



## Understanding Kwibuka

Kwibuka, meaning "**to remember**" in Kinyarwanda, is the annual global commemoration of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. This period of remembrance honors the lives lost, supports survivors, and reinforces the commitment to ensuring that history never repeats itself.

During this genocide, over one million Tutsi and a few moderate Hutu who opposed the killings were murdered. Entire families were wiped out—children, women, men, the elderly, and the young. This was one of the most brutal genocides of the 20th century.

To read more about the genocide, visit:

<https://ibukausa.org/genocide-in-brief/>

### Why We Remember

By remembering, we:

- Honor and Remember – Preserve the names and stories of those lost, ensuring they are never forgotten.
- Acknowledge and Educate – Recognize survivors' resilience and teach future generations about the dangers of hatred and division.
- Promote Healing and Unity – Stand with survivors and work toward a world free from such atrocities.

### Key facts about the genocide

- Over one million Tutsi were killed in just 100 days in 1994.
- Many survivors continue to live with both physical and emotional scars.
- The genocide was the result of decades of division, hate speech, and dehumanization.
- Rwanda has become a global example of reconciliation, unity, and resilience, showing that healing and progress are possible.

### Survivors in the USA

The United States is home to many survivors of the **1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi**. These individuals have rebuilt their lives and continue to contribute to their communities while advocating for remembrance and justice.



Despite their resilience, many survivors still live with trauma and loss. Organizations like IBUKA USA work to:

- Provide emotional and educational support.
- Amplify survivor voices through testimonies and public events.
- Build a network of remembrance, advocacy, and healing.

### Rwanda today: a story of resilience

In the aftermath of 1994, Rwanda has emerged as a symbol of hope and progress:

- The country has achieved remarkable reconciliation between communities.
- Rwanda has built a thriving economy focused on innovation and sustainability.
- Memorial sites and educational programs preserve the memory of the genocide and ensure that future generations learn from the past.

### Countering genocide denial

Those who committed the genocide, and their supporters continue to engage in genocide denial activities, which are deeply traumatizing for survivors and Rwandans in general. Denial takes many forms, including historical distortion, revisionism, and attempts to minimize or justify the genocide. These actions not only cause further harm to survivors but also hinder reconciliation and justice.

It is essential to use the correct terminology to preserve the historical truth and honor the victims:

- ***It is the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda***
- ~~It is not the Rwandan Genocide.~~
- Who were the victims?
- ***Over one million Tutsi and some moderate Hutu who opposed the killings.***
- What happened?
- ***It was a genocide, not a civil war.***

### What to expect at this event

- **Commemoration Ceremony** – Honoring the victims through testimonies, moments of silence, and candle lighting.
- **Survivor Testimonies** – Hearing firsthand experiences from those who lived through the genocide, fostering understanding and empathy.
- **Educational Sessions** – Learning about the history of the genocide, the impact of remembrance, and the importance of fighting denial and misinformation.
- **Community Reflection** – A space to share thoughts, engage in discussions, and reaffirm our collective commitment to remembrance and prevention.

**Thank You for Participating, by attending this event, you are contributing in preserving the memory of the genocide, supporting survivors, and promoting a world free from hate and division.**

For more information, visit: <https://ibukausa.org>.



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