



## The Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

La Red Latinoamericana para la Prevención del Genocidio y Atrocidades Masivas

- Member Countries** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
- Objetives** Constructing regional and national foundations for the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities, as well as empowering Latin American States to become leaders in prevent on the international stage.
- Tools** National Programs, regional initiatives and a common curriculum on the prevention of genocicee and other mass atrocities, finalized and approved by all member countries.



Established in 2012, the **Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention** (the Latin American Network) is a regional body of cooperation conformed by 18 member states that have prioritized atrocity prevention in the development of both foreign and domestic policy. The Latin American Network is, to date, the first regional initiative whose primary goal is the development and implementation of a genocide prevention curriculum into each participating country's mandatory training programs for civil servants. This effort will equip the emerging generation of influential voices with the tools necessary to prevent genocide and expand the human rights agenda within their constitutate countries and the region as a whole.

The initiative to create the Latin American Network was led by the Secretariat of Human Rights of Argentina and of Brazil, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, in partnership with the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) and with the support of the Office of the United Nations Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide. Under the auspices of this structure for regional leadership, the Auschwitz Institute facilitated the development of a proposal for an educational and training curriculum, which was presented to the participating countries at the Latin American Network's first planning meeting.

This meeting took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March, 2012, with

representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Justice, and Offices of the Ombudsman from the Network's 18 member states meeting to discuss the development of future policies and participate in a training session on genocide prevention. This initial meeting was also dedicated to the consideration of the Latin American Network's structure and goals.

**“The Network is a vibrant, solid, committed, and leading actor in the global architecture of genocide and mass atrocity prevention.”**

Adama Dieng, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

The Latin American Network's structure is based on the establishment of national Focal Points who are in charge of the participation of their government and institution within the Network. Often as a result of their increased participation, certain countries have advanced in the creation of National Mechanisms for Genocide Prevention. National Mechanisms are inter-institutional structures that involve representatives from all relevant areas of the State at the national, as well as provincial, level.

These Mechanisms represent their countries in the Network and carry out the development of a unified national policy on genocide prevention. National Mechanisms exist as horizontal structures within a government, making them highly effective in ensuring compliance with national prevention goals. As several Network members have developed, or are in the process of developing their own National Mechanisms, the Auschwitz Institute provides special



VIII Focal Points Meeting  
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assistance to help publicize these efforts as part of its own institutional agenda.

The Latin American Network's genocide and mass atrocity prevention curriculum was initially put into practice through bi-annual Raphael Lemkin Seminars. Between 2013 and 2016, the seminars were convened twice per year, once at the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland, with a complementary session then held at sites of past mass atrocities in Latin America.

Each year, the proposed curriculum was tested and revised by a different pool of participants from all of the Network's 18 member countries until the completion of the pilot phase of the initiative. Through this process, seminar alumni have helped their respective Focal Points and the existing National Mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the curriculum within each participating country. Each Raphael Lemkin Seminar is followed by an evaluation meeting in which each Latin American Network member country has the opportunity to make comments and suggestions to improve the structure and content of these training seminars. Based on the results of each seminar's evaluation, AIPR has actively revised the curriculum for the following iteration.

The pilot phase of the initiative was successfully initiated in June, 2013 at Auschwitz, and, after meaningful events in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, ended in July of 2016, marking the start of the subsequent phase of full implementation. The first Lemkin seminar to follow the pilot phase of implementation took place in 2017, as the direct result of decisions made at the VII Focal Points Meeting in November of 2016.

Beyond the educational component of the Latin American Network, each member country has taken on the task of identifying areas within their governmental structures where genocide and mass atrocity prevention programs can be implemented. These national initiatives include the establishment of interinstitutional genocide prevention seminars, strengthening of transitional justice policies and fight against discrimination.

The Latin American Network is actively working on the international promotion of the accomplishments made by Latin American States in this regard, as the region increasingly represents a central voice in the international effort for genocide and mass atrocity prevention. As part of its mission, the Latin American Network also prioritizes and facilitates measures of South-South cooperation, especially vis-à-vis the African Union.

Both the Latin American Network and the Auschwitz Institute are committed to fostering a focus on genocide and mass atrocity prevention as a process led by the member states themselves. The Network initiative not only emerged from the region, but was both originally conceptualized and initiated by Latin American States. Each member is considered an engine that propels the development and progress that has defined the Network since its inception. Each member recognizes that regional leadership and cooperation are essential factors in maintaining the long-term sustainability of this successful prevention effort in Latin America.