

DTP-STARTTS WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar Series 2024/5¹

Concept Note

1. Introduction and Summary:

Since 2022, **The Diplomacy Training Program (“DTP”)** and the **Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)** have been working in partnership on capacity building initiatives with refugee and migrant community leaders in NSW.

Following on from two successful residential (F2F) training programs in Western Sydney, DTP and STARTTS agreed to respond to requests for further knowledge building by working together to organise a series of webinars on human rights.

It was agreed to organise a series of 3 webinars on each of the following:

- Genocide and the Genocide Convention
- UN Human Rights Mechanisms
- The Magnitsky Act and Australia

This concept note provides a brief outline of the series, and the format of the webinars. This webinar series is designed to complement and support the STARTTS-DTP Capacity Building Program on Human Rights Advocacy for Diaspora Communities.

2. Webinar Formats:

It is proposed that each webinar be organised by DTP on Zoom. Each webinar will be introduced/ led by a facilitator, with one or two expert speakers speaking for 10-15 minutes each, allowing time for questions and discussions.

Each webinar will be supported by lists of resources/links to further information etc.

Subject to approval of partners and participants the webinars/or just the presentations for the webinars can be made available on the DTP website/YouTube Channel etc.

Outline of Webinar Series:

1. An introduction to the Genocide Convention

1.1 Webinar 1: Historical Context and International Law

This webinar will provide an introduction to the development of international law on Genocide and the Genocide Convention. This will explore the question of how is genocide defined, who can be held responsible and how they can be held responsible and also the specific legal responsibilities that arise from crimes against humanity/mass human rights violations being defined as a crime.

¹ Draft prepared February 2024 and subject to amendment / further change.

1.2 Webinar 2: Genocide Survivors' Stories: Resilience, Recovery, and Hope

This webinar will provide an opportunity for people with lived experience of genocide to discuss their experience. The focus of the webinar will be on genocide survivors sharing what made them resilient as well as what helped them recover from the impacts of surviving genocide.

We will hear from a survivor from one of the current and ongoing conflicts in the region. How does resilience look like? How could healing and recovery be promoted? Where do survivors from such conflicts find hope? It will also have a focus on Australia's First Nations Peoples experience with child removal, the Stolen Generation, as a form of genocide. In that context, how does resilience look like? As settlers, how could we promote healing and recovery? Where do First Nations Peoples survivors find hope?

1.3 Webinar 3: Genocide Prevention and Advocacy: Lessons from Recent Genocides

This webinar will focus on case studies to speak about the importance of early warning signs and symptoms, prevention techniques, and worldwide intervention. Examine instances just like the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar or ongoing conflicts in South Sudan, emphasising the function of advocacy in stopping further atrocities, and how the Genocide Convention can be used in seeking international action, recognition, remedy and redress (justice).

2. An Introduction to UN Accountability Mechanisms and Advocacy in Australia and in Countries of Origin

This webinar series will introduce participants to the key accountability mechanisms established through the UN to hold states accountable to their human rights commitments. It will highlight that these mechanisms apply to Australia, e.g. in relation to issues of racism, discrimination, equality – and that the Australian government supports and engages with these mechanisms in relation to other countries.

2.1 Webinar 1: The UN's Accountability Mechanisms – A Focus on the UPR

This webinar will focus on the UPR and explore the possibilities that the UPR process presents in relation to advocacy on human rights in Australia and in their “home” countries - including through outreach to DFAT. It will provide practical advice on engagement. Australia is reporting under UPR in 2025.

2.2 Webinar 2: Treaty Bodies

This webinar will draw on best practice in engaging with the treaty body reporting processes as part of human rights advocacy strategies. As 2025 marks the 50th Anniversary of the ratification of CERD by Australia and Australia is reporting under a number of treaties.

2.2 Webinar 3: UN Special Procedures

This webinar will introduce participants to the UN Special Procedures, what they do and how to submit cases and information, and engage with them as part of advocacy strategies.

3. The Magnitsky Act in Australia and How it Can be Used for Advocacy and Accountability.

3.1 Webinar 1: Understanding the Magnitsky Act: Origins, Provisions, and Global Impact

This webinar introduces the history and provisions of the Magnitsky Act in Australia, exploring its origins inside the United States and its subsequent adoption in other nations.

3.2 Webinar 2: Magnitsky Act and Accountability: Case Studies in Targeted Sanctions

This webinar will present analysis of particular cases in which the Magnitsky Act has been employed to target individuals involved in human rights abuses and corruption. Examples can encompass sanctions against officials in nations like Russia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia etc. It will reflect on any lessons learned from the effectiveness of such sanctions and their impact on duty. There will be a focus on any practice in Australia as this will be particularly relevant to the participants.

3.3 Webinar 3: Advocacy and Implementation: Lessons Learned from Magnitsky Act Campaigns

Drawing on cases in Australia, this webinar will explore and share lessons learned on how Magnitsky Act in Australia can be used – the opportunities and challenges. If possible, participants in previous webinars will be asked to bring to this webinar specific situations/cases/issues for discussion and input from invited experts who will be asked to provide guidance on possible ways to use the Magnitsky Act in Australia.

3. The Program Partners:

DTP was founded in 1989 by HE José Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate and President of Timor-Leste, with Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim. DTP is an award-winning independent Australian NGO committed to advancing human rights and empowering civil society across the Asia-Pacific region through quality education, training, and building the knowledge, skills and networks of human rights defenders and human rights movements. DTP has provided practical human rights training to over 3500 human rights defenders and Indigenous community advocates in the Asia-Pacific and MENA regions.

STARTTS is a specialist, not-for-profit organisation that was established in 1988. It provides culturally relevant psychological treatment and support, and community interventions, to help people and communities heal the scars of torture and refugee trauma and rebuild their lives in Australia. STARTTS is an Affiliated Health Organisation and a state-wide service. STARTTS has offices in Fairfield, Carramar, Liverpool, Auburn, Blacktown, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Newcastle and Wollongong. STARTTS staff speak over 60 languages and STARTTS clients come from over 60 refugee communities with the highest numbers from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Burma and various African countries at present. The focus of the STARTTS' approach is on building capacity and empowering people and communities to take control over their own lives, using a strengths-based approach and building on individual, family, community and cultural strengths.