



Workshop within the framework of the project

“Refugees as possible witnesses to and perpetrators of international crimes”

»Refugees as Witnesses and Refugees as Perpetrators: Perceptions and Perspectives for the Future«

Friday, 21 March 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Nuremberg Palace of Justice, Bärenschanzstraße 72, 90429 Nuremberg, Germany,
Room 619

The Workshop is held in German. Registration is required.

The aim of the workshop is to elaborate on challenges concerning the transfer of information relevant for the prosecution of international crimes to law enforcement authorities in cooperation with practitioners from law enforcement and social work and to discuss possible solutions.

Background: The International Nuremberg Principles Academy is concerned with the topic of refugees and international criminal law since the year 2017. The project “Refugees as possible witnesses to international crimes” was aimed at promoting a better comprehension of the possible transfer of relevant information with the purpose of prosecuting core international crimes. A particular focus was placed on communication between social welfare organisations and law enforcement agencies. The importance of this unique positioning of the different actors and the potential opportunities for cooperation to advance accountability for core crimes under international criminal law, including genocide and war crimes, was emphasized. In this context, [guidelines for social workers](#) were developed in 2019 to enable a better understanding of the issue of international criminal law.

In 2023, in cooperation with the City of Aachen the Academy held a workshop together with social workers of the city, in the course of which an additional issue was identified regarding potential perpetrators of core international crimes: the focus in this regard is on Section 203 (1) No. 6 of the German Criminal Code, which prohibits the disclosure of information about potential crimes under international criminal law that have become known to state-recognized social workers in the course of their work.

Further information is available here: <https://kripoz.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/petrossian-schaefer-zwischen-verschwiegenheitspflicht-und-weltrechtsprinzip-des-Voelkerstrafrechts.pdf>

Within the workshop we would like to discuss how the legal framework for the disclosure of information on the most serious crimes under international criminal law should be designed in the future in order to enable the effective investigation and prosecution of the most serious violence.

Registrations may be submitted to Astrid Walter (Astrid.Walter@Nurembergacademy.org).

