



Cour  
Pénale  
Internationale

International  
Criminal  
Court



## What are the role and value of the ICC's activities?

The student as an  
opinion-maker

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## OBJECTIVES

- learn how to participate in a moderated debate
- learn how to express/defend views in a concise and respectful manner due to time constraints
- learn how to take the floor and manage time
- develop critical-thinking abilities
- practise note-taking
- become familiar with the ICC's activities
- experience the simulation of a real-life debate

## LESSON OUTLINE

Show a video on (ICC case/victims of ICC crimes)

- Opening statements Legal Representative of Victims [Ruto and Sang](#) Case
- Opening statement Legal Representative of Victims [Lubanga](#) case
- Opening statement Legal Representative of Victims [Bemba](#) case



ICC investigations are currently being conducted in several situations. Locate ICC situation-related countries on a map with the class. Divide the class into groups and assign a situation country to each group. Ask each group to give a brief presentation on the relevant situation country to the other groups.

Organize an in-class debate in the style of a talk-show taking as a starting point the following issues:

The ICC does not replace national tribunals and is a court of last resort. This means that it investigates or prosecutes a case only if a State Party is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the investigation or the prosecution. This also means that, in some cases, it may represent the only chance to fight impunity against the perpetrators of the most atrocious crimes of concern for the international community and the only chance to bring justice to the victims who suffered such crimes.

1. If you were the head of a State Party or a State not party to the Rome Statute, what would you do to support the activity of the ICC and cooperate with it and with other countries to secure criminals to justice?

## DID YOU KNOW

Cooperation:  
The arrest of [Bosco Ntaganda](#)  
(press release)

2. Do you think the ICC should have a police force of its own or should only rely on the police corps of its States Parties?

3. If you were a victim, would you speak up and participate in a proceeding before the ICC? If not, why? In what other way would you want to contribute to secure criminals to international justice?

## DID YOU KNOW

The Court does not have its own police force. Accordingly, it relies on State co-operation, which is essential to the arrest and surrender of suspects.

According to the Rome Statute, States Parties shall cooperate fully with the Court in its investigation and prosecution of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court.



**DID  
YOU  
KNOW**

## Victims protective measures

The Victims and Witnesses Unit within the Registry may advise the Court on appropriate protective measures and security arrangements for victims who appear before the Court and others who are at risk on account of testimony given by witnesses. The Unit implements the necessary protective and security measures and arrangements for the above-mentioned persons.

In the course of their field work, all of the Court's organs must adhere to good practices in order to ensure their security and that of individuals who interact with them. Protective measures may, for example, include anonymity for victims participating in proceedings, the use of pseudonyms, the redaction of documents or the prohibition of disclosure thereof and the use of audiovisual techniques which can disguise the identity of persons appearing before the Court.

[Video](#) about victims' participation (academic outreach)

1. Comment on the following quotations by the Court's Prosecutor and President



**FATOU BENSOU DA,**  
Chief Prosecutor of the ICC



Using children to fight wars is not a cultural practice. It is not an inevitable by-product of war. It is not the sad but inescapable consequence of poverty. It is a terrible crime.



**JUDGE SANG-HYUN SONG**  
Former President of the ICC



History has showed that in the face of the worst atrocities, national systems are sometimes either unwilling or unable to act, for instance due to the partial or complete breakdown of their domestic judicial infrastructure, or because of political reasons, in particular if the suspected perpetrators are high ranking persons close to the country's leadership.

This is why we need an effective and independent permanent international criminal court, to provide a strong deterrent effect.

The ICC system aids prevention also by other means. As more and more States harmonise their national laws with the Rome Statute, and as we spread global awareness about the need for accountability, we can see progressive entrenchment of both legal and social norms prohibiting mass violence.

The teacher shall act as a moderator to encourage debate and, at the same time, make sure that all the students can express their opinion and are allocated an equal amount of time to speak. It is important to stress that all ideas should be expressed in a respectful manner by the speaker and that they should be respected by the other participants, even in the case of disagreement. As in a real moderated debate, the speaker should be granted the right to reply to any critique or counterargument raised by other participants in relation to his/her declarations.