Sara Corning Centre for Genocide Education
www.corningcentre.org

Reading: *Genocide Denial Definition*

Excerpt from Dr. Gregory Stanton's *10 Stages of Genocide*

"DENIAL is the final stage that lasts throughout and always follows a genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that they committed any crimes, and often blame what happened on the victims. They block investigations of the crimes, and continue to govern until driven from power by force, when they flee into exile. There they remain with impunity, like Pol Pot or Idi Amin, unless they are captured and a tribunal is established to try them. The response to denial [should be] punishment by an international tribunal or national courts. There the evidence can be heard, and the perpetrators punished. Tribunals like the Yugoslav or Rwanda Tribunals, or an international tribunal to try the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, or an International Criminal Court may not deter the worst genocidal killers. But with the political will to arrest and prosecute them, some may be brought to justice."

Discussion

1- Why do you think a perpetrator would deny a crime?
2- What reasons would you provide to justify responding/not responding to denial of genocide?
3- Do you agree with Dr. Stanton's suggestion that genocide denial be punished by an international tribunal or national court? If so, why? If not, then how should it be addressed?
4- Let's look at denial in our own communities at a scale much smaller than the one we are about to discuss. This will help us understand the individual impact of denial. Complete the reflection handout and prepare to share and discuss in small or large groups.

Reflect

Make a text to self connection → reflect about a time when you, or someone you know, experienced negativity as a consequence of denial; how was the situation dealt with? How did it make you or your friend feel?

Name: _____ **Date:** _____