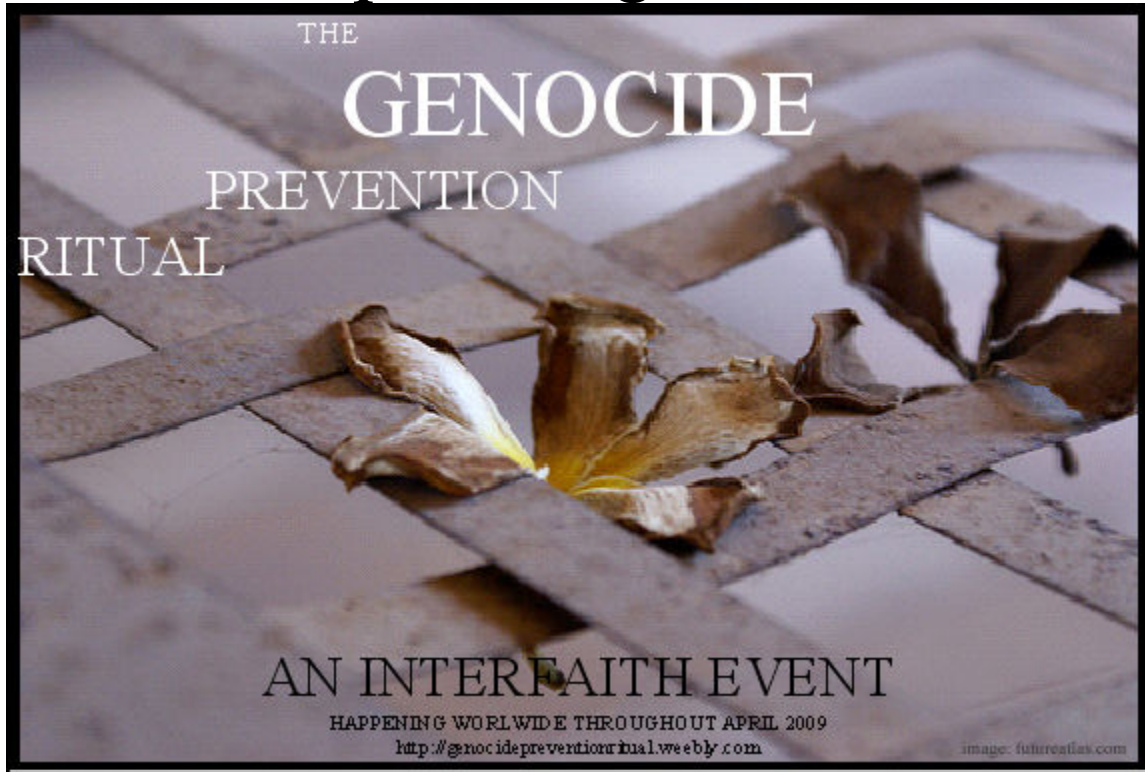


# GPR Complete Organizer's Packet



## Contents

1. Basics: What is genocide?
2. Ritual planning: Step by Step guide
3. 10 Things You Can Do flyer
4. Worthy Charities flyer
5. GPR Event Poster

# What is genocide?

*Remarkably, six genocides have major anniversaries in the month of April - a tragic testament to the international community's inexcusable failure to stop inhuman and barbarous acts. This April, we - survivors of genocide and mass atrocities, their descendents, and anti-genocide advocates - will honor those who were lost and those who survived. And we will urge immediate action to stop the ongoing Darfur genocide. Our collective voices will remind the international community to make its commitment to mass atrocity prevention absolute. Until we do, we are destined to repeat the most shameful chapters in human history.*

—from the Pledge to Observe at [GenocidePreventionMonth.org](http://GenocidePreventionMonth.org)

The convention adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 defines genocide as follows:

In the present Convention, genocide means 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.

—Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG), Article 2

## Six Genocide Anniversaries in April

Bosnia (April 6), Sarajevo. Hosted by the [Society for Threatened People](#), the [Youth Initiative for Human Rights](#), and the [Mothers of Srebrenica](#).

Rwanda (April 7, for 100 days), Kigali and throughout Rwanda. Hosted by the government of Rwanda and [IBUKA](#), the coalition of survivor groups in Rwanda. Events also in NY and DC.

Cambodia (April 17), Phnom Penh. Hosted by civil society groups, led by the [Center for Social Development](#). Event also in DC.

Darfur (April 19), Washington, DC. Hosted by the [Save Darfur Coalition](#).

Yom HaShoah, the Holocaust (April 21), [Yad Vashem](#) in Israel, the [US Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) in DC and synagogues and Holocaust memorial sites around the world.

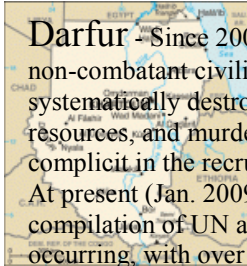
Armenia (April 24), Yerevan. Hosted by the [Armenian Genocide Museum & Institute](#), located in the Tsitsernakaberd Park. Events also in New York, Los Angeles and Washington, DC.

—from [GenocidePreventionMonth.org](http://GenocidePreventionMonth.org)

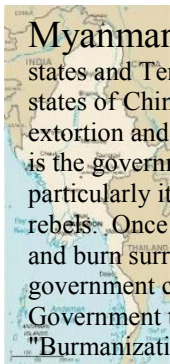
image: Welcome to Rwanda, by The Dilly Lama

## GI-NET's Eight Current Areas of Concern

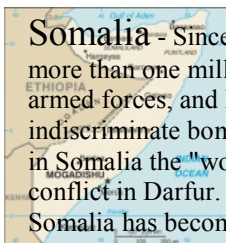
[Genocide Intervention Network](#) highlights eight current areas of concern. The following is quoted from their web site.



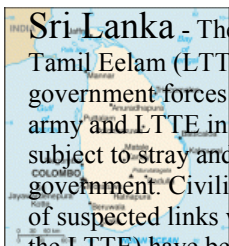
**Darfur** - Since 2003, the most notorious genocide of the twenty-first century has devastated millions of non-combatant civilians in Darfur. Sudan continues to send its troops and *Janjaweed* proxy militias to systematically destroy the livelihoods of Darfurians by bombing and burning villages, looting economic resources, and murdering, raping, and torturing non-combatant civilians. Rebels in Darfur are also complicit in the recruitment of child soldiers and the commission of other acts of violence against civilians. At present (Jan. 2009) Darfur is experiencing the most intense fighting seen in the last year. ... GI-NET's compilation of UN and other reports from Darfur lead to three strong conclusions: 1. Direct violence is still occurring, with over 1,200 reported fatalities between Jan. and Sep. 2008. 2. The Sudanese government and *Janjaweed* militia are responsible for 79% of civilian deaths and 88% of the people they kill are civilians. Coordinated aerial and ground attacks continued in 2008. 3. Civilians account for between 65 and 75% of all fatalities. 70% of civilians die in what appear to be one-sided attacks.




**Myanmar** - Civilians remain at risk of violence in Burma's eastern Karen, Karenni, Shan and Mon states and Tenasserim division. Residents of these states, as well as ethnic minority areas in the western states of Chin and Arakan are victims of summary execution, severe torture and rape as well as forced labor, extortion and displacement due to the ongoing Burmese military offensive. The primary driver of violence is the government, due to its continued counter-insurgency campaign against ethnic minority rebels, particularly its **'four-cuts strategy'**, an attempt to cut off food, funds, intelligence and recruits to the rebels. Once it gains control of an area, the military uses forced labor to build bases from which they attack and burn surrounding villages as well as mining the razed areas to discourage returns. Areas outside of government control are designated as 'black zones', where soldiers are able to shoot any person on sight. Government troops are also known to use rape against ethnic minority women as part of a campaign of "Burmanization," through forced pregnancy.




**Somalia** - Since January 2007, a resurgence of violence in Somalia has killed thousands and displaced more than one million innocent, non-combatant civilians. Somali insurgents, the transitional government's armed forces, and Ethiopian troops have devastated Mogadishu and its surrounding areas with indiscriminate bombings and targeting of Somali civilians. The United Nations called the current situation in Somalia the "world's worst humanitarian disaster" in December 2007, a title previously held by the conflict in Darfur. In the early part of 2008, Amnesty International reported that the killing of civilians in Somalia has become routine.



**Sri Lanka** - The civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) continues. The war, which reignited in early 2006, took on a new character in 2008 as government forces captured the LTTE 'capital' of Kilinochchi. With heavy fighting between the Sri Lankan army and LTTE in the north of the country, violence against civilians has also increased. Civilians are subject to stray and indiscriminate bombing, shelling, and gunfire during battles between the LTTE and the government. Civilians have been "disappeared" and killed, sometimes as a public spectacle, presumably out of suspected links with the LTTE. Government forces and proxies such as the Karuna group (a splinter of the LTTE) have been granted full immunity for such crimes, which have not been investigated and have not led to convictions of those responsible. The LTTE is also responsible for violence against civilians. They have, continued and increased the use of suicide bombings throughout the country, targeting transportation facilities and political figures. The Tigers are also responsible for the widespread forced recruitment of child soldiers.

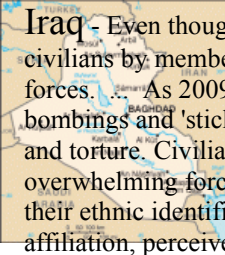


**Chad** - Throughout 2008, civilians along Chad's eastern border continued to fall victim to violence committed by the Chadian military, Chadian rebel groups, Sudanese militia and bandits. ... The situation in eastern Chad is a combination of anti-government rebellion, a proxy war between Chad and Sudan, massive displacement due to the Darfur conflict and the inability of the government to effectively provide security for its residents in the east. This combination of factors have helped to create a state of insecurity in eastern Chad that has put civilians at risk of summary execution, forced displacement, rape and the systematic destruction of livelihoods through looting and the burning of villages. Security in the region noticeably deteriorated in 2008, evidenced by the 258% increased in attacks on humanitarians in the region and Chadian children continue to be recruited into militia groups in the region.



**Central African Republic** - Since mid-2005, more than 10,000 homes were burned and nearly 300,000 people have fled their homes in terror due to the increasing violence in the Central African Republic. Conflict between rebel groups from the marginalized north and the central government caused a widespread increase in the levels of banditry, looting, and widespread human rights violations. In response to rebel movements, the government of the Central African Republic launched a series of indiscriminate counterinsurgency offensives, terrorizing the civilian population of the country.

**Congo** - Civilians in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo remain victims of mass killings, severe torture and widespread rape at the hands of numerous armed groups operating in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale. Over 1.5 million people are displaced throughout the country, with over one million of these in North Kivu alone. 250,000 of these have been displaced since August of 2008. ... All armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have committed widespread mass atrocities against civilians, including rape, torture, forced displacement, summary execution and murder. There is substantial evidence that indicates violence is targeted against civilians on the basis of ethnic identity.



**Iraq** - Even though security improved in 2008, the war in Iraq continues with atrocities committed against civilians by members of sectarian militias, Al Qaeda in Iraq, criminal gangs and Iraqi government forces. ... As 2009 begins, residents of Iraq remain at risk of bombings (including IED detonations, suicide bombings and 'sticky bombs'), summary executions, ethnic intimidation including 'soft' ethnic cleansing\* and torture. Civilians are also affected by the tactics of Coalition forces, falling victim to the use of overwhelming force and misidentification during counterinsurgency operations. They are targeted due to their ethnic identification, religious identity, residence in mixed ethno-sectarian communities, political affiliation, perceived cooperation with coalition forces and status as non-combatants.

These areas of concern are sites of potential genocide. However, the term "genocide" is notoriously controversial. Often it can only be applied with confidence after the fact. Therefore, caution should be exercised in public statements. In controversial contexts the term "atrocities" may be preferred. This in no way reduces or deflates the seriousness of the crimes being committed.



# Step by Step

## *10 Steps to a Successful Event*

### **1. What kind of event?**

The first thing you need to decide is what kind of event you'll have. There are two basic possibilities:

- Personal – just me, or me and my family/close friends.
- Group – grove, circle, congregation, club, community center, class, house party

Once you decide this, you can begin planning in more detail. Much of what follows applies largely to group situations, but solitary rituals are equally significant. Lone participants should use creativity to come up with activities that suit the style and length of ritual they desire.

### **2. Who will participate? How many people? Where?**

Take a moment to think about the type of person you'd like to invite. Are these fellow members of a religion? Or are they friends from work or clubs? The former may enjoy a ritual tailored to your common style of worship. The latter, in contrast, may prefer something where the symbolic aspect is foremost and any spiritual aspects are left unstated or open to interpretation.

The size of your event is also important. This largely determines what sorts of activities are feasible. For example, small groups can devote time to personal discussions, while large groups can feature musical performances. Size also determines the sort of activities that can raise awareness or funds. A movie night is a good choice for a small group of friends, watching documentaries about genocides and talking about your reactions. Larger groups may raise funds with friendly competitions like darts, bowling, sumo wrestling, or a battle of the bands.

Next, think about the venue for your event. Will you have it in your living room? A backyard? Community center? Campground? Make sure the location suits the number and type of participants. The place you choose is another factor determining what kind of activities will be feasible.

### **3. How will you accomplish the ritual's three phases?**

Now that you have an idea of what kind of ritual you want and its participants, you can start to think about how you want to perform the ritual. As already mentioned, a spiritual group can bring in liturgy, worship, and prayer, while others may wish to keep things symbolic. And group size will tell you what sorts of activities will work for each phase. Think about each and choose an appropriate activity.

*Phase 1 – Time to Remember.* Begin by bringing attention to genocides in the past: Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, and so on. Some, like the Holocaust, are well-known to almost everyone. Others, like Armenia, may be little understood. You may choose to highlight a list of historical genocides, or concentrate on just one or two important to your ritual's participants.

Ideas for remembrance include a reading out of historical genocides, a short history lesson, a multimedia presentation, a musical or poetic tribute to those lost, an artistic display of genocide-related images, or a sharing of stories and/or experiences. Lighting candles for those lost would be appropriate. If any participants have personal experiences of atrocities, or relatives with experiences, you might consider letting them speak.

*Phase 2 – Time to Awaken.* This is the point in the ritual where you want to turn attention to things going on in the world right now: Darfur, Burma, Somalia, and so on. Many may be unaware of these areas of concern, so use the opportunity to perk interest. As with the first phase, you have the option of mentioning many areas of concern or concentrating on one or two of special significance.

Take some caution with terms: “genocide” can be controversial. There is often disagreement about specific situations, like Darfur, and tempers may fly. If in doubt, use “atrocities” instead.

Many of the same activities from phase 1 will work for phase 2: a reading out of areas of concern, short lesson, presentation, musical or poetic expression, or artistic display. Other possibilities include group prayer, meditation, chant, or song. If there is a hymn that expresses hope, you might devote one verse or round of singing to each area of concern.

*Phase 3 – Time to Act.* The final phase of the ritual is a symbolic act which expresses and unifies our common intention to prevent genocide. An arrangement of flowers, all of one kind, are displayed and then ritual cut down to represent the wholesale slaughter of a people. This is followed by a moment of silence and then a commitment to never let this happen again.

There are no restrictions on the size, style, or color of arrangement. This can be creatively adapted to your situation. For example, some may opt for a bouquet on a table or altar, with the blossoms removed by a chosen participant while the others sing. Others may have each participant hold a flower and snip the blossom off at an agreed upon signal. As for color, white may be a good choice for its associations with innocence and purity. Another option would be colors meaningful to a particular religion, or to a people that has suffered or is suffering atrocities.

Whatever you choose, take care for the length of time it will take to clip the blossoms. You don't want to have people standing around so long they get impatient. Short and

sweet is good. Sudden or all-at-once is even better. As a rule of thumb, the length of time should not exceed what it takes for the participants to sing one song.

Also take care for the visibility of the flowers. Make sure everyone can see what's going on.

Once the blossoms have been cut down, call for a moment of silence. Give participants enough time to take in the sight of all those stems standing there, violated.

Finally, provide an opportunity to express a commitment to prevent genocide. The way you do this will depend on the type of people in attendance. If you choose to verbalize your commitment with a group pledge, vow, decree, or prayer, make sure everyone is comfortable with the words. You might make them available beforehand for people to read and mentally prepare. Another option suitable for small groups would be to allow people to step forward and verbalize their own personal commitments in the style they wish. Large groups may keep verbal expressions to short chants like "No more genocide!" or "Peace in Darfur!" Another option for large groups is non-verbal expression. This could be done by intoning together, lighting candles or glowsticks, stamping feet, or placing hands in a gesture of respect.

#### **4. How will you raise awareness and/or funds?**

The three-phase ritual is only one part of an event. Equally important is the raising of awareness and/or funds. This may be done in a variety of ways. For a low-key effect, place flyers and donation boxes near entrances and exits of the ritual location. A little more assertive would be to pass donation boxes around. For a rousing effect, people with donation boxes slung from their necks can go around energetically hocking their causes like salespeople. House parties and movie nights might charge a small admission fee, which then goes to charity. Other excellent options include a bake sale, dessert auction, 50/50 lottery, or friendly competition. Get creative: Darts for Darfur, Bowling for Burma, Limbo Saves Lives, etc. Generally, the more people enjoy themselves the more they enjoy giving, so have some fun with it.

There are no rules for which charities you promote or how. The Genocide Prevention Ritual web site provides a list of good possibilities, but it's up to you. You choose your charities, and you donate any funds raised directly. The GPR does not touch the money. This gives you maximum freedom, and gets funds directly where they need to go.

#### **5. Where and when?**

Now that you have most of your details sketched out, finalize a place, date, and time.

#### **6. How will you get the word out?**

Finally, invite your participants. If your event is open to the public, get creative with your advertisement. Student campuses are good places to raise interest. Flyers can also

be posted at community centers and other appropriate locations. Utilize local radio stations as well as internet sites to get the word out. You may use any materials from the GPR web site for the purposes of spreading the word and raising awareness.

## **7. Register your event.**

Whether your event is a big happening or a solitary thing, it is important to register it on the GPR web site. This is the only way we can measure the impact of this worldwide event. Also, it is inspiring to see a list of all the wonderful events planned for this cause.

To register, go to the web site at:

<http://genocidepreventionritual.weebly.com>

Provide us with four things:

- name of your ritual
- name for your group or yourself (anonymous is acceptable)
- date in April (unnecessary if solitary or not open to the public)
- location (general is fine if solitary or not open to the public)

Optional: you may also provide a contact number, email address, or web site if you wish (desirable for group events open to public)

The purposes of registration are to measure impact and visibly demonstrate our collective will. Information will not be used in any other way. Your address will not be posted, and you will not receive any mail apart from a heartfelt thank you.

## **8. How will you invite others to host their own event?**

Don't just rest content with your own event--promote the GPR far and wide! Spread the word on email lists, blogs, internet groups, and chats. Post flyers in appropriate public places. Tell your friends. Any way you can, get the word out about this important event.

## **9. How will you document your event?**

When the day comes, don't forget to bring your camera! Where appropriate, take pictures or videos. You might have a notebook in which participants can sign their names and leave messages of hope. Don't let the energy and enthusiasm raised by your event go to waste. Capture it for others to see. Share your pictures and memories with the Genocide Prevention Ritual web site. The organizers have put a lot of work into the GPR. Be kind to them by sharing your positive feedback! Tell us what you did, how it went, and how you felt. If you managed to raise any funds, please let us know. If you have constructive criticism, please share that as well. Send comments, pictures, and videos to [genocidepreventionritual@gmail.com](mailto:genocidepreventionritual@gmail.com).

## **10. Last, start planning for next year!**

Image: Darfur 'Stop Genocide', by futureatlas.com



# 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO

## *to prevent genocide*

- 1. Write to your government leaders.** [1-800-GENOCIDE](http://1-800-GENOCIDE) connects you directly with your elected officials for free (US, Canada). [Save Darfur](#) offers an [online postcard](#) for urging leaders to act (US). For other nations and causes, inquire directly.
- 2. Spread the word on Facebook.** Join important causes, such as [Prevent Genocide](#) and [Global Grassroots](#). Then invite your friends, raising consciousness throughout your social network. See also [GenocidePrevent](#) on Twitter.
- 3. Educate yourself.** Knowledge is power, so get informed. Read selections from ABA's [Books of Conscience](#) and watch films from the Genocide Prevention Project's [Films of Conscience](#).
- 4. Educate your community.** Share what you learn with your friends. Post flyers in appropriate public locations. Raise issues on email discussion lists, bulletin boards, and forums. Start a blog or web site devoted to raising awareness. Wear a [wristband](#) to show your commitment.
- 5. Demand a [Books of Conscience](#) display.** Approach your local bookseller about putting up a display of titles from ABA's Books of Conscience list during the month of April.
- 6. Screen a [Films of Conscience](#) movie.** Ask your local culture center, community center, or student union about a screening. Alternatively, bring a DVD to a club or organization to which you belong, or invite friends and neighbors to a movie party.
- 7. Host a fundraiser.** Raise funds and awareness with bake sales, auctions, and charity drives. Have a party with a small donation as entry fee, or a fun games event: Darts for Darfur, Bowling for Myanmar, Sumo for Somalia, etc.
- 8. Volunteer.** Many worthy charities need your help to publicize their work or help out in local chapters. Inquire locally.
- 9. Donate.** Times are tight, but consider what you can spare. Remember that charities too are affected by a troubled economy, and they need your donations now more than ever. Give what you can.
- 10. Be a role model.** Long-term prevention only comes by rooting out the prejudices and hatreds inherent in each of us, so attend to yourself. Cultivate a sense of being a world citizen, a cosmopolitan in the original sense of the word. Discover the interdependence between yourself and the rest of the world. Let your development show in daily words and actions. Finally, become aware of the next generation: children learn best by behavior-modeling, so be a role model.

images: 1-800-GENOCIDE, by D.C. Attie, Tent at encampment for Darfur, by [fureatlas.com](http://fureatlas.com)

# PREVENT GENOCIDE

## WORTHY CHARITIES

[Aegis](#) - campaigns to prevent genocide worldwide; activities include research, policy, education, remembrance, awareness of genocide issues in the media, and humanitarian support for victims of genocide; offices in the UK Holocaust Centre and in Rwanda

[Amnesty International](#) - a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights for all.

[Darfur Dream Team Sister Schools Program](#) - connects American middle schools and high schools with students in Darfuri refugee camps;



[Doctors Without Borders](#) - an international medical humanitarian organization working to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe.

[Enough](#) - the project to end genocide and crimes against humanity; combines analysis, advocacy, and activism to the "three p's": peace, protection, and punishment for perpetrators.



**GENOCIDE INTERVENTION NETWORK**  
Have a Hand in Stopping Genocide®

[Genocide Intervention Network](#) - educational network empowering individuals and communities with the tools to prevent and stop genocide; in addition to advocacy, programs work actively to protect civilians on the ground, currently in Darfur and Burma.



[Global Grassroots](#) works to bring personal transformation and social entrepreneur skills to women survivors of genocide in Darfur, Chad, and Rwanda.

[Human Rights Watch](#) - independent organization reporting on human rights issues around the world

[Iraq Foundation](#) - raises awareness for the suffering of Iraqi people and raises funds which are then given to institutions and organizations in Iraq to aid children, refugees, and widows.



[Raise Hope for Congo](#) - an Enough campaign to raise awareness, increase news coverage, build an activist base, and change policy

[Save Darfur Coalition](#) - an alliance of over 180 organizations dedicated to helping Darfur; web site has a form to send electronic letters to Washington.

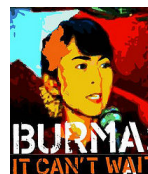


[STAND](#) - student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network; recruits, trains, organizes and mobilizes students around the world by providing materials, educational information, online resources, policy expertise, and a network of concerned and active peers.

## SUDAN DIVESTMENT TASK FORCE

[Sudan Divestment Task Force](#) - removing investor capital from companies supporting the Sudanese government, the money from which funds ongoing genocide; a list of companies under scrutiny is available for free download; the site also shows which U.S. states have adopted divestment policies.

[Teach Against Genocide \(TAG\)](#) - works to pass and implement funded state-level legislation mandating the inclusion of comprehensive genocide education in the curricula of public schools, and to create mechanisms to train teachers on the subject



[US Campaign for Burma](#) - builds a broad-based coalition of grassroots and institutional support for freedom in Burma. Through education, leadership development, conferences, and advocacy.

[War Child International](#) - works to help children caught up in the horrors of war.

image: 'Humanitarian assistance' painting, by [futureatlas.com](http://futureatlas.com)



THE  
GENOCIDE  
PREVENTION  
RITUAL

AN INTERFAITH EVENT

HAPPENING WORLDWIDE THROUGHOUT APRIL 2009

<http://genocidepreventionritual.weebly.com>

images: [images.com](http://images.com)

What:

Where:

When:

Contact: