



The New Human Rights Dialogue Series Presents:

From Manifest Failure to Collective Action: Realizing the Responsibility to Protect

The panel discussion is the 5th installment of the *New Human Rights Dialogue Series*, a collaborative initiative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Member States, the NGO Committee on Human Rights, and the Department of Public Information. The Series is a 12-part, monthly series of discussions at United Nations Headquarters, leading up to the celebration on 10 December 2008 of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year also commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Genocide Convention and marks 14 years since the genocide in Rwanda. Hence, the topic of the 28 April 2008 event is the Responsibility to Protect and how the international community can fulfill its commitment for “collective action, in a timely and decisive manner” in protecting populations from *genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity*, as envisaged in the 2005 [UN World Outcome Document](#).

Panelists include Edward Luck, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General; Heidi Hulan, Permanent Mission of Canada; H.E. Joseph Nsengimana, Permanent Mission of Rwanda; Ramesh Thakur, Centre for Int'l Governance Innovation; Noel Morada, University of the Philippines Diliman and Asia-Pacific Centre for R2P; and Joanna Weschler, Security Council Report. The Panelists will use a human rights lens to tackle a range of issues, including the following:

- *When and how is the Responsibility to Protect to be applied, and what are the legal and political implications for the States concerned?*
- *Is it conceivable to envisage a neutral approach in the implementation of the R2P? Are the threshold criteria for military intervention proposed by the ICISS still valid? Who should ensure that the criteria are observed? What could be some other guarantees for such “neutrality”?*
- *Is the R2P a “Trojan horse” for powerful states to violate the sovereignty of smaller states?*
- *Are the current international and regional mechanisms, bodies and “tools” adequate for preventing, stopping and redressing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity? If not, what are the missing elements?*

The panel will take place **on 28 April 2008 at the UN Headquarters, Conference room 4, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.** It will be broadcast via the [United Nations Web cast](#).

All are invited to attend. Those without a UN Grounds Pass should contact the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights no later than 23 April 2008.

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