

International Genocide Expert Banquet Speaker

The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations Board announced today the keynote speaker and other details of the upcoming 16th annual human rights banquet to be held in cooperation with the Human Rights Education Institute on Monday, April 22 at the Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn in Coeur d'Alene.

Gregory H. Stanton, president of the international "Genocide Watch", will deliver the banquet keynote titled: "Ending Genocide: Local Action is the Best Way to Prevent Atrocities".

During his speech, Dr. Stanton will present examples of how local movements successfully defeated the Aryan Nations in the Inland Northwest, dictators Milosevic in Yugoslavia and Charles Taylor in Liberia and caused the fall of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party.

Stanton is the Research Professor in Genocide Studies and Prevention at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia. From 2003-2009, he was the James Farmer Professor in Human Rights at the University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Dr. Stanton founded Genocide Watch in 1999, was the founder (1981) and Director of the Cambodian Genocide Project, and is the founder (1999) and Chair of the International Campaign to End Genocide, the world's first anti-genocide coalition. From 2007-2009, he was the President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

Dr. Stanton served in the United States State Department (1992-1999), where he drafted the United Nations Security Council resolutions that

created the international Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Burundi Commission of Inquiry, and the Central African Arms Flow Commission. He also drafted the U.N. Peacekeeping Operations resolutions that helped bring about an end to the Mozambique civil war. In 1994, Stanton won the American Foreign Service Association's prestigious W. Averell Harriman award for "extraordinary contributions to the practice of diplomacy exemplifying intellectual courage," based on his dissent from U.S. policy on the Rwandan genocide. He wrote the State Department options paper on ways to bring the Khmer Rouge to justice in Cambodia.

Since leaving the State Department in 1999 to found "Genocide Watch", Stanton has been deeply involved in the U.N.—Cambodia government negotiations that have brought about creation of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, for which he has drafted internal rules of procedure and evidence. From 1999-2000, he also served as Co-Chair of the Washington Working Group for the International Criminal Court.

Before he joined the State Department, Stanton was a legal advisor to RUKH, the Ukrainian independence movement, work for which he was named the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America's 1992 Man of the Year. He was the Chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division Committee on Human Rights and a member of the A.B.A.'s Standing Committee on World Order Under Law.

Gregory Stanton comes from the lineage of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, women's suffrage activist, and Henry Brewster Stanton, anti-slavery leader. Actively involved in human rights since the 1960's, when he was a voting rights worker in Mississippi, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Ivory Coast, and as the Church World Service/CARE Field Director in

Cambodia in 1980. He has been a Law Professor at Washington and Lee University, the American University and the University of Swaziland.

Dr. Stanton holds degrees from Oberlin College, Harvard Divinity School, Yale Law School, and a Doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago. He was a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2001-2002).

The banquet program will present the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations 2012 Civil Rights Awards and recognize the four North Idaho College minority student scholarship recipients for the 2012-2013 Academic Year. The scholarships are jointly funded by the Human Rights Education Institute and the North Idaho College Foundation. The scholarships are named for former Idaho Governor Phil Batt and former Idaho State Senator Mary Lou Reed.

Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations Board president Christie Wood said: "We sponsor this banquet as an annual reminder of the need to unite as a people in support of human rights and human dignity." She added: "the banquet is a way for the KCTFHR to provide financial support for the educational programs at the Human Rights Education Institute."

On behalf of the Human Rights Education Institute, Tom Carter, the HREI Executive Director stated: "Just by going to this banquet, the attendees hear the wisdom of a great speaker, gain knowledge, observe diversity and understand the importance of human rights." Carter added: "I would like to see this type of banquet take place in every city around the world."

Banquet tickets are \$40 each or tables for 8 persons can be purchased for \$500 or \$1,000. All the banquet profits go to the Human Rights Education Institute to assist their educational programs as well as the scholarships.