

# PRESS RELEASE

## Dr. Elisa Von Joeden-Forgey Moderates the 4th Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide in Yerevan, Armenia

**December 15, 2022** - Lemkin Institute Co-President, Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, moderated the opening high-level session of the 4th Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide, which was held in Yerevan, Armenia, at the Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts from December 12-13, 2022. This year, the Forum's subject was Prevention of Genocide in the Era of New Technologies. As part of her introduction to this year's Forum, von Joeden-Forgey praised the Republic of Armenia for the "universal way in which it shares its traumatic history of genocide with the rest of the world by assuming leadership in contemporary genocide prevention mechanisms."

The opening remarks of the Global Forum were given by Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. The statement of Mr. António Guterres, UN Secretary General, on the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and the Prevention of this Crime was also read out loud to all participants.

Over two days, panelists representing academia, the United Nations, international organizations, NGOs, and museums discussed the role and use of new technologies in the prevention of genocide while advancing accountability efforts. They also discussed the misuse of new technologies and the risks associated with genocide, as well as how to mobilize social platforms as a tool for the dissemination of hate-preventative measures. Lastly, panelists examined utilizing new technologies as a

mode for the protection of cultural heritage in the context of genocide prevention and post-genocide rehabilitation.

Closing remarks of the 4th Global Forum were given by Mr. Vahe Gevorgyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

Lastly, an adoption of a Declaration on Joint Action was expected, and shortly after, panelists departed to the Tsitsernakaberd, Memorial Complex and Museum-Institute of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide.

This year's Global Forum took place in Armenia at a time when Armenia is facing threats of a renewed genocide from its neighbors Turkey and Azerbaijan. On the same day that the Forum opened, December 12, Azerbaijan closed the Goris-Stepanakert corridor that links the Armenian enclave of Artsakh to Armenia, effectively cutting off Artsakhis Armenians from the outside world. Soon after, Azerbaijan cut all gas to people living in the region, depriving them of heat and hot water at a time when temperatures are below freezing. There are concerns that electricity and water will also soon be cut off. Many Artsakhis children who had been in Armenia have been stranded at the border, separated from their families with nowhere to go.

Dr. von Joeden-Forgey is Co-founder and Co-president of the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, as well as the endowed chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College in New Hampshire.

Dr. von Joeden-Forgey gave two press interviews while at the Forum. They can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND3SITkIh0> and <https://news.am/eng/news/734616.html>

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The **Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention** is a US-based nongovernmental organization focused on the prevention of genocide worldwide through education and grassroots empowerment, national and international advocacy, and legal accountability.