

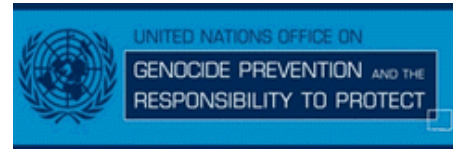


KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Canada



Permanent Mission of Uruguay
to the United Nations



MEDIA ADVISORY

65th Commission on the Status of Women

Strengthening women's role front and centre of atrocity prevention

A virtual side event organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, UN Women, the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

Thursday 18 March 2021, 11:30am to 1:00pm (EST)

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the General Assembly's unanimous adoption of the responsibility to protect (2005) and the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, the twelfth report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect, "Prioritizing prevention and strengthening response: women and the responsibility to protect" (<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/2009954E.pdf>) issued in July 2020, places a focus on gender equality and the various roles that women can play in supporting prevention of atrocity crimes (genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing) as well as their protection from the risk thereof.

As highlighted in the report, all four crimes and violations associated with the responsibility to protect can have a gendered impact. For example, widespread or systematic sexual violence may constitute atrocity crimes. Also, the indicators of risk can have gender dimension. For instance, gender-based hate speech, that is embedded in gendered stigmas and stereotypes, can be a precursor of incitement to violence both in peaceful and conflict contexts. Moreover, while in many parts of the world women are already displaying immense leadership in conflict and atrocity prevention, they often remain excluded and marginalized from many areas of decision making and face severe protection challenges.

Hence, to advance the effective implementation of the responsibility to protect and build synergies with the women, peace and security agenda, it is vital to recognize and strengthen women's role front and centre of atrocity prevention and identify remaining obstacles thwarting women's meaningful role and leadership in prevention.

Against this background, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, UN Women, and the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations will convene a virtual side event during the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Building on the recommendations of the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, the event will provide a space to discuss key challenges and opportunities to enhance the protection of women and girls from atrocity crimes and to support women leadership in atrocity prevention at the local, national and regional level. Panellists will include high-level representatives as well as representatives of civil society, including women peacebuilders.

WHAT: Virtual side-event

WHO: **United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, UN Women, the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations.**

WHEN: Thursday 18 March 2021, 11:30am – 1pm EST

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/BCSgynaumD95mCsW7>

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For more information about the work and mandate of the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, please visit <http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/>