

A world without genocide - making it our legacy

The **WHITE RACISM** Issue

Autocracy: Silencing Rights, Privileging Whites

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

Autocratic regimes suppress the voices and the rights of minority groups as the regimes consolidate their personal and elite-group power.

Once constitutional and other legal checks-and-balances safeguards are weakened or eliminated, co-opted or corrupted by money or influence, the last resource for democratic preservation is civil society.

Civil society is the ultimate support of a democratic and diverse nation: the media, academic institutions, private businesses and labor unions, voluntary organizations and faith communities, which can uphold fair and equitable access to education, housing, health care, adequate and nutritious food, transportation, employment, public spaces for recreation and assembly, and equal treatment under the law.

When the leaders of civil society – the academics, the reporters, the heads of human rights and civil rights organizations – are bullied and bribed, sanctioned and silenced – the autocratic path is wide open to unrestrained privilege, wealth, and manipulation of all economic, social, and political levers of the state.

Many of us see this in the US today: a regime that defines its mission as supporting **white racism, white replacement theory**, and **white genocide**.

Harvard Kennedy School scholars Erica Chenoweth and Zoe Marks state, “Democracy by definition requires equal human and civil rights for citizens—including, of course, women, who have had the right to vote for less than 100 years in most countries. Authoritarians often rely on the overrepresentation of male power (patriarchy)—in both public and private life—to consolidate

their power and chip away at crosscutting social coalitions” (NPR, 4-22-2025).

Those “crosscutting social coalitions” in the US who are losing their power and, indeed, whose very existences are being erased - from museum narratives, website documents, and the historical truth of our nation’s past, and who are removed from their jobs, including highest-ranking military and government positions - are people of color; people who are not Christian, especially Jews and Muslims; and women, girls, and gender-expansive people.

These identity markers of race, religion, and sex define the current administration’s ‘enemies.’ **These enemies are falsely believed to threaten white Christian male dominance of the United States, a dominance that the leaders believe they deserve.** The unconstitutional roundups and deportations of immigrants of color, threats and egregious financial reprisals against pre-eminent academic institutions and the media, abrogation of women’s and transgender people’s rights to bodily autonomy, the elimination of affirmative action and every DEI initiative across the country, are severe and simultaneous attempts to **assert white male privilege and white power.**

We are deeply concerned because of the abridgment of fundamental human and civil rights for residents in the United States and the encouragement this lends to democratic backsliding around the world.

Autocracies often lead to violence. Both verbal and physical assaults against innocent people, particularly against people of color, are increasing nationally and globally by adherents of ‘white racism’ ideologies.



The US is Attacking the International Rule of Law

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

I attended the annual meeting of states parties of the International Criminal Court (ICC; the Court) in The Hague, Netherlands, in December 2024.

Although I've attended the Court's annual meetings for seven years, the 2024 session and its aftermath eight months later are unprecedented.

It is the world's only court that holds highest-level individuals, including heads of state, accountable for the most heinous crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

The United States is not one of the 125 state parties to that Court. Other outliers with the US include Russia, China, Israel, and Yemen. The US has had an off-and-on relationship to the Court since the Court's inception in 2002.

Although former President Clinton signed on to the Court during his last days in office, incoming President George W. Bush 'erased' that signature, and no further effort has been made for U.S. official membership. The Obama and Biden administrations had a positive stance towards the Court, but Trump has opposed the Court with actions that shock and outrage human rights defenders around the world.

An elephant was in the room at that December meeting: the specter of the United States. Trump had been elected the previous month. During his campaign he threatened harsh sanctions against prosecutors at the Court, and it was clear that the threats would be carried out when he took office.

This blatant, full-on bullying of an international human rights court, unparalleled in world judicial history, was in response to arrest warrants the Court had issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Galant on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for actions in Gaza.

Two weeks after Trump took office, using an executive order (EO 14203), economic and travel sanctions were placed against Karim Khan, KC (King's Counsel) of the UK, the Chief Prosecutor of the Court.

PBS reports (5-15-2025) that the executive order "bans Khan and other non-Americans among the ICC's 900 staff members from entering the US... threatens any person, institution, or company with fines and prison time if they provide Khan with "financial, material, or technological support." Even we at World Without Genocide feel at risk.

Over the past two decades, the Court has issued 61 arrest warrants. Only these two - for Netanyahu and Galant - produced this response, part of Trump's unequivocal U.S. support for Israel despite global outrage over the carnage against Gaza's people, places, and environment.

On June 5, 2025, the White House issued more sanctions, this time against four women judges from small countries: Peru, Slovenia, Benin, and Uganda, and four more judges were sanctioned on August 20, 2025.

Liz Evenson, international justice director at Human Rights Watch, told AP that the Trump administration's sanctions "aim to deter the ICC from seeking accountability amid grave crimes committed in Israel and Palestine, and as Israeli atrocities mount in Gaza, including with U.S. complicity."

She said, **"U.S. sanctions on ICC judges are a flagrant attack on the rule of law at the same time as President Trump is working to undercut it at home."**

Three lawsuits were subsequently filed against the administration's sanctions on grounds of violating First Amendment free speech rights and legal advocacy (*Lawfare*, 5-9-2025). The plaintiffs, all U.S. citizens—law professors, human rights advocates, and a decorated Army veteran who has worked at the Court since 2010 - argue that EO 14203 censors protected expression and also "restricts core legal work, such as providing legal analysis, facilitating cooperation with victims, or engaging in advocacy, solely because it may be construed as 'benefiting' the designated prosecutor" (*Lawfare*, 5-9-2025).

No action appears too great in Trump's support of Netanyahu.



The image above of the International Criminal Court was shared by Oseveno at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:International_Criminal_Court_building_\(2016\)_in_The_Hague.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:International_Criminal_Court_building_(2016)_in_The_Hague.png) is cropped but otherwise unchanged and is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Crowds at the August 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia

The Great Replacement Theory, or White Genocide

In August 2017, at a four-day rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, over a thousand marchers showed up to “Unite the Right”: neo-Confederates, neo-fascists, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, Klansmen, and far-right militias, all carrying flaming torches and giving Nazi salutes while chanting “You Will Not Replace Us!” and “Jews Will Not Replace Us!”

The words reflect fears among the far right that white people and white culture, especially culture led by white Christian men, are under attack from religious and ethnic pluralism, women’s equality, and the increasing immigration of nonwhite people into the US and Europe.

Some white nationalist groups maintain that Jews are orchestrating immigration of hordes of people from Africa and Asia, and especially from Muslim-majority countries, to ‘swamp’ white hegemony and control.

Victor Orbán, president of Hungary, is Europe’s greatest proponent of the “**Great Replacement**” theory. He blames Western elites, and especially Jews, who he claims are controlled by Hungarian Holocaust survivor George Soros, and Orbán vehemently asserts that Jews are intentionally replacing white Christian populations with non-European immigrants to undermine national identity. Orbán declares that Europe is “committing suicide by allowing immigration” (Population Matters, 1-17-2025).

The Associated Press calls Hungary’s transformation into an ‘**electoral autocracy**’ to be a parallel to Trump’s second term (2-15-2025), and “**Orbán’s strongman style has long served as an inspiration for U.S. conservatives, who have looked at Hungary as a possible model for a right-wing America with less immigration, fewer regulations, and the removal of**

democratic constraints.” Orbán has a close bond with Trump and with the Republican party.

Replacement conspiracies have long stoked fears among white people: In 1892, British-Australian politician Charles Pearson warned that white people would “wake to find ourselves elbowed and hustled, and perhaps even thrust aside by people whom we looked down on.” The massive influx of immigrants into Europe at the time fostered these fears. In the US, it led to highly restrictive immigration policies in the early 20th century and in subsequently-escalating levels of xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, and violence.

In France, Édouard Drumont, leader of an antisemitic movement, declared in the late 19th century that Jews would destroy French culture. In 1909, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, an Italian supporter of Benito Mussolini, argued that war and fascism were the only cure for the world. **A goal of fascism then and now is white dominance.**

The 1978 book *The Turner Diaries*, a fictional futuristic account of the overthrow of the U.S. government, further contributed to white nationalist ideas in its call for a ‘**race war**’ and the worldwide extermination of non-whites and Jews.

The Turner Diaries has shaped white nationalism and white genocide conspiracy theory. It has also incited hate crimes and acts of terrorism, including the 1984 assassination of Jewish talk-radio host Alan Berg and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Replacement conspiracy theories are estimated to have influenced perpetrators in over 200 killings around the world, from the US to New Zealand.

(historical information from The Conversation, 3-15-2024)

The image above of the August 2017 Rally in Charlottesville, Virginia was shared by Anthony Crider at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Charlottesville_%22Unite_the_Right%22_Rally_\(35780276094\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Charlottesville_%22Unite_the_Right%22_Rally_(35780276094).jpg) is cropped but otherwise unchanged and is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons



The Decline in Democracy and the War on Women

UN Secretary-General António Guterres opened the 2025 Commission on the Status of Women with angry words.

“Women’s rights are under siege. The **poison of patriarchy** is back – and it is back with a vengeance... Around the world, the **masters of misogyny** are gaining in strength, confidence, and influence.”

A decline in women’s rights occurs along with a decline in democracy. Today, democracy is declining around the globe and gender equality is stalling or going backwards for a billion women, girls, and gender-expansive people, including people in the US.

If current trends continue, equality will not be achieved until the 22nd century.

The critical question is: why is the situation getting worse? **Why is there a war on women?**

It’s simple. Women have made progress on many fronts. In the United States,

- college students who are women: **58%**
- law school students who are women: **56%**
- medical school students who are women: **55%**

The masters of misogyny want the women out.

Women head major corporations, universities, and a dozen women currently serve as governors. Women are astronauts, Nobel scientists, and record-breaking athletes. Women lead construction crews, police forces, and surgical teams

The rioters at the capitol on January 6 were enraged against Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. It wasn’t because of anything she had done; it was because of who she was - second in line for the presidency of the United States after the vice president, with a huge amount of power – and she was a woman, which many men, especially white misogynist men, found deeply threatening.

The harsh backlash against women’s rights in the US is happening from factors that don’t exist to the same extent, or at all, in other western countries.

The single most important factor is that the U.S. Constitution lacks federal protection for women’s rights. This makes women vulnerable, and it is easy for states to pass discriminatory laws.

Most European countries have protections and rights for women written into their constitutions. In fact, 85% of all UN member states have explicit constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and/or gender. Of those with constitutions adopted since 2000, all do so; France even amended their older constitution to guarantee gender equality.

At a global level, there are conventions and treaties that affirm women’s equality. The US hasn’t ratified any of them.

The UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW, has been ratified by all but 6 nations on the planet: Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Palau, Tonga – and the US.

Similarly, the US has been unable to pass a federal Equal Rights Amendment. The first national ERA bill was introduced in 1923, more than a hundred years ago, and it has been re-introduced nearly every year thereafter – and it has yet to be passed.

There is an effort to get state-level ERA bills passed, to guarantee rights and equality for women at the state level. But bills have passed in only 28 states, and in our home state of Minnesota, a state ERA bill has been defeated for the past eleven years.

Because the US has no constitutional provisions or other protections for women’s equality, women’s rights can be taken away very easily, and that’s exactly what is happening.

Following Trump’s 2024 presidential election, the Associated Press reported that an “emboldened” manosphere used Trump’s win “to justify and amplify misogynistic derision and threats online” and that it was no longer an online-only phenomenon. The AP highlighted the phrase **“Your body, MY CHOICE,”** coined by white supremacist and misogynist Nick Fuentes, being used against women, along with the phrase “Repeal the 19th,” referring to taking away women’s right to vote guaranteed in the 19th Amendment in 1920.

These phrases began receiving millions of views on the media site X. AP also reported that the phrases had moved offline, “with boys chanting **‘Your body, MY CHOICE’** in middle schools and men directing it at women on college campuses,” and AP photographed a man holding a sign that read “Women Are Property” at Texas State University.

We are very alarmed.

The image above of women rallying in front of the US Supreme Court was shared by jordanuhl7 at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pro-choice_demonstration_about_Whole_Woman%27s_Health_v._Hellerstedt_in_front_of_SCOTUS_33.jpg is cropped but otherwise unchanged and is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

ECOCIDE-WHO PAYS?

There are two competing forces in the climate crisis. One force is trying to save our beautiful planet. The other, led largely by the US, is expanding fossil-fuel use and the resulting emission of deadly greenhouse gases, increasing the likelihood of more frequent and dangerous floods, droughts, and deaths and a hot, bleak, dangerous future.

Encouragingly, the past few months have seen positive action at the global level.

On July 3, 2025, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled that states must prevent irreversible environmental harm. This ruling accelerates global criminalization of ecocide, the crime of wanton and widespread environmental destruction, advancing environmental protection in international human rights law. No surprise: the US does not accept this court's jurisdiction, although nearly every other country in the Western Hemisphere does.

The Court emphasized that **Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, rural and fishing populations, women, children, older persons, and socio-economically marginalized groups** face disproportionate impacts, and states must prevent harm and ensure protection for these groups. **Climate action is a human rights obligation, the Court ruled – not a political choice.**

On July 24, 2025, the International Court of Justice ruled that countries are legally obligated to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to protect the climate. The Court further ruled that if States breach these obligations, they incur legal responsibility and may be required to cease the wrongful conduct and make full reparation.

The image above of the Ecocide is Genocide sign was shared by -filth-filler- [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ecocide_is_genocide_\(50531272807\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ecocide_is_genocide_(50531272807).jpg) is cropped but otherwise unchanged and is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>, via Wikimedia Commons



The case was brought to the Court by young people from three island nations that are rapidly becoming underwater from rising seas – and by 130 other countries, but not the US.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, “This is a victory for our planet, for climate justice, and for the power of young people to make a difference.”

At present, the cost of environmental destruction in the US in 2024, in that one year alone, is **\$1 TRILLION**, a cost paid by U.S. taxpayers. In 2024, legislators in Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Vermont pushed for legislation to require large fossil fuel producers and refiners to pay for hundreds of billions of dollars of state-level climate adaptation infrastructure.

These Climate Superfund bills will do just that – using the “Polluter Pays” principle. We support these Superfund bills and hope to see them throughout the country.

In Minnesota, our home state, we applaud Senator Sandy Pappas for bringing a resolution to the Senate that designated April 2025 as Ecocide Awareness and Prevention Month. Contact us to introduce this resolution in your state or municipality.

The time is now. Tomorrow will be too late.

THE US AND BODILY AUTONOMY

“I have become convinced that the most serious and unaddressed worldwide challenge is the deprivation and abuse of women and girls.” – the late U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Carter’s words are frightening.

Abuse to the body is a grievous crime. The right to bodily autonomy is guaranteed by many international covenants and treaties affirming the right to health; safety from violence; choices regarding all stages of reproduction; and freedom to seek and receive medical care.

The United States is restricting bodily autonomy in violation of the rights of people in the US and especially the rights of women, girls, gender-expansive people, the disabled, the elderly, and the ill.

We have spoken out to the United Nations about these violations.

Every four years, each member State of the UN is reviewed by the UN Human Rights Council for progress on human rights. In partnership with five other organizations, we submitted a Shadow Report to the Council.

Shadow reporting is an important tool for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Their reports contain information that States may have chosen to omit or to minimize. NGOs therefore “shadow” the State report by providing an alternative analysis and a critique of the State report.

Statistics on physical violence against vulnerable people in the US are shocking.

- **2,000,000 U.S. women** are battered by intimate partners every year.
- **As many as 1 in 10 older adults, mostly women, have been victims of elder abuse.**
- **4,970 females were murdered in 2021, one-third killed by an intimate partner.**
- **A leading cause of death of pregnant women in the US is homicide by an intimate partner, a risk many times elevated for women of color.**

In the US, people’s right to bodily autonomy is abridged in lack of choices for conception, contraception, and reproductive rights and in safety from assault and violence.

Often, in response to shadow reports, UN committees issue orders to governments to uphold these rights. Many governments have changed laws, policies, and practices as a result of the shadow reports, which are a powerful international advocacy tool.

We hope that our Shadow Report, which will be included in the U.S. review on November 10-14, 2025 at UN headquarters in Geneva, can protect and advance the human right to bodily autonomy in the US.

World Without Genocide

PROGRAMS

September-December 2025

We offer many programs on human rights topics. Please join us for the upcoming events. Details may change, so please check the website for updates.

Genocides on Trial: Cases at Global and National Courts Today

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 7:00-8:30 pm CT, Zoom webinar
Registration by Wednesday, September 24, 5:00 pm CT at
www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/courts

World War II and Japanese Internment Camps: A Personal Experience

Thursday, October 23, 7:00-8:30 pm CT, in person
at Edina City Hall, 4801 50th Street, Edina, MN 55424
Registration is required by Thursday, October 23, 5:00 pm CT at
www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/camps

Ten Stages of Genocide and Sudan – Stage 9, Extermination

Tuesday, October 28, 7:00-9:00 pm CT, Zoom webinar
Registration is required by Tuesday, October 28, 5:00 pm CT at
www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/stages

The Holocaust and Kristallnacht: A Memorial through Words and Music

Sunday, November 16, 2:00-4:00 pm CT, in person at
Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105
Registration is required by Saturday, November 15, 5:00 pm CT at
www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/music

U.S. Human Rights Violations: Our Report to the United Nations

Thursday, December 18, 7:00-8:30 pm CT, Zoom webinar
Registration is required by Thursday, December 18, 5:00 pm CT at
www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/shadowreport

Costs and Credits

These programs are open to all: \$10 general public, \$5 students (age 12+), \$5 seniors (age 65+), \$25 for MN lawyers for CLE credits
'Clock hours' are available for Minnesota teachers, nurses, and social workers.
Information at 952-693-5206 or admin@worldwithoutgenocide.org

OUR GLOBAL ADVOCACY

United Nations

We have Special Consultative status with the UN, which is granted to organizations in human rights, peace-building, humanitarian aid, and conflict prevention. We participate in UN events, submit written statements, and host sessions at UN meetings.

UN Human Rights Council (HRC)/Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The HRC reviews each UN member state in a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) every 4.5 years regarding their human rights practices. Civil society organizations provide supplementary information in a Shadow Report about the state's human rights record. We submitted a Shadow Report, The United States Abridges the Human Right to Bodily Autonomy, for the U.S. review in November 2025.

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

CSW is an annual global convening to promote women's equality, peace, and security. We have participated since 2021 and gave presentations at CSW in 2022 and 2025.

UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The Forum is an annual meeting on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We attended in 2023 and submitted written statements in 2023 and 2025.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

The ICC prosecutes highest-ranking individuals for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression. The Assembly of States Parties (ASP) is the governing body of the ICC. The ASP annual meeting brings together the leaders of the 125 states parties and NGOs from around the world. We have attended for seven years.

ICC-NGO Roundtables

The Roundtables promote civil society dialogue about international justice. We attended in 2024 and 2025.

ICC Scholars' Symposium

The Symposium brings academics together with practitioners from the Court. We participated in 2022 and 2023.

World Without Genocide Programming

In addition to engagement with the UN and the ICC, we hold programs about international law through webinars and courses; publish essays in print and online; and provide commentary.