

International Conference

# The Roots of Crimes against Humanity

20-21  
IV



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Poland



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage  
Republic of Poland

# CONCEPT NOTE

## Conference Title

The Roots of Crimes against Humanity:  
Bridging the Normative Gap

## Organizers

Pilecki Institute, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic of Poland

## Date

April 20–21, 2026

## Venue

Pilecki Institute  
Sienna 82, Warsaw

## Background

While treaties concerning genocide and war crimes have long been cornerstones of the international legal order, a dedicated convention on crimes against humanity remains a significant lacuna. The Warsaw conference serves as a direct response to this normative void.

## Objectives and Timing

The timing is of paramount diplomatic significance. Under the current UN roadmap, the year 2026 is reserved for the submission of official observations from Member States. Taking place just days before the April 30, 2026 deadline, the deliberations in Warsaw position this forum as a decisive venue for shaping international standards.

## The Polish Legacy

Continuing the legacy of **Raphael Lemkin**, the Pilecki Institute's research identity bridges the gap between historical jurisprudence and modern treaty negotiations.

## Key Themes

- **The Origin and Evolution of the Concept:** From the Nuremberg Charter to modern definitions.
- **Targeted Groups:** Legal perspectives on crimes against women, children, and victims of forced labor.
- **Towards the New Convention:** Linking academic findings to the ongoing negotiations in New York.

## Format and Accessibility

The proceedings will be conducted entirely in English. **The event will be streamed live on the Pilecki Institute's YouTube channel.**

# AGENDA

## APRIL 20, 2026

**15:00–16:00** Registration  
and Welcome Coffee

## 16:00 Opening Ceremony

- **Karol Madaj**  
Acting Director of the Pilecki Institute
- **Artur Harazim**  
Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

## 16:15–16:45 Keynote Lecture

- **The origin of the concept of the crime against humanity**  
Prof. Guénaél Mettraux  
(Judge, Kosovo Specialist Chambers;  
Visiting Professor at the University of Galway)

## 16:45–18:45 Panel: The road to the crime against humanity

Chair: Prof. Patrycja Grzebyk  
(Pilecki Institute/University of Warsaw)

- **Small states work towards the Nuremberg Charter definition of crime against humanity**  
Dr. Sabina Ferhadbegovic  
(Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz)
- **Crime against humanity in the Nuremberg judgment**  
Prof. Christoph Safferling  
(International Nuremberg Principles Academy)
- **The Nuremberg Military Tribunals and the development of crimes against humanity**  
Prof. Kevin Heller  
(University of Copenhagen)
- **Implementation of Nuremberg law on crime against humanity in the allied occupation zones**  
Prof. Annette Weinke  
(Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

## APRIL 21, 2026

**08:30–09:00** Welcome Coffee

## 09:00–10:15 Panel: Targeted groups

Chair: Dr. Krystian Wiciarz  
(Pilecki Institute)

- **Types of victimization in charges of crimes against humanity in the NMT – trials and selected UNWCC cases**  
Dr. Dominika Uczkiewicz  
(Pilecki Institute)
- **Children as targets of crimes against humanity**  
Prof. Karolina Wierczyńska  
(Polish Academy of Sciences)
- **Women as targets of crimes against humanity**  
Prof. Stefanie Bock  
(University of Marburg)

**10:15–10:45** Coffee Break

## 10:45–12:15 Panel: Different faces of the crime against humanity

Chair: Dr. Bartłomiej Kapica  
(Pilecki Institute)

- **Slavery and forced labor**  
Dr. Amina Adanan  
(Maynooth University)
- **Deportations**  
Prof. Aleksander Gubrynowicz  
(University of Warsaw)
- **Persecutions**  
Prof. Olympia Bekou  
(University of Nottingham)
- **Crimes against humanity in colonial Africa: A historical perspective**  
Dr. João Fusco Ribeiro  
(Pilecki Institute)

**12:15–12:45** Coffee Break

## 12:45–13:45 Panel: Consequences of the crime against humanity

Chair: Prof. Patrycja Grzebyk  
(Pilecki Institute/University of Warsaw)

- **Reshaping trials of police accused of crimes against humanity in order to improve future police forces**  
Prof. Mark Lewis  
(City University of New York – CUNY)
  - **Reparations for victims of crime against humanity**  
Prof. Aleksandra Mężykowska  
(Polish Academy of Sciences/Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland)
- 13:45–14:30 Panel: Towards the new Convention**  
Franz Perrez  
(Director General, Ambassador, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs)  
Paweł Wierdak  
(Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland)

**14:30** Closing of the Conference  
and Lunch



Photos:  
National Archives and Records Administration, College Park