



## **Lemkin Institute Welcomes New Co-Executive Director, Lily Nellans**

12 March 2025 - The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security is very pleased to welcome Lily Nellans as Co-Executive Director. Lily will work alongside Co-Executive Director and Co-Founder Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey to guide the day-to-day work and strategic vision of the Lemkin Institute.



Lily is an independent scholar researching the relationship between genocide and anti-queer and anti-trans violence. She is an expert in genocide, gender, sexuality, the Western Balkans, and the US far-right. Her pathbreaking article "A Queer(er) Genocide Studies" appeared in the December 2020 issue of *Genocide Studies and Prevention*. Lily also contributed to the 2023 report "Queering Peace and Security: Recommendations to the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity." She previously worked with the Lemkin Institute as a speaker at the 2022 Roundtable on Genocidal Violence Against LGBTQ+ Life. Lily received a BA in International Conflict Studies from Western Kentucky University and an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she was awarded the Martin Wight Dissertation Prize for her work on queer theoretical approaches to genocide studies.

"I am beyond excited to join the inspiring team at the Lemkin Institute. I have long admired the Lemkin Institute's grassroots approach to genocide prevention," said Nellans. "I also value the Lemkin Institute's willingness to call out genocide whenever and wherever it happens. I am honored to have the opportunity to contribute to this urgently necessary work."

The Lemkin Institute is thrilled that Ms. Nellans is joining the team. "She's an excellent scholar and a committed humanitarian who will bring energy, important perspectives,

and many talents to the Institute,” Dr. von Joeden-Forgey said. “We are lucky and honored to have her join us!”

The Lemkin Institute was founded by Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey and Irene Massimino in 2016/17 as The Iraq Project for Genocide Prevention after they traveled to northern Iraq as members of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. It was renamed the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention in 2021, to honor jurist Raphael Lemkin, the “father of the Genocide Convention,” whose work deeply influenced the way that von Joeden-Forgey and Massimo approached the crime of genocide. The Institute currently works to create a shared language of genocide prevention across the world.