**The 8 Stages of Genocide:**

* Understanding the genocidal process is one of the most important steps in preventing future genocides.
* The Eight Stages of Genocide were first outlined by Dr. Greg Stanton, Department of State: 1996.
* The first six stages are Early Warnings:
  + Classification
  + Symbolization
  + Dehumanization
  + Organization
  + Polarization
  + Preparation

**Stage 1: Classification:**

* “Us versus them”
* Distinguish by nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion.
* Bipolar societies (Rwanda) most likely to have genocide because no way for classifications to fade away through inter-marriage.
* Classification is a primary method of dividing society and creating a power struggle between groups.

**Prevention: Classification:**

* Promote common identities (national, religious, human.)
* Use common languages (Swahili in Tanzania, science, music.)
* Actively oppose racist and divisive politicians and parties.

**Stage 2: Symbolization:**

* Names: “Jew”, “German”, “Hutu”, “Tutsi”.
* Languages.
* Types of dress.
* Group uniforms: Nazi Swastika armbands
* Colors and religious symbols:
  + Yellow star for Jews
  + Blue checked scarf Eastern Zone in Cambodia

**Prevention: Symbolization:**

* Get ethnic, religious, racial, and national identities removed from ID cards, passports.
* Protest imposition of marking symbols on targeted groups (yellow cloth on Hindus in Taliban Afghanistan).
* Protest negative or racist words for groups (“niggers, kaffirs,” etc.) Work to make them culturally unacceptable.

**Stage 3: Dehumanization:**

* One group denies the humanity of another group, and makes the victim group seem subhuman.
* Dehumanization overcomes the normal human revulsion against murder.

**Dehumanization:**

* Hate propaganda in speeches, print and on hate radios vilify the victim group.
* Members of the victim group are described as animals, vermin, and diseases. Hate radio, Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines, during the Rwandan genocide in 1994, broadcast anti-Tutsi messages like “kill the cockroaches” and “If this disease is not treated immediately, it will destroy all the Hutu.”
* Dehumanization invokes superiority of one group and inferiority of the “other.”
* Dehumanization justifies murder by calling it “ethnic cleansing,” or “purification.” Such euphemisms hide the horror of mass murder.

**Prevention: Dehumanization**

* Vigorously protest use of dehumanizing words that refer to people as “filth,” “vermin,” animals or diseases. Deny people using such words visas and freeze their foreign assets and contributions.
* Prosecute hate crimes and incitements to commit genocide.
* Jam or shut down hate radio and television stations where there is danger of genocide.
* Provide programs for tolerance to radio, TV, and newspapers.
* Enlist religious and political leaders to speak out and educate for tolerance.
* Organize inter-ethnic, interfaith, and inter-racial groups to work against hate and genocide.

**Stage 4: Organization**

* Genocide is a group crime, so must be organized.
* The state usually organizes arms and financially supports the groups that conduct the genocidal massacres. (State organization is not a legal requirement --Indian partition.)
* Plans are made by elites for a “final solution” of genocidal killings.

**Prevention: Organization**

* Treat genocidal groups as the organized crime groups they are. Make membership in them illegal and demand that their leaders be arrested.
* Deny visas to leaders of hate groups and freeze their foreign assets.
* Impose arms embargoes on hate groups and governments supporting ethnic or religious hatred.
* Create UN commissions to enforce such arms embargoes and call on UN members to arrest arms merchants who violate them.

**Stage 5: Polarization**

* Extremists drive the groups apart.
* Hate groups broadcast and print polarizing propaganda.
* Laws are passed that forbid intermarriage or social interaction.
* Political moderates are silenced, threatened and intimidated, and killed.
* Public demonstrations were organized against Jewish merchants.
* Moderate German dissenters were the first to be arrested and sent to concentration camps.

**Polarization:**

* Attacks are staged and blamed on targeted groups.
  + In Germany, the Reichstag fire was blamed on Jewish Communists in 1933.
* Cultural centers of targeted groups are attacked.
  + On Kristalnacht in 1938, hundreds of synagogues were burned.

**Prevention: Polarization:**

* Vigorously protest laws or policies that segregate or marginalize groups, or that deprive whole groups of citizenship rights.
* Physically protect moderate leaders, by use of armed guards and armored vehicles.
* Demand the release of moderate leaders if they are arrested. Demand and conduct investigations if they are murdered.
* Oppose coups d’état by extremists.

**Stage 6: Preparation**

* Members of victim groups are forced to wear identifying symbols.
* Death lists are made.
* Victims are separated because of their ethnic or religious identity.
* Segregation into ghettoes is imposed; victims are forced into concentration camps.
* Victims are also deported to famine-struck regions for starvation.
* Weapons for killing are stock-piled.
* Extermination camps are even built. This build- up of killing capacity is a major step towards actual genocide.

**Prevention: Preparation**

* With evidence of death lists, arms shipments, militia training, and trial massacres, a Genocide Alert™ should be declared.
* UN Security Council should warn it will act (but only if it really will act.)

Diplomats must warn potential perpetrators

* Humanitarian relief should be prepared.
* Military intervention forces should be organized, including logistics and financing.

**Stage 7: Extermination (Genocide)**

* Extermination begins, and becomes the mass killing legally called "genocide." Most genocide is committed by governments.
* The killing is “extermination” to the killers because they do not believe the victims are fully human. They are “cleansing” the society of impurities, disease, animals, vermin, “cockroaches,” or enemies.
* Although most genocide is sponsored and financed by the state, the armed forces often work with local militias.

**Extermination: Stopping Genocide**

* Regional organizations, national governments, and the UN Security Council should impose targeted sanctions to undermine the economic viability of the perpetrator regime.
* Sales of oil and imports of gasoline should be stopped by blockade of ports and land routes.
* Perpetrators should be indicted by the International Criminal Court.
* The UN Security Council should authorize armed intervention by regional military forces or by a UN force under Chapter Seven of the UN Charter.
  + The Mandate must include protection of civilians and humanitarian workers and a No Fly Zone.
  + The Rules of Engagement must be robust and include aggressive prevention of killing.
  + The major military powers must provide leadership, logistics, airlift, communications, and financing.
  + If the state where the genocide is underway will not permit entry, its UN membership should be suspended.

**Stage 8: Denial**

* Denial is always found in genocide, both during it and after it.
* Continuing denial is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres.
* Denial extends the crime of genocide to future generations of the victims. It is a continuation of the intent to destroy the group.
* The tactics of denial are predictable.

**Denial: Deny the Evidence.**

* Deny that there was any mass killing at all.
* Question and minimize the statistics.
* Block access to archives and witnesses.
* Intimidate or kill eye-witnesses.
* Destroy the evidence. (Burn the bodies and the archives, dig up and burn the mass graves, throw bodies in rivers or seas.)

**Denial: Attack the truth-tellers.**

* Attack the motives of the truth-tellers. Say they are opposed to the religion, ethnicity, or nationality of the deniers.
* Point out atrocities committed by people from the truth-tellers’ group. Imply they are morally disqualified to accuse the perpetrators.

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**Denial: Deny Genocidal Intent.**

* Claim that the deaths were inadvertent (due to famine, migration, or disease.)
* Blame “out of control” forces for the killings.
* Blame the deaths on ancient ethnic conflicts.

**Denial: Blame the Victims.**

* Emphasize the strangeness of the victims. They are not like us. (savages, infidels)
* Claim they were disloyal insurgents in a war.
* Call it a “civil war,” not genocide.
* Claim that the deniers’ group also suffered huge losses in the “war.” The killings were in self-defense.

**Denial: Deny for current interests.**

* Avoid upsetting “the peace process.” “Look to the future, not to the past.”
* Deny assuring benefits of relations with the perpetrators or their descendants. (oil, arms sales, alliances, military bases)
* Don’t threaten humanitarian assistance to the victims, who are receiving good treatment. (Show
* The model Thereisenstadt IDP camp.)

**Denial: Deny facts fit legal definition of genocide**.

* They’re crimes against humanity, not genocide.
* They’re “ethnic cleansing”, not genocide.
* There’s not enough proof of specific intent to destroy a group, “as such.” (“Many survived!”-UN Commission of Inquiry on Darfur.)
* Claim the only “real” genocides are like the Holocaust: “in whole.”(Ignore the “in part” in the Genocide Convention.)
* Claim declaring genocide would legally obligate us to intervene. (We don’t want to intervene.)