CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL LAW
CANADA AND THE UN

• Canada has been active at the United Nations since its foundation in 1945 and played a key role in drafting the UN Charter - an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations.

• Today, Canada continues to uphold the UN by:
  • actively participating in the organization's activities and providing financial support.
  • Canada consistently brings ideas and solutions to the table, from peacekeeping proposals in the 1950s, to creating the International Criminal Court and banning landmines in the 1990s.
  • Today, some of our current goals are to assist war-affected children, or to improve the UN’s management and rationalize the work of its agencies.
CANADA AND THE UNSC

- Canada has served in the UNSC for 12 years - ranking in the top ten of non-permanent members.
- As of 2015, it shares the fourth place in the list of non-permanent members serving on the Council by length with Italy.
  - Brazil and Japan (first place),
  - Argentina (second place),
  - Colombia, India, and Pakistan (third place).
- In 2010, it lost its bid for a seat in the 2010 Security Council elections to Germany and Portugal, marking the country's first failure to win a seat in the UNSC.

- In August 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada would seek to return to the Council in 2021.
The **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide** was adopted by the [United Nations General Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly) on 9 December 1948 as **General Assembly Resolution 260**.

- The Convention entered into force on 12 January 1951.
- It defines **genocide** in legal terms.
- All participating countries are advised to prevent and punish actions of genocide in war and in peacetime.
- The number of states that have ratified the convention is currently 143.
DEFINITION OF GENOCIDE

• Article 2 of the Convention defines genocide as
• ...any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:
  • (a) Killing members of the group;
  • (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
  • (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
  • (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
  • (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
CRIMES THAT CAN BE PUNISHED CONNECTED TO GENOCIDE.

- Article 3 defines the crimes that can be punished under the convention:
  - (a) Genocide;
  - (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
  - (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
  - (d) Attempt to commit genocide;
  - (e) Complicity in genocide.

- Persons charged with genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III shall be tried by a competent court of law- of the State in the territory of which the act was committed,
  - or by such international penal Court of Law as may have jurisdiction with respect to those Contracting Parties which shall have accepted its jurisdiction.
PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE

• According to the U.N., Dr. George Stanton of the Department of State (USA) first outlined the stages of genocide in 1996.

• Recognizing and being aware of stages of genocide are imperative for its prevention.

• The first six stages are considered the warning signs,

• If governments wish to successfully prevent genocide, they must act during the first six stages.
TODAY’S ASSIGNMENT.

• Exploring International Law and Genocide.