

#3 MOBILIZING THE WILL TO INTERVENE – W2I

Proposed by the CFUW International Relations Committee

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) adopt as policy support for the Will to Intervene - W2I – Leadership and Action to Prevent Mass Atrocities demonstrated by the setting of clear policy priorities at the highest levels of government that preventing abuse and slaughter of innocent victims is one of its most important duties and further be it

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to make the Prevention of Mass Atrocities a national priority by:

- promoting a broadly designed public discussion on Canada's role in preventing mass atrocities
- convert the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity into a Standing Joint Committee
- establish an interdepartmental Coordinating Officer for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities
- create standard operating procedures for disseminating intelligence concerning the risk of mass atrocities throughout the whole of government
- consult with civil Society and NGOs to explore the broad question of how preventing mass atrocities is in Canada's interest and further be it

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge parliamentarians and senators to exercise their individual initiatives and use their existing powers and privileges to advocate for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect - R2P, as an international norm and a vital part of Canada's foreign policy

BACKGROUND

In 1946, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution aimed at preventing genocide. Subsequently the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) was proposed in the report in 2001 of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) an ad hoc commission that worked to popularize the concept of humanitarian intervention and democracy-restoring intervention (ICISS, 2001). The Commission was founded under the authority of the Canadian Government and consisted of members from the UN General Assembly. The question considered by the Commission summarized an ongoing debate between those who value the norm of humanitarian intervention above state sovereignty and vice versa. The report, while identifying core principles, did not provide comprehensive details for implementation.

In 2009, the world is still struggling to implement the noble principles of the 1946 resolution, to curtail mass atrocities.

On Thursday October 1st, 2009 the Parliamentary launch of the Will to Intervene (W2I) was held in Ottawa. Co-directors of the report are the Honourable Senator Romeo Dallaire Lieutenant General (Ret) and Dr. Frank Chalk Professor of History at Concordia University and Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies. The launch included a panel moderated by Robert Fowler, former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations and panelists Kyle Matthews lead researcher, Allan Gotlieb, former Canadian Ambassador to the United States and Kirsten Johnson, Faculty of Medicine McGill University. The hope of those involved

in producing the report is to provide concrete factual analyses and practical recommendations that change the way our democratically elected political leaders think and act.

The fundamental goal of the report titled “W2I: Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership and Action to Prevent Mass Atrocities” is to identify strategic and practical steps to raise the capacity of government officials, legislators, civil servants, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), advocacy groups, journalists and media owners and managers to build the political will to prevent mass atrocities.

W2I uses the term “mass atrocities” to refer to the four specific crimes listed by the international community in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (United Nations, 2005, #138):

- genocide,
- crimes against humanity,
- ethnic cleansing and
- war crimes

The report maintains that generating the political will necessary to prevent mass atrocities remains one of the central challenges of the 21st century. The report does not propose to organize these four crimes in a hierarchical order but rather aims to emphasize the most important human right – the right not to be murdered.

The report points out that the key to mobilizing international support is to first garner domestic support. This was one of the central arguments of The Responsibility to Protect (R2P p 70, W2I p2) - the 2001 report prepared by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS). This report was fully supported through policy by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW, 2004) and adopted by the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) as policy in 2004. To implement the R2P principles on the world stage, it is imperative that national strategies be developed for the generation of domestic political will. The W2I Project sets out to address this deficiency for Canada and the United States by presenting innovative strategies and proposing new offices within government to prevent atrocities. These recommendations are divided into four thematic sections devoted to the generation of domestic political will:

- Enabling Leadership
- Enhancing Coordination
- Building Capacity
- Ensuring Knowledge

The ICISS *Responsibility to Protect* report advanced the notion of “sovereignty as responsibility” (Deng, 1996) – first introduced by Francis Deng and others in 1996 at the Brookings Institute – which challenged a long-standing consensus that the principle of state sovereignty was absolute, regardless of whether a state committed serious human rights abuses against its own citizens (R2P p.XI). The R2P report argued that state sovereignty is a privilege, not a right, and that it is derived from a reciprocal relationship between the state and its citizens. At the 2005 World Summit, the UN General Assembly members, including Canada and the United States, agreed that if a state is unwilling or unable to protect its own citizens against gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, the international community must assume the responsibility to protect them.

The W2I report argues that the prevention of mass atrocities should be prioritized as a vital national interest by the governments of Canada and the United States. For many of today’s

policy makers, national interests continue to be defined by two central considerations: national security and economic interests. Since the end of the Cold War, more rigid globalization has changed the nature of international and transnational interactions. Threats to national security and economic interests no longer emanate exclusively from competing states.

Mass atrocities, with their chaos and mass loss of life, produce shock waves – destabilization and destruction of social, economic, health and political infrastructures – which reverberate throughout the rest of the world. Many of the experts consulted for the W2I Project emphasized the need to broaden the concept of national interests to include global security as an integral component of national security. The report argues that we must persuade leaders that the modern definition of the national interest requires a greater emphasis on the prevention of mass atrocities. To this end, a focus on prevention involves an examination of the drivers of deadly violence that create the conditions of instability.

The changing global landscape frames W2I's argument that the prevention of mass atrocities needs to be deeply integrated into Canadian and American foreign policy. Crimes against humanity and genocidal killings are threats to global security and have remained all- too prevalent since the onset of the 21st Century. Four important drivers of deadly violence identified in the report are:

- Poverty and inequality
- Population growth and the 'youth bulge'
- Ethnic nationalism
- Climate change

In an era of unprecedented global interconnectedness, political isolationism is simply not a viable policy option. Moreover, the report goes on, if the driving forces of deadly violence are not understood, American and Canadian leaders will continue to simply react to major humanitarian crises without addressing the structural factors that create the breeding ground for mass atrocities.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AS EXPRESSED BY THE W2I REPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:

Enabling Leadership

- ❖ The Prime Minister make preventing mass atrocities a national priority for Canada (p18)
- ❖ The Prime Minister appoint an International Security Minister as a senior member of the Cabinet(p20)
- ❖ The Government of Canada support and promote public discussion on Canada's role in preventing mass atrocities (p21)
- ❖ The Parliament of Canada convert the All-Party Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity into a standing joint committee (p22)
- ❖ Parliamentarians exercise individual initiatives and use their existing powers and privileges to advocate the implementation of R2P as an international norm and a vital part of Canada's foreign policy (p24)

Enhancing Coordination

- ❖ The Government of Canada create an inter departmental Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities (p30)
- ❖ The Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities create standard operating procedures for disseminating intelligence concerning the risks of mass atrocities throughout the whole of government (p32)

Building Capacity

- ❖ The Government of Canada establish a Canadian Prevention Corps (p37)
- ❖ The Government of Canada increase its diplomatic and development presence in fragile countries (p38)
- ❖ The Government of Canada continue enhancing the Canadian Forces' capabilities by increasing its force strength and developing operational concepts, doctrine, force structures, and training to support civilian protection(p41)

In addition the report provides summary recommendations for the United States Government

Summary Recommendations for Civil Society and the News Media in Canada and the United States

- ❖ Canadian and American civil Organizations develop permanent domestic constituencies by forming national coalitions for R2P in Canada and the U.S. (p46)
- ❖ Canadian and American civil society organizations expand their advocacy by targeting local/municipal and state/provincial levels of government to support R2P (p51)
- ❖ Canadian and American Civil Society groups develop strategic, outcome –based proposals geared towards key decision makes in the government (p52)
- ❖ Canadian and American civil society groups leverage new information and communications technologies to educate the public and government (p55)
- ❖ Individual journalists, media owners and managers in Canada and the United States commit themselves to "the responsibility to report" (p56)

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