

Prevention and punishment are key 60th anniversary of the Genocide Convention
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
9 December 2008

The ultimate responsibility for preventing genocide lies with states, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says on 9 December, as the world marks the 60th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention).

The High Commissioner also emphasizes the need to punish genocide perpetrators. () As of today, 140 states have ratified the Genocide Convention. The High Commissioner says that while the international community shares a collective responsibility to prevent genocide, individual states have a primary role and a higher stake in putting a stop to the crime.

he ultimate responsibility for preventing genocide lies with states. The UN has done a great deal to draw attention to this but what states should do, in my view, is to incorporate these serious crimes in their national legislation, to set up human rights organizations, to have independent judiciaries, to promote education and proper values so that individuals will be insulated from propaganda [] that encourages them to kill their neighbours, she stresses. ()

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Convention, OHCHR is organizing a seminar next January on the prevention of genocide.

Source: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/GenocideConvention.aspx>