



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ESTONIA TO THE UN



Permanent Mission of Iceland
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Concept Note

International Law Week Side Event: Panel discussion

„Ensuring justice and accountability for the victims of atrocity crimes. The important role of providing remedies and rehabilitation.“

24 October 2023, 1.15-2.30 PM
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 5

Background

The most heinous crimes in the world – genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world. International judicial institutions play a critical role in the establishment and upholding of international peace and security and providing accountability. Without justice for the victims, there is no accountability and impunity always leads to new crimes, not mentioning the undeniable effects on lives of all those affected. Unfortunately, deliberate attacks during conflicts against civilian population and infrastructure are common; civilians, including women and children are killed, detained, mistreated, and often deported; economy and critical infrastructure are destroyed and basic services to the population disrupted and discontinued. Sexual violence in conflict, especially when used as a brutal tactic of war, leaves lasting and devastating consequences and affects not only the victims and survivors but also their families and whole communities. Accountability of perpetrators of atrocity crimes forms an important role in ensuring adequate remedy to the victims. Providing physical and psychosocial rehabilitation in addition to the material support to the victims, their families and societies is a necessary precondition for lasting peace and reconciliation of societies. A very important role in this process is being played by various non-governmental and civil society organisations, in particular their assistance to integration of local societies and good cooperation with relevant national and international stakeholders. Everyone agrees that accountability is important and that the rights of the victims must be guaranteed, however, guaranteeing remedy to the victims is not always as easy as one might expect. What are the different practices of rehabilitation at national and international level? What are the main challenges on this path? What could be done to ensure effective remedies to the victims, how to engage communities and societies in this work?

Objective

The aim of the panel discussion is to explore the different national and international practices in providing remedies to the victims; learn from those directly dealing with these matters from the perspective of the United Nations, International Criminal Court, national authorities, victims and CSOs; discuss how to enhance mutual cooperation and effectiveness of different systems to best serve the victims.

Opening remarks:

Ms. Anna Jóhannsdóttir, Deputy Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland;

Panelists:

H.E. Ms. Pramilla Patten, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict;

H.E. Mrs. Sophea Eat, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations;

Mr Andres Parmas, Member of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims of the ICC;

Ms Niemat Ahmadi, Founder and President of Darfur Women Action Group;

Moderator:

Ms. Kerli Veski, Director of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.

After the panel discussion, the floor will be opened for questions and comments.

Please RSVP at: <https://bit.ly/400PGeY>.