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What is this Campaign About?



This December marks the 70th anniversary of the **UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crimes of Genocide**. What better way to celebrate than to throw it a birthday semester! A lot of progress has been made in the last 70 years as the world has begun to study and implemented methods of peacebuilding intended to prevent and mitigate genocide and mass atrocities. Today, these efforts are being prioritized in unprecedented ways.

With that being said, there is much more work that still needs to be done. Last month, the UN declared genocide in Burma and strongly condemned the military's persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority. Yemen continues to be brutally bombed by Saudi Arabia and other coalition states—including the United States—exacerbating the on-the-ground conflict, restricting access to humanitarian aid, and causing thousands to die of preventable diseases. South Sudan, the newest country in the world, is in its seventh year of war, and despite efforts to reach a peace deal, continues to harm civilians through attempts to win power. We are using this semester to celebrate the work that's been done thus far, and to raise money to continue the fight against genocide and mass atrocities.

What is the Genocide Convention?

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crimes of Genocide was a meeting of 149 parties that made major steps in the global community's ability to respond to genocide. Raphael Lemkin, a Jewish-Polish lawyer who coined the term "genocide" in 1941, campaigned for its convening in 1948. Headed by the United Nations, the Genocide Convention declares genocide as any acts carrying "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group." The Convention made genocide a crime and lists five acts that could equate to genocide, for instance killing members of the group,

causing extreme harm to members of the group, and other actions would threaten the future survival of the group, including birth prevention. The Convention ultimately took force on January 12, 1951 and was ratified by 149 countries around the world.

While the Convention itself was a massive accomplishment, as it recognized genocide as a crime for the first time, the UN struggles with enforcing its laws because its power is largely symbolic. For this reason, the Convention has been generally unable to address the mass atrocities and acts of genocide that have occurred since its conception. Though we still have work left to do, the Convention really is a cause for celebration.

What Has Happened Since 1948?

- **1975-1979:** No country invokes the Genocide Convention during the Cambodian Genocide, where the communist Khmer Rouge, under the leadership of Pol Pot, caused up to 3 million deaths from 1975-1979.
- **1988:** The United States finally ratifies the Convention. Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire gave over 3,200 speeches on the Senate floor over 20 years prior, urging ratification.
- **1993:** Yugoslavia begins to break up along ethnic lines, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia) gains independence. The Serbs begin a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Bosnian and Croatian citizens, claiming the lives of over 10,000. The international community does little to take action, but the UN establishes the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia—the first criminal tribunal since Nuremberg and the first to be mandated to prosecute the crime of genocide.
- **1994:** The world largely stands by during 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The United States government refuses to say the word “genocide” in order to avoid intervening. France provides weapons to the perpetrators and assists in the escape of many perpetrators towards the end of the genocide. The UN does not allow the use of force by the peacekeeping mission and reduces the number of troops in the mission once the genocide actually begins.
- **1994:** The International Criminal Tribunal is created in Rwanda to try accused perpetrators of the genocide.
- **1998:** Jean-Paul Akayesu is the first person to be convicted of genocide crimes. He was the mayor of a Rwandan village during the genocide who began inciting violence in his village.

- **1998:** The International Criminal Court (ICC) is established to try individuals for crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes.
- **2004:** US Secretary of State Colin Powell declares crimes in Darfur, Sudan “genocide.” Outrage over violence incited by Sudanese government among civil society. Many new organizations form between 2003 and 2005 to help stop the genocide (including STAND!).
- **2005:** All member states at the World Summit endorse the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), a commitment to prevent genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing.
- **2007:** The Genocide Prevention Task Force, co-chaired by Madeleine Albright and William Cohen, is launched in order to bring genocide prevention to a place of national priority and to develop policy recommendations.
- **2009:** Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is the first state leader indicted by the ICC. He is convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, however, he remains the Sudanese president today.
- **March 2016:** US Secretary of State John Kerry declares that the Islamic State’s (IS) actions against Christian, Yazidi, and Shia Muslims constitute genocide.
- **March and August 2018:** Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act is introduced in the House of Representatives (March) and the Senate (August)
- **July 2018:** House of Representatives passes Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act
- **August 2018:** UN accuses Burmese military and government of genocide against the Rohingya Muslim minority.

What Are We Raising Money For?

STAND! STAND is the student-led movement to end mass atrocities that was born out of the fight against genocide in Darfur, Sudan. STAND works to educate young people about modern mass atrocities as well as prevention tactics in the US government. In this way, we hold our elected officials accountable by advocating for specific legislation related to ending and preventing genocide and mass atrocities. STAND seeks to educate and inspire communities to mobilize in order to become leaders of the anti-genocide movement.



In just over a decade, STAND has succeeded in divesting the endowments and pension funds of more than 25 states and 8 universities from companies doing business with the Sudanese government; pressuring over twenty university and city officials to responsibly invest in Congo's minerals sector; and collaborating to create Books Not Bombs, a campaign that has supported the creation of 8 campus-specific scholarships for Syrian refugees totaling \$1,340,000, and that is continuing to engage over 200 U.S. campuses.

Funds raised for STAND will go towards training students and young people in effective advocacy, peer education, community organizing, and peacebuilding in their own communities. Funds raised will help us be the most effective we can be, by funding lobby days, campaigning, and conferences to expand our reach and up our impact.

Fundraising Goal

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 for STAND this semester. That may seem like a lot, but not if you break it down. If 10 chapters raised \$1,000 each, we would hit our goal just like that! If you are a chapter, aim to raise between \$500 and \$1,000, and if you're an individual, set a goal of \$250-\$500. By using some of our suggestions and your own creativity, we know you can do it! Look beyond your school, create incentives, and just have fun.

What Are Our Legislative Asks?

Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act: Over the summer, this bill passed with near-unanimous support in the House; now it's time to push it through the Senate! Named in honor of Holocaust survivor and anti-genocide advocate Elie Wiesel, the Genocide & Atrocities Prevention Act would help the U.S. government develop and coordinate a cohesive atrocities prevention strategy through the creation of an interagency Atrocities Prevention Board (APB). It would require that all Foreign Service Officers be trained in recognizing and responding to the warning signs of mass violence and support the Complex Crises Fund, which allows the U.S. government to respond to emerging crises with the urgency required to make an immediate impact.

Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act: Despite violent conflict being at an all-time high, the United States doesn't have a comprehensive approach to

violence reduction around the world. The Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act (GFVRA) will require the creation of a Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence in order to guide US efforts in reducing and preventing global violence, and encouraging coordination between private and civil society sectors to push research efforts and effective use of public funds. Additionally, the bill requires USAID, along with the Secretary of Defense and State, to select 10 pilot countries in which programming will be pursued over the course of the next 10 years.

Fundraising Event Ideas:

Cupcake deliveries - deliver cupcakes (or any other baked good) to dorms/libraries around campus. This is a great way to make money, especially during midterms/finals and as late night deliveries. Be sure to create a Google Form ahead of time, so you know who to deliver to and when and where they want their treat.

Cake a professor - find a faculty member or two who's popular on campus and ask them to donate their time to get caked by students who give money.

Cake eating contest - have participants pay an entry fee and whoever finishes their cake (can be small cake, half a cake, or a dozen cupcakes) first is the winner. Give them a prize, or perhaps a small portion of the proceeds.



Cake walk - A cakewalk is similar to musical chairs, where people pay a fee, then walk around in a circle to music with numbers placed on the ground. When the music stops, a number is read out by the organizers, and the person standing on the number called receives a cake!

Birthday party - throw a birthday party for the UN Genocide Convention! Do this as a finals destresser or just for fun! Put balloons around campus, send around invitations (in dorms, to clubs, as flyers, etc.). Carry around a balloon or wear a birthday hat in the days leading

up to the party as a way of advertising. If you don't feel comfortable charging people to enter the party, consider selling t-shirts, food, stickers, etc. so you still raise money.

Set up a Facebook birthday fundraiser - even if your birthday does not fall during the semester, set up a birthday fundraising page for the convention's birthday! Ask your friends and family to donate and share widely. Set an achievable but challenging goal and see how much you can raise!

Check out more ideas [here](#)!

Who Should I Ask to Donate?

- **Other students:** Most students don't have a ton of cash, but every donation counts. Encourage your friends and classmates to give the cost of a cup of coffee or a lunch out. Send people personal fundraising requests on social media -- you can even make fun snapchats to ask your friends to give. You can also charge students for events or other fundraisers.
- **Other student clubs/organizations** (Muslim Cultural Association, Amnesty International, Southeast Asian Student Association, African Diaspora Clubs, etc.): Ask other clubs to cosponsor events, publicize them to increase your turnout, and even help pay for them.
- **Family:** Try emailing or calling individual family members asking them to contribute to your campaign. You can also ask them to donate on Facebook (or elsewhere) in lieu of holiday gifts, or share your fundraiser at their work.
- **Local community:** Invite community members to events via fliers, announcements at community meetings or community newsletters. You can also ask local places of worship to help spread the word.
- **Local businesses:** A lot of restaurants host events for nonprofits and donate a portion of the proceeds on a specific night to a cause. Visit local restaurants and ask in person if they will participate in some sort of fundraising effort. You can also ask local businesses for raffle or silent auction items for your events.

