parliamentary Group in the UK, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and other Crimes Against Humanity (Genocide Prevention Group) has grown from the Save Darfur Coalition initiated in 2006. It is an informal group of Parliamentarians uniquely composed of all parties in the House of Commons and the Senate possessing an interest in the prevention of Genocide and similar crimes against humanity.

Membership in the Group is open to all Parliamentarians. The Executive is composed of a Chair, four Vice-Chairs, one from each of the parties represented at Parliament, and two ex-officio members. Since the group does not receive Parliamentary funding, it is self-funded through membership fees.

Created in 2006, the Genocide Prevention Group endeavors to:

1. Ensure that the government of Canada galvanizes to prevent and protect civilian populations from genocide, crimes against humanity, and the incitement to such crimes in accordance with the principles of "The Responsibility to Protect (R2P)"
2. Increase the flow of information and analysis to Parliamentarians about genocide and other crimes against humanity;
3. Promote understanding of the importance of long-term approaches to genocide prevention; and
4. Engage in communication and collaboration with like-minded bodies in civil society and other Parliaments in order to:
  - exchange information about strategies for the prevention of genocide and other crimes against humanity;
  - work in conjunction with the United Nations Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide, the International Criminal Court, and other organizations working in the field of genocide prevention and post conflict justice; and
  - create international channels for the timely exchange of information regarding emerging crises that have a potentially genocidal component.

Activities of The All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and other Crimes Against Humanity (Genocide Prevention Group) include:

### **The Will to Intervene (W2I) Project**

The Will to Intervene (W2I) Project is a groundbreaking Canadian research initiative which focuses on new arguments for preventing genocide, crimes against humanity, serious war crimes, and ethnic cleansing, and, in the worst case, intervening in situations where these mass atrocities are on-going. The *Will to Intervene* Project report charts a new understanding of the threats mass atrocities pose to the security and economic prosperity of Canada and argues that the prevention of mass atrocities should be prioritized as a vital national interest by the Government of Canada.

The *W2I* Project is co-directed by Dr. Frank Chalk, Director and co-founder of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) and Romeo Dallaire, Senator and former Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda.

The fundamental goal the *W2I* report, entitled *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership and Action to Prevent Mass Atrocities*, is to identify strategic and practical steps to raise the capacity of government officials, legislators, civil servants, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), advocacy groups, journalists, and media owners and managers to build the political will to prevent mass atrocities. The report provides practical policy recommendations to make this goal a reality.

The report draws on interviews with more than 80 foreign policy practitioners and opinion shapers in Canada and the United States. Many of the interviewees participated directly in Canadian and American government decision making during the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and the 1999 Kosovo crisis, which respectively exemplify a failure to act and a strong will to act. The *W2I* Project's researchers also wanted to understand what civil society groups and the news media could have done to ramp up the pressure on Prime Minister Chrétien and President Clinton to save lives in Rwanda. They wanted to learn if civil society played a role in the decisions of Canada and the United States to preserve lives in Kosovo and what considerations propelled the decision to intervene. They designed their questions with an eye to the future, hunting for "lessons learned," informed not only by their interviews, but also by scholarly studies of Canadian and U.S. Government policies.

The report was made public in Canada on 22 September 2009. The Canadian parliamentary launch occurred on 1 October and featured distinguished panel of experts who discussed *W2I*'s policy recommendations for the benefit of parliamentarians.

Please visit the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) webpage for more information:

[http://migs.concordia.ca/W2I/W2I\\_Project.html](http://migs.concordia.ca/W2I/W2I_Project.html)