The World Without Genocide Board of Directors includes human rights advocates, government officials, faith leaders, survivors of global conflict, educators, and community leaders. Key members include:

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director of World Without Genocide, has taught at the University of St. Thomas, Carleton College, the University of Minnesota, and at many colleges and universities overseas. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at William Mitchell College of Law. Kennedy educates about the Holocaust, other genocides, and mass conflicts through programs and courses at colleges and universities, faith-based organizations, and civic groups. She advocates with elected officials at city, state, and national levels for efforts to enhance human rights. She was involved in the development and production of World Without Genocide’s two earlier documentaries, ‘Five Who Survived: Children of Genocide’ (nominated for a regional Emmy) and ‘Genocide Again: Darfur.’

She has received many awards for her work: Outstanding Citizen from the Anne Frank Center, Higher Education Leader of the Year from the National Society for Experiential Education, Outstanding Service Award from the Midwest Sociological Society, two awards from the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Women’s Press Change-Maker award.

Kennedy is a member of various local, state, and national organizations, including serving as the Minnesota Alliance Leader to AMICC, the American coalition of non-governmental organizations that advocate for the International Criminal Court, and a member of the City of Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission.

Jack Rendler, North Korea Country Specialist at Amnesty International for the past eight years, is the Chair of the Board of Directors of World Without Genocide. After coordinating Amnesty International’s volunteer activism in the thirteen western United States, Rendler served as Director of Campaigns for the U.S. section of Amnesty from 1987 through 1993. In August and September 1994 he was responsible for UNICEF’s Children in Exceptionally Difficult Circumstances field program in Goma, Zaire, caring for children orphaned and abandoned by the genocide in Rwanda. From 1997 to 1999 he was Executive Director of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. He has worked with human rights activists in North and Central Africa and East and South Asia.

Senator Sandy Pappas has been a member of the Minnesota legislature since 1985, first serving in the House. She was elected to the Senate in 1990 and has been re-elected every term since then. She is currently the President of the Minnesota Senate. Senator Pappas is known as an advocate for human rights and women’s rights and a protector of the environment. Senator Pappas serves as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for World Without Genocide and is Vice President of the Women Legislators’ Lobby. She is also the director and founder of Forward Global Women, an organization that provides leadership training for women peace-makers in the Middle East, North Africa, and the United States.

Professor Douglas Heidenreich, J.D., currently serves as Board Treasurer for World Without Genocide. He was Dean of William Mitchell College of Law for a decade and recently retired from his position as professor on faculty.

Monica Booe Chowdhury, J.D., served as the President of the William Mitchell College of Law Student Chapter of World Without Genocide during her time studying at the College. She now serves as Secretary for the Board of Directors. She is an officer at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility.

Fred Amram is a Holocaust survivor and Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota. For a decade, he served as an administrator of the University’s anti-poverty programs and has taught and researched in the fields of group behavior studies, communications, creativity, and women’s ingenuity. He joins World Without Genocide to share his experience as a survivor with younger generations and to educate the public about genocide prevention.

Eve Bassinger was an educator with the Minneapolis Public Schools and is an advocate for linking education to action. In her work with the local theater group Youth Performance Company, she has contributed to the long-term impact of engaging young people on critical social issues. She is a strong supporter of World Without Genocide’s Summer Institute for High School and College Students to involve youth in critical human rights issues and political advocacy.

Floriane Brown is the Founder and Executive Director of Nibakure Children’s Village in Rwanda. She is President of the Minneapolis University Rotary Club and is dedicated to international service and education projects.

Bunkhean Chhun is a math teacher at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis. A survivor of the Cambodian genocide, Bunkhean shares his story with students at the Summer Institutes and through other opportunities for public engagement through World Without Genocide.

Barbara Forster is a noted philanthropist and business leader in the Twin Cities.

Professor Phebe Haugen, J.D., is a retired Professor from William Mitchell College of Law. Her area of focus is on biomedical ethics, especially end of life care. She previously served as assistant county attorney in Hennepin County. Haugen is currently a member of the ethics committees of Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center.

Natalie Johnson Lee is the Executive Director of the African/African-American Health Alliance and owner of Sister in Power, a coaching and consulting firm. She is a former Minneapolis City Council Member representing the Fifth Ward, the most diverse area in the city. She is also President of the Rotary Club of North Minneapolis. Her commitment to human rights and youth development make her a strong advocate for World Without Genocide’s educational programs.

Randi Markusen, Founder and Director, Rwanda Reads

Rev. John Matthews is the Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church of Apple Valley and is dedicated to many human rights issues and efforts towards interfaith collaboration to end atrocities and conflict.

Mariam Mohamed is a member of Governor Dayton’s Early Childhood Advisory Council Accountability Committee and an advisory team member for Achievement Gap of the Twin Cities Compass. She is deeply committed to issues of immigrant and refugee access to education and health care. She has significant experience in nonprofit development and community organizing.

Nicholas Webb is a student at William Mitchell College of Law. He is also a Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellow in Human Rights and Law, advocating for passage of laws to promote responsible electronics purchasing to end conflict over mineral mining and for support of the International Criminal Court.

Sheila Livingston, Board member emerita, is the Director of Artistic Relations at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis.

Brad Lehrman, ex officio member of the Board, is an attorney with Soffer Charbonnet Law Group. He served for many years as an executive Board member for The Advocates for Human Rights and provides pro bono legal counsel for World Without Genocide.

Ellingson and Ellingson, Ltd, provides pro bono accounting services for World Without Genocide.