



**MONTREAL INSTITUTE
FOR GENOCIDE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
AT CONCORDIA**

Annual Report 2022-23

Summer 2023





“Our priorities for the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now are being energized by dedicated friends and partners whose gifts support a range of critical needs and impactful changes that will make a difference for Concordia today, tomorrow and for decades to come.”

— Graham Carr, President, Concordia University

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the Executive Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS), I am honored to share with you some exciting updates on what we have accomplished this year and express our deepest gratitude for your continued support.

Over the past year, MIGS has embarked on a remarkable journey, significantly expanding our work, and forging meaningful partnerships with international organizations, including the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. These collaborations have allowed us to strengthen our commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, while shining a light on the unique role our institute plays in showcasing Concordia University at the national and global levels.

One of our key achievements has been our dedicated efforts to support Ukraine. By bringing together parliamentarians from around the world under the umbrella of the Global Parliamentary Alliance Against Atrocity Crimes, MIGS has effectively fostered a collective voice to protect Ukrainian civilians and to work toward justice. Through our advocacy and advisory work, we have made substantial progress in supporting Ukraine during these challenging times.

Furthermore, MIGS has been at the forefront of countering the use of emerging technologies by authoritarian governments. With technology rapidly evolving and being harnessed as a tool for oppression, it has become paramount for us to confront this issue proactively. Through our rigorous public policy work, advocacy campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives, MIGS has been instrumental in raising awareness and developing strategies to safeguard human rights in the face of these challenges.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support and generosity of supporters in Montreal and Canada. The support from our donors has enabled MIGS to expand its reach, create meaningful change, and empower those affected by injustice. Together, we have made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to our cause and committed to making an even greater impact in the future. The challenges we face are complex and evolving, but with your support, we are confident that we can continue to make a tangible difference and create a more just and inclusive world.

Once again, thank you for standing with us.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kyle Matthews
Executive Director
Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies



“By expanding their research capacity and pushing important issues around peace internationally (with Principles for Peace) and online (around cybersecurity), MIGS continues its growth as Canada's preeminent centre on human rights and the prevention of mass atrocities.”

— Lieutenant-General The Honourable Roméo Dallaire (ret),
Senior Distinguished Fellow

ABOUT MIGS

The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies is recognized internationally as Canada’s leading institute working at the intersection of human rights, conflict prevention and emerging technologies. MIGS is an applied policy think tank that works to inform public policy in Canada and abroad with the goal of protecting human rights. The institute has achieved national and international recognition for its role as a leadership and ideas incubator working with policymakers, academics, UN officials, civil society organizations and journalists from Canada and all over the world.

MISSION

- Develop major projects and initiatives focusing on the prevention and punishment of mass atrocity crimes.
- Provide decision-makers with insights and advocate for innovative public policies on global threats to human rights.
- Educate students, academics, journalists, government officials, civil society groups, and the wider public on threats to the national interest arising from human rights violations.
- Provide professional training opportunities for international and national leaders in key human rights areas.
- Train and offer internships to students and young professionals.
- Develop and foster fruitful relationships and networks at the local, national, and international levels by working in collaboration with leading organizations and institutions.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

2022-2023 has been another successful year for the Institute. MIGS launched a series of new projects and expanded its work with experts and practitioners from around the globe. Furthermore, following two years of online events and projects as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, MIGS has transitioned to organizing more in-person and hybrid events.

- In May 2022, MIGS launched the Global Parliamentary Alliance Against Atrocity Crime. With the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Canada, MIGS created a network of Canadian, German and EU-member state parliamentarians and experts, to explore how they can better respond to ongoing mass atrocity crimes and war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine.
- In September 2022, MIGS launched the Digital Peace Project, with the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage. The project seeks to contribute to national efforts to mitigate online hate and is designed to uphold the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.
- As part of MIGS' Countering Digital Authoritarianism Initiative supported by the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, MIGS launched the report "Digital Authoritarianism: Pathways, Trends, Solutions", which includes the major findings of the digital roundtable discussions and podcast interviews organized and hosted by MIGS throughout June 2021 and June 2022.
- MIGS and the Geneva-based CyberPeace Institute signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on supporting the Humanitarian Cybersecurity Center, which aims to safeguard NGOs from cyberattacks.
- MIGS awarded the John Lemieux Faculty Fellowship to [Aphrodite Salas](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism at Concordia University. Her fellowship work focuses on preserving freedom of the media and combating misinformation and disinformation in southeast Europe.
- MIGS selected Concordia University students Elora Bussière-Ladouceur, Mohawib Hassan Doualeh and Jay Sallos-Carter as the [John Lemieux Student Fellows](#) for the 2022-23 academic year. The annual program offers an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students at Concordia University to develop practical skills in the field of human rights.
- MIGS appointed three new [Fellows](#): Eric Meerkamper (cofounder of the Centre for Social Innovation and advisory board member at the CyberPeace Institute), Dominic Cardy (former New Brunswick Minister of Education), and Professor Dr. Ekkehard Strauss (former UN official and professor at the Berlin School of Economics).

INITIATIVES

Mobilizing action against atrocity crimes in Ukraine



When Russia launched its illegal invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, MIGS mobilized its expertise and network to expose war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia troops in Ukraine.

With the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Canada, MIGS launched the [Global Parliamentary Alliance Against Atrocity Crimes](#). We brought together and created a network of Canadian, German, and EU-member state legislators and practitioners to explore how parliamentarians can better respond to crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine. MIGS hosted [four meetings](#) to help and assist the coordination of effort to protect Ukrainians and hold perpetrators to account. Participants included Bill Browder, retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire, Marilou McPhedran (Canadian senator), Irwin Cotler (Chair, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights), Allan Rock (former Attorney General of Canada), Lesia Vasylenko (member of Parliament Ukraine), Anya Neistat (Legal Director, Clooney Foundation for Justice), Lloyd Axworthy (former Minister of Foreign Affairs), Eerik-Niiles Kross (member of the European Parliament), Sergey Lagodinsky (member of the European Parliament) and Janine di Giovanni (founder of the Reckoning Project).

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REACT
November 24, 2022
9:30 AM EST.

- Eerik-Niiles Kross
Estonian Member of Parliament
- Philip Durr
Research Assistant,
Institute for Constitutional Law
University of Bonn
- Azeem Ibrahim
Professor at the Strategic
Studies Institute and
Director Newlines Institute
for Strategy and Policy
- Lesia Vasylenko
Ukrainian Member of
Parliament
- Charles Tiné
Founder the Small Projects
Fund and Board Member,
Team4UA
- Christian Castagna
Parliamentary
Collaborator
- Eleonora Mongelli
Vice President, Italian
Federation for Human Rights
- Irwin Cotler
Former Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
of Canada

GPA AAC
KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

MIGS selected four experts to write [policy papers](#), including Eleonora Mongelli (VP of the Italian Federation for Human Rights), Philipp Dürr (research assistant, Institute for Public International Law, University of Bonn) Mark Kersten (Deputy Director, Wayamo Foundation), and Ewelina Ochab (cofounder, Coalition for Genocide Response). Finally, we recorded [seven podcast interviews](#) with experts such as Oleksandra Matviichuk (2022 Nobel Peace Prize Winner and head of the Center for Civil Liberties), Nick Waters (Bellingcat), Lesia Vasylenko (Ukrainian MP), and Iryna Matviyishyn (Ukrainian journalist).

To better coordinate the efforts of Canadian parliamentarians, MIGS organized a briefing with MPs on Parliament Hill, held a press conference and met with members of the Canadian Senate and officials at Global Affairs Canada. In November, MIGS' Executive Director travelled to Germany, Belgium and France to meet with civil society members and European officials and speak about MIGS' GPAAAC initiative and future collaborations.



MIGS continues to build on this initiative. MIGS staff have given and continue to give a number of media interviews and conferences to draw attention to Russia's ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity. In collaboration with Concordia's Department of Journalism, MIGS also published a special series of audio stories on the war in Ukraine. Finally, with the support of the Canadian Department of National Defence and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, in October 2023, MIGS will host the Montreal International Security Summit, a high-level gathering of scholars, experts and policymakers.

COMBATING ONLINE HATE

For over a decade, MIGS has been working to combat online harm, including hate and disinformation, through projects such as the [Digital Mass Atrocity Prevention Lab](#), the [Canadian Women Leaders' Digital Defence Initiative](#), Mapping Online Hate in Canada, as well as the [Canadian Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism](#).

In September, MIGS launched the [Digital Peace Project](#), with the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage. The project seeks to contribute to national efforts to mitigate online hate while respecting freedom of expression. This is being accomplished by engaging with civil society actors, particularly those from ethnic, cultural, religious and visible minority communities. More specifically, the project aims to increase the capacity of ethnic and cultural communities to confront racism and discrimination online by giving them a platform to express their opinions and contribute to possible solutions. MIGS has already hosted four public roundtable discussions, conducted a public perception survey, and will convene focus groups to discuss policy implications. The project will also include a policy paper, podcast interviews, and digital campaign social media bot to raise awareness of online hate.



Throughout the year, MIGS' staff attended, participated in, and spoke at a number of conferences and meetings on topics related to online hate, including events organized by the United Nations, Global Affairs Canada, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the U.S. State Department's Strong Cities Network, PEN International, and the Freedom Online Coalition.

In December, MIGS' Kyle Matthews and Project Leader Lauren Salim travelled to Vienna to present the institute's work on the panel "Gendered hatred and disinformation: AI – friend or foe?" at the SAIFE Expedition organized by the OSCE's Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. In March 2023, MIGS' project coordinator Marie Lamensch participated in the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women as a member of Canada's civil society delegation to the Commission. The event focused on women and tech innovation, particularly tech-facilitated violence against women.



SPOTLIGHT ON DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM

With the speed of technological progress, from artificial intelligence to surveillance technologies, MIGS understands the need to take concrete action to raise awareness about the abuse of technologies by illiberal and authoritarian governments.

In April 2022, MIGS organized its annual "Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights" forum in collaboration with eQualitie, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. One of the main focuses of the program was digital authoritarianism. Speakers included, amongst others, Rastislav Šutek (Executive Director, Platform for Peace and Humanity), Judge Silvia Fernandez De Gurmendi (GAAMAC Chair), Lord Clement-Jones (Member of Parliament (UK) Parliamentarians for Global Action), Francesca Bosco (Chief Strategy Officer, CyberPeace Institute), and Francesca Fanucci (Senior Legal Advisor, European Center for Not-For-Profit Law).

As part of MIGS' Countering Digital Authoritarianism Initiative supported by the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, we launched the report "[Digital Authoritarianism: Pathways, Trends, Solutions](#)". Written by Jessica Brandt, Policy Director at the Brookings Institution, the report aims to increase our understanding of the various pathways through which authoritarian regimes use digital tools to shore up their grip on power.

DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM: PATHWAYS, TRENDS, SOLUTIONS.

Author: Jessica Brandt

Prepared for the Montreal Institute
for Genocide and Human Rights
Studies

Sept 2022



MIGS staff and fellows presented their work on digital authoritarianism at a number of public conferences in Canada and abroad. In November, Kyle Matthews and Fellow Eric Meerkamper attended the Council of Europe's World Forum for Democracy and presented the institute's Digital Authoritarianism Initiative at a panel discussion titled, "[Fighting disinformation and the power of social media](#)". In addition, MIGS' Global Digital Authoritarianism Index project was selected as one of the initiatives to be considered for the forum's annual Democracy Innovation Award. MIGS hosted a workshop at Access Now's #RightsCon 2022 titled, "Building a Global Digital Authoritarianism Index" with speakers Peter Guest (enterprise editor for Rest of World) and Caitlin Thompson (reporter for the Coda Story).

MIGS' staff has given consultations and courses on digital authoritarianism, including for Global Affairs Canada, the U.S. State Department, the Canadian Embassy in Mexico, the Stimson Centre, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Access Now.

Finally MIGS also became the first Canadian official supporter of the Copenhagen Pledge on Tech for Democracy, a Danish-led initiative that brings together representatives from governments, multilateral organizations, tech industry and civil society to make technology work for democracy and human rights, not against them. MIGS and the Geneva-based CyberPeace Institute signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in supporting the Humanitarian Cybersecurity Center, which aims to safeguard NGOs from cyberattacks.



At [@Microsoft](#)'s [@un](#) office for the [#UNGA77](#) event
Tech for Democracy organized by [@DanishMFA](#)



PROMOTING PEACE AND PREVENTING GENOCIDE

In 2022, MIGS continued its work as an official partner of Interpeace's [Principles for Peace](#) (P4P) Initiative, a global participatory initiative that aims to reframe how peace processes are understood and implemented. MIGS supports its Distinguished Senior Fellow, retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire, in his work as commissioner of this global initiative. In January, Dallaire participated in the official launch of the P4P's Peacemaking Covenant.

Raising awareness about conflicts and genocide remains one of MIGS' central goals and we continue to organize and speak at events on contemporary atrocity crimes. To cite only a few examples, in December, Kyle Matthews travelled to Armenia to speak at the 2022 [Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide](#), organized by the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, and the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes initiative. In February, Kyle Matthews participated in the [International Program on Holocaust and Genocide Education](#), an event organized by UNESCO and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that brings together experts from around to globe who seek to advance education about the Holocaust and genocide globally.



EVENTS

MIGS regularly organizes and speaks at events at Concordia University and internationally. In the past year, MIGS has organized and participated in over 100 events, including conferences, panel discussions, policy briefings and online discussions with a broad range of experts from government, academia, media, civil society, government, and the United Nations.

These events were often organized in partnership with organizations, such as the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Canadian International Council, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Freedom Online Coalition and the Institute for Economics and Peace.

Key events included:

- Kyle Matthews presented the findings of the MIGS “Canadian Women Leader’s Digital Defence Initiative” as part of Heritage Canada’s Digital Citizen Contribution Program
- MIGS, Security and Justice for Tigrayans Canada, and World Beyond War hosted a virtual discussion to shine light on the ongoing crisis occurring in the Tigray region of Ethiopia
- Kyle Matthews attended a roundtable discussion on the challenges with online safety with the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage
- MIGS hosted a virtual book launch with award-winning *Wall Street Journal* journalists Josh Chin and Liza Lin to discuss their book, [*“Surveillance State: Inside China’s Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control”*](#)

Book Launch

Surveillance State
Inside China’s Quest to Launch a New Era
of Social Control

Oct. 13
9:30 am (EST)



Liza Lin



Josh Chin



Concordia
UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE
AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

- Kyle Matthews attended a civil society expert roundtable discussion on democracy promotion organized by Global Affairs Canada and chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Mélanie Joly
- MIGS hosted a workshop at #RightsCon 2022 titled, “Building a Global Digital Authoritarianism Index”
- MIGS’ Executive Director participated in a UN General Assembly side event organized by Microsoft, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Access Now, titled, “Tech for Democracy: Problems, Progress and the Copenhagen Pledge”
- MIGS Senior Distinguished Fellow retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire gave a lecture to journalism students at Concordia University where he spoke about the role of journalism in complex conflicts and peace processes



- Kyle Matthews participated in the OSCE’s Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media workshop on content governance in crises
- Kyle Matthews and Digital Fellow Phil Gurski participated in the Canadian launch of the 2023 Global Terrorism Index, which was hosted by the University of Ottawa’s Professional Development Institute National Security program

- Marie Lamensch attended the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women as an official member of the Canadian Civil Society Delegation



- MIGS hosted an informal discussion with author and *Toronto Star* journalist Joanna Chiu on the occasion of the publication of the French translation of her book, *China Unbound: A New World Disorder*



- Kyle Matthews, Savita Pawnday (Executive Director, Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect), and Christopher Tuckwood (Executive Director, Sentinel Project) held meetings in Ottawa with members of Parliament, senators, civil society representatives and officials at Global Affairs Canada to discuss strategies to prevent atrocity crimes



- MIGS held an event with Tibetan activist and writer Tenzin Tsundue on human rights in Tibet. The event was organized in partnership with the Canada Tibet Committee



MIGS is also constantly looking for *innovative* ways to communicate its work with policymakers, experts and academics. Over the past year, we have been using Twitter Spaces to discuss important human rights topics, from the conflict in Ethiopia and the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, to the situation in Afghanistan and ongoing human rights violations in Ukraine. MIGS hosted speakers such as Ambassador Bob Rae (Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN), Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya (Permanent Representative of Ukraine) to the UN, David Troy (Fellow at Future Frontlines, New America), Senator Marilou McPhedran, Robert Avetissian (Representative of the Republic of Artsakh in the U.S.) and Nathaniel Raymond (Executive Director of the Humanitarian Research Lab at the Yale School of Public Health). All our Twitter Spaces are available as podcast episodes on [Apple podcast](#) and [Spotify](#).



Assessing Russia's disinformation at the UN Security Council
Twitter Spaces
4 May - 11:30 am (EDT)



Hon. Bob Rae
Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations

Concordia MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES



Peace, Security and Russia's Seat on the UN Security Council
Twitter Spaces
17 May - 11:00 am (EDT)



Sergiy Kyslytsya
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN

Concordia MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

IN THE MEDIA

Disseminating knowledge and expertise is at the heart of MIGS' mission, and the institute's staff and fellows appeared in the media over 100 times over the past year. MIGS continues to grow its presence in media across Canada and abroad through interviews, op-eds and other publications, including media outlets and publications, such as Forbes, the *Globe and Mail*, the *National Post*, the *Ottawa Citizen*, *La Presse*, the *Hill Times*, TVA, Global News, *Al Jazeera*, CTV, *Le Devoir*, and the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Notable articles

- [“For Syria’s White Helmets, the Ukraine War is Déjà Vu”](#), Marie Lamensch, May 19, 2022. Centre for International Governance and Innovation.
- [“Money Laundering is Not A Victimless Crime”](#), Mark Kersten, June 19, 2022. *Globe and Mail*.
- [“U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine: War Crimes Were Committed in Ukraine”](#), Ewelina Ochab, September 23, 2022. *Forbes*.
- [“Justice for War Crimes in Ukraine Must Not Be Delayed”](#), Mark Kersten, October 3, 2022. *Al Jazeera*.
- [“Heightened Risk of Genocide Against Tigrayans in Ethiopia”](#), Ewelina Ochab, October 26, 2022. *Forbes*.
- [“In Brazil, “Techno-Authoritarianism” Rears Its Head”](#), Marie Lamensch, September 19, 2022. Center for International Governance and Innovation.
- [“Confronting the Growing Digital Threat to Human Rights and Democracy”](#), Kyle Matthews and Erick Meerkamper, 19 December 2022. *Toronto Star*.
- [“Facebook’s Algorithms are Hungry for Trump, But is He to Blame for Violent Extremism Online?”](#), Lauren Salim and Joshua Sallos-Carter, February 13, 2023. Human Rights Research Center.
- [“Il a toujours été question de l’Europe”](#), Katerina Sviderska, March 10, 2023. *La Presse*.
- [“At the UN, Women Lead Efforts to Bridge the Digital Divide”](#), Marie Lamensch, April 20, 2023. Center for International Governance and Innovation.

Notable interviews

- Kyle Matthews spoke to [CTV News Montreal](#) about the rise of hate speech targeting Quebec politicians and what it means for democracy.
- MIGS' Senior Distinguished Fellow retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire spoke to [Global News](#) about Canada's announcement to establish diplomatic relations with Rwanda.
- MIGS Project Coordinator Marie Lamensch spoke to [CBC news](#) about the rise of digital authoritarianism, particularly in Iran.
- Kyle Matthews spoke to [CTV News Montreal](#) about the humanitarian fallout in Afghanistan and the recent ban of women from international NGOs.
- MIGS Marie Lamensch spoke to TVA LCN about war crimes and the abduction of children in Ukraine.
- Kyle Matthews gave an interview to [CTV News](#) about the growing humanitarian crisis in Haiti.

SOCIAL MEDIA

While MIGS' network and activities extend well beyond the university campus, the institute has long embraced social media as a strategic way to engage and foster debate on important human rights issues, and to promote its fellows, events, projects, advocacy efforts and media appearances. In addition to MIGS primary account, different MIGS initiatives have their own social media outreach and accounts. In the past year, MIGS has gained more followers on social media, particularly thanks to our numerous Twitter Spaces discussions with experts and practitioners. These conversations have allowed us to reach and engage with a far wider audience.

- Facebook: 1.2K followers
- LinkedIn: 2,270 connections
- Twitter
 - @ Migsinstitute: 6,900
 - @ W2I: 1,525
 - @ DigAuthoIndex: 560
 - @ TheGPAAAC: 226
 - @ DMAP_Lab: 1,266

With its more than 1,500 subscribers, MIGS' newsletter reaches a select group of scholars, journalists and diplomats around the world who are informed on a weekly basis about the institutes's events, publications, media interventions, advocacy campaigns and other activities.

Podcast

MIGS Podcast "Human Rights Talks" is now available on Apple podcast and Spotify. It features interviews with figures such Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Oleksandra Matvichuuk, *Wall Street Journal* journalists Josh Chin and Liza Lin, Canadian Senator Marielou McPhedran, Ukrainian MP Lesia Vasylenko, and Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism.

ADVOCACY

- On World Refugee Day, MIGS joined over 70 other civil society groups to call for urgent measures to protect Uyghurs at risk of refoulement.
- As a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility, MIGS supported a statement ahead of the UN General Assembly plenary meeting on the Responsibility to Protect.
- Along with 500 civil society organizations, MIGS signed an open letter to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in advance of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.
- MIGS signed an open letter by Human Rights Watch calling on states to support the resolution requesting a debate on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on the situation in Xinjiang at the UN Human Rights Council.
- MIGS signed an Access Now petition calling on the African Union to help reconnect the internet in Tigray and across Ethiopia.
- MIGS co-signed a joint letter calling on governments convening at the Summit for Democracy 2023 to prioritize human rights due diligence for spyware technologies.



LOOKING AHEAD

MIGS continues to grow as a public-facing institution committed to being a hub at Concordia University, working at the intersection of human rights, security and technology.

Thanks to the support of the late John F. Lemieux, BA 66, MIGS now has an annual paid fellowship program for Concordia students and faculty to become more engaged in our work. The program offers a unique opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students at Concordia University to gain experience and develop practical skills in the field of human rights.

MIGS will continue its work on the Digital Peace Project by holding consultation, convening focus groups, publishing a policy paper, and working with Areto Labs to continue monitoring accounts of Canadian leaders in journalism and politics to analyze trends of online hate directed at them.

MIGS has been awarded funding from the Canadian Department of Defence and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Canada, to host the Montreal International Security Summit on October 11-12, 2023. This in-person conference will focus on Russia's war on Ukraine and will feature leading experts and public figures from Europe, Canada and the United States.

MIGS' John Lemieux Faculty Fellow, Liam Maloney and Aphrodite Salas, will continue their collaboration with MIGS. Liam Maloney will host a series of events on the use of open-source intelligence (OSINT) to better investigate and report on human rights stories. Aphrodite Salas will continue to focus on preserving freedom of the media and combatting misinformation and disinformation in southeast Europe. Her fellowship complements MIGS' work on online harm, including the Digital Authoritarianism Atlas, Russia disinformation in Ukraine, and our collaborations with organizations such as the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes.

Thanks to the generous continued support of Concordia alumnus James Stanford, MIGS remains committed to supporting the work of retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire and his efforts to reframe how peace processes are understood and implemented. This will include continuing our partnership with Interpeace's Principles for Peace (P4P) Initiative as they enter into the next phase of their work, including dissemination and implementation.

OUR DONORS

Over the past year, MIGS has received funding for specific projects:

- The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Canada funded the Global Parliamentary Alliance Against Atrocity Crimes
- James Stanford and Principles for Peace support MIGS' work with retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire
- The Department of Canadian Heritage awarded MIGS for the Digital Peace Project

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

- Kyle Matthews, Executive Director
- Marie Lamensch, Program and Outreach Coordinator
- Lauren Salim, Project Officer
- Retired Lieutenant-General, Honourable Roméo Dallaire
- Frank Chalk, Co-Founder and Director of Research
- Breana Cera Emard, Project Officer (2022)

JOHN LEMIEUX STUDENT FELLOWS 2022-23

- Elora Bussière-Ladouceur
- Mohawib Hassan Doualeh
- Joshua "Jay" Sallos-Carter

YOUTH FELLOWS

- Michaela De Toldi
- Katerina Sviderska
- Jack Zimakas

FELLOWS

- Alexander Corbeil, Content Policy Lead, Canada, at TikTok
- Andrei Serbin Pont, international analyst, Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales
- Diego Osorio, Senior Policy Advisor, Climate Security and COE, Global Affairs Canada
- Ekkehard Strauss, professor, Berlin School of Economics
- Éloge C. Butera, Global Affairs Canada
- Eric Meerkamper, Co-Founder, Centre for Social Innovation

- Ewelina U.Ochab, legal researcher, human rights advocate and co-founder, Coalition for Genocide Response
- Fannie Lafontaine, human rights lawyer, and professor, Faculty of Law, Université Laval
- Joana Cook, assistant professor, terrorism and political violence, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University, and editor-in-chief, *International Centre for Counter Terrorism*
- Joe Landry, Senior Policy Research Analyst, Global Trends and Geopolitical Analysis and Strategic Policy, Future of Diplomacy, Global Affairs Canada
- Liam Maloney, John Lemieux Faculty Fellow
- Mark Kersten, Senior Researcher, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto
- Michael Petrou, adjunct research professor in the department of history, and historian at the Canadian War Museum
- Naomi Kikoler, Director, Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Nicolai Pogadl, Global Diplomacy Lab
- Phil Gurski, President and CEO, Borealis Threat and Risk Consulting
- Wale Adeboye, West Africa focal representative, Africa Working Group of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocities initiative
- Zach Devereaux, Defense Scientist, Defence Research and Development Canada

PARTNERS

- Canadian All Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity
- Canadian International Council
- CyberPeace Institute
- Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales
- Centre de prévention de la radicalisation menant à la violence
- Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAMAAC)
- Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect
- Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum
- Human Rights Research and Education Centre (University of Ottawa)
- The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Canada
- Office of the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide
- Parliamentarians for Global Action
- Principles for Peace
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate

TESTIMONIALS



“As a student at Concordia’s School of Community and Public Affairs, the John Lemieux Fellowship through MIGS offered the opportunity to expand my network across the field of human rights research and advocacy while developing skills in organizational outreach, data analysis, and content creation. The supervisor at MIGS acted like a mentor and helped tailor the role to my academic program to facilitate a highly relevant and enriching professional experience to complement my academic career.”

– Joshua “Jay” Sallos-Carter, MIGS John Lemieux Student Fellow 2022-23



“Looking back on my experience at MIGS, I can confidently say that this fellowship was noteworthy as it enabled me to build on my prior knowledge of political science and engage in high-level thinking about human rights protection and advocacy work conducted by civil society organizations. Engaging in this fellowship allowed me to gain the confidence to pursue a career in the field, and alleviated my anxieties about how I could use my degree in the upcoming years. My time at MIGS only made me more eager for future opportunities outside of the classroom and their immense potential for personal and professional growth.”

– Mohawib Hassan Doualeh, John Lemieux Student Fellow



“It has been a pleasure and honour to work as a Digital Fellow at MIGS. The team’s programming on Ukraine, which brought in international and regional experts and decision-makers, is as impressive as it is impactful. Over the last year, I was grateful to participate in their events and to be invited to write an article for their project. I have seen firsthand how MIGS and its erudite staff — especially Marie and Kyle — is shaping contemporary debates on conflict, peace and justice by providing unique fora to discuss these issues and to identify meaningful policies to address them.”

– Mark Kersten, MIGS Fellow



“As the John Lemieux Faculty Fellow with a special interest in disinformation, I was able to work with research staff at MIGS, a senior journalism student, and contacts around the world to produce a series of three podcasts featuring original stories from the war in Ukraine. The support from MIGS, as well as the platform from which we were able to publish and amplify the podcast, was invaluable. It is also important to note that the programming and outreach at MIGS is extraordinary and has made a great impact on my work in the Department of Journalism at Concordia University. Overall, I find MIGS to be a dynamic, extremely relevant group, which offers excellent opportunities for collaboration. They are connected, bright, accessible, and hard-working. It is a pleasure to work with MIGS and I look forward to working on many more projects together in the future.”

– Aphrodite Salas, John Lemieux Faculty Fellow



“My fellowship with MIGS has enabled me to undergo a weeklong training with the highly-regarded OSINT group Bellingcat in Amsterdam, NL. It was an incredible opportunity that enhanced and expanded my skills in open-source investigative techniques – skills that I am now applying to a human rights investigation into the mistreatment of Sri Lankan asylum seekers by foreign governments, as well as additional investigations into war crimes being committed in Ukraine. This fellowship will culminate in the development of a work group with graduate students from Concordia’s Department of Journalism, as well as a speaker series, beginning in the fall semester. Throughout the process, I have had incredible support and assistance from Kyle and Marie, for which I am very grateful.”

– Liam Maloney, John Lemieux Faculty Fellow

CANADA'S NEXT-GEN UNIVERSITY

[Concordia](#) is a next-generation university, continually reimagining the future of higher education. Established in 1974, Concordia is located in vibrant and multicultural Montreal, North America's favourite student city. Its two campuses are situated in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal, on the traditional lands and waters of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. Concordia is the [top-ranked university in North America founded within the last 50 years](#) and among the most innovative in its approach to experiential learning and cross-functional research.

The university annually registers 51,250 diverse and engaged students in its [Faculty of Arts and Science](#), [John Molson School of Business](#), [Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science](#) and [Faculty of Fine Arts](#), and in [Concordia Continuing Education](#). The university employs more than 6,700 faculty and staff and has over 253,000 alumni worldwide. The university annually secures nearly \$61.9 million in sponsored research income.

Concordia's [strategic directions](#) set out a vision for the future and exemplify a daring and transformative outlook to some of the most important issues of our time. The university strives to be forward-looking, agile and responsive while remaining deeply rooted in the community and globally networked.

About 75 per cent of Concordia's courses have fewer than 60 students. Its student body includes over 36,400 undergraduate students and 9,600 graduate students in over 200 grad programs, more than 10,000 international students from some 150 countries and 3,000-plus co-op students. Concordia maintains formal ties with 181 institutions in 39 countries.

Concordia is committed to decolonization and Indigenization and being sustainably responsible.

For more information, visit [concordia.ca](#).

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: NEXT-GEN NOW

Concordia is leading its most ambitious fundraising effort ever ([concordia.ca/campaign](#)).

The campaign supports nine strategic directions that advance Concordia's role as Canada's next-generation university ([concordia.ca/directions](#)). With co-chairs Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Andrew Molson and Lino A. Saputo, BA 89, volunteer leaders across Canada, the United States and Asia are helping to drive this major initiative. The Campaign for Concordia will culminate in 2024-25, the year of Concordia's 50th anniversary.

Learn how Concordia's most ambitious campaign to date will empower tomorrow's leaders:

concordia.ca/campaign

Discover what Concordia achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world:

concordia.ca/concordiafirsts

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