

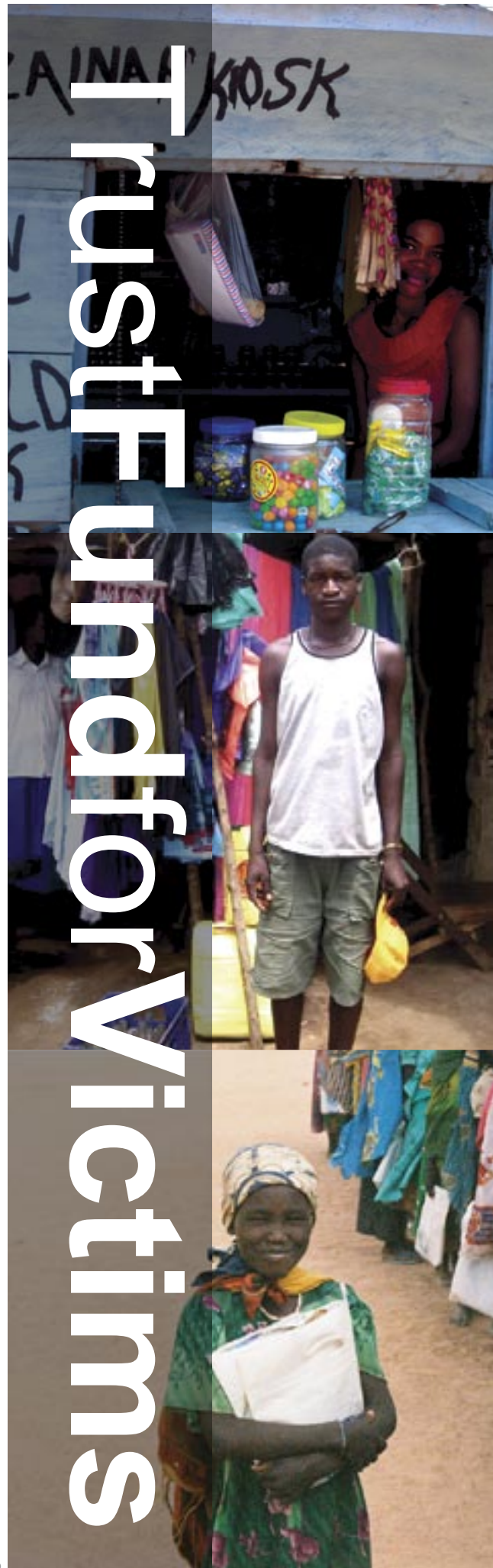
“The Trust Fund for Victims gives rise to immense hope in the community of victims that their pain may be recognized, as envisioned when the Rome Statute was adopted.”

*Madame Minister Simone Veil, France*

At the end of the bloodiest century in human history, the international community made a commitment to justice for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes by adopting the Rome Statute. The Statute created two independent institutions: the International Criminal Court (ICC), for prosecuting those responsible for these crimes and the Trust Fund for Victims, for helping victims.

It is impossible to fully undo the harm caused by these most serious crimes. However, it is possible to help survivors recover their dignity, rebuild their families and communities, and regain their place as fully contributing members of their societies. By giving victims a voice and the tools they need, the Trust Fund for Victims helps to give them renewed hope for the future.

photo credit: Adam Shapiro



## A promise of justice for victims

The Rome Statute reflects the international consensus that justice for victims of the gravest human rights crimes can be achieved, not only in a courtroom, but also beyond. The Statute provides that reparation may be awarded following a conviction for crimes under the Statute. The Trust Fund for Victims can act for the benefit of victims before, or even in the absence of, a conviction by the ICC. In so doing, the Trust Fund for Victims works hand in hand with the Court to avoid interfering with ongoing legal proceedings.

The Trust Fund for Victims benefits from the leadership and guidance of a five-member Board of Directors elected by the Assembly of States Parties for a three year term. Each member serves in an individual capacity on a *pro bono* basis.

### Chair



**Madame Minister Simone Veil, Chair**  
(France, representing Western European and Others States). A campaigner for human rights, especially women’s rights, she has been a leading political figure in France, Europe and within European institutions.

### Board members



**His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu**  
(South Africa, representing African States). Laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize winner 1984 for his work towards a democratic and just South Africa. He served as Chair of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



**His Excellency Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki**  
(Poland, representing Eastern European States). One of the founders of the Solidarity Movement, he was Poland’s first Prime Minister in the post-communist era, and served as a United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.



**His Excellency Mr Arthur N. R. Robinson**  
(Trinidad and Tobago, representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States). Former President of Trinidad and Tobago, and Director of the Foundation for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.



**His Excellency Mr Bulgaa Altangerel**  
(Mongolia, representing the Asian States) Active advocate for human rights and justice both nationally and internationally. Among other assignments, he was the Director-General of the Law and Treaty Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

## TrustFundforVictims

Fonds au profit des victimes

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Cour pénale internationale

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“Just as those who have been capable of the most horrendous atrocities turn out to be ordinary human beings like you and me, so too those who have demonstrated noteworthy instances of the capacity to forgive could easily be the man or woman living down the street. Wonderfully, forgiveness and reconciliation are possible anywhere and everywhere and have indeed been taking place, often unsung, un-remarked.”

*Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa*

*Mary was abducted along with all the other children in her family. Her brother died of cholera in Sudan and her father was killed by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). She was beaten in captivity and repeatedly raped by members of the LRA. Her baby was born when she was only 12. She was freed at 17 and moved into a camp. She still lives with the stigma of being a “rebel wife”, and she wishes that people in her community would try to understand what she suffered. She returned to school with the abiding will “to study very hard and be a medical doctor and, if possible buy my mother a permanent house.”*

*David was abducted at the age of nine from his family in Uganda by the LRA. He started as a porter, but ended up on the front, forced to kill and surviving battles, fear and starvation. Seven years later, after an ambush, he found himself separated from his group and was able to escape. Following his arrest and interrogation in a local army camp, he received some clothes and was sent back to his village. But his problems are far from over. His father died three years before his return. His stepfather rejected him and his three younger brothers and sisters. David wanted to go back to school, but was too old for elementary school and resorted to begging in order to provide for himself and for his siblings. He has recurrent nightmares about death, violence, and torture and he is often taunted by other villagers about being an LRA rebel. “My dream is that, some day, I can learn how to be a construction worker so I can build a house for my brothers and sisters. Then, who knows, maybe I can even make a living out of that trade.”*

*Alice’s neighbourhood was attacked by the rebels three years ago, while she was at school in the nearby village. Twenty-nine people, including her parents, were publicly tortured and executed. When she returned home that night, she found their remains, bearing marks of unspeakable cruelty. This horrendous sight haunts her to this day and may continue to haunt her for the rest of her life. After the killings, Alice’s relatives took her into their home, and other villagers have helped her. Alice retains one special talent which she inherited from her mother: singing. Alice, now 11, has become one of the most promising young singers in Northern Uganda. She hopes “to continue her studies and become a nurse. At the same time, I want to continue singing songs about peace, for all to hear and learn from.”*



Mary, David and Alice are victims of crimes of war. However different their stories are, they are united in grief, sorrow and pain. But they have regained hope.

The mission of the Trust Fund for Victims is to help survivors like Mary, David and Alice rebuild their lives, regain their dignity, and contribute to the reconstruction of their communities. The Fund acts as advocate for victims, raises public awareness, mobilizes resources, and funds or implements innovative projects. It provides assistance and expertise to the most vulnerable victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the most forgotten communities.

Your help can make the difference for these victims. The Trust Fund for Victims needs your voice, your resources and your active support for the benefit of the victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

“I am sure I am no longer like before, but I am not yet finished.”

*Susan, Uganda*

**André Laperrrière**  
*Executive Director*



photo credit: Adam Shapiro



The Trust Fund for Victims develops its activities with the victims themselves as partners, given that each situation is unique. The Fund does not dispense charity; it provides the tools for victims to help themselves regain their dignity, rights, and place within their families and communities. The Fund’s focus on local ownership and leadership empowers victims as partners in the process of rebuilding their lives.

The Trust Fund for Victims works for victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC. These crimes are genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. **Genocide** is the intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, racial, ethnical, or religious group, through acts like killing, torture, prevention of births. **Crimes against humanity** are acts like murder, rape and torture committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against civilians. **War crimes** are violations of the laws and customs of international armed conflict.

Civilians often bear the brunt of the crimes of war. Adults and children witness their loved ones being killed, tortured, and raped. Children are forced to join fighting forces. Women and girls, and sometimes men and boys, are victims of sexual violence. People see their property and livelihoods destroyed. Victims feel stripped of their dignity and may be shunned by their communities. Conflict tears apart the social and economic fabric of communities.

Marginalization makes it harder for victims to be heard, to get help, and rebuild their lives. Those who are stigmatised and vulnerable even in times of peace suffer more acutely in times of conflict. For example, widows returning to their villages have to struggle to get their homes back because women rarely hold title to the family property. The crime committed may compound existing vulnerabilities, or it may lead to victims being ostracised from their communities. Rape victims often refrain from mentioning their plight to avoid being shunned by their families, and people who are horribly disfigured are rejected by their communities.

The Trust Fund for Victims works for the benefit of these most vulnerable survivors.

“The fact that I am alive today is a success, and I think I can work for more in life.”

*Vincent, Uganda*



When the situation of victims is brought to a global audience, the scale of human suffering sometimes makes people feel that they are unable to help. Many victims are afraid or unwilling to tell their stories. As a result, few people are aware of the realities of victims’ lives and of the modest, but important steps that can make a difference. As advocate for victims, the Trust Fund for Victims raises public awareness and reminds us all that survivors are not beyond help.

The Trust Fund for Victims is uniquely positioned as a non-political, cross-cutting organisation dedicated to finding holistic solutions for helping victims and their communities. Working with with NGOs, experts, community groups, governments, and UN agencies, the Fund creates and enhances innovative partnerships and networks at local, national, and international levels .

As an instrument of the international community, the Fund works closely with decision-makers in all international and national settings. The Fund is not a development agency and does not duplicate the activities of other organisations nor compete with them. The core mission of the Trust Fund for Victims is to mobilize people, resources, and political will to develop projects with and for victims and their communities.

The Trust Fund for Victims funds innovative projects that respond to the physical, material, or psychological needs of victims, and by supporting income-generating activities, helps to regain their livelihoods. The Fund also encourages the acknowledgment of atrocities through projects like memorials which contribute to the psychological healing of individuals and families and their communities.

Funding medical treatment for victims with disfiguring injuries reduces the stigma they face and facilitates their reintegration. Counselling helps families welcome children who were abducted or women and girls who were raped. It promotes reconciliation among families and communities. In certain circumstances, the Court may order awards for reparation be made through the Trust Fund for Victims.