

United Nations



Nations Unies

## **VIRTUAL EVENT**

### **“Fifteen years of the responsibility to protect - a collective commitment to humanity”**

**7 October 2020, 09:00 to 10:30 am (EST)**

**United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect**

Fifteen years ago, the adoption of the responsibility to protect during the 2005 World Summit represented a significant step towards realizing the international community’s commitment to end the most horrific forms of human rights violations. This vital and enduring commitment generated hope and spurred action to shield populations around the world from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

While considerable progress has been made in terms of transforming the responsibility to protect into a sustainable agenda for prevention, the efforts of the international community have not matched the human suffering in parts of the world where atrocity crimes continue to be committed with impunity. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the vulnerability of the least protected in society and highlighted existing concerns, such as discrimination against certain groups, hate speech, xenophobia, attacks and forced returns of refugees and asylum-seekers, mistreatment of migrants, and sexual and gender-based violence. These are all indicators of risk of atrocity crimes.

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the responsibility to protect takes place in a year when, more than ever, political will and determination to protect and defend the rights of vulnerable populations is needed in all corners of the world. The challenge is both practical and political: how to best uphold the responsibility to protect by uniting efforts to strengthen its implementation.

Against this background, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect is proposing a virtual conversation for United Nations principals, representatives of Member States, regional and subregional organizations, and civil society organizations to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the responsibility to protect. The event will provide an opportunity to reflect on the progress made to date and in light of emerging challenges, discuss priorities and strategies to advance greater cooperation on the ground-breaking commitment to fully operationalize the responsibility to protect populations from atrocity crimes.

## **Program**

The event will take place on 7 October 2020 from 09:00 am to 10:30 am (EST).

To confirm participation, please register here: <https://forms.gle/xTvagFMv4xrDof116>

**\*Deadline for RSVP is Monday 5 October 2020\***

While there will not be an open floor, participants are invited to submit questions for the panelists to Ms. Thea Sandberg ([thea.sandberg@un.org](mailto:thea.sandberg@un.org)) with Mr. Mario Buil-Mercede ([buil.mercede@un.org](mailto:buil.mercede@un.org)) in copy.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Program</b>
09:00 - 09:10 am	<i>Introductory remarks</i> Chef de Cabinet, Ambassador Tegan Brink on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir.
09:10 - 10:25 am	<i>Interactive Panel Discussion</i>  <b>Moderator</b> Karen Smith, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect  <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jan Eliasson, former Deputy-Secretary-General and President of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.</li><li>• Juan E. Mendez, Professor of Human Rights Law in Residence at WCL/American University and former Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.</li><li>• Liberata Mulamula, Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary of Tanzania and former Executive Secretary of International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).</li><li>• Donald Deya, Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) and Chair of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP).</li><li>• Savita Pawnday, Deputy Executive Director of the Global Centre on the Responsibility to Protect.</li></ul>
10:25 - 10:30 am	<i>Closing Remarks</i> Pramilla Patten, acting Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The meeting will be conducted in English.