



# MIGS

Montreal Institute  
for Genocide and  
Human Rights Studies

*THE WILL  
TO INTERVENE*



## MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) at Concordia University is Canada's pre-eminent research centre focusing on the study and prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity. MIGS draws expertise from faculty members throughout the university. The Institute boasts the largest group of genocide experts in Canada and is led by MIGS director Frank Chalk and assistant director Max Bergholz, the James M. Stanford Professor in Genocide and Human Rights Studies. MIGS's widely applauded Will to Intervene (W2I) project is led by W2I senior deputy director Kyle Matthews.

MIGS supports two distinct yet closely related research program initiatives: first, to conduct fieldwork-based research in order to uncover the causes and dynamics of mass violence and genocide; second, to utilize these findings to design policy proposals aimed at the prevention of mass-atrocity crimes, especially genocide and crimes against humanity.

MIGS educates graduate and undergraduate students, the wider public and government policy makers about the historical, political and sociological patterns leading to genocide. It also offers training programs internationally. MIGS helps victims of mass atrocity crimes by bringing survivors together and helping them overcome isolation.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

Faculty members associated with MIGS supervise graduate studies on genocide and its prevention at the master's and doctoral levels. Degrees are offered through Concordia's:

- Department of History;
- Special Individualized Program;
- Humanities Program.

## MIGS FACTS

- Founded: 1986
- Director: Frank Chalk
- A Concordia University Research Centre (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership and Action to Prevent Mass Atrocities* study published in 2009, book published in 2010
- Research projects: W2I Project, Media Monitoring Project, Occasional Paper Series
- The U.S. government introduced policy changes based on the W2I Project in 2010
- Will to Intervene Day declared in Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto
- W2I Project nominated for a Shorty Award in Digital Activism in 2012
- MIGS collaborates with New York University, Colombia University and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

“It is easy to identify with the victims. But if we want to prevent future genocides, is it not equally important to understand the psychology of the perpetrators and bystanders?”

— Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations



## SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND THE WILL TO INTERVENE

MIGS's pioneering Will to Intervene (W2I) study, co-written by Lieutenant-General (Retired) the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, MIGS Distinguished Senior Fellow, encourages the governments of Canada and the United States to take direct action to prevent future genocides.

Published in 2009, it sets out the long-term security threats to the U.S. and Canada from mass atrocities. The study advocates prevention as a key national interest of both countries.

## MOBILIZING THE WILL TO INTERVENE

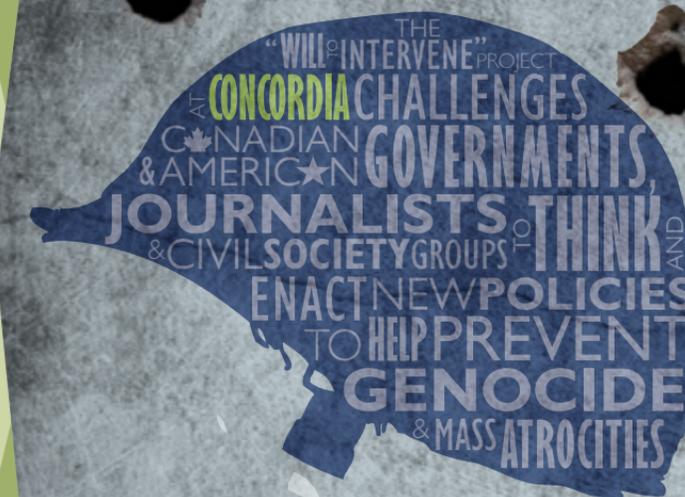
In 2010, MIGS published *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership to Prevent Mass Atrocities*, a book which incorporates the Institute's W2I research that compared American and Canadian policies towards Rwanda in 1994 and Kosovo in 1999.

MIGS plans to extend W2I research to separate case studies of South African and British policies towards the prevention of mass atrocities. The U.S. government has already acted on a number of W2I's key recommendations, including the creation of an intelligence-sharing Atrocities Prevention Board and the inclusion of mass atrocity prevention as a foreign policy priority in its National Security Strategy.

## @MIGSINSTITUTE: EARLY WARNING AND MEDIA MONITORING

MIGS's interns monitor state and private media in 16 high-risk countries for warning signs of atrocities. They post reports to the Institute's public website each week as part of its Media Monitoring Project.

MIGS's Twitter account (@MIGSInstitute) issues regular alerts to researchers, journalists and international organizations on new developments.



“Our failures in Rwanda make it vital for us not only to learn from our mistakes but to act on what we have learned. The W2I project developed by MIGS will play a key role in moving our elected representatives to lead in the prevention of future mass atrocity crimes.”

– Lieutenant-General (Retired) the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, MIGS Distinguished Senior Fellow



“We who are humanitarians feel enormous empathy for the victims of genocide. Many of us have discovered, however, that our empathy is not enough.”

—Frank Chalk, professor, Department of History; director, MIGS

## FUTURE PROJECTS

*MIGS needs your support to remain the leader in research and action against genocide and human rights abuses. We seek a total of \$665,000 in new support to further advance our cause as well as these important projects:*

### Digital Mass Atrocity Prevention Lab:

Launched in 2013, the DMAP Lab is a permanent project that explores social media and other technologies as tools to document, detect and prevent mass atrocity crimes. It aims to educate policy makers, academics, NGO workers and students on their effective use. **Support required: \$60,000.**

### Global Democratic Alliance to Protect Civilians:

This worldwide forum in 2015 will connect parliamentarians and civil society leaders to share lessons learned for genocide prevention. The three-year initiative aims to foster a sense of responsibility in the face of atrocities — to protect people and diminish inaction by individual governments. **Support required: \$180,000.**

### MIGS International Advisory Council:

This global council of distinguished, committed experts will provide MIGS with invaluable guidance and assistance with long-term planning and special initiatives, as well as convene annually in Montreal. **Support required: \$35,000.**

### Parliamentary Delegation in Washington:

A Canadian parliamentary delegation will meet with U.S. legislators, White House officials, members of the U.S. Atrocity Prevention Board and think-tank representatives to share strategies for mass atrocity crime prevention. Beginning in 2014, this three-year project would ultimately create better channels for timely information exchange regarding at-risk countries. **Support required: \$30,000.**



“MIGS has recognized that advances in technology and social media also provide important new tools that can be used by all actors in the atrocity prevention field. Technologies can be harnessed to document human rights abuses for eventual prosecution.

— Kyle Matthews, senior deputy director, MIGS; Fellow, Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute



### Senior Visiting Diplomat/Public Servant/ Journalist in Residence:

The establishment of a resident fellowship at MIGS will enable a high-level Canadian diplomat, public servant or journalist to organize public seminars at Concordia, interact directly with students, publish opinion pieces in media and advance the Institute's overall mission of genocide prevention. **Support required: \$80,000.**

### Transatlantic Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P):

In partnership with The Hague Institute for Global Justice, MIGS is organizing the first North American Transatlantic Dialogue on the R2P. The conference will unite legislators, practitioners, academics, policy makers and NGO representatives from Europe and North America to exchange perspectives, build national capacity to prevent the outbreak of mass atrocities and reinforce how they lead to international security threats. It will take place in Ottawa in December 2014. **Support required: \$40,000.**

### Genocide Prevention Group:

The institutional partner of the Canadian All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity (GPG) since 2007, MIGS funds research assistance, analysis, training and the majority of a graduate internship that serves the group. **Support required: \$20,000.**

### #RightsCity:

This worldwide network of cities and their mayors will pledge to protect the human rights of minority groups, both domestically and internationally. Under the leadership of Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and in partnership with Roméo Dallaire, the project will position Montreal as a global hub for human rights organizations. It will bring municipal leaders and human rights experts to Montreal for a large #RightsCity conference in 2017. **Support required: \$220,000.**

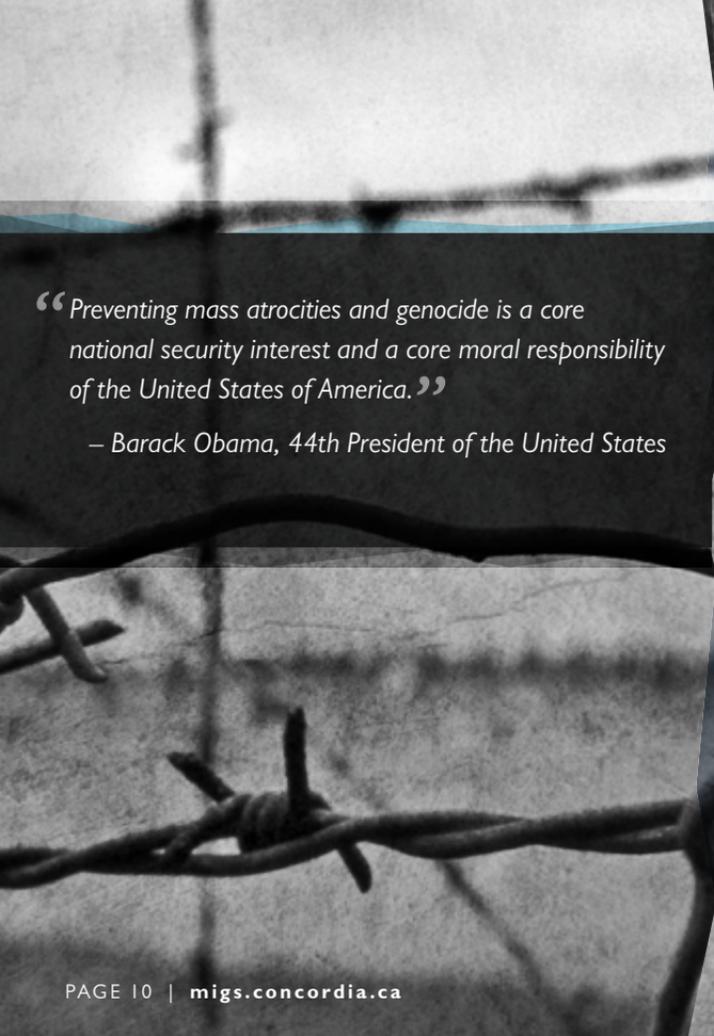


*“Every day the United Nations deliberated over Rwanda, another 8,000 to 10,000 people were butchered. Will we have the same failure in the future? What can each of us do to give meaning to the phrase ‘never again?’”*

*– Major Brent Beardsley, BA 77, Fellow, MIGS*

*“What causes neighbours in multi-ethnic communities, who have lived in peace for long periods, to murder each other? And what makes it possible for perpetrators and survivors, who have committed and experienced atrocities, to live together again once the killing stops?”*

*– Max Bergholz, assistant director, MIGS;  
James M. Stanford Professor in Genocide and Human Rights*



“Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States of America.”

– Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States

## MIGS IN THE COMMUNITY

MIGS played a prominent role in the recently completed creation of *Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide and Other Human Rights Violations*, which documented accounts of local survivors of mass atrocity crimes including the Holocaust, Cambodia and Rwanda.

The *Montreal Life Stories* project, which combined the knowledge of academics and community groups, helped spawn new school curricula, content for television, radio and theatre productions, and museum and cultural exhibits. The project also inspired new Montreal and online archives featuring survivors' stories.

## INTERNSHIPS AND EVENTS

MIGS offers unpaid internships in the Will to Intervene and Media Monitoring Projects. To learn more, contact [migs@concordia.ca](mailto:migs@concordia.ca).

MIGS offers workshops, lectures and conferences annually. Visit [migs.concordia.ca](http://migs.concordia.ca) for details and to subscribe to the MIGS e-mail notice list.

## SUPPORT MIGS

To make a gift, please make cheques payable to Concordia University. Indicate MIGS on the memo line and mail to: Advancement and Alumni Relations, Concordia University, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., FB-520, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3G 1M8.

Donations by credit card can be made securely online at [giving.concordia.ca/form](http://giving.concordia.ca/form) or by phone at 514-848-2424, ext. 3884. Whenever applicable, donors will be issued tax receipts, in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulations. If you are an international donor, please e-mail [giving@concordia.ca](mailto:giving@concordia.ca) for information specific to your country.

## OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

<a href="https://twitter.com/WillToIntervene">#WillToIntervene</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/MIGS">#MIGS</a>
<a href="https://twitter.com/MIGSinstitute">@MIGSinstitute</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/W2Iproject">@W2Iproject</a>

## ABOUT CONCORDIA

Concordia is among Canada's top choices for talented students, professors and researchers who seek a comprehensive university experience. The university caters to a diverse body of 46,000 students. Thanks to a growing profile on the world stage, Concordia now has some 6,300 international students from 150 countries. It offers nearly 500 graduate and undergraduate programs through four faculties — Arts and Science, Engineering and Computer Science, Fine Arts and the John Molson School of Business — as well as the School of Extended Learning and School of Graduate Studies.

Learn about our university's notable leaders, prominent researchers, entrepreneurs, artists, athletes and thinkers at [concordia.ca/greatconcordians](http://concordia.ca/greatconcordians).

Discover what Concordia achieved first at [concordia.ca/concordiafirsts](http://concordia.ca/concordiafirsts).



Learn how you can help Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia prevent genocide and crimes against humanity.

Call 514-848-2424, ext. 7835, to speak with a member of our development team. Learn more at [\*\*concordia.ca/giving\*\*](https://concordia.ca/giving).