

The term genocide had been coined just a few years earlier, in 1944, by Polish lawyer Raphaël Lemkin. In his book *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe* Lemkin describes combining *geno*, from the Greek word for race or tribe, with *-cide*, derived from the Latin word for killing. In coining the name genocide Lemkin was challenged by the fact of the existence of a name for the crime of killing one person, murder and none for the killing of a million people. "Why is the killing of a million people a lesser crime than the killing of an individual?" Lemkin asked.

Lemkin

on the causes and dynamics of atrocity crimes and support Member States and other relevant actors to promote prevention of these crimes.

I also advocate for the universal ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, support national efforts to incorporate obligations under this convention in the national legal systems, build national mechanisms to monitor prevention mechanisms and accountability for atrocity crimes and provtio

Throughout history a common tendency is often discerned from groups regarding themselves as normal while otherising the rest of humankind. We live in a reality of the fact that stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination, culminating in racial injustice will often be whipped up by

Assembly and Human Rights Council Resolutions. The *1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* has now been ratified by 153 United Nations Member States, demonstrating its significance. The most recent ratification was in July 2022 by the Republic of Zambia. **Article III of the Convention determines** as punishable, the acts of: Genocide, Conspiracy to commit genocide, Direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempt to commit genocide and complicity in genocide. Some UN Member States who have ratified are yet to fully d acts of

right that we archive and study the information on these crimes. It is right that we understand the risk factors and indicators that led to these crimes. In so doing, we shall remain vigilant and ensure support non recurrence and take prompt action when such risk emerges.

Beyond judicial action

I acknowledge the importance of judicial action so that victims find some measure of redress and all allegations find their day in court. Accountability constitutes an important step on the path towards prevention of future crimes. Justice alone, however, is insufficient to heal a society, yet no healing is possible without justice. We also do live in realities in which reliance upon legal defenses can only be used where the rule of law and orderly political change is fully accepted, and Constitutional safeguards are sometimes not enough to resolve cultural tensions and racial injustices.

The global challenges and opportunities we are facing require action at all levels, from government level to communities and I will mention a few initiatives

To commem

Ending racial injustice and preventing genocide begins with being knowledgeable.

We must keep commemorating, keep organizing, not only to honor and keep the memory of the victims alive, but also as a reminder that so long as racial injustice exists the risk of genocide remains real. We must keep asking difficult questions on what feeds racial injustice; unpack the fear of difference, vested interests, mythologies of racial purity, and of course, domination. We must not tire of examining how racial injustice manifests, what its effects are, how it can be addressed and countered. How do we emphasize existing historical precedents promoting racial justice? How do we emphasize honest attempts to app

