

Hate in the United States

by Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D., Executive Director

Some days I don't recognize the US any more. I'm not sure it's still my country. The racism, anti-Semitism, misogyny, homophobia, anti-Muslimism, and anti-immigration hate that emanates from national leaders is disconnected from my image of the US: a place for everyone, a melting pot, *e pluribus unum*. Too often today's message is that **America is only for white Christians.**

In the year since the presidential election, we've witnessed the following hate-motivated violence:

- A mass shooting at Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Church, targeting blacks;
- 85 bombings and destruction at U.S. mosques;
- Bomb threats, neo-Nazi marches and rallies, and the desecration of Jewish cemeteries;
- At least one sexual assault every 98 seconds; and
- The murder of 28 Americans who identified as LGBTQ.

This is the tip of the iceberg. Underneath this top layer? Hundreds and hundreds of similar incidents, perpetrated at churches, schools, businesses, and public places.

The extent of the right-wing extremism driving this violence hasn't been seen since the days of George Wallace, Alabama's segregationist governor who announced in his 1963 inaugural address, "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!"

The number of hate groups in the country has increased to nearly a thousand, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. These groups are dominated by Neo-Nazis, anti-Muslims, KKK supporters, neo-Confederates, and white nationalists. Their goal is to spread fear and to encourage discriminatory laws and procedures that violate the human rights of the people they demonize, to marginalize and disenfranchise them.



Neo-Nazi rally in the US

We are not a nation that is new to hate. We nearly exterminated the American Indians, and the legacy of that genocide reaches today's generation. We enslaved and brutalized the Africans brought to our shores and continue to oppress African-Americans today. We have targeted Catholics, Chinese, Jews, Japanese, and Mexicans for discrimination and immigration exclusion in our past. The vilest hate today is directed against our Muslim brothers and sisters, their demonization led by government incitement of fear and resentment.

We need to stand up against efforts to keep out Muslims – from our country, from our businesses, and from our neighborhoods. Many cities and states have adopted important legal and policy initiatives to protect the safety of everyone in our communities. See www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/advocacy/amidah for city ordinances and for current legal challenges to government policies. We must open our hearts and our doors to the strangers in our midst.

World Without Genocide, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, **educates** to raise awareness about past and current conflicts and **advocates** at local, state, and national levels for policies and legislation to protect innocent people, prevent genocide, prosecute perpetrators, and remember those whose lives have been affected by genocide.

Where is Freedom of the Press?

by Kathryn Ust, Research and Advocacy Coordinator

Journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia investigated corruption in Malta. After she exposed offshore tax havens that benefited top government officials, including Malta's prime minister, the revelations created a political crisis in the country. On October 16, she was killed in a car bomb near her home in Malta.

Journalist Tatyana Felgenhauer works for Russia's top independent radio station, which often airs programs critical of the government. In September, another host from the same station fled from Russia following an arson attack on her car. A month later, Felgenhauer was stabbed. She is now in a coma.

Every day, journalists risk their lives to expose corruption, crime, and human rights abuses, knowing that they may be imprisoned, tortured, or killed for doing their jobs. They protect the freedom of information enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

In 2016, 115 journalists were killed for doing their jobs, over half of them in countries considered 'at peace.' This is not only an overseas phenomenon. **Since 2000, five American journalists have been murdered while working in the US.**

Efforts to intimidate and silence the American press are a grave and very real threat today. Donald Trump discredits the media, calling journalists "the enemy of the American people" and labeling stories he doesn't like as "fake news." He threatens to revoke NBC's broadcast license and he has called for the Senate Intelligence Committee to censor "fake news."



His strategy is working. According to a recent Gallup poll, only one in three Americans trusts the media. Worse yet, just one in seven Republicans – only 14% – trust journalists.

Out of 180 countries, the United States now ranks 43rd in the world in freedom of the press, according to Reporters Without Borders, an international NGO committed to the defense and promotion of freedom of information. Malta, where Caruana Galizia was killed, ranks 47th.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warns that the administration's ongoing assault on the press may incite violence against journalists and will hurt freedom of the press around the world. Cambodia's government recently cited Trump as their inspiration for withdrawing media licenses from Cambodian journalists.

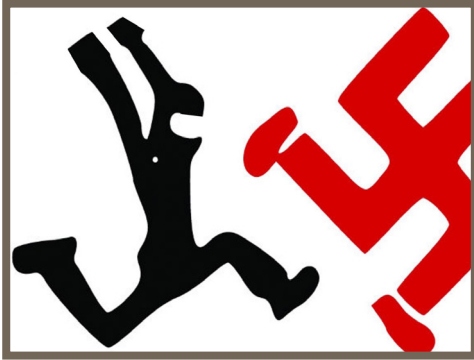
Upstanders like Daphne Caruana Galizia, Tatyana Felgenhauer, and the courageous reporters in the US are fundamental to our freedom. We cannot combat human rights violations or repression without journalists who bring these issues to light. **We applaud Senator John McCain for his outspoken support of America's free press.**



The Journalists' Memorial in Bayeux, France, commemorates every journalist who has died since the D-Day Invasion in World War II, 1944. Three-fourths of the 4,848 dead were killed by people who didn't like what they wrote.

Standing Up to Neo-Nazis

Antifa was hardly a household name until the violent white supremacy demonstration in Charlottesville, Virginia last fall. The name stands for 'Anti-Fascist Action,' and refers to groups founded in the 1920s to oppose dictatorships developing under Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, and Franco in Spain. The groups re-emerged in Europe in the 1970s to counter rising neo-Nazi and skinhead groups. The movement spread to the US in the 1980s, in opposition to racism, sexism, nativism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, elderly, and others.



Antifa has boomed since Trump's election and there are now several hundred chapters throughout the US.

Like Black Lives Matter and the Occupy movement, Antifa has little formal structure and its membership consists largely of young left-wing activists.

They expose local neo-Nazis to their neighbors and employers, they conduct public education campaigns, they support migrants and refugees, and they pressure venues to cancel white power events. The vast majority of antifa activity is nonviolent.

Online Hate- From the Margins to the Mainstream

by Ethan Groothuis, Journalism Associate

The web spreads human rights around the world. It also breeds hate and incites violence against blacks, Jews, members of the LGBTQ community, Muslims, immigrants, and other non-white non-Christians.

White nationalists, neo-Nazis, virulent homophobes, Holocaust deniers, and other extremists come into people's homes electronically and recruit vulnerable youth and adults to their causes.

Hatecore music is a major white supremacist recruiting tool. This punk and metal music with supremacy lyrics, although hardly chart-topping, is an online tool of the international neo-Nazi movement to gain revenue from album sales, find new recruits, and provide meet-up venues at live concerts.

A prominent hatecore record label, Resistance Records, billed as "The Soundtrack for White Revolution," sells merchandise and even owns several smaller labels. The label is listed as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Hate websites are often hosted by prominent domain organizations, despite Silicon Valley's promises of strict regulation of their sites. *Daily Stormer* is one of the most popular white supremacist websites, modeled after the Nazi-era publication *Der Sturmer*. After the deadly August rally in Charlottesville, GoDaddy, Google, and other domain registrars refused to host *Daily Stormer*, but eventually it found a new home on the dark web, a web area not indexed by standard search engines.



Stormfront, *American Renaissance*, *Aryan Guard*, and *VCARE* are other hate sites that are up and prospering, reaching hundreds of thousands every day.

But messengers of hate and bigotry do not need their own servers to spread poisonous ideas.

YouTube, the favorite home of cat videos and 'fail compilations,' is the biggest source of mass hate communication. Some videos, such as those by Paul Thomas Watson of Infowars or PewDiePie, reach millions of viewers daily with anti-Semitic and racist themes.

Even the most heinous videos promoting violence against marginalized groups are rarely removed from Twitter, Facebook, and other mainstays despite breaking a website's code of conduct.

The line between preventing hate speech and protecting free speech is a blurry one. What should we do?

Tents of Witness: Genocide and Conflict

Tents of Witness is a traveling exhibit highlighting genocides that have happened in many places around the world. The exhibit features canvas tents like those that are used in refugee camps today. Each of the ten 8' x 12' tents in the exhibit portrays the story of a different group that has been persecuted based on race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

The exhibit demonstrates that genocide has no boundaries – no people or place has escaped from such atrocities.

Tents include the stories of the American Indians, the Armenians, and the Holocaust; and the catastrophes in Argentina, Bosnia, Cambodia, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, North Korea, and Rwanda.

The outside of each tent is hand-painted to represent the diversity and beauty of the places and people. The inside contains photo depictions of the pre-conflict society, the

tragedy, and the post-conflict challenges that the survivors and their communities face today.

Tents of Witness can be rented to use in human rights education and advocacy programs. Please contact us at admin@worldwithoutgenocide.org to explore ways that the exhibit can enrich your programming.

Rental fees for Minnesota venues are waived through generous donors. Out-of-state rental fees are arranged on an individual basis.



At the University of Minnesota

Winter 2018 Programs

Monday, January 22 **Understanding and Supporting Transgender and Gender-Diverse People of All Ages**
Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436 (co-sponsor)

Thursday, February 15 **#MeToo: Next Steps in Ending Sexual Harassment***
Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

Saturday, February 24 **Somalia's Hope to Reality: Climate Change, Immigration, and Islamophobia***
History Theatre, 30 10th Street East, St. Paul, MN 55101

Thursday, March 22 **The FBI and CIA: Women's Roles and Women's Leadership**
The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403 (co-sponsor)

Wednesday, March 28 **Climate Change and Genocide***
Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

*CLE credits available. Fees apply for some events; check web listings at www.worldwithoutgenocide.org

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Violent Extremism in a Changing Climate

by Christie Nicoson

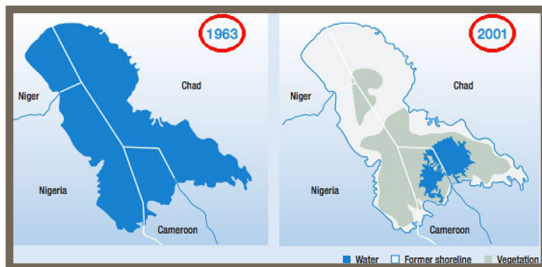
Christie Nicoson is a former World Without Genocide associate and a recent Rotary Peace Fellow.

Climate change will affect us in many ways, impacting biodiversity, environmental landscapes, and human health. But what about our basic security?

More frequent and intense storms, changing temperatures, and rising sea levels are 'threat multipliers' that impact the basic aspects of our lives, especially for the poor and vulnerable. Climate change entrenches inequalities.

Experts warn that climate change poses a security threat.

Increased water crises, food shortages, desertification, and forced mass migration create conditions ripe for radicalization. Radicalization can escalate to violent extremism when people are disenfranchised by unemployment, actual or perceived inequalities, or lack of resources. Extremist groups take advantage of instability to seize resources and gain more power.



Lake Chad has almost disappeared.

Nigeria presents a classic example. The country has suffered prolonged droughts, and over the last five decades, Lake Chad has shrunk by 90 percent. Most of Nigeria's population lives in poverty and half are malnourished. This created an opportunity for the terrorist group Boko Haram to prosper, recruiting members and weaponizing natural resources. **Boko Haram has killed over 50,000 people, displaced more than two million, and conducted brutal violence, including kidnapping over 200 schoolgirls in 2014. Climate change did not cause this terrorism, but it created the conditions for violence to flourish.**

How to bring peace? Communities need the resources and the will to adjust to climate change and ensure food and water security, good health, and economic stability. Such measures strengthen communities and alleviate risk, especially with the positive rule of law. These same building blocks can prevent violent extremism.

Opportunities for tackling complex problems together should be at the forefront of research and prioritized for action agendas. Climate adaptation presents an opportunity to address not only environmental issues, but also the underlying or root causes of conflict risk and insecurity.

Ferencz Human Rights Fellowship

We award annual fellowships to law students and recent law school graduates to pursue policy and research on critical global issues. This year's areas of focus, the recipients, and their law school affiliations are as follows:

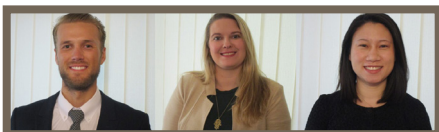


L to R: Abigail Hencheck, Erin Valine, Hanna Valento, and Leo McNeill III

Climate change and human rights: Darrow Anderson and Hanna Valento (Mitchell Hamline School of Law)

International Criminal Court: Sarah Erickson, J.D., 2016, Leo McNeill III, and Helena Sung (Mitchell Hamline School of Law)

Discrimination and violence against women: Abigail Hencheck (University of Minnesota Law School) and Erin Valine (Mitchell Hamline School of Law)



L to R: Darrow Anderson, Sarah Erickson, J.D., and Helena Sung

The fellowships are named for one of the world's leading advocates for human rights, Benjamin B. Ferencz. In Nuremberg, Germany, in 1947, Ferencz prosecuted members of the Nazi Einsatzgruppen, killing squads responsible for the deaths of more than a million Jews during the Holocaust. He received convictions for every one of the accused.

Ferencz, now in his 97th year, has committed his life to advocating for justice and peace around the world. He was a key figure in the development of the International Criminal Court, which prosecutes individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. The Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellowships in Human Rights and Law extend the legacy of his work.

See www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/about-us/law-internships-and-fellowships/ferencz-fellowships for information.



AT MITCHELL HAMLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

protect. prevent. prosecute. remember.

www.worldwithoutgenocide.org

875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

Turkish Scholar of Armenian Genocide to be Honored

During World War I, the Ottoman Empire perpetrated a genocide against the Armenian people. The Turkish government maintains denial of this tragedy to the present day.

Taner Akçam, a Turkish historian and sociologist, is one of the first Turkish academics to acknowledge and discuss the Armenian genocide and he is recognized as a leading international authority on the subject.

Akçam was marked for death by Turkish ultranationalists following the 2006 publication of his book *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and The Question of Turkish Responsibility*, a definitive history based on documents from Turkish government archives. He has persisted in speaking out about the genocide despite ongoing threats.

Akçam was imprisoned in Turkey in the 1970s and was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. He served for a year before he escaped from Ankara Central Prison, using the leg of an iron stove to dig a hole and tunnel his way to freedom.

Akçam was a Visiting Associate Professor of History at the University of Minnesota before his current position at Clark University's Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Worcester, Massachusetts.

He will receive our "Outstanding Upstander" award on Monday, May 14, 2018, 7:00 pm, at our annual gala celebration at The Woman's Club in Minneapolis. The event is open to the public; reservations will open in April. We invite people to join us in celebrating Professor Akçam's commitment to truth and accountability.

