Cutting-Edge Networks:
Interweaving Regional Capacities for Mass Atrocity Prevention at the Local Level

6th Lab, Buenos Aires, June, 18–21, 2017
GDL Members are expected to bring innovative solutions to the world’s toughest issues, and GDL6 was no exception. Creating an atmosphere which sparks innovation was supported by 3 activities: the open situation room, a bridge session, and an ideas gallery.

**Experiences**

GDL6’s 40 participants had 71 hours to incubate ideas and solutions to mass atrocity prevention for stakeholders. Most of the members had never met. Creating teambuilding experiences proved vital to the success of GDL6. With limited time, the experiences needed to be educational for the work ahead. An art walk through the Argentine neighborhood of Palermo accomplished these goals.

**Education**

The larger goal of GDL6 was to examine regional networks as innovative and inclusive diplomatic solutions for preventing atrocity. Specifically, the Lab examined The Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention and the Africa Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. Through 7 different training sessions, lab participants were introduced to the power of various types of networks including local, social, and survivor. Understanding how to recognize and use a wide variety of networks to create diplomatic solutions was an important outcome of the sessions.

**Exposure**

Exposing GDL6 members to the mass atrocities and subsequent transitional justice experiences of Argentinians was critical to sparking innovation. Divided into five teams, members visited different atrocity related sites. The teams then came together and shared their experiences with all members.

**Environments**

GDL6 took place across 17 locations throughout Buenos Aires. From the hotels in the Palermo neighborhood to the official reception hosted by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, lab participants enjoyed environments which fostered creativity and collaboration.
Leveraging formal and informal networks is an undeniable means to influence the rule of law. Throughout history, networks have proven to be powerful tools for those escaping genocide and mass atrocity. Standing in the gap between state-level action and global networks are regional networks. What if these regional networks, which have not previously collaborated, could be leveraged to bring about diplomatic solutions to mass atrocity prevention? The 6th Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) sought to examine this question.

Designed as an Incubator lab, the GDL Advisory Council, Methodological Lead and Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) as host institution purposefully and skilfully provided information, experiences, exposure and stimulating environments. Taken together, these ingredients empowered GDL Members to gather, leverage their collective networks, share their knowledge and fuel their creativity, thereby sparking innovation.

The 6th Lab was held in Argentina, where the acts of state terrorism resulted in the disappearance of over 30,000 people from 1976 to 1983. Those who disappeared at the hands of the state were kidnapped, tortured and killed. Argentina serves as an example of how to confront a legacy of such abuses and transition to a time of justice, truth, and collective memory.

Understanding how Argentina is working to achieve a collective memory, truth and justice, as well as prevention strategies, was key to the lab. The incubation of ideas, lessons and strategies by GDL Members will be distilled into proposals at the Impact Lab (7th Lab) and presented to policymakers working in strategic positions.

May this report be the spark which inspires your involvement. (you’ll find click and share buttons and links in the photos)

Theresa Carrington, GDL Member and Editor
The Incubator Lab gathered around 50 participants, among them GDL Members, the Advisory Council, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) as host institution and seven local partners, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, the Undersecretary of Human Rights of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, Fundación Metropolitana, the Regional Coordinator of Economic and Social Research, the ESMA Memory Site Museum and the Cooperative Lavaca. Together, they had 71 hours to incubate ideas and solutions to mass atrocity prevention. Most of the members had never met before. Creating teambuilding experiences proved vital to the success of the 6th Lab. With limited time, the experiences also needed to be educational for the work ahead. An art walk through the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of Palermo helped to achieve these goals.

Culture meets History
An art walk through Palermo
By Dilshad Muhammad and Banu Pekol

Argentina’s autumn wind made for a chilly walk through the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of Palermo.

Through a community known for its painted buildings and art galleries, the walk took GDL Members to the Granada and Nora Fisch private art galleries. Between the galleries, Members enjoyed painted buildings and street art. More than 61% of those attending 6th Lab were new Members, so the walk between the two galleries also served as an important vehicle for exchanging personal impressions beyond small talk.

The vulnerability of women in Argentina and Buenos Aires was the main theme of the walk. In today’s post-dictatorship Argentina, women disappear every day. Once referred to as passion crimes, the term ‘femicide’ has now become a customary term in Argentinian media. Femicide is defined as the intentional killing of women for being female. Corruption, weak laws and lack of awareness are just some obstacles to tackling femicide.

The feminist agenda of the art on display at Nora Fisch Gallery seemed to touch every single Member. Human rights were a crucial topic for them, regardless of whether they work in the private, public or NGO sector.

This display also gave rise to the consensus that no matter what policies and laws are adopted, if mindsets do not change, real transformation for the better cannot be achieved.

Throughout the walk, all GDL Members introduced themselves by choosing one work of art and describing their interpretation. Members generally interpreted the work through personal connections and past experiences. Using art to meet one another led Members to share stories of courage and left lasting impressions. These impressions not only functioned as an immediate icebreaker, but also encouraged long-term engagement and interconnectedness among the people involved.

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“The spirit of success only depends on you. The strength lies in your participation.”
Imran Simmins,
GDL Advisory Council Member

Existing Networks
Kick-off Session
David Patrician and Cana Tülüş

Regional Networks for Local Atrocity Prevention: creating an environment for collaboration

The 6th Lab brought together 32 Members from 23 countries, most of whom had never met before. The main purpose of the kick-off session was to create an environment of collaboration and communication and to set clear goals for the lab.

During this session, Members met the host of the Incubator Lab, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, and were acquainted with the work of GDL leading Partners: the German Federal Foreign Office, the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the Bosch Alumni Network, the Global Leadership Academy of GIZ and the Stiftung Mercator. Members were also introduced to the Africa Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention and the Latin American Network for Mass Atrocity Prevention.

Then came the challenge, which was to understand exactly where the two networks stand now and what they can learn from one another to work more effectively in the future. Members were reintroduced to the issues facing both networks and worked as six separate teams to present ideas for potential collaboration between the networks.

Members learned that the Latin American Network consists of 18 countries. Within the Network’s mandate to prevent genocide and mass atrocity, it focuses specifically on issues of transitional justice, the protection of vulnerable groups and the fight against discrimination. Two groups of particular focus within these pillars of atrocity prevention are the indigenous and the LGBTIQ communities.

One central challenge to the sustainability of the Network is funding and resources to implement their work. While less formalised than its Latin American counterpart, the Africa Network is currently composed of states in the Great Lakes Region of Africa that take part in national and regional initiatives for the prevention of atrocity crimes. Building upon the existing framework for genocide prevention of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Africa Network engages with 12 countries. In addition to states, the Africa Network has collaborated with the African Union, the East African Community and the ICGLR on a number of its programmes. Particular priorities for the Africa Network are the prevention of electoral violence, violence related to the scarcity of resources and the further institutionalisation of the prevention agenda within the region.

During the presentations, members discovered similarities such as the fact that more voices need to be raised in both Latin America and Africa. Differences noted included the fact that Africa is at an earlier stage of institutionalisation, while the Network in Latin America is more formalised. Latin America has more gender and minority group protection issues, while Africa deals more with hate speech and election violence.

Members were reminded that the main aim of the GDL is to be a platform for discussing and bringing new perspectives to the table. Creating and strengthening personal relationships during the lab is therefore vital to its success.
Approximately 5000 men and women were secretly detained at ESMA. Nearly 2000 were drugged and dropped alive from planes into the ocean. ESMA was also the headquarters where abductions were planned and murders systematically carried out. Within this building, babies were born in captivity and separated from their mothers, who were later murdered. Robbed of their identity, many of these adopted babies are still unaware of their personal history to this day.

ESMA is only one of more than 600 places of illegal secret detention during the so-called National Reorganisation Process from 1976 to 1983. A strong code of silence among police and military members has severely hindered efforts to prosecute those responsible for these atrocities. The testimony of victims and photographic evidence smuggled out of ESMA have resulted in the largest trial in Argentina’s history.

After the dictatorship had ended, human rights organisations and Argentinean citizens protested, demanding the navy vacate ESMA and that the grounds be turned into a memory space. Nearly 20 years later, in 2004, the National Congress of Argentina passed a law converting ESMA into a museum and evicted the navy. Under the slogan “Memory, Truth, Justice”, the ESMA Memory Site Museum welcomes visitors from around the world to learn about the crimes committed there. The information within the centre is principally based on the testimonies of the survivors and perpetrators, as well as declassified state documents and archives.

GDL Members witnessed firsthand how the museum made the “uncomfortable comfortable and the comfortable uncomfortable.” Guided by Site of Memory staff, members learned about the tragedy that unfolded within the very walls where they stood.

ESMA is a site where unthinkable atrocities were perpetrated. Through the preservation and presentation of this memory, the Argentinean people have a renewed belief that these crimes will not recur. The third round of ESMA trials are taking place at present.

“It was disturbing to see how the interests of a handful of people took its toll on the lives of thousands.”

Mome Saleem, GDL Member
Did you know?
The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team helps locate and identify Argentinians who disappeared during from 1976 to 1983. The team’s members have conducted field work in 30 other countries. Run as a non-profit outfit, the team gained the world’s attention when it identified the remains of Ernesto “Che” Guevara, found in Bolivia.

Exposure

The Power of Voice
House for the Right to Identity of Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo

By Nguyen Khac Giang

“Quisiera Que me Recuerden,” or “I want you to remember me,” was a poem composed by Joaquin Areta, a 23-year-old man who was abducted by the Argentine junta in 1978. His wife and young son were also abducted and disappeared.

Visitors see Areta’s powerful lyrics as they arrive in Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo. Now a museum, the building is dedicated to telling the stories of the children who disappeared or were born in captivity during a period of government-led terrorism. Human rights organisations estimate that there are over 500 cases of missing children. The grandmothers of those children, or “Abuelas”, have been marching, protesting and placing advertisements in search of their grandchildren for the past 30 years.

The black and white setup of the museum provided the perfect backdrop for discussions surrounding the struggle of these brave grandmothers, justice following the collapse of the regime and the lingering impacts on present-day Argentina.

From around 1974 to 1983, mothers, at various stages of pregnancy or with small children, were kidnapped, forcibly detained and tortured by the government. In some cases, the children were killed while in others newborns were taken from their mothers and given to families for adoption, some of them in close relationship to the perpetrators themselves. In many cases, the families adopting the children were responsible for the subsequent death of the child’s mother.

Wearing their trademark white headscarves, the grandmothers of the missing children began marching. In less than a year, Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo was set up as a non-governmental organisation to find the missing children. By 1992, a national genetic database was set up to help reunite the now adult children with their families. So far, 9000 people have registered their DNA, leading to the emotional reunification of 120 children with their families. DNA testing continues today with the hope that more families will be reunited.

Exposing GDL Members to this site was key to the work of the 6th Lab. One member related that a similar kidnapping programme had taken place in her former country. She wondered where the identified children should be living, particularly when a child is raised by the very people who most likely murdered one or both of their parents.

With little evidence and witnesses to prosecute the killers of their sons and daughters, the Abuelas focus instead on the long process of transitional justice, which hinges on finding their grandchildren and restoring their families.

Despite the obstacles, Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo has successfully become a symbol of justice and is a place where people come for remembrance, sympathy and learning. The determination of the Abuelas proves that, through the power of our voice, we too can raise awareness of atrocity. To quote Joaquin Areta, “being forgotten is the hardest punishment for not fulfilling my duty as a man.”
“In dealing with the city, all their interactions and every action are rooted in the dignity of the people of the barrio, not out of a charitable approach. This gives the administration credibility and the kind of environment for mutual respect and trust”, said GDL Member Chris Fowler, and added: “What I found powerful seems very simple, but simple ideas are powerful: they were telling the people what they were going to do and then they would do what they said they would do. Once they had people on board, I liked the way they facilitated community dialogue and consensus.”

The World Bank, working with the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, will allocate 400 million US dollars to help 110,000 people in Argentina achieve affordable housing and transform the urban slums. Learn more by clicking here.

Beginning in the 1930s, immigrants and rural Argentinians began migrating to Buenos Aires, forming numerous illegal settlements near railways and major highways. These illegal neighbourhoods, or “barrios,” have repeatedly been the target of eradication efforts by the government.

Villa 31 is currently home to 43,000 people living in 10,400 households across 32 hectares. While it is not the largest illegal settlement in Buenos Aires, it is the most famous because Villa 31 is situated only 200 m from the most expensive neighbourhood in all of Latin America, Recoleta. In 2011, the Mayor of Buenos Aires formed a body called the Secretariat of Habitat and Inclusion (SECHI) to conduct what he called “urban acupuncture” to urbanise barrios into the city.

Each year, an estimated 65 million of the world’s population move from rural areas to cities. Cities are growing at an unsustainable rate. At the Habitat III Conference, held in Ecuador in 2016, the world agreed on a New Urban Agenda to face this challenge.

SECHI’s integration plan is based on what is known as “the triangle of development” – education, health and employment. With 150 social workers engaged in the barrios, community participation is the foundation of SECHI’s outreach.

“I found the site visit very interesting because informal settlements like Barrio 31 are also present in my country. It was interesting to see how the government is revitalising the neighbourhood to improve the life of citizens through education, health and employment opportunities. The project on housing, for example, seems to be very inclusive and participatory.”

Elsa Marie D’Silva, GDL member

Building Trust one Family at a Time
Thirty-all at Villa 31

By Trini Saona

Villa 31 is the oldest illegal settlement in the City of Buenos Aires. It is not included on the city’s map and does not receive basic municipal services such as sanitation, water, public transportation or street lights.

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Exposure

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Remembrance Park

The site visit to the Remembrance Park (in Spanish Parque de la Memoria) was a freezing experience for participants of the 6th Lab; not only because of the early morning and cold temperatures of Argentina’s winter, but also because of stunning sculptures of remembrance placed there.

Remembrance Park is situated on the Rio de la Plata (River Plata), the same river where over 30,000 were “disappeared,” drowning after being drugged and dropped alive from military planes.

Created at the behest of human rights organisations and funded by the Government of Buenos Aires, the park is an important place for victims’ families to foster memory, truth and justice.

The park has three important elements: the river, the sculptures and a wall with a marker for each of the 30,000 disappeared. Most of the markers are empty as the painful process of identifying the disappeared continues.

The sculptures were the result of a call for proposals in 1997. Out of 600 entries, 12 projects were picked to be installed together with works of five artists, who were invited to install a sign explaining their design. Today, nine of the 17 remarkable sculptures are in place.

Among the memorial monuments is one created by Nicolás Guagnini. Consisting of 25 wooden white coloured sticks in a constant-deviation prism, it displays a photo of his father, who disappeared in 1977. Walking along the monument, his eyes follow the viewer, while through the prism construction it feels as though you can see the faces of the 30,000 disappeared. The scenery of sculptures is intersected by the third element of the park.

Like a never healing wound, the wall of names extends across the park’s surface forming a huge scar, like a long “Z,” all the way from the park’s entrance to the river.

Today, the walls include 9000 names of the disappeared who have been identified. For each, there is a full record in a public database where family members can update information and add photos. See it by clicking here. Using the power of formal and informal networks, more victims are identified each year and their names added to the memorial wall.

Names of the disappeared are deliberately placed where they can be touched as a way of helping families heal.

Tour guides told GDL participants that police and military cadets are not taught about human rights and have only visited the memorial park once.
Femicide is Genocide
The Journalistic Cooperative „Lavaca“

By Cana Tüllü

To understand how informal networks can grow into movements, participants of the 6th lab visited the monthly journal MU. With a circulation of 10,000 copies, MU is part of Lavaca, a media cooperative which produces not only MU, but also radio broadcasts and publishes political books. The aim of the cooperative is to generate tools and information, as well as link people and provide knowledge which empowers the autonomy of people and their social organisations.

The founder of MU, Claudia Acuna, makes sure her journal covers what mainstream media in Argentina often does not, such as environmental and human rights issues. MU was the only media outlet to cover the demonstration Ni Una Menos (Not one less). Taking place for the first time in 2015, Ni Una Menos is a feminist movement that draws attention to the murder of women. The slogan “Ni Una Menos” was coined by MU and the journal was the only media outlet to cover the demonstrations. MU has used the power of journalism to spread information on fragmented networks, empowering them to formalise. More than 200,000 people took part in Ni Una Menos demonstrations to date.

The work of MU and other feminist organisations in Latin America has helped to give rise to a legal term recognised by 17 Latin American countries: femicide. Femicide is defined as the violent and deliberate killing of a woman because she is a woman.

To help draw attention to femicide, MU recently organised a public performance art project where 120 women undressed in front of Casa Rosada, piling their naked bodies as if thrown away. The art project visualised the 120 women who have died due to femicide in Argentina in the first 90 days of 2017. The front page of the June issue pictured 120 naked women in a pile on the streets in Buenos Aires with the headline “Femicide is Genocide.” Through first-hand stories, participants of the 6th Lab learned how, through storytelling, MU has helped to raise awareness of the atrocities committed against the people of Argentina.

GDL members were quite active during this discussion and used the opportunity to hear MU’s definition of how journalism—not only by publishing printed articles—can help to create resistance, encourage small groups to trust their aims and speak out loud even if there seems to be no chance.

Participants of the 6th Lab also learned how MU uses its editorial office as a gathering space for informal networks such as the newly founded group Historias Desobedientes, daughters and sons of oppressors. The members of the group are convinced that condemning their fathers is necessary. MU has helped spread the word about their movement, which has since been picked up by international publications.

Learn more about Historias Desobedientes clicking here.

Exposure
Within Buenos Aires, there are 40 different municipalities with their own governments and elections. Each of them focuses on its own area rather than the common good of the entire metropolis. Between the different governmental institutions, there is no single agreement on exactly where the metropolis of Buenos Aires begins and ends.

Residents in the heart of Buenos Aires enjoy a Human Development Index (HDI) close to that in the Netherlands or Germany—but those in the peripheries live in HDI conditions close to those in developing countries. These huge disparities are a problem within the whole metropolitan area and are reflected in, among other things, access to drinking water, sanitary systems, child mortality rates, education and the health care system.

Established in 2000, the Fundacion Metropolitana has formed a growing network of citizens and business owners and leveraged that network to close the HDI gap between those living in the city and those living outside it.

GDL participants contributed their ideas and shared successful examples of how other cities around the world have solved similar problems. Singapore homogenised social classes by modifying the concept of social housing while Münster used bicycles to solve the transport problem from the periphery to the centre.

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GDL Members went further and suggested a theme to be adopted by all communities, creating a wider municipal theme such as being a child-friendly metropolis.

The Metropolitan Foundation works on social, political, physical and economic dimensions, and also on urban development plans. A problem they face is gathering data for statistics to prove their impact. Data sources are not always reliable, and certain sources change their criteria for indicators, so it is not possible to assess the change over time.

A project they have initiated is www.bam21.org.ar, a partnership between different bodies. It has three main goals:

1. Inform (through a website) interested stakeholders about data being produced in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, through infographics, a digital library, GIS database.
2. Connect people who are interested in this area and enable them to share their work. Currently, 600+ members have signed up.
3. Influencing the metropolitan area with events such as holding thematic forums. Solid human waste was one of the themes, aiming to impact policies. A stakeholder map was made and they were invited to discuss the issue. The recommendations that came out of the forum were taken to the Parliament and relevant ministries.
The broader goal of the 6th Lab was to examine regional networks as innovative and inclusive diplomatic solutions for preventing atrocities. Specifically, the Lab examined the Latin American Network for Mass Atrocity Prevention and the Africa Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. Through six different training sessions, lab participants were introduced to the power of various types of networks including local, social and survivor. Understanding how to identify and use a wide variety of networks to create diplomatic solutions was an important outcome of the sessions.

Skills Training Summary

Empowering GDL Members through training is a core component of the Global Diplomacy Lab. GDL Members were able to choose which two of the six skills sessions they would like to attend. The sessions focused on understanding and learning how to operate in a variety of networks including networks created by technology. Here are the highlights of the sessions.

**Bilateral Cooperation between States**  Transitional justice in Argentina is complicated. The trainers emphasised the important role the Argentinean diplomatic missions abroad have in the transitional justice process. Many victims of state-led atrocities in Argentina have left the country. The speakers pointed out a recent case where the diplomatic mission in the Netherlands played a key role in helping to discover one Argentinian atrocity victim.

**Building Sustainable Dialogue between States and Community Service Organisations**  CRIES (Regional Coordinator of Economic and Social Research) is an NGO that launched, with its partners, the Latin American and Caribbean Mass Atrocity Prevention Network in September 2016. This network, composed of civil society actors across the region, aims to work directly with its state-based counterpart, the Latin American Network for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. This network uses a unique method to establish a common language between a diversity of organisations, increase cooperation and create a space of dialogue on atrocity prevention (including human rights, responsibility to protect, mediation and dialogue), conflict prevention and foreign policy.

**MediCapt**  Those living in rural areas of developing countries lack access to traditional judicial systems. This is one reason why cases of sexual abuse and violence often go unreported. Dr Colette Grace Mazzucelli shared results of a mobile phone app called Medi-Capt which helps medical workers document and report cases of sexual violence in a way that helps ensure they are prosecuted.

**Linkage through networks**  “Building Strong Alternative Justice Systems and Judiciary Linkage through Networking” and “Working on commonalities and stakeholder analysis to build a constituency of support”, presented by Brian Kagoro, Founder of UHAI Africa Consulting Group and special adviser to the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) on transitional justice in Africa. Thanks to advanced technology, the session was also attended by Patrick Mpedzisi, a GDL Member and a development consultant with over 15 years’ experience in the NGO sector in Africa, via a Skype video call.

**Using Twitter**  In her workshop, GDL Member Elsa Marie D’Silva trained GDL Members on how to make use of Twitter to promote themselves or an institution. Elsa’s workshop included both theoretical and practical training.

**Power of Place**  In this session, GDL participants were hosted by three members of the ESMA Memory Site Museum. Established comparatively recently, the museum promotes memory, truth and justice in relation to the atrocities committed during the military dictatorship from 1976 to 1983. This session focused on the challenges of making this site a place that victims, their families as well as the family members of perpetrators can visit.
Making a space which is comfortable for the uncomfortable and uncomfortable for the comfortable is the challenge faced by the ESMA Memory Site Museum, which is dedicated to the atrocities committed during the Argentine military dictatorship from 1976 to 1983. Under this brutal regime, more than 30,000 people were “disappeared,” mostly killed, and 500 babies were born in captivity, before being given illegally to military families or their associates.

The museum is located in the grounds of the former Higher School of Mechanics of the Navy (in Spanish, Escuela Superior de Mecánica de la Armada, ESMA). The officers’ house was used as a concentration camp and prison. 5000 people were murdered at ESMA alone. The traumatic events are still widely felt in present-day Argentina, making the work of the museum even more significant and challenging at the same time. The museum only presents facts proven beyond reasonable doubt. Curators do not share assumptions or things that are believed to have happened.

The purpose of the training session at ESMA Memory Site Museum was to share with GDL Members the challenges and opportunities of creating a space that considers the complex social implications of the atrocity. “Maybe their relatives, their acquaintances, even their grandparents, were victims or perpetrators of the atrocities, so the question is how to make all of them feel comfortable visiting it,” said Schonfeld. Their aim is therefore to make a wide range of visitors feel “comfortable” seeing all the evidence of the crimes committed not so long ago.

GDL Members learned that many Argentinian families talk about their experiences behind closed doors, but have recently started to speak out about what happened under the dictatorship. Some teachers visiting the ESMA Memory Site Museum are more like students, eager to both ask and answer questions.

The ongoing trials of the dictatorship period are the largest in Argentinian history. ESMA Memory Site Museum plays an important role in keeping this issue relevant. It is a physical testimony to human rights violations and serves as condemnation, proof and evidence of the acts committed by a state of terrorism.

All the GDL participants in the session were deeply impressed by the museum’s work and some emphasized the importance of involving survivors of atrocities in the process. One Member referred to a case in her country where atrocities had been committed and denied by the state. The story of ESMA showed GDL Members that dealing with the past has a great impact when applying history to what matters in the present.
The 16th Sustainable Development Goal aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. Despite improvements to institutional structures and access to justice, formal justice institutions often have limited coverage and capacity. The poorest members of a society struggle to get access to justice and information, as well as other fundamental freedoms.

During the 6th Lab, a training session was held to help Members understand how alternative networks can help prevent atrocities among societies that are most marginalised and that often have no access to formal justice institutions.

The training session was conducted by Brian Kagorgo, a constitutional and international economic relations lawyer, and Patrick Mpedzisi, an organisational development consultant.

Kagoro suggested that strong alternative networks are an ecosystem consisting of religious authorities, the media, communal laws and trust. According to Kagoro, when we build or enter a network it is important to know where the power is. Even if there isn’t a formal structure, it is not something abstract; it is possible to identify who has it.

To understand how good networks function, participants were also presented with the analogy of a car. Much like a car, a good network is an ecosystem containing the “circle of 5” components:

1. Engine, to build capacity;
2. Wheels, to set the network in motion. Each one of them can represent a key value to act upon. These are respect, reference, relationship and recognition;
3. Lights, to have perspective and vision to be able to leave the comfort zone;
4. Steering wheel, leading understanding fundamental rules and guidelines: the context where you work is critical. Each ecosystem has its own characteristics.
5. The key to ignite

“Identifying which part of the network you are is fundamental to boost and strengthen it,” pointed out GDL Member Edna Martínez.

In order for a network to be sustainable, it has to be connected to the broad ecosystem. To do this, it must understand justice institutions and other key stakeholders, the power dynamics within it, how to go about institutional networking and partnership building.

This also requires an ability to identify possible malfunctions, blind spots and accident-prone spaces, as well as local habits and behaviours.

Finally, it is important to remember an idea that cross-cut this session: any justice system needs legitimacy, which is based on trust, consent and deep understanding of culture. Informal justice institutions may be the abundance needed to meet SDG 16 by 2030.
The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is broadly associated with sexual violence; cases go unreported and are often not prosecuted or sentenced. It was not until 1998 that sexual violence in conflict was declared a crime in DRC. Victims face police and prosecutors who either do not prosecute or have difficulties gathering adequate evidence.

Could one mobile app change this stark reality in the future? Dr Colette Grace Mazzucelli presented the findings of the first pilot of the MediCapt app. The app, introduced in 2012, was developed by a team of experts to overcome specific difficulties of reporting abuses and gathering evidence in cases of sexual abuse. The app allows users to collect evidence in a way that creates an electronic chain of custody so that cases can be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court (ICC, The Hague).

“The overall goal is to let perpetrators of sexual violence know that they can no longer walk away as evidence can be taken and transmitted to courts”, said Dr Mazzucelli.

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The Ethics of Data Collection
Could a mobile phone app help overcome major challenges?
By Liane Wörner

Did you know?
A woman is raped in the DRC every 90 seconds (source: herecongo.org)

Learn more details about MediCapt pilot results by clicking here
Social media is a proven method for spreading information quickly. Social media, specifically Twitter and Facebook, played a critical role in the Arab Spring, resulting in the disintegration of several regimes, including in Tunisia. Understanding how we can each use Twitter to grow and leverage the power of our own networks, as well as spread information about our causes, was the focus of a training session run by GDL Member Elsa D’Silva.

Here is Elsa’s list of top Do’s and Don’ts for Twitter:

**Twitter DO’s:**
- Make sure your Twitter profile photo matches that of your other social media accounts.
- Develop a hashtag and keep using that hashtag so people can follow all your conversations.
- Using Twitter, now pick a few people or institutions in your Twitter neighbourhood and ‘follow’ them.
- Pin tweets that provide information about you. A pinned tweet is best when it uses a picture or information that you want to be visible at first sight.
- It is important to know who your audience is; think about demographics, age group and location issues.
- Understand who your audience is and follow and tweet according to that demographic. Knowing your audience will make your announcements more visible.
- Realise and understand the differences between all social networks such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Make sure that you use the specific network for its intention: Twitter is the network for making public announcements that are limited to 140 characters.
- Try to make your tweets more visual and frequent.
- Tag influencers and get your family and friends involved and ask them to retweet you.
- Use ‘.’ if you want everyone to see it on your timeline.

**Twitter DON’Ts:**
- Don’t let Twitter control you – make sure you control Twitter.
- Don’t just share someone else’s tweet – always add your comments to the tweet.
- Do not engage with trolls.

The workshop focused on the overall positive idea to change personal Twitter use from just “staying informed by following others” into actively “using Twitter as a platform to promote oneself or certain projects”.

The Network is Everywhere
The importance of Twitter for public networkers
Cana Tülüş and Liane Wörner

The goal of the Global Diplomacy Lab is to bring out all sectors of society who might contribute new thoughts and new approaches to improving international relations. GDL6 proves we have room to grow – but we are on our way.”

Stefan Biedermann,
GDL Leading Partner,
Federal Foreign Office
A situation room is a place where government officials gather in times of crisis to collect information and coordinate activities. It is a location designed for debate and discussion, rather than for command and control. With this in mind, GDL Members participated in an open situation room (OSR) where all ideas are welcome and innovation is required. The goal of the OSR was to help two stakeholders, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention and the African Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, with two specific challenges the networks were facing.

The first challenge was to devise an effective strategy to increase political engagement by their governments in their causes. The second challenge was to help each network build an effective communication strategy both for themselves and between each other. One of the biggest stumbling blocks for both networks was securing sufficient funding and resources to implement their work. A second obstacle identified by participants was language. The Latin American Network uses Spanish and Portuguese, while the African Network operates primarily in English and French.

As José Luis Guerra Mayorga reminded the participants: “Please never forget that we are talking about challenges for states, challenges which we face because of atrocities committed in the past. Even today, states are quite reluctant to talk about the subject.”

GDL Members formed six different groups and were guided through a series of seven timed steps by fellow members Chris Fowler and Vivian Valencia. As teams collaborated and energetically worked through the steps, countless innovative solutions filled the air.

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“The Global Diplomacy Lab 6 changed my perception on how to deal with challenges. The GDL made me understand that challenges are a pack of opportunities; they only need to be carefully and skillfully unpacked. The GDL provides the space and skills to unpack them.”

Felistas Mushi, Member of the Africa Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

The outcome of the OSR was a unique six-folded idea box addressing the challenges presented.

The AFRO-LATINO-JAT [Joint Action Team] is a project promoting a permanently installed new communicative strategy within and between the two existing networks in Africa and in Latin America by establishing JATs. Members send their representatives to be part of these teams and empower them to work on concrete solutions for certain topics. The number of representatives would have to be small and include a member of government, a member of NGO, and an expert. JATs would develop early warning systems, conduct actual joint investigation, discussing cultural identify, etc. When discussing this idea with Fabian Oddone and asking him which of the ideas he would take on in future, he said that JATs had the advantage of being both formal and informal and would be relatively easy to establish and to finance through the proposed cost-sharing model, resulting in less bureaucracy, less commitment, but more action.

Other tables were working on the idea of a NATIONAL NETWORK in which communities – local players – work together to develop strategies for atrocity prevention, or on establishing a COORDINATION COUNCIL between the two main networks on transitional justice and atrocity prevention, whose main goals would be introducing [and implementing] public policies within the regions. With the LATINAFRICA Exchange Programme, GDL members pointed out another important issue in suggesting the exchange of best practices.

OSR participants voted for two other, very concrete projects. The project LOOK BACK MOVE FORWARD proposed an own website of both networks including an intranet to allow communication between its members and addressing the public together for funding, support and public attention. The “PLAZA DE MAYO” project, working on transitional justice and atrocity prevention, proposed the production of a TV series “Unforgettable & Unforgivable” (15 episodes x 45 minutes each), in which big global players, film makers, and a joint creation team from the Africa Network, the Latin American Network and the GDL would coproduce a series of films against atrocities.
2017 marks the first time the Global Diplomacy Lab is linking two labs with one subject. GDL Members conducted a bridge session ensuring what they accomplished at the 6th Lab will be carried into the 7th Lab as a foundation to create impact.

GDL Members divided into eight groups and held a 15-minute discussion on the question “What we want to take to the 7th Lab? From Incubator to impact?”

Themes to emerge were: (1) the role of artists, culture, arts and the power of art; (2) the role of traditional civil society organisations; and (3) questions of transitional justice.

Reflecting on their experiences in Buenos Aires, Members presented creative ideas to bridge the two labs which included concerts, technology and the GDL itself.

Members suggested that using models and processes within the GDL, such as the Open Situation Room, could help focus and strengthen the young networks, empowering them to be more effective.

The 7th Lab begins on 19 November in Berlin, Germany.

“Argentina was a moving experience through stories and discoveries. There is a clear parallel between Germany and Argentina. GDL6 was a fascinating experience, again, and I am sympathetic to the struggle of the Argentinian people to come to terms with their past. My hope for them is to come to achieve peace at some point in the future.”

Stefan Biedermann,
GDL Leading Partner, Federal Foreign Office
The Ideas Gallery was the last formal activity of the 6th Lab in Buenos Aires. Its goal is to generate ideas for the sustainable development of GDL and is a space for every Member to push their visions and dreams forward, get support from within the network and make their project a reality.

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The venue, the Grito Theatre (Teatro El Grito), an artistic space filled with thought-provoking paintings and sculptures, created the perfect environment for original ideas. The GDL exists to turn democracy on its head. To be effective through innovation, the Ideas Gallery deliberately places GDL in a constant state of evolution with the generation and evaluation of ideas.

The session was divided into two rounds. The first round included two parallel discussions on the creation of an expert directory of GDL Members, moderated by Vivian Valencia, and on communication strategies to share the message and actions of the GDL, by Ivana Ponjavic.

The Ideas Gallery included empowering members to share workshop ideas and hold impromptu mini sessions. These mini workshops helped vet the new ideas and determine which ones could be advanced into extended skills building workshops during the 7th Lab.

Concepts proposed during the Idea Gallery in Buenos Aires 2017:

• Using the Power of Voice to Empower Your Message. Proposed by Theresa Carrington
• Climate Change: Addressing the Global Crisis through Multi-Stakeholder Diplomacy. Proposed by Edna Martinez Quintanilla
• MediCapt in DRC – Sexual Violence in Conflict (also applicable in India and Colombia). Proposed by Colette Mazzucelli
• Alliance on Justice, Truth and Remembrance. Proposed by Vesna Teršelič

The Ideas Gallery is a concrete example of how the GDL fosters the exchange of ideas among its Members and other actors, highlights the value of interdisciplinary talent and offers its Members freedom and support to position new ideas and discuss their feasibility.

The lab ended to the sound of “Lean on me,” emotionally sung by GDL Member Chris Fowler, and later by participants of the 6th Lab.

“IT [the Lab] is only as strong as the commitment you put into it.”
Imran Simmins,
GDL Advisory Council Member
Get Involved!

Five proposals
Compiled by Theresa Carrington

Preventing mass atrocity begins with all of us. Here are five ways for you to get involved

1. Educate yourself:

The better you understand mass atrocities and their impact on society the better you can become involved. We believe the following documents and websites will help you get well informed about the issue of genocide and mass atrocity prevention.
Definitions of Genocide and Mass Atrocity: http://www.gaamac.org/organizations/

2. Recognise:

As a society, we have the power to stop and prevent mass atrocities if we know what to look for. Here are resources to help you recognise the political environments and societal risk factors of genocide and other mass atrocities.
Risk Factors of Mass Atrocity: UN Framework of Analysis for atrocity Crimes

3. Report:

The most powerful way to report on mass atrocities is to leverage the political power of organisations and networks working to prevent it. The following organisations and networks have direct links to the United Nations, including the Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect:
- Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
- Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention
- AIPR’s Africa Programs
- Office of the Special Advisers for Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

4. Support:

The work of preventing and educating about genocide and other mass atrocities is motivating, and yet arduous. You can support the organisations working to prevent genocide and mass atrocities, and to help victims in various ways. When you invest time, experience and resources in organisations advancing society on this important issue, you are contributing to mass atrocity prevention. Find the local organisations on the next page.

5. Share:

You are now the caretaker of important information. We encourage you to share what you have learned in this report. By educating ourselves and those around us, we are one step closer as a society to mass atrocity prevention. Click here for a series of sharable twitter messages.

Host:
Auschwitz Institute for peace and Reconciliation is building a world that prevents genocide and other mass atrocities. Through education, training, and technical assistance, AIPR supports states to develop or strengthen policies and practices for the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities. AIPR also encourages and supports the cooperation of states through regional and international networks to advance prevention. We encourage you to visit their “Profiles in Prevention” page to meet leaders in atrocity prevention.
http://www.auschwitzinstitute.org/

Local Partners:
- ESMA Memory Site Museum
- House for the Right to Identity of Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo
- Journalistic Cooperative “Lavaca”
- Metropolitan Foundation
- Regional Coordinator of Economic and Social Research (CRIES)
- Remembrance and Human Rights Center ex-ESMA
- Remembrance Park
- Thirty-all Community Project at Villa 31
Global Diplomacy Lab
Facts & Figures

The nature of diplomacy is evolving. It is no longer the strict purview of national governments and international organisations. The Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) is a platform for exploring a new and more inclusive diplomacy that goes beyond traditional politics.

Creative professionals from various fields are thus needed to explore new tools of communication on the basis of mutual trust and to re-formulate an agenda for collective action.

What should diplomacy look like in the future? Which competences do we need in order to define our scope of action more precisely?

These are questions that the Federal Foreign Office, under the patronage of Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and in partnership with the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the Bosch Alumni Network, the Stiftung Mercator and the Global Leadership Academy of GIZ, are eager to investigate with outstanding members of their networks from all continents. Currently, the Global Diplomacy Lab has around 150 Members from over 60 countries.

The Global Diplomacy Lab is managed by a Secretariat based at the Federal Foreign Office. It is responsible for organising regular meetings worldwide and fostering a permanent dialogue between partners, members and external stakeholders, designed to lead to concrete actions to shape policy-making.

The Global Diplomacy Lab’s members and partners initiate, implement and participate in GDL activities all over the world – innovating existing formats, contributing to network partners’ events and organising local GDL-inspired workshops and gatherings. Moreover, around forty alumni of programmes run by the Federal Foreign Office, the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Stiftung Mercator and the Global Leadership Academy are invited to apply for the bi-annual meetings of the Global Diplomacy Lab.

Together with the Global Diplomacy Lab’s Dean, Ruprecht Polenz, Chairman of the German Bundestag’s Committee on Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2013, the members first gathered in Berlin from 13 to 16 November 2014 to sketch the multiple facets of trust in global affairs. The second edition of the Global Diplomacy Lab took place in Istanbul from 4 to 7 June 2015 and dealt with the issues of fragmentation versus integration, while the broad and complex issue of migration was the topic of the third Lab, which was held in Berlin from 5 to 8 November 2015. In 2016, the Labs focused on the Significance of International Law and Moral Standards in Diplomacy (Berlin, 9 to 12 June) and Global Diplomacy in the Digital Age (Montreal, 3 to 6 November).

From the Labs hosted so far, it has become clear that transforming potential into practice requires both an incubating and a sustainable impact-driven framework. The first 2017 Lab was therefore held as a GDL Incubator in Buenos Aires from 18 to 21 June. The next GDL Impact will take place from 19 to 22 November in Berlin. These venues were selected by the Advisory Council as part of a competitive bidding process, reinforcing the Global Diplomacy Lab’s members-driven approach.
Participants and Experts
6th Lab, Buenos Aires

Participants:
Abdul Rahman, Eiriliani • Singapore/USA
Aderie, Hailu • Ethiopia
Aoudi, Houssem • Tunisia
Atangana, Pascal Arsène • Cameroon
Castro, Martin • USA
D’Silva, Elsa Marie • India
Elgeboly, Reham • Egypt
Eryuce, Onur Kadir • Belgium & Turkey
Forster, Nicola • Switzerland
Fowler, Chris • USA
Gavrilović, Gordana • Serbia
Khwakhuzhi, Gharanai • Afghanistan/Belgium
Maloba, Elizabeth • Kenya
Martinez Quintanilla, Edna Elizabeth • Mexico
Mezzucelli, Colette Grace • USA
Mezzour, Sonia • Morocco
Muhammad, Dilshad • Syria/Germany
Nguyen, Khac Giang • Vietnam
Osorio, Diego • Canada/Colombia
Patrician, David • USA/Germany
Pekol, Banu • Turkey
Pernau, Jennifer Désirée • Germany
Ponjavić, Ivana • Serbia/Germany
Richter, Bastian • Germany/USA
Saona, Trinidad • Chile
Saleem, Mome • Pakistan/Pakistan
Simmins, Imran • South Africa/Germany
Terselić, Vesna • Slovenia/Croatia
Tülüs, Cana • Turkey
Valencia, Vivian • Mexico/USA
Wörner, Liane • Germany/Germany

Experts:
Claudia Acuña • Journalist/Founder, MU/Lavaca
Julie August • Graphic Designer and Art Curator
Katie Bentivoglio • Project Manager, Arab Policy institute
Nilce Cothros • Assistant of the Chair of Medieval Art, University of Buenos Aires
Susana González Gonz • Founder, Grupo Alma, Compañía Danza Integradora
José Luis Guerra Mayorga • General Advisory Director, Office of the Ombudsman, Ecuador
Brian Kagoro • Founding Director, UHAI Africa Consulting Group
María José Kahn Silva • Educational, Artistic and Museographical Developer, ESMA Memory Site Museum
Felistas Mushi • Chair, ICGLR Regional Committee for Genocide Prevention / Member of the Africa Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention
Fabian Oddone • Diplomat, Embassy of Argentina in Colombia / Member of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention
Maria Gabriela Quinteros • Director, Department of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina
Alejandra Daniela Ramirez • Tour Guide, ESMA Memory Site Museum
Sebastián Schonfeld • Institutional Director, ESMA Memory Site Museum
Andrés Serbin • President, Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES)
Andrei Serbin Pont • Research Director, Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES)
Dance to Diplomacy
Official reception foster team spirit

by Theresa Carrington

What happens when you combine jazz, antiques, sushi and diplomats? Global diplomacy of course!

The official reception hosted by the German Embassy to Argentina was held in the swanky Argentinian restaurant/antique store, Cenas Pasionarias. Literally translated Passionate Dinners, the food did not disappoint. When the jazz band walked in, that’s when the dancing broke out. Germany danced with the USA, who danced with Singapore, who danced with South Africa.

With Groucho Marx videos playing on the wall and art deco-influenced sculptures all around, Cenas Pasionarias was the perfect environment for team building. Members spent time learning more about GDL Partners, exchanged ideas and reflected on the work ahead. The official reception proved that informal networking combined with the right environment can lead to powerful human connection.

“Identifying which part of the network you are is fundamental to boost and strengthen it.”
Edna Martinez, GDL Member