

**Preventing and Punishing the Steps to Genocide**

**and**

**virtual Launch of Rights for Peace’s**

**“Guide to Hate Crime in International Law”**

**26 January 2021: 15.00-16.30 (GMT)**

**Agenda**

**Opening words**: Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, Chair of GAMAAC and former President of the International Criminal Court - **[10 mins]**

* ***Preventing and Punishing the Steps to Genocide: Challenges and Moving Forwards***

Mariana Goetz, Director of Rights for Peace **[10 mins]**

* ***Implementing the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech: Next Steps***

Dr Sejal Parmar, Lecturer, School of Law, University of Sheffield, and Visiting Professor, Central European University **[10 mins]**

* ***The Role and responsibilities of religious leaders in addressing incitement to hatred and violence***

Michael Wiener, Human Rights Officer, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. **[10 mins]**

* ***Frameworks for Minority Rights and Upstream Prevention***:

Carl Söderbergh, Director of Policy & Communications at Minority Rights Group, and formerly at Amnesty International (Sweden) and UNHCR. **[10 mins]**

* ***Q&A*** **[40 mins]**

**Speaker bios**

***Mariana Goetz*** is the Founder of Rights for Peace. She is a human rights practitioner with over 20 years’ experience in post conflict justice, including at the Rwanda Tribunal and Special Court for Sierra Leone, where she was a Legal Adviser. More recently she was Head of Programmes at [Aegis Trust](http://www.aegistrust.org), briefly facilitating the UK Parliamentary APPG on the Prevention of Genocide and prior to that, was Deputy Director of [REDRESS](http://www.redress.org) where she had been its Post Conflict Justice Adviser working on transitional justice cases and projects with affected communities in DRC, Northern Uganda, Kenya, Central African Republic.

***Dr Sejal Parmar*** is a Lecturer at the School of Law and a fellow at the Centre for Freedom of the Media at the University of Sheffield. She is also Visiting Professor at the Central European University in Vienna, where she was previously a tenured Assistant Professor, and a fellow at its Centre on Media, Data and Society. Parmar previously worked as Senior Adviser to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media and as Senior Legal Officer at [ARTICLE 19](https://www.article19.org/). Alongside her academic work, she regularly acts as a consultant and legal expert for a range of organisations. During 2020, she worked as a consultant for the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect to develop the Detailed Guidance on the implementation of the UN Strategy and Action Plan on Hate Speech and the Guidance Note on Addressing and Countering COVID-19 Related Hate Speech. She currently serves as a Co-Rapporteur of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS).

***Carl Söderbergh*** is Director of Policy & Communications at [Minority Rights Group](https://minorityrights.org/). Carl has been heading MRG’s Policy & Communications department since 2009. He has previously worked for Amnesty International (Sweden) and UNHCR. He assisted in opening Amnesty’s office in Afghanistan in 2002, carrying out numerous human rights monitoring trips there as well as other countries, with a focus on human rights and armed conflict, as well as refugees and internally displaced issues. Prior to that, Carl worked for UNHCR in Pakistan and Sudan. Carl is responsible for overseeing MRG’s UN advocacy, publications and media work.

***Michael Wiener*** has been working since 2006 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He was one of the experts who participated in [ARTICLE19’s](https://www.article19.org/) consultations that drafted the Camden Principles on Freedom of Expression and Equality. He was also part of the core team organizing five OHCHR expert workshops that led to the adoption of the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. Since 2017, he has been working on the design and implementation of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”.