



*This proposed content is modeled off of a resolution (H.R. 1830) passed by the Georgia State Legislature in March of 2012. We encourage the Council to incorporate the following whereas and resolving clauses into a resolution designating the month of April as Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month.*

### Proposed Whereas Clauses

- The goal of Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month is to educate the public about the history of previous and contemporary genocides; advocate against future genocides, and commemorate the victims of genocide.
- During World War II, a Polish lawyer of Jewish descent, Raphael Lemkin, coined the term "genocide" to describe the coordinated plan of actions aimed at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups with the aim of annihilating a group itself by destroying the personal security, liberty, health, and dignity, as well as the lives, of individuals belonging to the group.
- Numerous genocides originated or stemmed from events that occurred in April:
  - In April of 1933, the Nazis issued a decree preparing the way for the "Final Solution" defining non-Aryans as "anyone descended from non-Aryan, especially Jewish, parents or grandparents."
  - In April of 1975, the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, and initiated wide-scale massacres that turned cities into killing fields; these massacres resulted in the deaths of two million people
  - In April of 1992, the siege of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina's capital city, ultimately led to the deaths of more than 200,000 Bosniaks.
  - In April of 1994, the Rwandan president's airplane was shot down, which led to the slaying of moderate leaders by Hutu hardliners, and over the next three months, 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered.
  - In April of 2003, the displacement of Darfurians began in Sudan, which led to hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions.
- The Genocide Prevention Task Force released its report in December 2008 to spotlight genocide prevention as a national priority.
- Policies designed to prevent genocide are advantageous insofar as they prevent the loss of innocent lives, and avoid the need for costly interventions after atrocities have begun.

### Proposed Resolving Clauses

- Recognize the month of April as Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month.
- Support all necessary action by the federal Executive and Legislative Branches to enhance the U.S. government's capability to prevent mass atrocities.
- Encourage both of our state's Senators, as well as all Representatives whose districts fall within the state, to support federal legislation enacting the recommendations of the Genocide Prevention Task Force report.
- Request that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to said Senators and Representatives.

### For More Information

Visit [www.standnow.org/GPMonth2013](http://www.standnow.org/GPMonth2013) to learn more about the nationwide effort to pass local Genocide Prevention Month resolutions, and [www.standnow.org/GPMonth2013/Georgia.pdf](http://www.standnow.org/GPMonth2013/Georgia.pdf) for the full text of the resolution passed by the Georgia State Legislature.