



HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK-UGANDA (HURINET-U)

CONCEPT NOTE

GAMMAC III MAKING PREVENTION A REALITY IN UGANDA

INTRODUCTION

Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) is a global state-led mechanism created in March 2013 by states and civil society organizations committed to preventing mass atrocities crimes (genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing)

GAAMAC provides a Platform for exchange dialogue and good practice on prevention and supporting states in building their own prevention capacity such as development and implementation of National prevention strategies.

GAAMAC hosts biannual global meetings and has so far held two, one in Costa Rica (2014), Philippines (2016) and GAAMAC III will be held in Kampala in corporation with the Government of Uganda from 22nd -25th May 2018. The conference will focus on mutual cooperation between the state and Civil Society Organization (CSO's) to make prevention a reality at the local, national, regional and international level.

BACKGROUND

The history of the world has recorded tens of millions of men, women and children who have lost lives in mass atrocities, killings, genocides such as Cambodia, Kosovo, Rwanda and millions more have been tortured, raped or forced out of their homes.

Even in recent years Liberia, Sierra Leone and so many other parts of the world are undergoing or on the brink of civil war which have led to gruesome suffering, loss of life and property, killings using dangerous weapons.

East Africa has had its share of mass atrocities especially Uganda e.g. the Luwero War which was a civil war fought between the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) and the National Resistance Army (NRA) from 1981 to 1986. Also the Lord's Resistance Army(LRA) under Joseph Kony that fought President Museveni's Government for over a decade during which committed grave mass atrocities. These included among others war crimes (murder, cruel treatment of civilians), crimes against humanity (enslavement, and inhumane acts of inflicting serious bodily injury and suffering).



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And recently on 26 November 2016 in the town of Kasese Violence erupted due to misunderstanding between the Central Government and Rwenzururu kingdom, which led to killings of Rwenzururu royal guards, Government security agencies and civilians. However the region is known and continues to experience tensions of ethnic conflicts involving the different tribes (Bakonjo, Bamba, Basongora, Banyabindi, Batuku, and Batooro) and the 2016 post-election violence which has led to torture and other forms of human rights violations.

Several efforts continue to be used to resolve the atrocities such as Transitional Justice Mechanisms however emphasis is relevant in the prevention of these atrocities thus leading to the formation of mechanisms such as GAAMAC which are very timely for post conflict society of Uganda.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

GAAMAC brings together practitioners and experts in atrocity prevention every two years and the third biannual Global meeting (GAAMAC III) will take in Kampala from 23-25 May 2018 hosted by the government of Uganda. The conference shall focus on mutual cooperation between the state and CSO's to “make prevention a reality” at the local, national, regional and international level.

GAAMAC III will contribute to the establishment of a national prevention mechanism which is an indent discussion on the manual on best practices of national mechanisms for atrocity prevention realized by the African Working Group.

METHODOLOGY

HURINET-U is host to the Uganda Coalition on the International Criminal Court (UCICC) and National Coalition on Transitional Justice whose role is to demystify the role of The International Criminal Court in conflict areas. It is therefore imperative for the coalition to actively engage with the GAAMAC as a mechanism in the prevention of mass atrocities as a complementary to the ICC.

HURINET-U is therefore strategically positioned as part of and in conjunction with the National Steering Committee on Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities- Uganda been tasked by the participating Civil Society platforms to coordinate the planning and implementation of Civil Society to ensure greater civil society participation in GAAMC III.

GAAMAC III provides an open and inclusive platform for exchange and reflection for those involved in the prevention of atrocities such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. The key areas of interaction and discussion shall revolve around

- The role of memory and remembrance in preventing recurrence
- Preventing hate speech and incitement of violence



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- Information and prevention technology
- Universal periodic review as a tool to mainstream atrocity prevention
- Other fields of prevention and past prevention experiences
- The role of parliament, youth, women, religious leaders, the security , media etc

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Activities have been envisaged to precede, subsist and aftermath of the conference which include:

- a) The Pre-International conference CSO/practitioners symposium on mass atrocities in Africa. This symposium is to be held on the 21-22 May 2018 and envisage CSO's in mass atrocity prevention in aspects of peace, conflict and security and academic researchers on the same. The outcome of the symposium shall be the formulation and adoption of a communiqué highlighting critical issues on prevention of mass atrocities with the view of submitting it at the summit for consideration. The symposium will have several aspects discussed such as the impact of hate speech and media, women (to include children and youth), Human Rights Defenders and State Institutions in the prevention of mass atrocities.
- b) Documentary. This is an interface with the communities which lived mass atrocities as a platform to the victims for specific tailored discussions on emerging issues in relation to prevention of mass atrocities which can include meetings, public dialogue, lecture, documentaries and publications. These voices are to be captured from key areas such as Northern Uganda, Kasese, Luwero with an outcome of solidarity messages and a call for action such as youth, women.
- c) Public awareness and discourse on the prevention of mass atrocities through the multi-media campaigns with activities such as radio and television talk show, spot advertisements, press conference, press release, social media campaign, Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC).
- d) Peoples Space: This is an opportunity for the respective civil society organizations, groups, and communities to showcase their works through exhibition in form of Information Education and Communication materials, Arts & Drama etc.

DELIVERABLES

- a) Establishment of a National Prevention Mechanism Manual on best practices for atrocity prevention realized by the African Working Group.



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- b) Formulation and adoption of a communiqué highlighting critical issues on prevention of mass atrocities with the view of submitting it at the summit for consideration.
- c) Documentary capturing the voices of victim communities
- d) An informed citizenry on the state led mechanism to address mass atrocities.

STAKEHOLDERS

1. National Committee on Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities which includes:

- a) Office of The Prime Minister
- b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- c) Ministry of Justice and constitutional affairs
- d) Uganda Police force (UPF)
- e) Ministry of Defense
- f) Ministry of Gender
- g) Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
- h) Care International
- i) International Religions Council of Uganda (IRCU)
- j) International Refugee Rights Initiative
- k) Uganda Law Reform Commission
- l) Uganda Civil Society Fund
- m) Human Rights Network Uganda

And other committees, stakeholders, CSO's and organizations that are showing keen interest in GAAMAC III.

GAAMAC