Crimes Against Humanity Initiative

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE SUR LES CRIMES CONTRE L'HUMANITÉ

Never Again

Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity

The Crimes Against Humanity Initiative was launched in 2008 by the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute at Washington University School of Law

- To study the need for a treaty on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity,
- Analyze the elements of such a convention,
- Prepare a draft treaty, and
- Support the adoption of a new global treaty on crimes against humanity by the international community

The Initiative is directed by a seven-member Steering Committee

- Professor Leila Nadya Sadat, Chair
- Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni
- Ambassador Hans Corell
- Justice Richard Goldstone
- Professor Juan Méndez
- Professor William Schabas
- Judge Christine Van den Wyngaert

Whitney R. Harris
World Law Institute

Since 2008, the Initiative has progressed in four phases. The first three are complete, the fourth is ongoing

- **Phase I**
  Project preparation and methodological development

- **Phase II**
  Private study through
  - Commissioning working papers by leading experts, and
  - Collaboratively discussing draft treaty language at expert meetings

- **Phase III**
  Public discussion and adoption of the *Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity*

- **Phase IV**
  Moving toward adoption by
  - Promoting the *Proposed Convention's* strengths and innovations,
  - Advocating for a new treaty with members of the UN International Law Commission, academics, government officials, civil society representatives, and other international stakeholders,
  - Publishing *Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (Cambridge, 2013),
  - Translating the *Proposed Convention* into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish,
  - Producing a film, *Never Again: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (2017),
  - Hosting regional consultations and conferences around the world to engage a wide-variety of international stakeholders

For more information, go to
CrimesAgainstHumanity.wustl.edu

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