Gregory Stanton’s 8 Stages of Genocide

1. **Classification:** Separating people in "us and them", although not a physical separation. “Bipolar” societies are most at risk.

2. **Symbolization:** Separation by names or visual symbols to identify the victims vs. perpetrators.

3. **Dehumanization:** Refer to victims as something other than human (e.g. an animal or a disease) so that the perpetrators can justify the killing.

4. **Organization:** Plans are made to carry out the genocide, usually by institutions such as the military.
5. **Polarization:** The groups are driven apart by actively inciting people (through radio, TV, flyers, etc.) to act violently against the victim group; special laws may be enacted.

6. **Preparation/Identification:** Victims are identified and physically separated. Death lists are created.

7. **Extermination:** Mass killing made legal and carried out by the killers.

8. **Denial:** Evidence of the crimes is hidden and perpetrators deny a crime has been committed or blame others. Efforts to bring guilty parties to justice may be hampered or discouraged; guilty parties may receive “amnesty.”