

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 43

Proclaiming December 9, 2025, as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

- A. As a government whose core values include accountability and social justice, Multnomah County is committed to taking actions that raise awareness and acknowledge the atrocities of genocide past and present – in honor of victims, survivors, and affected communities, and to support healing and progress toward a real lasting peace.
- B. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly established December 9th as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.
- C. December 9th, 2025 marks the 77th anniversary of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (commonly referred to as the “Genocide Convention”), the first human rights treaty adopted by the General Assembly.
- D. The Genocide Convention (article 2) defines genocide as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group ... ", including:
 - 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.
- E. This landmark treaty arose from humanity’s collective horror at atrocities committed such as the Holocaust - which serve as reminders of the depths to which we can fall when the world turns a blind eye to suffering - and signifies the international community’s commitment to “never again.”

- F. Today, as the County marks the adoption of the Genocide Convention in 1948, we are reminded of its solemn promise: never again. The genocide of Native Americans in this country, along with past genocides in Namibia, Armenia, in Europe during the Holocaust, in Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, and Congo, and the present-day genocides in Myanmar, Palestine, and Sudan, serve as stark reminders of the need for vigilance and action to uphold the treaty's principles and ensure an end to impunity.
- G. The Genocide Convention does not simply condemn genocide; it obligates states to act, to prevent, and to protect. It places a legal and moral duty on governments to identify and respond to the risk of genocide wherever it arises. Yet, too often, states have failed this duty.
- H. History has shown that failing to act in the face of atrocity crimes allows the unthinkable to become a grim reality. On this day, as we reflect on the lessons of the past, we must also act for the future. The best way to honour the victims and survivors of genocide is to take action. Together, we call for an end to the suffering, an end to impunity, and an end to the atrocities.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

December 9, 2025 as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime in Multnomah County, Oregon.

SIGNED this 3rd day of December, 2025.

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SPONSORED BY: Chair Jessica Vega Pederson, Commissioner Vince Jones-Dixon, Commissioner Meghan Moyer, Immigrants and Refugee Employee Resource Group