

Lara Kajs Bio

Lara Kajs is an author, speaker, founder, advocate, and humanitarian. She is a field-based author and practitioner whose work draws on extensive experience in conflict and displacement settings, including Yemen, Syria, and Afghanistan.

The author of Assad's Syria, Stories from Yemen: A Diary from the Field, and the forthcoming Beyond the Veil: Afghan Women and Girls' Journey to Freedom, Kajs writes from a humanitarian perspective and increasingly engages the reader with each clear and impassioned account.

Kajs is the founder and executive director of The Genocide Report, an educational NGO nonprofit (501c3) based in Washington, DC, advancing atrocity prevention, legal literacy, and international humanitarian and international law, with a focus on displaced and conflict-affected communities. She has worked with international institutions, including the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, and her work focuses on atrocity crimes, forced displacement, civilian protection, and international law.

A strong advocate for caring for displaced populations, Kajs is using her voice to increase global awareness of the record numbers of people who have been forcibly displaced as a result of conflict. She frequently speaks on the pressing need to find solutions to displacement and the need for safeguards to ensure international humanitarian law is honored and that civilians are not targeted in conflict.

Her talks reveal a nefarious truth: that indifference and complacency have led to a double standard when applying equal measures of international law, holding all perpetrators accountable – even when the perpetrators are allies, and adhering to the law to end impunity. By understanding how this impacts the world today, Kajs says we gain the tools to face it, forge a better future for humanity, and increase opportunities for peace and security.

Kajs holds graduate degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Lincoln Memorial University, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She received a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Hawaii Manoa. She is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, the International Association of Women, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, the International Network of Genocide Scholars, and the American Historical Association.

Kajs was born in Birmingham, Alabama, is a passionate Crimson Tide fan, and an ardent lover of music – one rock band in particular. Well-traveled, she has journeyed to more than 140 countries and lived in seven. Kajs resides in Washington, DC.