The responsibility to protect embodies a political commitment to end the worst forms of violence and persecution. It seeks to narrow the gap between international law and the reality faced by populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.


UN Events

- Formal Debate of the General Assembly under agenda item “The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity” (25 June 2018): https://un4.me/2tH2vMx
- Webcast: https://un4.me/2luupRq

  - Concept Note: https://un4.me/2xQtaYV
  - Webcast - 1st meeting: https://un4.me/2yEnAlk
  - Webcast - 2nd meeting: https://un4.me/2fGdbEF

- High-level event on “Upholding the Responsibility to Protect: The Indispensable Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Atrocity Crimes” (at the ministerial level) (co-organized by the
Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (20 September 2016)


- General Assembly High-level Thematic Panel Discussion “From Commitment to Implementation: Ten Years of the Responsibility to Protect” (26 February 2016):

- General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on the responsibility of States to protect their populations by preventing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity (8 September 2015):
assembly-69th-session-informal-interactive-dialogue/4473202361001

- General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect (8 September 2014):


- General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on “The Responsibility to Protect: Timely and Decisive Response” (5 September 2012):

- Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Responsibility to Protect (12 July 2011):
- Informal Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly "Early Warning, Assessment, and the Responsibility To Protect", 9 August 2010, United Nations Headquarters:
- Interactive Thematic Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on the
Responsibility to Protect, 23 July 2009, United Nations Headquarters:  


Selected UN Documents

  Transmits summary and conclusions of the 5th meeting of the Global Network of Responsibility to Protect Focal Points, held in Madrid, 23-24 June 2015.

  Transmits a concept note developed by the Government of Brazil on the issue entitled “Responsibility while protecting elements for the development and promotion of a concept”.

- A/65/877-S/2011/393 (28 June 2011): The role of regional and subregional arrangements
UNRIC Library Backgrounder: Responsibility to Protect

in implementing the responsibility to protect: report of the Secretary-General: [http://undocs.org/A/65/877]

- A/63/958 (9 September 2009): Concept note on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity: note / by the President of the General Assembly: [http://undocs.org/A/63/958]
  
  In the second preambular paragraph of this resolution, the Security Council recalled its earlier reaffirmation of the provisions regarding the provisions of paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

  
  In paragraph 4 of this resolution, the Security Council reaffirmed the provisions of paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome regarding the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

  
  Paragraphs 138 and 139 of this document: “Responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”


  
  Transmits report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty entitled "The Responsibility to Protect"
Selected Statements and Speeches by UN Officials

- Statements by the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on the Responsibility to Protect:
- All atrocity crimes preventable, can never be justified, Secretary-General tells General Assembly Debate on Responsibility to Protect (SG/SM/19103-GA/12032, 25 June 2018):
- Secretary-General urges move beyond conceptual debate towards better protection against atrocity crimes, at Informal Dialogue on Responsibility to Protect (SG/SM/18666-GA/11937, 6 September 2017):
- Amid increased suffering, responsibility to protect all the more necessary – UN Special Adviser (UN News Centre Interview, 24 March 2017):
- Preventing conflict, recurrence of atrocity crimes remains key in responsibility to protect efforts, Deputy Secretary-General tells Interactive Dialogue (DSG/SM/1003, 6 September 2016):
- Engage early, more decisively in curbing atrocities, urges Secretary-General, telling focal points responsibility to protect has never been more urgent (SG/SM/17866, 20 June 2016):
- As General Assembly Debates Second ‘Responsibility to Protect’ Decade, Deputy Secretary-General calls for stronger peacebuilding commitments (DSG/SM/943-GA/11765, 26 February 2016):
- Implementing responsibility to protect ‘demands political will, national commitment’, Secretary-General tells Ministerial Round Table (SG/SM/17165, 30 September 2015):
- Secretary-General, citing ‘damning’ list of humanitarian crises, calls for renewed action as General Assembly holds Dialogue on ‘Responsibility to Protect’ Pledge (SG/SM/17054-GA/11672, 8 September 2015):
- Early warning, preventive diplomacy, monitoring vital in fight against atrocity crimes, Deputy Secretary-General tells Round Table on Human Rights, Responsibility to Protect (DSG/SM/804-HR/5214, 25 September 2014):
- Deputy-Secretary-General says ‘responsibility to protect’ must be translated into more systematic implementation at early warnings of atrocity crimes (DSG/SM/793-GA/11539, 8 September 2014):
- Secretary-General tells General Assembly collective responsibility to protect demands ‘far more from us’ in current troubling times (SG/SM/16127-GA/11538, 8 September 2014):
- Secretary-General, in Message on Responsibility to Protect, says prevention must start at
home, with ‘honest assessment of both risk and resilience’ (SG/SM/15351, 27 September 2013):

- Prevention at core of Responsibility to Protect, Secretary-General stresses during General Assembly’s Informal Interactive Dialogue on subject (SG/SM/15269-GA/11411, 11 September 2013):

- Deputy Secretary-General, at General Assembly Dialogue, says preventing atrocity crimes ‘both a national and an international responsibility’ (DSG/SM/689-GA/11412, 11 September 2013):

- Responsibility to Protect ‘here to stay’, says Deputy Secretary-General, strongly encouraging appointment of national focal points for ‘R2P’ (DSG/SM/644, 3 October 2012):

- Responsibility to Protect faces urgent test ‘here and now’, Secretary-General tells General Assembly, stressing immense human cost of failure in Syria (SG/SM/14490-GA/11271, 5 September 2012):

- Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel: “Current issues of modern international law” (Roundtable discussion on the concept of “Responsibility to Protect”, 55th Annual meeting of the Russian Association of International Law, 27 June 2012, Moscow, Russian Federation):

http://legal.un.org/ola/media/info_from_lc/POB%20Moscow%20-%20R2P.pdf

- Responsibility to Protect’ came of age in 2011, Secretary-General tells conference, stressing need to prevent conflict before it breaks out (SG/SM/14068, 18 January 2012):

- Effective prevention requires early, active, sustained engagement, Stresses Secretary-General at Ministerial Round Table on ‘Responsibility to Protect’ (SG/SM/13838, 23 September 2011):

- Interview with Edward Luck, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General (UN Newsmaker, 1 August 2011):

- Remarks at the Interactive Dialogue on the Right to Protect (French) (12 July 2011):

- History of atrocity crimes is not one of acting too boldly, but of doing too little, too late, Secretary-General tells General Assembly (SG/SM/13700-GA/11113, 12 July 2011):

- Libya, Côte d’Ivoire Events Mark Historic Precedent, Secretary-General Tells Sofia Platform, Citing ‘Watershed’ in Responsibility to Protect Doctrine (SG/SM/13548, 6 May 2011):

Upcoming debate on responsibility to protect not about history, but character of United Nations, Secretary-General tells General Assembly (SG/SM/12374-GA/10846, 21 July 2009):

Secretary-General defends, clarifies ‘responsibility to protect’ at Berlin event on ‘Responsible Sovereignty: International Cooperation for a Changed World’ (SG/SM/11701, 15 July 2008):

Responsibility to protect ‘profound moral imperative in today’s world’, says Secretary-General in message to Global Centre opening (SG/SM/11419, 14 February 2008):

On anniversary of Rwanda genocide, Secretary-General says current challenge is to make responsibility to protect operational (SG/SM/10934-AFR/1519, 5 April 2007):

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon tells Center for Strategic and International Studies he has ‘hit the ground running’, as year ahead will be ‘deeply taxing’; priorities include responsibility to protect, Middle East, Darfur, Kosovo, non-proliferation, development goals, HIV/Aids, climate change, human rights (SG/SM/10842, 17 January 2007):

Secretary-General addresses International Peace Academy Seminar on ‘The Responsibility To Protect’ (SG/SM/8125, 15 February 2002):

Selected UN Publications & Articles available online

Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations: Responsibility to Protect (Background Note, March 2014):

http://i.unu.edu/media/unu.edu/publication/31142/R2P_POC_Policy_Guide.pdf

R2P and the UN / by Beatriz Escriña Cremades (UN Chronicle, Volume XLVIII, Number 2, 2011):
http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/home/archive/issues2011/pursuingpeace/r2pandtheun

The Responsibility to Protect / by Mark Notaras and Vesselin Popovski (Article published 2011-04-05, United Nations University website):
- The European Union’s Role in Promoting and Implementing the Responsibility to Protect in Africa: Turning Political Commitments into Effective Action / by Andrej Kirn (United Nations University, Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges Regional Integration & Global Governance Papers 2011/1):
  http://cris.unu.edu/sites/cris.unu.edu/files/BRIGG_2011-1_0.pdf
- Refugees, internally displaced persons and the 'responsibility to protect' / Susan Harris Rimmer (UNHCR, March 2010):
  http://www.unhcr.org/4b97b0909.html
- Protecting civilians in the context of UN peacekeeping operations - Advance Copy / by Victoria Holt and Glyn Taylor (Independent study jointly commissioned by United Nations DPKO/OCHA, November 2009):
- Embracing the "responsibility to protect": a repertoire of measures including asylum for potential victims / by Brian Barbour (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR, Policy Development and Evaluation Service, July 2008):
  http://www.unhcr.org/research/RESEARCH/487b619b0.pdf

Further Information

- International Criminal Court (ICC):
  http://www.icc-cpi.int/
- United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict:
  http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict:
  http://www.refworld.org/civilians.html
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Thematic Areas: Protection:
  https://www.unocha.org/themes/protection
- Women, Peace and Security:
- UNRIC Library Backgrounders

- General Assembly adopts Work Programme, Agenda for Seventy-Second Session, including Item on Responsibility to Protect (GA/11946, 15 September 2017):