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**Community Legal Centres and Australian Lawyers For Human  
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present

**The Hon Gareth Evans AO QC  
President of the International Crisis Group**

speaking on

**“The Responsibility to Protect:  
The Evolution of a New International Norm”**

**4 – 5.30pm**

**Tuesday, 28 August 2007**

at

**Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Level 32, Governor Phillip Tower  
1 Farrer Place, Sydney**

Mr Evans will discuss the emerging responsibility on the part of states and the global community to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

**Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer will chair the event**

**RSVP to Alison Aggarwal, CCLCG by 22 August 2007**  
(passes will need to be issued at the door so please be sure to RSVP)

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**Gareth Evans** has since January 2000 President of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group. He came to Crisis Group after 21 years in Australian politics, thirteen of them as a Cabinet Minister. As Foreign Minister (1988-96) he was best known internationally for his role in developing the UN peace plan for Cambodia, helping conclude the Chemical Weapons Convention, and helping initiate new Asia Pacific regional economic and security architecture. He has written or edited eight books – including *Cooperating for Peace*, launched at the UN in 1993 – and has published over 90 journal articles and chapters on foreign relations, human rights and legal and constitutional reform. He was Co-Chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, which published its report, *The Responsibility to Protect*, in December 2001; and a member and co-author of the reports of the UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (December 2004), the Blix Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction (June 2006), and the Zedillo International Task Force on Global Public Goods (September 2006). He is currently a member of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention.

**Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer AM RFD** is a retired Professor of Law at University of Sydney, a Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee since 2001; and a senior Member (Part-time), of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. His areas of interest include Public international law; the law of the sea; the law of armed conflict; international humanitarian law; human rights law; national security law; and extradition law.

**Community Legal Centres <[www.naclc.org.au](http://www.naclc.org.au) / [www.nswclc.org.au](http://www.nswclc.org.au)>**

Community Legal Centres work for the public interest, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities. We promote human rights, social justice, and a better environment by advocating for access to justice and equitable laws and legal systems, and through the provision of legal services including strategic case work, community legal education and law reform campaigns.

**Australian Lawyers for Human Rights <[www.alhr.asn.au](http://www.alhr.asn.au)>**

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR) is a network of Australian lawyers active in practising and promoting awareness of international human rights standards in Australia.

**International Crisis Group <[www.crisisgroup.org](http://www.crisisgroup.org)>**

The International Crisis Group (Crisis Group) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, with some 130 staff members on five continents, working through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy to prevent and resolve deadly conflict.

## **What is the Responsibility to Protect?**

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity is an international commitment by governments to prevent and react to grave crises, wherever they may occur. In 2005, world leaders agreed, for the first time, that states have a primary responsibility to protect their own populations and that the international community has a responsibility to act when these governments fail to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Throughout the 1990s controversy raged – particularly over Rwanda, Bosnia and Kosovo – between supporters of a ‘right of humanitarian intervention’ and those who argued that state sovereignty, as recognized in the UN Charter, precluded any intervention in internal matters. The R2P concept was aimed at bridging that gap. It originated with the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, *The Responsibility to Protect*, in 2001, and became a central theme in the recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel, *A More Secure World*, in 2004 and of the UN Secretary-General, *In Larger Freedom*, in 2005.

Overwhelmingly, prevention is the key response: through measures aimed in particular at building state capacity, remedying grievances, and ensuring the rule of law. But if prevention fails, R2P requires whatever measures – economic, political, diplomatic, legal, security or in the last resort military – become necessary to stop mass atrocity crimes occurring.

For individual states, R2P means the responsibility to protect their own citizens, and to help other states build their capacity to do so. For international organizations, including the UN, R2P means the responsibility to warn, to generate effective prevention strategies, and when necessary to mobilize effective reaction. For civil society groups and individuals, R2P means the responsibility to force the attention of policymakers on what needs to be done, by whom and when.

The world's heads of state and government unanimously accepted the concept of R2P at the UN World Summit in September 2005. The Security Council has also accepted the general principle. But the task remains, as each new danger of mass atrocity crimes threatens, to translate that principled acceptance into effective action – at the international, national and community level.

[Source: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4521&l=1>]