

RPFAA GLOBAL CYBER PEACE CONFERENCE

How Do Museums and Memorial Sites Deal with Ongoing Atrocities and War?
(Cultural Resources for Peace, the Rotary Peace Project Incubator, www.rppi.ch)

Saturday, 27th of June, 2020

16:45 pm to 18:15 pm - Nairobi (GMT+3)

Join via the Zoom link: (TBC)

Information and Register here:

<http://rpfaa.org/global-cyber-peace-conference/>

*****Note to speakers: please register at link above. Upon registration, you will also be invited to download the Whova App, which will provide an overview of the conference schedule and participants**

VIRTUAL BRIEFING/Run-through:

ZOOM Details being sent via email

**For any questions contact Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska (nsineaeva@gmail.com;
WhatsApp:+48605728753)**

BACKGROUND FOR MODERATORS/PRESENTERS/ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

This session is part of the Global Cyber Peace Conference on the 27th of June, 2020

How do museums and memorial sites deal with ongoing atrocities and war, and how do they work with victims, such as refugees? How do they address the problem of ongoing genocide, mass rapes, slavery, and racism against the most persecuted groups, such as the Yazidi and Rohingya? The panel discussion will explore various ways museums can work to preserve identity and culture, and save those persecuted from humiliation, suffering, and psychological and physical destruction. How can museums and memorial sites bring historical lessons to address contemporary hatred and violence in a sensitive and timely way?

How has their situation changed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what challenges might there be for the future? The panelists will explore their visions on related issues, but also discuss possible project ideas that museums can develop or collaborate with, and how they can adjust themselves to the post-pandemic situation. The session will be conducted by ZOOM.

The program is as follows:

- 16:45 pm: welcome remarks, introducing Peace Project Incubator, Natalia Sineaeva and Walter Gyger
- 16:50 pm: Introducing panelists, Shahriar Kabir
- 16:55 pm: Inputs from our experts (up to 10 minutes each panelist):

- Kornelis Spaans, Member of the Board International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes; International Council of Museums (ICOM); member of Rotary Club München-Mitte with a presentation ‘*Memorial Museums and the prevention of public crimes*’
- Tali Nates, the founder and director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre and chair of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation
- Naomi Kikoler, director of the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Mofidul Hogue, director of the Liberation War Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Haider Elias, co-founder and President for Yazda Organization (Global Yazidi Organisation) with a presentation ‘*Virtual Museum - Preservation of the culture, history and collective memory of the Yazidis from Turkey*’
- 17.45 pm: Q&A (questions from chatbox and attendees)
- 17:55 pm: Questions for all panelists by moderators:
 1. How would you envision the future for museums in terms of human rights and peace?
 2. What project ideas museums can develop or collaborate to and how can they adjust themselves to the post-pandemic situation? (based on inputs from presenters)
- 18:05 pm: sharing feedback, conclusion

AUDIENCE:

- Peace building and other NGOs
- Rotarians
- Rotary peace fellows
- Academics
- Media

MODERATOR/CO-ORGANIZERS/CO-HOSTS:

- The organiser: Natalia Sineeva
- Moderators: Natalia Sineeva and Shahriar Kabir (see bios below)
- X (TBC) is managing overall ZOOM access and general Rotary promotions.
- X (TBC) is managing ZOOM technology
- X (TBC) Chatbox facilitator

PANELISTS

<p>First presenter</p>

<p>Kornelis Spaans</p>



Kornelis Spaans holds Masters degrees in Law and in Art History. He was a refugee protection officer of the United Nations in South-East Asia. He was on the board of an international bank. He was a diplomat, ultimately serving as ambassador of the Netherlands, with postings in Asia, Africa, Europe and North and South America and as chairman of several United Nations committees. Board member of the International Committee for the Remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes (ICMEMO) and honorary member of the Ecuador National Museum Committee. He has been involved in museum-, memorial- and remembrance issues in a number of countries. He is a member of Rotary Club München-Mitte.

Second presenter

Tali Nates



Tali Nates is the founder and director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre and chair of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation. She is a historian who lectures internationally on Holocaust education, genocide prevention, reconciliation and human rights. Tali has presented at many conferences including at the United Nations in New York (2016) and

is a fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar (2014-2020). She published many articles and contributed chapters to different books, among them *God, Faith & Identity from the Ashes: Reflections of Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors* (2015) and *Remembering The Holocaust in Educational Settings* (2018). Tali serves on the Academic Advisory Group of the School of Social and Health Sciences, Monash University (IIEMSA), South Africa. Born to a family of Holocaust survivors, Tali's father and uncle were saved by Oskar Schindler.

Third presenter (TBC)

Naomi Kikoler, director of the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



Naomi is a leading expert and strategist on mass atrocity prevention and international human rights advocacy and human rights law. She is the Director of the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. As the Center's deputy director and policy director she led for four years the Center's policy engagement with the United States government, Congress and work on Bearing Witness countries. For six years prior she developed and implemented the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect's work on populations at risk and efforts to advance the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) globally, including the Centre's UN Security Council advocacy.

She has worked as an adviser to the UN Special Adviser to the Responsibility to Protect and as an Adjunct Professor at the New School University. Naomi is the author of numerous publications. These include the 2013 Nexus Fund series on the emerging powers and mass atrocity prevention and the 2011 report "Risk Factors and Legal Norms Associated With Genocide Prevention" for the UN Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Jacob Blaustein Institute.

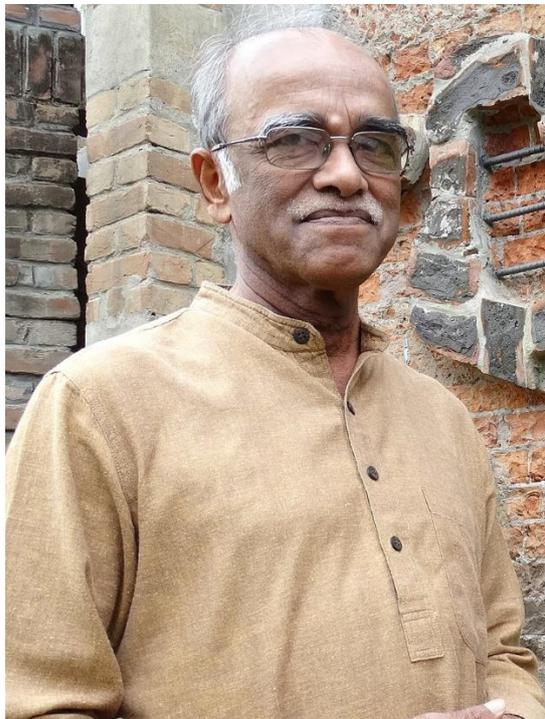
Prior to joining the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in 2008, she worked on national security and refugee law and policy for Amnesty International Canada. She has also clerked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda,

served as a legal consultant to the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement at the Brookings Institution and worked as a Carter Center election monitor in Kenya.

Naomi holds common law and civil law degrees from McGill University, a MSc. in Forced Migration from Oxford University where her thesis was on the Rwandan genocide, and a B.A. from the University of Toronto in International Relations and Peace and Conflict Studies. Naomi is a Board Member of the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, the Free Yazidi Foundation, and was called to the Bar of Upper Canada.

Forth presenter

Mofidul Hoque



Mofidul Hoque is a Bangladeshi researcher, publisher and essayist. He is one of the founder trustees of the Bangladesh Liberation War Museum. He is a recipient of numerous awards such as Bangla Academy Literary Award (2013) for essays, Ekushey Padak (2016) and Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Medal.

He is the Director of Center for the Study of Genocide and Justice of the museum and organised six international conference on Bangladesh Genocide and Justice. He participated in many international event to highlight Bangladesh Genocide and its recognition. At present he and the CSGS is actively pursuing the cause of justice for the persecuted Rohingya minority.

Fifth presenter

Haider Elias



Haider Elias is co-founder and President for Yazda Organization. Haider holds bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Houston, Haider worked previously for the US government in Iraq as a translator and cultural advisor. Haider lost his young brother in the attack against the Yazidi people in August 2014 and became involved in helping the victims and the advocacy to prevent future genocides against minorities. Haider was part of a group of Yazidi delegation to hold meetings with representatives at the White House when ISIS carried out a genocidal attack against the Yazidi minority. This resulted in the US intervention to authorize airstrikes targeted at ISIS locations and humanitarian airdrops to the thousands of Yazidis that were trapped on Mount Sinjar. Haider has been traveling around the world to create awareness of the Yazidi case. Haider co-founded Nadia Murad`s Initiative with his friends at Yazda in December of 2015 and travelled with her to multiple countries advocating for the Yazidis and other minorities in Iraq and Syria.

MODERATORS



Shahriar Kabir is a Bangladeshi writer, filmmaker and human rights activist. He has authored nearly 100 books and directed 14 documentary films focusing mainly on human rights and global peace. He is one of the champions of the civil society movement to protect rights of the minorities in Bangladesh and other South Asian countries. When pro-Islamist govt. was in power in 2001-2006, he was arrested twice for his strong voice against persecution of the minorities. In 2001 'Amnesty International' declared him a "Prisoner of Conscience." At present he is the President of the 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh & Trial of the War Criminals of 1971' and General Secretary of the 'South Asian Peoples Union against Fundamentalism & Communalism'. He has attended more than 100 international seminars and conferences on human rights and global peace. He is the recipient of several national and international awards including Bangla Academy Literary Award.



Dr Walter B. Gyger is a retired Swiss ambassador. He is now the principal Representative of Rotary International to the UN Office and other international organisations in Geneva, the president of the Swiss/Liechtenstein Rotarian Action Group for Peace and Director of the Rotarian Action for Peace (global). He is the initiator of the concept and convener of the Rotary Peace Project Incubator <https://rppi.ch/>. This initiative aims to bring together Rotary Peace Fellows, Rotarians and other international experts to elaborate and implement jointly peace projects responding to urgent community needs.

Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska



Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska is a sociologist and member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Her Ph.D. dissertation deals with Holocaust denial, memory and identity in Eastern Europe. Her experience includes work at the POLIN Museum in Warsaw as well as cooperation with the Toul Sleng Genocide Museum in Cambodia and other museums and sites of memory in Europe and Asia. She has also worked with organizations monitoring racism and xenophobia such as the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association and the Kantor Center for Study of Contemporary European Jewry of Tel-Aviv University. She is a former Rotary Peace Fellow at Chulalongkorn University from Poland. She is a coordinator for Europe at the Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association.

ABSTRACTS

I. How Do Museums and Memorial Sites Deal with Ongoing Atrocities and War? By Tali Nates

The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) is an education institution and a memorial to the victims of genocide. Focusing on the Holocaust and the 1994 genocide in Rwanda as two of its main case studies, its educational initiatives explore the connections between genocide and contemporary human rights issues, urging learners, educators and the public to understand the consequences of prejudice, racism, antisemitism, homophobia, xenophobia and 'othering', reflect on lessons from history and connect them to their own lives. One of the Centre's projects is the Change Maker's Programme (CMP) which was created in partnership with Aegis Trust, Rwanda. The CMP is a youth leadership programme for student leaders and their teachers. It strives to develop the necessary skills to challenge the idea of extremism and encourage participants to become upstanders and change-makers in their society. As this programme was launched in 12 countries so far, participants from different African countries are encouraged to develop their own historical case study and implement it as part of their programme.

This talk will explore how the Centre makes connections between the Holocaust, genocide and current issues in South Africa and beyond and how it assists learners, educators and the public in understanding human rights and democracy.

II. A Virtual Museum - Preservation of the culture, history and collective memory of the Yazidis from Turkey – by Haider Elias is co-founder and President for Yazda Organization.

Firstly, we want to contribute to the preservation of cultural diversity and international solidarity by providing justice through memory, according to Ricoeur (Ricoeur 2004, p. 142). For this purpose, we archive the cultural heritage of the Yazidis by recording interviews with the "last Yazidis" of the older generation (older than 55 years) in Turkey and in Germany and by documenting cultural artifacts (buildings, monuments, objects). We preserve the cultural heritage in the name of cultural diversity as a part of the collective culture of mankind. The creation of a commemoration and remembrance platform can make a valuable contribution to justice (Schliesser 2016, p. 6, 7, 9). For this purpose, the Yazidis are to tell about their life, culture, religion and historical experiences in the few Turkish villages left (near the city of Batman, Urfa and Mardin). This also applies to Yazidis of the older generation in Germany. In this way, we have two perspectives and a comparison about the life, culture, religion and history of the Yazidis from Turkey and Germany. This comparison does not exist in this form so far. At the same time, the project pursues the goal of social cohesion (ALIPH 2017b) among the various scattered groups of the Yazidi diaspora (Allison 2017, paragraph 11; Basci 2016, p. 342; Karaosmanoglu 2010, p. 197; Kizilhan 2014, p. 13; Kizilhan & Wenzel 2020, p. 4).

We will record interviews on video. Additionally, we will take photographs of villages (houses, houses of prayer) the landscape, the cultural as well as everyday objects (pictures, statues, agricultural tools) and symbols. Moreover, we will record songs, stories and narratives as digital audio files. Aiming at raising awareness of the Yazidis and their culture among different popular addressees, we make these videos, photographs and audio files available in two different languages (English and Kurdish) on an online portal in the framework of a virtual museum. This will enable Yazidi members in the diaspora, people from all over the world and a wider popular audience to learn about the Yazidi identity in Turkey. We are pursuing this goal in the sense of the need for awareness and sensitisation, as emphasised by ALIPH (ALIPH 2017a).

The third main objective is to collect a stock of data from which further knowledge can be generated for scientific and cultural purposes. In this way, a long-term and sustainable benefit of the project results and achievements will be created.