Evaluating Genocidal Policy: Lesson Instructions

**According to Article 2 of the 1948 United Nations Convention on Genocide, a   
genocide is any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:**

1. **Killing members of the group;**
2. **Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;**
3. **Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;**
4. **Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;**
5. **Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.**

# Preparation & Materials Needed:

* Prerequisite understanding of the Holocaust
* Student worksheet: “Evaluating Genocidal Policy”
* MCHE webpage for “Evaluating Genocidal Policy” or other access to weblinks provided.
* Chart paper, markers
* Assign small groups of students to each of the four case studies.

# Instructions:

**Day One:** Allow time for independent reading and note-taking, using the linked sources.

**Day Two:** Small group discussions/comparisons of findings among students who worked on the same case study. Each group should compile the key points of their case study on chart paper and prepare to present their findings to the whole class the next period.

**Days Three-Four:** Each small group will report on their case study to the whole class. They will state whether or not their case study meets the UN Convention on Genocide definition, providing evidence. Using the key points prepared by each group, the whole class will then compare and contrast the case studies **on the basis of policy and implementation**.\* The focus of this compare-contrast activity is to examine how these case studies are similar and dissimilar to each other and to the Holocaust.

# Enrichment:

# Sadly, there are other examples of mass atrocities that have happened and are happening in the world. Students who wish to continue research into this important topic may begin at… <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention>

# Those who want to learn about places where violence is likely to happen, may begin here… <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/simon-skjodt-center/work/early-warning-project>

# \*Important Note for Teachers:

**Remember that the USHMM Guideline to avoid comparisons of suffering and pain pertains to both individuals and groups. This lesson is an analysis of policy and implementation ONLY!**

Midwest Center for Holocaust Education