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
Since 2008, the work of the Initiative has progressed in phases:

- **Phase I (2008)**
  - Project preparation and methodological development

- **Phases II and III (2009-2013)**
  - Private study through commissioning working papers by leading experts and collaboratively discussing draft treaty language at expert meetings, followed by public discussion and adoption of the *Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity*
  - Publishing *Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (Cambridge University Press, 2011 and 2013) and translating the *Proposed Convention* into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish
  - Promoting the *Proposed Convention*’s strengths and innovations and advocating for a new treaty with members of the UN International Law Commission, academics, government officials, civil society representatives, and other international stakeholders

- **Phase IV (2014-2019)**
  - Hosting regional consultations and conferences around the world to engage a wide-variety of international stakeholders
  - Supporting the work of the UN International Law Commission (ILC) regarding the preparation of Draft Articles for a new United Nations treaty

- **Phase V (2019-Present)**
  - Following the second and final reading of the ILC Draft Articles for a new treaty
  - Adoption of the Treaty by the international community

**For more information, go to**
CrimesAgainstHumanity.wustl.edu

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