Indigenous Children’s Education as Linguistic Genocide and a Crime Against Humanity? A Global View

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The book builds on two Expert papers for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As the title shows, the book investigates to what extent educational methods for Indigenous/Tribal and minority children which use a dominant language as the means of instruction can give rise to international criminal liability on the part of States which use such forms of education, within the meaning of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and under the concept of crimes against humanity. These methods of subtractive education very frequently result in the degradation and even loss of competence in the mother tongue and also inadequate acquisition of the dominant language, with severe consequences for these children. This contributes to language shift, and thus to the disappearance of the world’s linguistic diversity (and, through this, also disappearance of biodiversity). Using insights drawn from education, sociolinguistics, psychology, anthropology, sociology, political science and economics, as well as the law, and drawing on a wealth of evidence from around the world, the book shows that this kind of education intentionally aims at alienating these children from their own languages and cultures and assimilating them into the dominant culture. Such education also can and often does cause both physical and mental serious harm to them, with consequences that can last for generations. We show that such forms of education are completely inconsistent with educational and other rights of Indigenous/Tribal peoples and minorities, as well as frustrating the satisfaction of other important international obligations, and that the very severe consequences for the lives of those affected raise serious issues of international criminality. The education is also organised in contradiction with solid research evidence. The book also answers the question what forms of education would be consistent with law and research, and ends with concrete recommendations.
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References

Notes

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1) Genocides are crimes against humanity. 2) It was neither. The Holodomor was a famine caused by the Kulaki, the climate and the Golden Blockade, or the embargo that the West imposed on the USSR. During the 1932 harvest season Soviet agriculture... In contrast to that, Holodomor was combined with Ukrainisation - introduction of tertiary education in Ukrainian, introduction of the Writers Union of Ukraine and the quota (that had to be met or else) of literature in Ukrainian, and eventually, replacement of Ancient Rus™ with Kievian Rus™ in History textbooks. PDF | On Sep 1, 2012, Robert Phillipson and others published Indigenous Children's Education as Linguistic Genocide and a Crime against Humanity? A Global View/Linguistic Justice for Europe and for the World. Article (PDF Available) in Journal of Contemporary European Studies 20(3) Â· September 2012 with 43 Reads. How we measure 'reads'. A 'read' is counted each time someone views a publication summary (such as the title, abstract, and list of authors), clicks on a figure, or views or downloads the full-text. Learn more. DOI: 10.1080/14782804.2012.711160. Crimes against humanity have not yet been codified in a dedicated treaty of international law, unlike genocide and war crimes, although there are efforts to do so. Despite this, the prohibition of crimes against humanity, similar to the prohibition of genocide, has been considered a peremptory norm of international law, from which no derogation is permitted and which is applicable to all States. The 1998 Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute) is the document that reflects the latest consensus among the international community on this matter.
To stop linguistic genocide, linguistic human rights in education need to be respected. The most important linguistic human right for maintenance of LD is the right to mother-tongue medium education. But the existing and draft human rights instruments are completely insufficient in protecting linguistic human rights in education.

Global English: The European Lessons. The Guardian Weekly and Macmillan Heinemann ELT will invite a distinguished panel of experts to explore the role of English as a lingua franca in Europe at a special open debate at the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language conference on April 18, 2001. For more information go to www.guardianweekly.co.uk.

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