



BUDAPEST CENTRE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE
AND MASS ATROCITIES



Cycle of seminars "The Responsibility to Protect, the Duty to Prevent"

April – May 2014

On May 29th, International Peacekeeping Day, the cycle of seminars “The Responsibility to Protect, the Duty to Prevent” at the University of Roma Tre was officially closed after the remarkable lectures of Lieutenant Colonel Massimo Contri, from the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU).

The first graduate level cycle of seminars ever dedicated to the notion of the Responsibility to Protect kicked off little more than one month before with an introductory lecture on April 17th, officially opening on April 24th, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The project was organized and run by Prof. Enzo Maria Le Fevre Cervini and Prof. Cristiana Carletti, representing respectively the **Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities** and the Chair of International Law and Protection of Human Rights in the Department of Political Science at the **University of Roma Tre**. The cycle of seminars engaged a pilot group of graduate students with a wide array of topics in revolving around the key concept of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP).

The lectures were held by leading experts in the field, including Prof. Le Fevre, Director of Research and Cooperation of the Budapest Centre, Dr. Marialaura Marinozzi, former Diplomat of San Marino and Researcher at the Budapest Centre, Prof. Cristiana Carletti, Associate Professor of International Law at Roma Tre, Counselor Jessica Laganà, Focal point for RtoP at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Istvan Lakatos, human rights Ambassador of Hungary, Advisor Ellen Van Thiel, senior advisor of the Hungarian mission to the UNOG, and Min. Plen. Pasquale Ferrara, Secretary General of the European University Institute, as well as the above mentioned Lt.C. Contri.

“The Responsibility to Protect, the Duty to Prevent” also featured two special events. The first one, on May 8th, has been the Italian premier of the “**Watchers of the Sky**”, a movie by Edet Belzberg, in which the director leads the audience through the often forgotten life story of Raphael Lemkin: the man who invented the word “Genocide”. Traveling from Armenia to Bosnia, from New York to Darfur, from Nuremberg to Rwanda, the film unveils the hidden work of many tireless man and women that fight to make the world a better place in which mass violence is no longer a reality. After the screening, an excellent panel featuring Prof. Leopoldo Nuti, Full Professor in International Relations at Roma Tre, Prof. Silvia Scarpa, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science and Law at John Cabot University and LUISS Guido Carli, and Amelia Green-Dove, producer of the movie, discussed the film and its implication.

The second major event that took place in the framework of the cycle of seminars was the conference “**The three pillars of the Responsibility to Protect and the work of the United Nations for the defense of human rights**”, that featured Prof. Jennifer Welsh,

Special Advisor of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Responsibility to Protect, as main speaker. The event was introduced by Prof. Mario Panizza, Rector of the University of Roma Tre, and by Prof. Francesco Guida, Head of the Department of Political Science. Prof. Welsh was joined after her speech in a panel discussion moderated by Prof. Le Fevre and featuring the excellent contributions of Min. Plen. Gian Ludovico De Martino Di Montegiordano, president of the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights, and Prof. Cristiana Carletti.

The Cycle of seminars has been a major success for both the University of Roma Tre and the Budapest Centre. Bringing together people from academia, the world of diplomacy, the UN system, national ministries of foreign affairs, and the military, it is safe to say that the seminars achieved their main goal: the promotion of the study at the university level of the Responsibility to Protect, presenting it in its multifaceted nature, and offering students the opportunity to directly engage with highly qualified and experienced practitioners in the field.

The positive result was confirmed by a high level of satisfaction with the seminars, expressed by the students in a specific set of post-hoc evaluation forms prepared and analyzed by the Budapest Centre. Although it is too early to say, the positive outcome of the cycle of seminars hints toward a second and expanded edition, with almost three times as many hours of lectures, a final exam, and many more distinguished guests to lecture students on the extremely complex reality behind the responsibility to protect.