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## Being the difference: A primer for states wishing to prevent atrocity crimes in the mid-21st Century

Wed 20 April 2022  
3.30-5.00pm AEST

Co-hosted by the  
Diplomacy Forum (ANU)

Asia-Pacific Centre for the  
Responsibility to Protect (UQ)

In partnership with:



In a time where the global community is confronted by numerous situations of violent conflict and mass atrocities, what role can states play in preventing and responding to atrocities abroad?

In this roundtable, co-hosted by the Diplomacy Forum (ANU) and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Responsibility to Protect (UQ), Dr Kate Ferguson (Co-Executive Director, Protection Approaches) presents her recent report (with Fred Carver) on building state capacity for atrocity prevention, 'Being the Difference' and shares her decade-long experiences of advocating for the mainstreaming of atrocity prevention in UK foreign policy. As advisor to the current UK inquiry into the effectiveness of the UK government's approach to atrocity prevention, she will also share on recent lessons learnt within the UK towards developing a national strategy on atrocity prevention.

['Being the difference'](#) is ultimately a call for a devolution of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P); moving the concept out from under the United Nations, demanding it be integrated by states, and be more consciously adopted and invoked by civil society is a necessary progression of the principle. As the threats of climate crises, democratic backsliding and technological change deepen, the uneven balance of power in international relations is shifting. Amid this flux is the opportunity – and responsibility – for states to engage more creatively in both the collective response to growing challenges and in shaping the coming era of global rights. This paper makes the case that states aspiring to uphold such responsibilities must redesign their national policy structures with that goal in mind.

Moderated by Associate Professor Cecilia Jacob, Department of International Relations, ANU.

### Speakers

**Alex J. Bellamy** is an award-winning writer on war and peace and Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. Alex is Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, based in Queensland, Australia. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, Member, of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum Advisory Board on Transatlantic Cooperation for Atrocity Prevention. He is a senior Fellow in the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, and has been a visiting fellow - several times - at the University of Oxford. He has been a Non-Resident Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute in New York (2011-2019) and Consultant for the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

**Kate Ferguson** is Co-Executive Director at [Protection Approaches](#). Kate is an experienced analyst and strategist driving a prevention-first approach to foreign policy and the cycle of crises with specific expertise on mass atrocity prevention, human rights and divided communities. For ten years she has worked to strengthen contributions made by the United Kingdom towards these challenges and has been instrumental in centring atrocity prevention concerns in Britain, contributing directly to significant changes in how government and civil society approach modern atrocities. She is Chair of Policy at the European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of East Anglia. Her book, *Architectures of Violence: The Command Structures of Modern Mass Atrocities*, was published in 2020 by Hurst and Oxford University Press. She mentors a network of young women developing careers in foreign policy, human rights, and related research fields.

### Moderator

**Cecilia Jacob** is Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations at The Australian National University. Her work focuses on civilian protection, mass atrocity prevention, and international human protection norms. Cecilia is co-editor of the journal *Global Responsibility to Protect* and co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Working Group of Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes. In 2022, Cecilia is a visiting fellow at the Institute for Ethics Law and Armed Conflict, University of Oxford. Her books include *Child Security in Asia: The Impact of Armed Conflict in Cambodia and Myanmar* (Routledge, 2014), *Civilian Protection in the Twenty-First Century: Governance and Responsibility in a Fragmented World* (co-edited, Oxford University Press, 2016) and *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: A Future Agenda* (co-edited, Routledge, 2019).

Please register by 19 April 2022

### To register

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/roundtable-discussion-tickets-300263635617>