

**Honouring the
Srebrenica
Genocide
– 31 Years Later**

**July 11, 1995
8,372...**



Purpose:

- Honour the victims and survivors of the Srebrenica Genocide, 31 years later.
- Thank the City of Toronto for its continued recognition and solidarity.
- Explore opportunities for education, remembrance, and genocide prevention initiatives in Toronto schools.
- Discuss opportunities for long-term commemorative partnerships with the City of Toronto.

Understanding the Srebrenica Genocide

Most Severe Genocide in Europe Since WWII

- Over **8,000 Bosniak men and boys** were systematically executed.
- This atrocity is recognized as the **worst mass killing in Europe since the Holocaust**.

UN-Declared Safe Zone

- In **1993**, the UN designated Srebrenica a “safe zone” under Resolution 819.
- Civilians fled there seeking protection, trusting the **international community**.

Failure to Protect

- Despite the presence of **200 Dutch UN peacekeepers**, the town fell to Bosnian Serb forces.
- The genocide occurred **within a UN-protected area**, highlighting a catastrophic failure by the international community.

Targeted Ethnic Cleansing

- The genocide was part of a broader campaign of **ethnic cleansing** against Bosnian Muslims.
- Thousands of women, children, and elderly were forcibly displaced.

Global Recognition & Responsibility

- The **International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)**, **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, **Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina** have ruled the massacre as **genocide**.





Concealing the Genocide

- Victims were buried in **mass graves** to hide the scale of the genocide.
- Bodies were **exhumed and reburied** in secondary and tertiary sites to destroy evidence.
- Resulting in **fragmented remains** of individuals being found across **multiple grave sites**, complicating identification and recovery efforts.

31 Years Later

- **8,372 identified** victims.
- **Over 1,000 individuals** remain missing to this day.
- **New mass graves** are still being uncovered.
- Every **July 11**, newly identified victims are laid to rest at the **Potocari Memorial Cemetery**, near Srebrenica.



A collage of national flags including Canada, the United States, and the European Union. The Canadian flag is in the top left, the US flag is in the bottom left, and the EU flag is in the bottom right. The background is a mix of red, white, yellow, and blue.

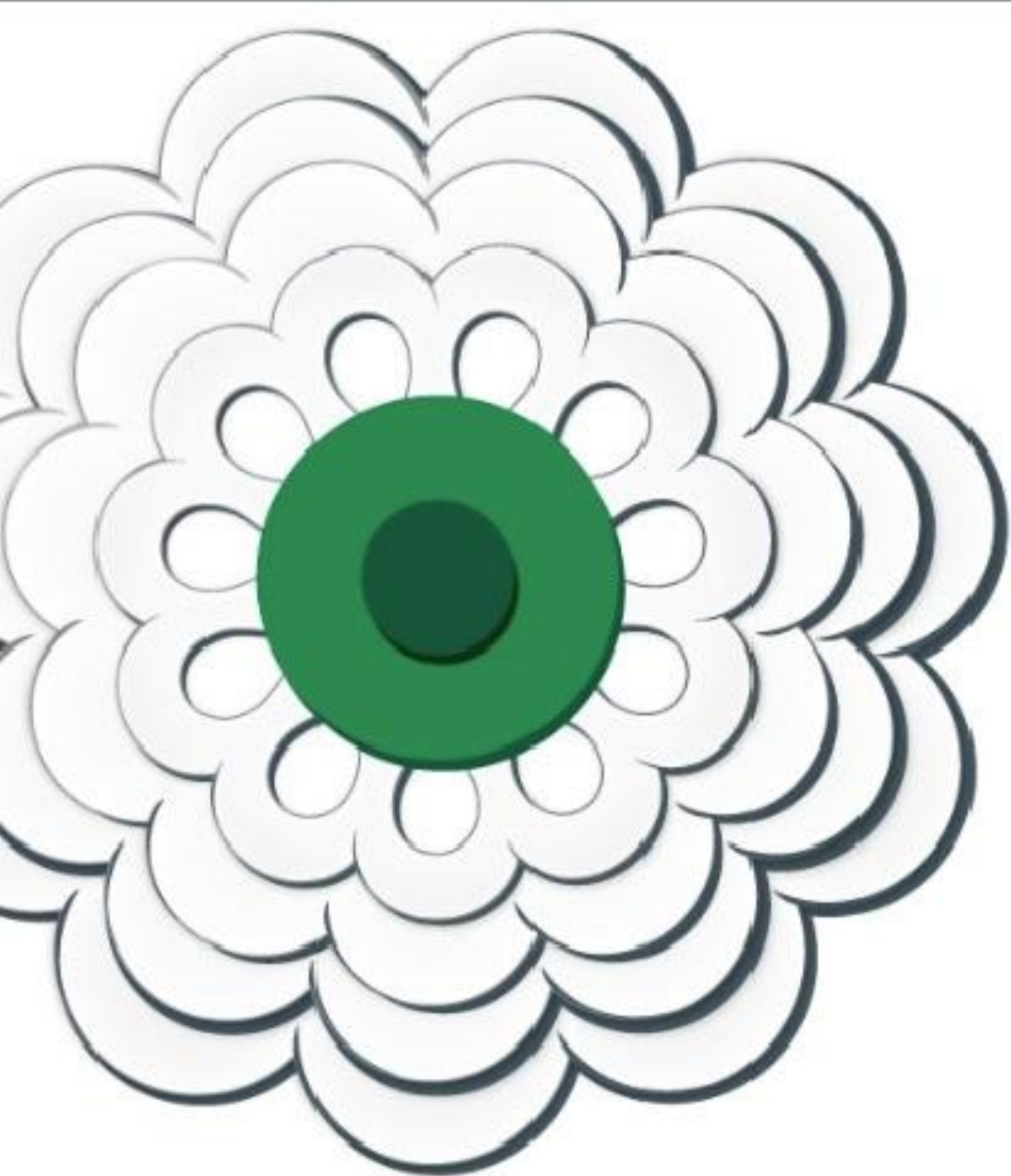
Canada's Role

National Recognition: In 2010, the Canadian Parliament established Srebrenica Genocide Remembrance Day.

International Leadership: In May 2024, Canada co-sponsored UN Resolution A/RES/78/282, officially recognizing July 11 as the *International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica*.

A Strong Ally: Canada has consistently shown solidarity with Bosnia and Herzegovina, supporting survivors and remembrance efforts.

A Connected Community: Canada is home to a significant Bosnian diaspora, including many Srebrenica Genocide survivors.



UN Resolution and Commitment

Official Commemoration

On **May 23, 2024**, the **UN General Assembly** adopted **Resolution A/RES/78/282**.

- Designating **July 11** as the *International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica*.

Global Education & Outreach

- The Resolution established the **UN Outreach Program on the Srebrenica Genocide** - focuses on **education, remembrance, and prevention**.

A Message to the World

- Affirms that **Srebrenica will not be forgotten**.



The Importance of July 11th

Acknowledging Justice

Honouring the Victims

A Commitment to the Future

Community Requests for Recognition and Remembrance

Continuing to issue a formal proclamation.

Supporting educational initiatives.

Approving the creation of a small memorial monument.

Considering the naming of a future street

Thank you
for your
attention

