



AGENDA

THE POWER OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PREVENTING ATROCITIES AND PROMOTING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

October 26–28, 2016
Airlie Center
Warrenton, Virginia
USA

At the 2005 World Summit, all UN member states agreed they have the responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and war crimes. While the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a landmark norm, it focuses on state actors, neglecting the important role that nonstate actors can play in preventing atrocity crimes. Businesses, in particular, are well placed to contribute to on-the-ground implementation of R2P, even though their role in atrocity prevention remains relatively unexplored.

Within the human rights community, the private sector has often been viewed as an instigator or perpetrator of atrocities—rather than as a partner for prevention. In contrast, research reflects that the private sector can be constructively engaged to promote R2P. The instability that precedes atrocities is fundamentally destructive to economic activity. As such, businesses have a vested interest in ensuring they operate in peaceful societies and build productive relationships with local communities. This roundtable will explore the role of the private sector as an untapped source of atrocity prevention.

Wednesday, October 26th

After dinner session: Taking the Temperature on Business and Atrocity Prevention

8:00 to 9:30 p.m.	<p>Can business play a positive role in atrocity prevention and cessation?</p> <p>Are you convinced, optimistic, skeptical? Why?</p>
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Thursday, October 27th

Morning session: Defining the Terms and Identifying Reasons for Optimism

9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<p>Establishing the scope of the conversation</p> <p>What is the difference between “business and peace” and “business and atrocity prevention?” Why would business be interested in engagement? What types of institutions are covered under the discussion of “business” or “the private sector?”</p>
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Thursday, October 27th

Morning session: Defining the Terms and Identifying Reasons for Optimism

	<p>Making the case for business in atrocity prevention and R2P What cases demonstrate a positive role for business in prevention? What evidence supports the argument that they have such a role?</p> <p>What and where is the strongest role for business in atrocity prevention? What specifically can private sector actors do? Where is this role likely to be most effective/important?</p> <p><i>Note: There will be a fifteen-minute break near the midpoint of this session.</i></p>
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Afternoon session: Assessing Barriers and Gaps

2:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<p>Barriers to prevention: What keeps the private sector from positive engagement? Given the conversation thus far, why are there not more examples of positive engagement? Why is the role of business not more broadly accepted?</p> <p>What key questions require further research? What key questions need to be answered to advance our understanding of the role of business in atrocity prevention?</p> <p>What key issues or questions need to be addressed to advance advocacy for business involvement in atrocity prevention? How do those questions change among stakeholders (e.g., business, civil society, government, multilateral organizations)? What advocacy is already ongoing?</p> <p><i>Note: There will be a fifteen-minute break near the midpoint of this session.</i></p>
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Friday, October 28th

Morning session: Advancing an Agenda for Business and Atrocity Prevention

9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<p>Reviewing the discussion: Where have we arrived? Do we have consensus? What are key points of debate? Are there new insights?</p> <p>Determining Next Steps How do we motivate researchers to engage on this topic? How does our conversation contribute to ongoing activities at the UN, regional, or national levels? What are the next steps for institutions interested in getting businesses involved in specific contexts or problems? Where do we go from here?</p> <p><i>Note: There will be a fifteen-minute break near the midpoint of this session.</i></p>
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