



**Committee on Conscience Symposium  
Genocide Prevention, Morality, and the National Interest  
Monday, May 13, 2002**

**Program**

After the succession of crises in the 1990s in places such as Bosnia, Rwanda and Kosovo, where policymakers groped with whether and how to respond to genocide and threats of genocide, there now seems to be a broadly held view that preventing genocide is in America's national interest. For example, a bipartisan "Commission on America's National Interest" concluded that preventing genocide is an "extremely important" American national interest. A separate, Congressionally-mandated "Commission on National Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (Hart-Rudman Commission) concluded that preventing mass murder and gross human rights violations is a "significant" national interest. These conclusions reflect acceptance of the moral imperative of responding to and preventing mass murder as well as recognition of the practical consequences of failing to do so, such as the spread of regional instability, inundation of other countries with refugees and the creation of incubators for radical political movements.

The next step is to consider how this interest relates to other national interests and how this interest can be promoted realistically in the future. This symposium will bring together experts with a wide array of perspectives who have thought about both the need to respond effectively to mass violence and the practical difficulties inherent in responding. The ultimate goal is to go beyond platitudes and seriously discuss how to promote the national interest in preventing genocide.

- 9:30 am**                      **Introduction and Welcome**  
**Hon. Jerome J. Shestack, Chair, Committee on Conscience**
- 9:35-9:55 am**                **Opening Remarks**  
**Hon. Frank Wolf**  
**United States House of Representatives**
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**        **Panel I: American Responses to Genocide and Mass**  
**Violence in the Past**

**Moderator: Rev. Hubert G. Locke (Committee on Conscience)**

- **Ms. Samantha Power** (Executive Director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard University)
- **Mr. Grover Joseph Rees** (Counsel, House International Relations Committee) **(provisionally confirmed)**
- **Ambassador David Scheffer** (Senior Vice President, United Nations Association of the USA)

**[12:00-1:00 Break]**

**1:00-3:00 pm                      Panel II: Promoting The National Interest in Preventing Genocide in the Future**

**Moderator: Hon. Max Kampelman (Committee on Conscience)**

- **Ms. Holly Burkhalter** (Advocacy Director, Physicians for Human Rights)
- **Col. (ret'd) Scott Feil** (Executive Director, Role of American Military Power, Association of the United States Army)
- **Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper** (Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes Issues)

**3:15-5:15 pm                      Panel III – American Public Opinion, the Media, and Genocide Prevention**

**Moderator: Hon. Ruth Mandel (Committee on Conscience, and Vice Chair, United States Holocaust Memorial Council)**

- **Mr. Roy Gutman**, Newsweek
- **Professor Allen Hertzke** (University of Oklahoma)
- **Mr. Steven Kull** (Center on Policy Attitudes, University of Maryland)
- **Mr. Aryeh Neier** (President, Open Society Institute)

*Coffee, tea, and water will be available for symposium participants until 5:30 p.m. in Classroom A.*

**5:30-6:30 pm**

**Introduction: Hon. Fred S. Zeidman, Chair, United States Holocaust Memorial Council**

**Closing Address: Hon. Paula J. Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs**

**6:30-7:30 pm                      Reception**

**Hall of Witness, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum**