



McGill Centre for
Human Rights and
Legal Pluralism

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PAYAM AKHAVAN

CAMBRIDGE
STUDIES IN
INTERNATIONAL
AND
COMPARATIVE
LAW

Reducing Genocide to Law

Definition, Meaning, and the
Ultimate Crime



BOOK LAUNCH:

Professor Payam Akhavan, “Reducing Genocide to Law”

with the participation of Professor Daniel Jutras, Dean McGill Faculty of Law, and The Honourable Justice Nicholas Kasirer, former Dean McGill Faculty of Law.

28 March from 5:30-7:00 PM (6th floor, New Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel, McGill Faculty of Law)

Could the prevailing view that genocide is the ultimate crime be wrong? Is it possible that it is actually on an equal footing with war crimes and crimes against humanity? Is the power of the word genocide derived from something other than jurisprudence? And why should a hierarchical abstraction assume such importance in conferring meaning on suffering and injustice? Could reducing a reality that is beyond reason and words into a fixed category undermine the very progress and justice that such labelling purports to achieve? For some, these questions may border on the international law equivalent of blasphemy. This original and daring book, written by a renowned scholar and practitioner who was the first Legal Advisor to the UN Prosecutor at The Hague, is a probing reflection on empathy and our faith in global justice.

Further information on the book can be found on the Cambridge University Press website at: http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/printView/item6595983/?site_locale=en_GB