The Need
Despite a need to move quickly to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity, the United Nations has no reliable capacity to do so. Genocide in Rwanda illustrates this incapacity, as do the massive killings of innocent people in Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia, East Timor, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sudan. The time has come to create a permanent UN Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) to ensure that ‘Never Again’ will there be genocide or crimes against humanity.

The Proposal
With its ‘first in, first out’ capabilities, such a permanent service could have prevented many of the atrocities that have killed millions of civilians, wounded millions more, forced tens of millions from their homes, destroyed entire economies, and wasted hundreds of billions of dollars.

The following represent core elements of our proposal:

- **UNEPS would be a permanent standing capacity based at UN-designated sites.**
- **It would be capable of response to an emergency within 48 hours of authorization.**
- **It would be coherently organized under a unified UN command.**
- **It would involve as many as 15,000 personnel, individually recruited from many different countries and demonstrating skills in conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, law enforcement and other peacekeeping capacities.**
- **It would provide comprehensive, expert training in peacekeeping for all personnel with an emphasis on human rights and gender issues.**
- **It would supplement existing UN and regional peacekeeping operations, providing another tool to support international efforts to end genocide and crimes against humanity.**
- **It would be financed through the regular UN budget.**

Breathing Life into the UNEPS Proposal
Because governments have not created the necessary UN capability for an Emergency Peace Service, the responsibility now lies with civil society, working with allies in the UN and interested governments to spread awareness about the UNEPS proposal, expand its network of supporters and secure agreement on its principles, composition and financing.