



The University of Sydney



Centre for Peace
and Conflict Studies

Right to Protection: Whose Responsibility and How?

Thursday, 4th September, 2008

Caritas Australia, 24-32 O'Riordan Street, Alexandria, Sydney

Despite a need to move quickly to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity, the United Nations has no reliable capacity to do so. In 2001, the "Responsibility to Protect" report (R2P) crystallised the duty of states to protect their own people from "atrocities crimes". This political and legal norm requires the international community to respond to threats of gross human rights violations if the state in question is unwilling or unable to do so. R2P, however, has not been operationalised and remains politically contentious among many nations in the global south.

The proposed United Nations Emergency Peace Service, which has support in South Africa, Japan, Indonesia and the United States, could be a means of addressing genocide, crimes against humanity and other complex humanitarian emergencies. With its rapid-reaction capabilities, such a permanent service could have prevented atrocities in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, East Timor and elsewhere.

This one day conference brings together academics, politicians, humanitarian aid practitioners, military and police. A diverse range of speakers will explore the legal, ethical, political and practical conundrums surrounding conflict intervention for human protection purposes. Themes arising from the conference will be used to test the feasibility of creating a UN Emergency Peace Service.

The opening session will address the philosophical and legal issues surrounding humanitarian responses and the protection of the vulnerable. This is followed by a discussion of these issues from practitioners' viewpoints. The third session examines the progress made with the UNEPS proposal and offers a UN perspective on humanitarian response and protection issues. A final session summarizes the day's deliberations and attempts to answer the conference question.

PROGRAM

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TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
9:00AM - 10:30AM	Philosophical and legal issues surrounding humanitarian responses and the protection of the vulnerable	<p>Conf. opening: Mike Kelly MP, Sec. to the Minister for Defence (TBC)</p> <p>Hilary Charlesworth, Professor of Int. Law & Human Rights, ANU, ARC Federation Fellow & Director, Centre for International Governance and Justice, ANU</p> <p>Dr. Phoebe Wynn-Pope, humanitarian affairs specialist who has worked in the Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa, in Bosnia/Serbia and the Middle East</p>
<i>Chair/Rapporteur: Dr. Jake Lynch, Director, Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Sydney</i>		
<i>10:30AM - 11:00AM</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>	
11:00AM -12:30PM	Practitioners' perspectives: Panel	<p>Bo Wilson: Rep from Caritas</p> <p>Nick Keen: AF Police</p> <p>David Moon : Military</p> <p>A.N. Other: Oxfam</p>
<i>Chair/Rapporteur: Jamie Isbister, Head International Programmes, Caritas Australia</i>		
	<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>12:30PM - 1:30PM</i>		
1:30PM - 3:00PM	United Nations Emergency Peace Service: challenges and possibilities	John Langmore, Professorial Fellow in Political Science, Sociology & Criminology, Univ. of Melbourne & National President UN Association of Australia.

		<p>Kavitha Suthanthiraraj, International Coordinator, Global Action to Prevent War, New York</p> <p>Annie Herro, Principle Researcher, the UNEPS Project, Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, Univ. of Sydney.</p>
<i>Chair/Rapporteur: Alistair Gee, Director, Christian World Service (CWS)</i>		
<i>Afternoon Tea</i>		
<i>3:00PM - 3:30PM</i>		
3:30PM - 4:30PM	What have we learned? Where do we go from here?	Co Chairs and Rapporteurs: Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees , Director, Sydney Peace Foundation, Dr. Alex Bellamy , Executive Director, the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, University of Queensland.
<i>4.30PM</i>		<i>Close</i>