How to Learn More

Access the Film
The film is available for screenings as well as for use in classroom and educational settings. To find out about an upcoming screening, book a screening and personal appearance, or request a press kit, visit the Initiative’s website.

Purchase the Book
Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity
Published by Cambridge University Press, Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity (Leila Nadya Sadat, 2d. ed., 2013) contains a complete text of the Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity in English, French, and Spanish; a comprehensive history of the Proposed Convention; and fifteen original papers written by leading experts on international criminal law. To order the book, visit cambridge.org/9781107676794 or call 1.800.872.7423.

Make a Gift
The Crimes Against Humanity Initiative Fund, created in 2008, has supported research, hiring staff, travel, convening meetings, producing promotional materials—including the film Never Again—and other activities related to the work of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative and the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute. To make a tax-deductible contribution to further this important work, visit CrimesAgainstHumanity.wustl.edu and click “MAKE A GIFT.”

Contact Us
To learn more about the work of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, visit law.wustl.edu/harris or email HarrisInstitute@wustl.edu.

ABOUT THE FILM

Never Again
Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity

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Never Again
Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity

“...signifies and solidifies the international community’s quest to implement protection from atrocities that actually descend into evil. Never Again: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity is an enlightening film that captures the corresponding trek along the arc of justice, even as it bends.”

– Patricia Viseur Sellers
Special Adviser to ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda
The Crimes Against Humanity Initiative was launched in 2008 to analyze the elements for a new global treaty on crimes against humanity and draft a proposed treaty. The initiative is directed by a seven-member Steering Committee of distinguished experts. One of its members, Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni, who chaired the Drafting Committee for the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, presided over the drafting of a Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, the language of which was finalized in 2010.

The proposed convention defines crimes against humanity consistent with the ICC Statute and contains provisions on the criminal responsibility of natural and legal persons, State responsibility, jurisdiction, interstate cooperation, protecting the human rights of the accused, providing protection and reparations for the victims and sets out procedures for taking and preserving evidence, extradition, and enforcement.

In 2013, the UN International Law Commission began the process of making the treaty a political reality. Work at the ILC has proceeded steadily, and it is expected that the Commission will present a full set of draft articles to the UN General Assembly for study, debate, and approval by the year 2019 or 2020.

Following World War II, an international tribunal convicted Nazi leaders of crimes against humanity—widespread, systematic atrocities committed against civilian populations, including the attempted extermination of European Jewry. Today, however, some 70 years later, the world still lacks a global treaty for the prevention and punishment of such crimes despite their ongoing perpetration.

The gripping new film, Never Again: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity, delivers stark testimony from survivors of these continuing crimes—as well as calls from international experts working to remedy this gap in international law and justice. Together they present a compelling case for the adoption of a new global treaty by the international community.

Produced by the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis under the direction of Professor Leila Sadat, Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, and by Spot Media Production Group, Never Again posits that peace is not possible without justice, and that justice will come from the perseverance of global actors dedicated to the possibility of a better world.

Featuring
(in order of appearance)
Ben Fainer • Leila Nadya Sadat • Richard Goldstone
Robert Jackson • Whitney Harris • Benjamin Ferencz
Fatou Bensouda • Serge Brammertz
Christine Van den Wyngaert • David Scheffer
Charles Jalloh • William Schabas • M. Cherif Bassiouni
Hugo Relva • Sean Murphy

Directed by
Leila Nadya Sadat | Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute

Produced by
Aleta Harris | Spot Media Production Group, Inc.

Color / Approx. 46 Mins

Crimes Against Humanity Initiative Steering Committee
(From top left) Professor William Schabas • Justice Richard Goldstone
Ambassador Hans Corell • Professor Juan Méndez • Judge Christine Van den Wyngaert
Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni • Professor Leila Nadya Sadat, Chair

“For all the immense effort in recent years that has gone into the Rome Statute... and to creating the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ norm... there are still big gaps in our global legal armoury. This film...makes a compelling case for a new international Convention for Crimes Against Humanity. It should be compulsory viewing for all the world’s legal policymakers.”

– Gareth Evans
Co-chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty

“It is high time for all nations to respect the ‘dictates of the human conscience’ and accept a Convention binding all nations in the interest of our common humanity.”

– Benjamin Ferencz
Former Nuremberg Prosecutor