



Statement by the Director-General of the OPCW on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare, 1 December 2020

Each year, we dedicate a day to pay tribute to all victims and survivors of chemical weapons. We honour them so that the tragic legacy of human suffering left by these inhumane weapons is never forgotten.

These victims are neither nameless nor faceless. They are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters.

On this day, we do more than honour their memory. We recognise that we have a duty to ensure that future generations will be spared their suffering. To uphold this duty, the Secretariat and States Parties have worked together to establish, implement, and reinforce the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Each year, the world grows closer realising the goal of the complete eradication of declared chemical weapons stockpiles. To date, over 98% of the world's deadliest chemical weapons have been verifiably destroyed. Ninety-eight percent of the global population is covered by the Convention's protections due to the commitment and dedication of 193 States Parties.

However, our task is still not complete. We must constantly protect and fortify the global norm enshrined in the Convention to both eliminate chemical weapons and prevent their re-emergence.

Today, we must join as one in condemning the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances. We must recommit to working together to achieve the noble goal of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We owe it to the victims of chemical weapons and to future generations.
