

# R2P<sub>CS</sub>

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY

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## RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: From Principle to Practice



# Presentation Overview

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## What is the Responsibility to Protect?

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is an international security and human rights doctrine which includes several important principles:

1. The primary responsibility for the protection of populations lies with the state. This is a recognition that sovereignty includes not just rights, but responsibilities;
2. When governments are unable or unwilling to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, the international community has a responsibility to take action;
3. The international community's responsibility is a continuum of measures including prevention, reaction to violence, if necessary, and rebuilding shattered societies. This response should be the exercise of first peaceful, and then, if necessary, coercive, including forceful, steps to protect civilians.

## Part One: About the Responsibility to Protect

# Why is there a need for R2P?



UN Photo # 77098

At the end of the 20th Century, internal conflicts replaced inter-state conflict and civilians now make up the vast majority of casualties.

The emergence in many conflicts of non-state actors as primary executors of large-scale violence demanded a strengthened international legal framework regarding state obligations to protect civilian populations.

The genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia, as well as crimes against humanity in Kosovo, East Timor and Darfur have demonstrated massive failures by the international community to prevent atrocities.

## Part One: About the Responsibility to Protect

# What are the origins of R2P?



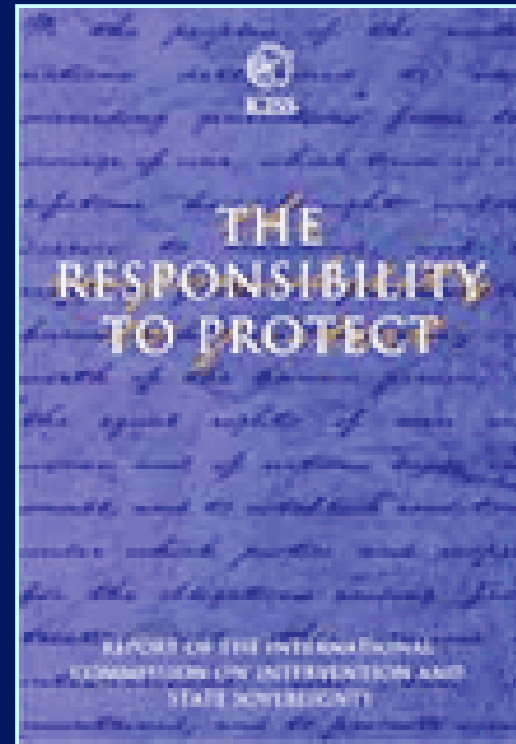
MaximsNews

In his address to the General Assembly in 1999 and 2000, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan challenged Member States to resolve the conflict between the principles of non-interference regarding state-sovereignty and the responsibility to the international community to respond to massive human rights violations and ethnic cleansing.

## Part One: About the Responsibility to Protect

# International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) report

The government of Canada responded by forming a panel of international experts, the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), which conducted a series of consultations among governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), inter-governmental organizations, universities and think tanks, and issued its report, *The Responsibility to Protect*, in 2001.



[www.iciss.ca](http://www.iciss.ca)

## Part One: About the Responsibility to Protect

# UN Reform Process and R2P



Action Aid

The report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (2004), and the Secretary-General's report entitled *In Larger Freedom* (2005), two of the key documents that set the reform agenda both included recommendations that governments endorse R2P.

The UN reform negotiations led to a 2005 September meeting of heads of state and government at the UN and a consensus summit declaration (known as the UN Summit Outcome Document) which included a commitment to R2P.

## What did governments commit to at the 2005 World Summit?

1. That states have the primary responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and that this responsibility entails the prevention of these crimes.
2. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use peaceful means to help protect populations from these massive crimes.
3. Their willingness to act in a timely manner against these threats when individual states “manifestly fail” to protect their own populations, including collective action through the Security Council.
4. Their commitment to helping states building their own capacities to prevent conflicts and protect their populations.



## Part One: About the Responsibility to Protect

# The Protection of Civilians agenda and R2P



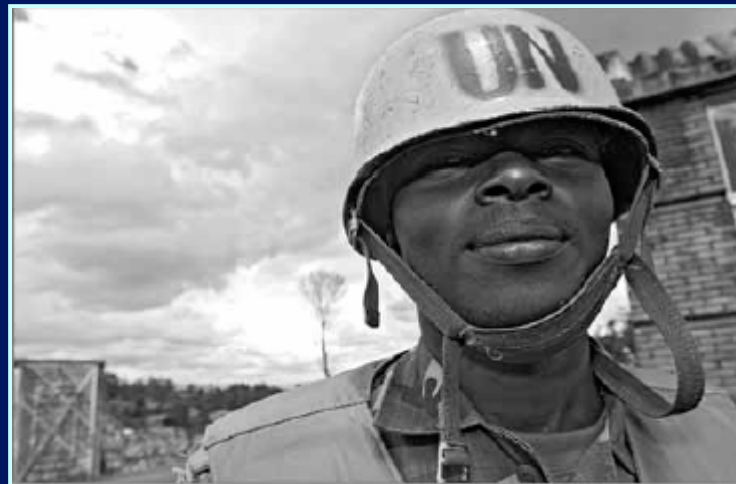
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On 28 April, 2006, the Security Council made its historic first official reference to the responsibility to protect in Resolution 1674 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: it “reaffirms the provisions of paragraphs 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document regarding the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.”

## Darfur and R2P

On 31 August 2006, the Security Council passed Resolution 1706 calling for the rapid deployment of UN peacekeepers in Sudan.

The resolution makes explicit reference to the responsibility to protect by reaffirming the provisions of Resolution 1674 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the provisions of paragraph 138 and 139 of the 2005 United Nations World Summit outcome document.



Part One: About the Responsibility to Protect

Which governments continue to support and question R2P?

STRONGEST SUPPORT FROM:

Argentina  
Canada  
Ghana  
Mali  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Rwanda  
United Kingdom

CONTINUED QUESTIONS FROM:

China  
Egypt  
Pakistan  
Qatar  
Russia

## Part Two: About the R2P-CS project

**R2P**cs

**RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT** ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY

The R2P-CS project was formed in 2001 under the Program “Creating Lasting Peace: Preventing Conflict, Protecting Civilians” at the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy.

### Mission

To advance R2P principles and to promote concrete policies to better enable governments, regional organizations and the UN to protect vulnerable populations.

### Objective

To engage civil society organizations to advocate for their own governments to support and abide by R2P principles.

## Part Two: About the R2P-CS project

# What we do

1. Increase awareness of and promote debate in many sectors of the international community about the responsibility to protect, the ICISS Report and the role of civil society;
2. Mobilize NGOs to demand R2P responses to emerging crises;
3. Build capacity to ensure fulfillment of the responsibility to protect



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## Our Network

The R2P-CS network is an international network of over 200 CSOs representing a vast array of interests and expertise that support and promote the responsibility to protect.

R2P-CS has recently partnered with several different NGOs worldwide to host workshops and panel presentations on the responsibility to protect.

## Part Three: What can civil society do?

# What can civil society do to support the Responsibility to Protect?

Identify NGOs, academics and others in your region or network with interest in bringing R2P into their work.

Publicly endorse the R2P principles by signing on to the R2PCS network at:  
[www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/signup](http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/signup)

Make statements in support of R2P principles in your communications.

Raise awareness that governments have committed to the responsibility to protect principles.

Part Three: What can civil society do?

## For more information...

Please visit our website at: [www.responsibilitytoprotect.org](http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org)

Please sign up for our listserv, which tracks R2P relevant developments at by sending a blank email to: [R2P-CS-info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:R2P-CS-info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Request print and electronic R2P resources available from the R2P-CS at [info@responsibilitytoprotect.org](mailto:info@responsibilitytoprotect.org)



# Who are our supporters?

The R2P-CS project has received generous support from:



The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

The Government of Canada



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