



VOICES OF THE FUTURE



UNITED STATES STUDENTS, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEXT GENERATION'S
LEADERSHIP IN THE US GOVERNMENT, PARTICIPATING IN NEGOTIATIONS AT THE
ASSEMBLY OF STATE PARTIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT THROUGH
THE AUSPICES OF

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

History of the ISC-ICC

The Independent Student Coalition for the International Criminal Court (the “ISC-ICC”) was founded in November 2000 in Washington, D.C. by Christina Hartman, its current President. The organization began as a petition signed by students and professionals at numerous East Coast colleges and universities urging the United States to sign the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court (the “Rome Statute”) before the December 31, 2000 deadline. What initially started as a simple petition has now grown in size and recognition domestically and abroad.

Today, the ISC-ICC maintains two offices. The first office, located in Washington, D.C., focuses on the domestic efforts related to the International Criminal Court (the “ICC”). The second office, located in New York City, fosters relations with the Coalition’s counterparts around the world and relevant international organizations, including the Organization of the United Nations.

Purposes of the Organization

The ISC-ICC is the only student grassroots-based organization in the United States dedicated to educating the American public about the Rome Statute and the ICC. The purposes of the organization are (1) to assist student organizations in developing educational programs about international civil society and, in particular, with respect to such issues as the ICC; (2) to provide educational assistance in the nature of dissemination of sources of information, development of educational materials, conferences, and educational internships on issues related to international civil society and the International Criminal Court; and (3) to provide information and materials to the public relating to the programs developed by the Coalition.

There are presently over thirty campus chapters of the ISC-ICC throughout the United States with over 500 members in undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. The ISC-ICC is working to extend its membership to include alumni members, educators, and other young professionals dedicated to causes of the ICC.

The ISC-ICC, although *independent*, works in conjunction with other NGOs in numerous capacities. Specifically, the ISC-ICC is a contributing and independent member of the following NGOs: (1) The International NGO Coalition for the ICC (**CICC**), (2) The Washington Working Group for the ICC (**WICC**), and (3) The American NGO Coalition for the ICC (**AMICC**).

For further information about the organization, please visit our website at www.isc-icc.org or contact Irina Kebreau, Vice President, at Irina@isc-icc.org or (917) 941-1663.

Members of the Executive Committee of the ISC-ICC



Christina Hartman is the President and founder of the ISC-ICC. Christina is a B.A. candidate at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. majoring in Politics and Biology. Christina plans to pursue a career in public health with an international focus. It is her dream to do this through the auspices of the World Health Organization. Ms. Hartman's experiences include an internship in the Americas Division of Government Affairs and the Rx Health Value, a Prescription Health Care Coalition.

Ms. Hartman is conversational in French and is presently learning Arabic at the Arabic Language Institute in Morocco. In her free time, Christina enjoys reading, writing, skiing, and playing the violin.



Irina Kebreau is the Vice President of the ISC-ICC and has been a part of the organization since September 2001. She is a Ph.D. candidate at New York University, School of Arts & Sciences, Department of Politics, concentrating on policy analysis and methodology. Irina received her M.A. from New York University and a B.A. in Political Science and Mathematics from Pace University (New York). Her current plans include attendance of a law school to pursue her interest in law.

Irina is interested in the success of the ICC because it “embodies the universalization of the principles of criminal liability for core crimes against human rights. The Court raises the bar of tolerance for the egregious violations of human rights around the world.” She believes that it is important for the United States to play an active role in the ICC in order to legitimize the new human rights regime that is being established vis-à-vis the ICC.

Ms. Kebreau has emigrated from USSR in 1993 and is now in the process of being naturalized as a US citizen. She enjoys reading, dancing and being actively involved with human rights issues.



Elizabeth Mary Trottier heads the Department of Outreach & Development of the ISC-ICC. She is a J.D. and M.A. candidate at the Seton Hall University School of Law and School of Diplomacy & International Relations (Newark, New Jersey). Ms. Trottier also received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with concentration in French from the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA). Elizabeth plans to pursue a career in foreign relations or diplomatic affairs.

Ms. Trottier aims to combat the isolationism of the United States in international affairs, particularly in the areas of international law and justice. “The world is decreasing in size as a result of globalization. International law must respond accordingly. The ICC will be a precious mechanism for so many victims of the worst kinds of crimes. It is with the victims in mind that, as U.S. citizens, we must fight U.S. opposition to this new Court.”

Ms. Trottier enjoys skiing, flute, violin, cinema and traveling. She traveled extensively across Western Europe (where she mastered French as a second language), Mexico and Egypt.



William Lim directs the Information Services of the organization. He is currently a B.A. candidate in Hunter College, City University of New York in History. Mr. Lim plans to obtain a master's degree in International Relations along with a Doctorate of Jurisprudence upon completing his undergraduate studies.

Mr. Lim's interest in the success of the ICC stems from his opinion that the "ICC represents the globalization of human rights. We need the ICC if we are to have a 21st century that does not repeat the horrors of the 20th." William believes that "by boycotting the ASP, the US has abdicated its leadership in the cause of human rights, despite rhetoric to the contrary. It is critical that the US become involved in the ICC again because there will be so many foreign policy issues interrelated with the ICC that it will be impossible for the US to avoid the Court for much longer."

Mr. Lim is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and conversational in French and Spanish. William traveled extensively in Taiwan, China and Canada. In his free time, he enjoys jazz, science fiction, and computer programming.



Anna Astvatsaturova has recently joined the organization in the capacity of the Director of Education Programs. She is currently a student at the University of Maine School of Law (Portland, Maine) and a graduate of the University of North Dakota, where she majored in English, Philosophy & Religion with a minor in Russian. Anna's post graduation plans include a career in international law with a focus on human rights. Ms. Astvatsaturova dreams of working for the ICC.

Mindful of the experiences of her family (an Armenian family in Azerbaijan) and the struggles of her ancestors (Armenian genocide in Turkey in 1915), Ms. Astvatsaturova wants to dedicate her life ensuring that the Armenian genocide is recognized and that it never happens again.

Anna is fluent in Russian (her mother tongue) and conversational in Armenian and Spanish. Ms. Astvatsaturova emigrated from Azerbaijan in 1992 and is a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. Anna has spent significant amount of time in Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. In addition to traveling, Anna enjoys watching hockey and painting.



Esti Tahina Tambay has recently joined the organization as a Director of International Outreach & Development. Esti is a student at Columbia University, Columbia College (New York, New York) majoring in Political Science with a focus on international relations and minoring in philosophy and human rights. Ms. Tambay plans to attend a law school after graduating from college.

Ms. Tambay is interested in issues related to the ICC because, in her eyes, "it represents the historical culmination of international law principles set at Nuremberg. This institution allows for a great step for humanity in enforcing accountability and deterring future egregious human rights violations. It closes an important gap in the web of international law." Esti also believes that the United States always stood for the very principles embodied in the Rome Statute and as such, it is important for the United States to take a leading role in the establishment of the Court. "The US should not only be a leader in economic and military affairs, but it must also prove itself to be a moral leader."

Esti was born in Hawaii; however, she spent a significant amount of time in Switzerland and France. She is fluent in French, German and Italian. Ms. Tambay enjoys playing tennis, drawing, reading, traveling, discussing philosophy, and raising awareness about human rights issues.

Members of the ISC-ICC Delegation



Julia Victoria Cimbalo is a J.D. candidate at the St. Johns University School of Law (New York, New York). She received a Bachelor's degree from Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA) in Human Development and English. Julia plans to pursue a career in the legal field after graduating from law school.

Ms. Cimbalo feels that the "ICC will greatly alter the world community that is validates the lives and voices of those people silenced by oppressive, powerful individuals. This empowerment equalizes people so often imbalanced (economically and socially). We need to punish those fighting against the weak and we need to do so unilaterally." Julia further firmly believes that "our presence and knowledge is need in the ICC" and that "our active participation would show support and lead others to participant. It would allow for a showing of a strong front against individuals who fail to respect human life – this in turn helps us to recognize the global community as closer to our own."

Julia spent a significant amount of time in Jamaica, where she worked as a social worker. In her free time, Ms. Cimbalo enjoys running, reading and gardening.

Nema Elsayed is a recent graduate of the City College of the City University of New York with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies. Ms. Elsayed is presently pursuing a Master's degree in the same school in International Relations – Diplomacy. Nema plans to eventually work for the ICC or the United Nations upon completion of her studies.



Ms. Elsayed is interested in the success of the ICC because she believes that "there must be a permanent Court to try war criminals and bring them to justice. Current policies of punishing criminal such as Saddam Hussein, through sanctions and war, punish entire countries, including millions of innocent civilians, while the dictators remain in power." As an American, Nema believes that "it is important for the U.S. to play an active role in the ICC, because it will show that the U.S. is serious about punishing people who commit unthinkable crimes against humanity.

Ms. Elsayed traveled extensively in Egypt where she perfected her knowledge of Arabic. Nema is also conversational in Spanish. In her free time, Ms. Elsayed enjoys swimming, roller blading, ice-skating, reading and watching T.V.

Matthew C. Kane is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland, UK), where he is focusing his studies on International Relations. Mr. Kane has recently graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where he received his Doctorate degree in Jurisprudence. Matthew received his B.A. in History from the University of Oklahoma. He plans to teach and practice International Law upon completion of his current course of studies.



Mr. Kane wants the ICC to succeed because, as in the words of Benjamin Ferencz, "Law is better than war." He further believes that the U.S. must be involved in the ICC "both to further international justice and to adequately protect US interests."

Matthew traveled extensively in Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Tanzania, Rwanda and Italy. In his free time, he enjoys remodeling his new home, traveling and spending time with his dogs – great Danes.



Linda Veronica Khan-Rampertab is a recent graduate of the Hunter College, the City University of New York, where she received her Bachelor's degree in English Literature and Philosophy. She is preparing to start law school shortly. Linda's post-graduate plans include working with an advocacy group focused on human rights issues.

Ms. Khan-Rampertab strongly believes that "not only will the ICC be a mechanism for justice, it will also be a mechanism for deterrence and reconciliation which are among the main elements to achieve lasting peace." As the "climate changed somewhat since the 11th of September, America should realize that the ICC is no longer a court for people outside of the American soil, rather, it is for people in an international community that is becoming more and more intertwined with every passing day."

Linda came to the United States from Guyana and is now in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen. She spent significant amount of time in Antigua, St. Lucia, and Barbados, where she perfected conversational French. In her free time, Linda enjoys hiking, swimming, running, reading, and listening to classical music.



Chanté Marie Lasco is pursuing a legal degree at the American University, Washington College of Law, where she will receive a combined J.D. and M.A. degree in International Affairs. Chanté obtained her B.A. at the Northern Michigan University in Political Science and International Studies. Ms. Lasco's post-graduate plans include working for ICTY, ICTR, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, or the ICC.

Ms. Lasco believes that the "success of the ICC could mean an end to impunity for those who commit atrocities around the world and at the same time contribute immensely to the development of international and national criminal and humanitarian law." Chanté thinks that the "wealth and economic, political, and military power enjoyed by the U.S. are valuable practical and diplomatic resources that could provide significant support for the ICC."

Ms. Lasco traveled to France and Tanzania where she perfected her conversational French. She enjoys photography, reading, museum going, traveling, painting, creative writing, browsing bookstores, watching foreign films, and camping.



Jessica Maiorca is completing her Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in French at the University of Illinois – Chicago. Jessica plans to join the Peace Corp upon completion of her current course of studies.

Ms. Maiorca strongly believes in the purposes of the ICC and likes the idea of the ICC "being a place of equity." She also thinks that the ICC "serves as a warning to countries to watch the actions of their representatives and citizens." In Jessica's eyes, the "US is a world leader, it also serves as a symbol of progression to other countries dedication to countries." She further believes that "an advanced county indicates its dedication to an international justice by involving itself in ensuring that the worst of crimes are prosecuted. By not being involved, the US is saying that its citizens and representatives are exceptional to international law."

Jessica spent significant amount of time in France and is conversational in French. She enjoys dancing, reading about other countries, doing active things outside, and traveling.



T. Caleb Munro is a Bachelor of Science candidate in Foreign Service (concentration in International Law) at the University School of Foreign Service (Washington, D.C.). He plans to join the International Red Cross as a delegate, teach English in China, or do something related to the UN or International Law upon completion of his degree.

Mr. Munro strongly believes in the concepts of justice and human rights. He believes that the “ICC is a major step in the right direction and support it completely.” As such, the “US has a responsibility to help others around the world who cannot impose justice on such horrible people who commit genocide and war crimes. This Court is obviously an institution that people around the world think is necessary” and Caleb thinks that the “US can and should play an important role in its development of international accountability.”

Mr. Munro traveled to Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Hong Kong, and China. He is conversational in German, Chinese, and the American Sign Language. Caleb enjoys making computer music, reading, movies, traveling, participating in Model UN conferences, and photography.



Mandi Ruscher is a student at the Florida International University (Miami, Florida), where she is pursuing a degree in International Relations, Women’s studies certificate and Middle Eastern studies. Mandi received a degree from the Tallahassee Community College in International Relations. She plans to be a volunteer at the Peace Corp and pursue a Master’s degree in Public Relations.

Ms. Ruscher believes that the “establishment of the ICC is a milestone in the promotion of human rights worldwide. With the increase of countries ratifying the Rome Statute, the ICC is a way to thwart criminals from the use of atrocities against civilians in conflict areas.” Mandi supports the ICC because of its partnership and coordination with the United Nations. She was raised in a country “that is supposed to be the leading example of democracy and justice. As a leader in the international system, the United States should fully support the principles of the ICC and ratify the Rome Statute. This would also encourage other countries, which have not already done so, to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute.

Ms. Ruscher traveled to France, where she perfected her conversational French. She is also conversational in German and Spanish. In her free time, Mandi enjoys reading, dancing, theater and outside sports.



Kelly A. Scott is a J.D. candidate at the Seattle University Law. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and History from the Seattle Pacific University. He plans to do trial work as a public defender in the Seattle area.

Mr. Scott is interested in promoting the rule of law, forestalling the nature of the crimes whose jurisdiction lies under the ICC. He believes that it is important for the United States to play an active role in the ICC, because otherwise, the “ICC is heavily crippled.” Furthermore, the “US offers much as a preeminent common-law country and as a leading proponent of a defense bar/trial practitioners.” Finally, the US has a superior resource power that is irreplaceable.

Mr. Scott traveled in Netherlands, France, Great Britain, and Ireland. He enjoys pursuing health policy, gardening, hiking, and a company of his dogs.

Ajinkya Mahesh Tulpule is a citizen of India studying at the Arizona State University, where he is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with concentration in International Relations. Ajinkya plans to attend a law school specializing in international trade. He would like to eventually work for the ICC.



Mr. Tulpule recognizes that the “ICC is the first and only Court with a global jurisdiction. Since it plays a complementary role to the national courts, it is a judicial system, which is nearly perfect. The problem of trial or arrest of a foreign national belonging to a nation with which an extradition treaty does not exist has been solved.” Ajinkya believes that the “US is an idea and not just a nation. It is an amalgamation of experiences and thoughts from around the world. The opinion of US, therefore, represents the opinion of the world. A nation with a strict judicial system will certainly aid the effective working of the Court.”

Mr. Tulpule spends significant time in the United States and India. He is fluent in Hindi and Marathi and conversational in French and German. He enjoys researching international relations, especially issues of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, reading UN documents and listening to music.

Rebecca Ann Williams is a recent graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History. Rebecca's will begin the Master's program in Management with an emphasis in International Relations at Southern Oregon University at Ashland, Oregon in the spring of 2003.



Ms. Williams believes that the “future and success of international relations between all nation states depends on cooperation and communication. The establishment of the ICC helps to ensure that another area for resolving conflicts is available to all nations”, which will lead to eventual peace. As an American, Rebecca believes that the “U.S. must be a leader among all nations to promote good relations among everyone. With the establishment of the ICC and its importance to resolving wrong doings during war time, facilitates and promotes closure to issues, which, if unhealed, could create larger divides among nations. An American presence gives our nation the opportunity to move toward enabling and creating a broad based peace campaign wherein all nations have a voice in international politics.

Rebecca is conversational in French and Spanish. She enjoys reading, keeping abreast of political news, outdoor activities, spending time with family, friends and Ryder – her black lab.

The ISC-ICC is pleased to bring the delegation of these exceptional individuals to the first meeting of the Assembly of State Parties. This is the fifth delegation that the ISC-ICC brings to the negotiations. The ISC-ICC attended the last four meetings of the Preparatory Commission of the ICC and we plan to continue to attend the meetings of the Assembly of States Parties and other ICC related meetings in the future.

For further information about the ISC-ICC or our programs, please visit our website at www.isc-icc.org or write to us at ISC-ICC, 1109 Joselson Avenue, Bay Shore, New York 11706.

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

ABOUT US

The Independent Student Coalition for the International Criminal Court (hereinafter the “ISC-ICC”) was founded in November 2000 in Washington, D.C. by Christina Hartman, its current President. The organization began as a petition signed by students and professionals at numerous East Coast colleges and universities urging the United States to sign the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court (hereinafter the “Rome Statute”) before the December 31, 2000 deadline. What initially started as a simple petition has now grown in size and recognition domestically and abroad.

The ISC-ICC is the only student-based grassroots organization in the United States dedicated to educating the American public about the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court (the “ICC”). The purposes of the organization are (1) to assist student organizations in developing educational programs about international civil society and, in particular, with respect to such issues as the ICC; (2) to provide educational assistance in the nature of dissemination of sources of information, development of educational materials, conferences, and educational internships on issues related to international civil society and the International Criminal Court; and (3) to provide information and materials to the public relating to the programs developed by the ISC-ICC.

There are presently over thirty campus chapters of the ISC-ICC throughout the United States with over 500 members in undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. The ISC-ICC is working to extend its membership to include alumni members, educators, and other young professionals dedicated to causes of the ICC.

The ISC-ICC has maintained a consistent presence at the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the ICC since its 7th meeting. Over 75 American students from across the country, representing the

next generation of American leaders, have participated in negotiations for the Court through the auspices of the ISC-ICC. The ISC-ICC plans to continue to participate in the work of the Court and the Assembly of State Parties.

BACKGROUND ON THE COURT

The ICC was formally established on April 11, 2002, and entered into force on July 1, 2002. It is designed to be a permanent, impartial court that will investigate and bring to justice individuals who commit the most serious violations of international humanitarian law: the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes.

The ICC was created by the Rome Statute, which was the product of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (“Rome Conference”), held from June 15 to July 17, 1998. After five weeks of intense negotiations, 120 nations overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Statute, while only seven (including Israel, Iraq, China and the United States) voted against. In less than four years, the Rome Statute has achieved well beyond the requisite 60 ratifications for formal establishment.

As of August 2002, 139 nations have signed the Rome Statute and 79 nations have ratified it. The United States submitted its signature to the Statute only few hours before the period for signing the Statute was closed on December 31, 2000. Most allies of the United States, including all members of the European Union, have ratified the Statute. All members of NATO, with the exception of Turkey and the United States, have ratified the Statute.

Although the ICC will have universal jurisdiction over the crimes listed in the Rome Statute, it only has a *complementary jurisdiction* to domestic legal systems of nations that are parties to the Statute. This means that the Court will only investigate allegations of a crime if (1) the party state is *unwilling* or *unable* to prosecute the alleged perpetrator in their domestic courts, (2) the Security Council of the United Nations refers the case to the Court, or (3) a party state requests such an investigation by the Court.

The seat of the Court is located in the Hague, Netherlands. The Assembly of State Parties, the governing body of the Court, will elect 18 judges, the prosecutors and chief administrators, who will represent the membership of the Court according to geography, gender, and area of law.

Unlike the International Court of Justice (ICJ or the “World Court”), the ICC has jurisdiction over

individuals committing crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court.¹ Additionally, the Rome Statute provides for investigations of alleged crimes on the initiatives of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Prosecutor of the Court. Furthermore, unlike ad hoc tribunals, such as the Rwandan and Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunals, the jurisdiction of the Court is not limited to a specific time or place.²

THE NEED FOR THE ICC

“Never again” was the communal vow after World War II: the world must never again see another Holocaust. Yet, 50 years later, war in Bosnia, genocide in Rwanda and other examples of heinous violations of human rights persist around the world. An estimated 14 million civilians have died in war-related deaths since the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal in Germany.

Until July 1, 2002, impositions of sanctions, embargoes or collective military interventions were the world’s only recourse to these violations. Despite the positive intentions, these actions are most often hurtful to innocent civilians than to those committing the crimes. The creation of the ICC allows the world to effectively hold accountable the real perpetrators of those crimes. The *complementarity principle* of the Court’s jurisdiction strengthens domestic legal systems. Domestic laws are implemented to include prosecution of individuals for the core human rights violation such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Similarly, the same principle allows for the prosecution of the perpetrators where such domestic action is not possible due to a conflicted political atmosphere, or a weakness of domestic legal systems. Finally, the permanency of the Court removes the need to negotiate political and economic barriers to the creation of ad hoc tribunals.

UNPRECEDENTED MANEUVERS

On May 6, 2002, the United States took an unprecedented step in international law: The Bush administration announced that it has no intention to ratify the Rome Statute, thus effectively nullifying its

signature to the treaty. The United States further separated itself from the Court by withdrawing itself from any negotiations related to the Rome Statute and the establishment of the Court (such as meetings of the UN Preparatory Commission for the ICC).

The United States began its campaign of seeking immunity from the jurisdiction of the Court to the US troops – members of the UN peacekeeping missions and other military and non-military personnel through so-called “Article 98” agreements citing potential politically motivated prosecution of the US personnel by the Court. However, recent analysis of the potential US exposure to the Court’s prosecution by numerous legal experts indicates that there is “zero” exposure of the US military under international law and the Rome Statute. Despite this, the US attempts to exempt itself from the internationally accepted norms, treaties and conventions by expanding the scope of the sought immunity to non-military personnel. These recent actions by the United States are harmful not only to the Court by to the reputation and the international standing of the US as well.

For more information on any of the information in this pamphlet, please visit our website at www.isc-icc.org. (Last updated September 3, 2002)

¹ The ICJ hears civil claims over international legal questions made only by nation states against other nation states.

² The ICC hears criminal claims against individuals arising out of acts committed after July 1, 2002, and those that have been committed on the territory of the party state, by or against nationals of party states.