

Genocide (Prevention and Response) Bill [HL]

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Make provision about prevention of and response to genocide and other atrocity crimes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Genocide monitoring team

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, establish a genocide monitoring team to—
 - (a) monitor developments throughout the world that heighten the risk of genocide and atrocity crimes; 5
 - (b) identify countries at serious risk of genocide or atrocity crimes, including most likely pathways to violence, specific risk factors, potential perpetrators, and at-risk groups;
 - (c) identify what they consider to be issues in the Government's foreign policy concerning regions or particular countries related to genocide and atrocity crime prevention and response; and 10
 - (d) facilitate the development and implementation of policies to enhance the Government's capacity to prevent and respond to genocide or atrocity crimes worldwide. 15
- (2) The genocide monitoring team must provide the Minister of the Crown, appointed under section 2, with regular recommendations to improve policies, programmes, resources, and tools, related to genocide and atrocity crime prevention and response.

2 Minister for Genocide Prevention and Response 20

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, appoint a Minister of the Crown to lead the Government's work on genocide and atrocity crime prevention and response, including through—
 - (a) the publication of annual reports on the risk of and responses to genocide and atrocity crimes, as per section 4; 25

- (b) outreach, including annual consultations with representatives of nongovernmental and civil society organisations dedicated to genocide and atrocity crime prevention and response; and
 - (c) a review the work on genocide and atrocity crimes every three years and making a statement to Parliament on the review. 5
- (2) The Minister of the Crown appointed under subsection (1) is to provide a statement on their work to Parliament at least twice per year.

3 Training for civil servants

- (1) The Minister of the Crown must facilitate regular training for civil servants on genocide and atrocity crimes, including instruction on— 10
- (a) recognising patterns of escalation and early warning signs of potential genocides and other atrocity crimes;
 - (b) methods of preventing and responding to genocides and other atrocity crimes, including assessment methods;
 - (c) peace-building following genocide or atrocity crimes; 15
 - (d) mediation for prevention;
 - (e) early action and response; and
 - (f) transitional justice measures to address genocide and other atrocity crimes.
- (2) Civil servants under subsection (1) include civil servants at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and staff at all embassies and overseas missions. 20

4 Reporting on the risk of genocide

- (1) The Minister of the Crown appointed under section 2 must, within six months of their appointment, and annually thereafter, lay a report before Parliament including information on— 25
- (a) the assessment of ongoing genocides and other atrocity crimes, including the findings of such assessments;
 - (b) countries and regions at risk of genocide and other atrocity crimes, including most likely pathways to violence, specific risk factors, potential perpetrators, and at-risk target groups; 30
 - (c) an action plan for responding to the risk of genocide and other atrocity crimes;
 - (d) steps taken to respond to identified serious risks of genocide and other atrocity crimes. 35
- (2) The Minister of the Crown must make a statement on the report within 60 days of its publication.

5 Genocide Response Fund

The Secretary of State must, within a period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, establish a fund to support programmes and activities to prevent or respond to potential genocide and atrocity crimes. 40

6 Interpretation

In this Act—

“genocide” has the meaning given in Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; and

“atrocities crimes” refers to “crimes against humanity”, which has the meaning given in Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; and to “war crimes”, which has the meaning given in Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

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7 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Genocide (Prevention and Response) Act 2024.

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Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws

Ordered to be Printed, 23rd November 2023.

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