The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

Our mission is to prevent genocide

2009 Annual Report

Photo: AIPR
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I am proud to present the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation’s Annual Report for 2009. AIPR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of genocide and violent conflict throughout the world. At AIPR, we recognize the need for more effective measures to avoid genocidal situations. Our mission is to build an international community of governmental, nongovernmental, private, and academic actors to prevent the mass murder of innocent civilians.

Genocide is a complex, multifaceted issue and must be challenged through a comprehensive, multidimensional approach. The continuing atrocities of genocide throughout the 20th and 21st centuries demonstrate that our world lacks an international force with the capacity and the knowledge to address contemporary challenges related to peace and social justice, to strengthen democratic values, and to promote international cooperation in preventing genocide. AIPR believes it is our duty to create this strong collaboration, and to take an active approach to stopping genocide before it happens. Our customized, week long seminars, featuring world-renowned scholars and future policy leaders, are designed not only to educate policymakers on the history of genocide and strategies for preventing it from multiple perspectives, but also to foster a community of policy practitioners to support action for dealing with crisis situations as they arise. AIPR’s programs create for the first time a coalition of policymakers, educators, and future leaders who are knowledgeable and trained in genocide prevention.

The programs detailed in this report show the great strides AIPR has made in developing this international community, and the success of our efforts have had in preventing and deterring future genocides. I believe that wisdom is the ultimate good and wisdom flows from knowledge. The more we know about our past and about one another, the more good will come of our future.

Fred Schwartz
The Faces Behind AIPR

Staff

Fred Schwartz
Founder and President

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Amy Schwartz
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Social Networks

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Media Relations
AIPR Mission and

Mission
The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation works to prevent genocide by building a worldwide community of policymakers with the tools and the commitment to respond to conflict before it turns into genocide.

Throughout history, genocide has caused the deaths of more human beings than all the wars and individual murders combined. In light of the international community's failure to stop the mass killing of innocent civilians in the 20th and 21st centuries, AIPR is dedicated to building a network of genocide-sensitive policymakers, NGO activists, and academic researchers with the knowledge and the capacity to cooperate across borders in building peace, advancing social justice, and strengthening rule of law.

History
The concept of the Auschwitz Institute was first presented to the public at the January 2004 Stockholm International Forum, where it received strong backing from government, academic, religious, and business leaders. The establishment of the AIPR was approved unanimously at the 2004 spring meeting of the International Auschwitz Council and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. AIPR acquired legal status as a 501(c)(3) in 2007.

Raphael Lemkin Center for the Prevention of Genocide
The Raphael Lemkin Center for the Prevention of Genocide, established in partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, brings policymakers from around the world to the Holocaust site of Auschwitz in Poland for training in the most effective strategies for preventing genocide and mass atrocities.

Each year, AIPR invites UN member countries to nominate two mid-level policymakers in justice, defense, or human rights to participate in one of our Raphael Lemkin Seminars on Genocide Prevention, held on the Holocaust site of Auschwitz in Poland. Facilitated by leading scholars and policy practitioners, each weeklong seminar features instruction in and discussion of genocide from the perspectives of history, politics, law, diplomacy, psychology,
human rights, the media, military policy, economics, and transitional justice.

Participants come away with not only a framework for understanding the problem, but valuable tools to address the issue in their day-to-day work on the front lines of genocide prevention.

The experience of spending a week in Auschwitz studying and discussing genocide leaves an indelible impression, giving participants not only a heightened knowledge of the issue and the options for combating it but a greater sense of urgency and commitment to their work.

Each Lemkin Seminar has three components:
• Training
• Networking/Follow-up
• Sustainability/Capacity Building

Training: During each one-week seminar in Auschwitz, mid-level policymakers, selected on the basis of their leadership potential, learn the latest strategies for the prevention of genocide and other forms of violent conflict, presented by leading scholars and practitioners. Lectures, workshops, discussion groups, and sharing of personal experience from the field are all used as modalities.

Networking/Follow-up: This is the first immediate result of the seminars—the creation of a network of policymakers committed to genocide prevention who can assist each other in assessing crisis situations as they arise. To nurture and facilitate this community, the AIPR holds a reunion each year for past participants and instructors. In April 2010 it will be held in Buenos Aires, co-organized by the Government of Argentina.

Sustainability/Capacity Building: This is the greatest impact of the Lemkin Seminars in the long term. After the first seminar, in 2008, participants organized an informal group to monitor the political situation in Burundi—one example of the kinds of creative action AIPR engenders through the Lemkin Center. In 2009, three Lemkin Prizes of 2,000 Euros each were offered as an incentive for participants to develop their own projects for the prevention of violent conflict, the only requirement being that projects involve two or more countries. All of these measures aim at building the capacity of governments—and individual officials—to take action, and to do so in a sustainable manner.

“This brings me to commend the work of AIPR, which for me is unparalleled, especially bringing individuals from different governments to have first-hand interaction with these issues and places and have an opportunity to share experiences, also in leading the way for us to develop a global understanding of wars, genocide, dictatorship, and repressive events that have occurred around the world.” Ms. Memunatu Pratt, Professor, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Raphael Lemkin Seminar Alumna 2009
Raphael Lemkin Genocide Prevention Seminar: 
October 26–November 1, 2009, Auschwitz, Poland

This seven-day workshop provided an intensive focus on the history of genocide and featured insights gained through interactive learning modalities, including lectures, seminars, facilitated discussion groups, and sharing of personal experiences in the field.

The organizers were AIPR's Raphael Lemkin Center for the Prevention of Genocide, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and the Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America, with support from Humanity United, Jagiellonian University, the U.S. State Department, and the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The goals of this seminar were to build a heightened degree of awareness and sensitivity to previous genocides, to show the consequences of a lack of capacity to act, to foster an understanding of the responsibility of states to prevent genocide, to empower the special role of participants to act, to encourage participants to create a network of professionals in their own countries, and to form a network of alumni who will remain in communication.

The workshop empowered participants by promoting self-reflection, which in turn built a better understanding of their states’ capacity to prevent genocide. Attendees also created a working group in each region, helping them to acquire critical knowledge through interaction with others. Finally, the seminar equipped participants with insight into their individual areas of expertise in genocide prevention.

Participants in the seminar were selected on the basis of their intellectual capacity, their leadership skills and their passion for human rights and the rule of law, and were nominated by their ambassador to the United Nations or their governments’ executive branch.

“The biggest similarity with all genocides is that they are committed by ordinary people.” Tibi Galis, Executive Director AIPR
Seminar Participants

Javier Paez de la Torre, Argentina
Laura Toker, Argentina
Teresa Amélia Arruda Barroso, Brazil
Maitê de Souza Schmitz, Brazil
Sopheap Leoung, Cambodia
Isabela Varela, Cape Verde
Beatriz Contreras, Chile
Alvaro Guzman, Chile
Ileka Atoki, Congo DRC
Emmanuelli Kahaya, Congo DRC
Abdou Adamou, Niger
Giancarlos Candanedo, Panama
Armonía Chang, Panama
Manah Kpukumu, Sierra Leone
Menumatu Pratt, Sierra Leone
Méné Dye, South Africa
Aruni Wijewardane, Sri Lanka
Radzhabmo Badridinova, Tajikistan
Abduqodir Ismatov, Tajikistan
Mark Eldad Mulwambo, Tanzania
Sarah Mwaipopo, Tanzania
Antonio Martinho da Costa Lopes, Timor-Leste
Aureo Jose Antonio Savio, Timor-Leste
Heather Samuelson, United States

Seminar Instructors

James Waller, professor of psychology; Carl Wilkins Fellow, Genocide Intervention Network: “The Definition of Genocide” and “The Psychology of Genocide”
Piotr Setkiewicz, historian, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum: “KL Auschwitz in the Nazi Program of the Mass Murder of European Jews”
Tibi Galis, managing director, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation: “Social Science Models for Genocide Prevention” and “Transitional Justice”
Sheri Rosenberg, director, Human Rights and Genocide Clinic and Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies, Cardozo Law School, Yeshiva University: “Foreseeing, Preventing, and Responding to Genocide: The Legal Framework”
Norul Mohamed Rashid, Office of the UN Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention: “Genocide Prevention and Early Warning in the UN System”
Simona Cruciani, Office of the UN Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention: “Genocide Prevention and Early Warning in the UN System”
Seminar Program

DAY ONE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
Morning and afternoon: Arrival in Kraków. Check-in at Holiday Inn. Tour of Kraków’s Old Town.
Evening, 19.00: Introductory session and dinner

DAY TWO: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27
Morning: Arrival in Oświęcim
11.00-14.30: Dr. James Waller: “The Definition of Genocide”
14.30-15.30: Lunch
16.00-19.00: Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey: “The History of Genocide”
19.10-20.10: Dinner

DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
7.30-8.00: Breakfast
8.00-8.15: Evaluation meeting (participants only)
8.15: Bus to Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
8.30-10.30: Dr. Wolf Kaiser: “The Role of Government Officials and German Army Leaders in the Holocaust”
10.30-12.30: Guided study visit of concentration camp Auschwitz I (in small groups)
12.30: Bus to Centre for Dialogue and Prayer
13.00-14.00: Lunch
14.00: Bus to Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
14.30-17.30: Dr. James Waller: “The Psychology of Genocide”
17.30: Bus to Centre for Dialogue and Prayer
18.00-19.00: Dinner

DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29
7.30-8.00: Breakfast
8.00-8.15: Evaluation meeting (participants only)
8.15: Bus to Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
8.30-11.30: Guided study visit of concentration camp Auschwitz II-Birkenau (in small groups)
11.30: Bus to Centre for Dialogue and Prayer
11.45-12.30: Coffee and debriefing
12.30-13.30: Lunch
13.30-15.00: Dr. Piotr Setkiewicz: “KL Auschwitz in the Nazi program of the Mass Murder of European Jews”
16.45-17.15: Transportation to Auschwitz Jewish Center
17.30-20.30: Max Kelly: “Military Mechanisms for Genocide Prevention”
Evening: Pub Basil in Oświęcim, live jazz and informal pizza-kebab dinner

DAY FIVE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
7.30-8.00: Breakfast
8.00-8.15: Evaluation meeting (participants only)
8.30-12.30: Prof. Sheri Rosenberg: “Foreseeing, Preventing, and Responding to Genocide: The Legal Framework”
12.45-13.45: Lunch
14.00-16.30: Office of the UN Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention: “Genocide Prevention and Early Warning in the UN System”
16.00-16.15: Tea
18.00-19.00: Harvard Law School Negotiation and Mediation Clinic: “Building Institutions to Counteract Genocide I”
19.00-20.00: Departure for Kraków
19.00-19.30: Check-in at Holiday Inn
Evening: Free time in Kraków

DAY SIX: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
7.00-7.45: Breakfast
7.45-8.00: Evaluation meeting (participants only)
8.00: Bus to Przegorzaly
12.30-14.00: Lunch
14.00-16.00: Andrew Stroehlein: “Media, Mass Communication, and Genocide Prevention”
16.00-16.20: Coffee break
18.30-19.30: Seminar wrap-up
19.45: Bus to Holiday Inn
Evening: Closing dinner

DAY SEVEN: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Departure
The genocide convention contains a provision that obligates states not only to prevent genocide, but to prevent the incitement of genocide, both within and outside their borders. But there are many other legal instruments in international human rights law. [Our] goal is to expose policymakers to the full range of legal options they can use in pursuit of the prevention of genocide.” – Tibi Galis, Executive Director, AIPR

One of the best ways to help reduce the rate of war crimes around the world is to send government officials to Oswiecim, Poland, for one of two powerful public policy seminars offered by the Auschwitz Institute on the site of some of the world's most horrendous war crimes.”

“The goals of this unique and admirable project were, first, to train government policymakers in the latest genocide and conflict prevention and intervention strategies. Second, the organizers are seeking to help these participants build an international network of diplomats and others who understand the warning signs and can act to help halt disaster before it strikes.”

“Never Again? What the Holocaust can't teach us about modern-day genocide” – ForeignPolicy.com, December, 2009

“Their is long-term work, to be sure, but if they can get enough diplomats and government officials through a program that stresses the universal potential of atrocity crimes and the possible steps for their prevention, then it might just have some positive effect on establishing political will in future cases of mass murder, when nothing
Supporting Organizations

U.S. Department of State | www.state.gov

German Federal Foreign Office | www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum | www.auschwitz.org.pl

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