

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Urge President Trump to Commemorate the Armenian Genocide

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to sign a bipartisan letter encouraging President Trump to recognize and commemorate the Armenian Genocide on April 24th.

There is no debate that an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in the first genocide of the 20th century. The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, documented the Genocide and raised significant funds to help the Armenian people in its aftermath.

To this day, the United States and Armenia share a special bond. The Armenian Genocide must not go without recognition and condemnation. A Presidential recognition would pay tribute to the lives lost, the perseverance and determination of those who survived, and to the many Americans of Armenian descent who have strengthened our country to this day.

Genocide commemoration is morally right and clearly justified. We encourage you to join us in asking the President to take this important step. To sign on, please contact James Johnson in Rep. Pallone's office at james.johnson@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.
Co-Chair
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Rep. David Valadao
Co-Chair
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Rep. Jackie Speier
Co-Chair
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Rep. David Trott
Co-Chair
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Rep. Adam Schiff
Vice-Chair
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Rep. Gus Bilirakis
Vice-Chair
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to encourage you to properly commemorate the Armenian Genocide on April 24th.

In leading an honest and accurate American remembrance of this known case of genocide, you will stand with President Reagan, who recognized the Armenian Genocide in 1981, and the Eisenhower Administration, which did the same in a 1951 submission to the International Court of Justice. The House of Representatives has also commemorated the Armenian Genocide, through HJR148 in 1975 and HJR247 in 1984.

Armenia remains deeply committed to expanding the bonds of friendship that have long connected the American and Armenian peoples. Among the proudest chapters in our shared history is America's remarkable record of protesting the Genocide and in caring for the survivors of this crime. The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1915, Henry Morgenthau, helped to chronicle the brutal extermination of the Armenian people through a campaign of mass murder and violent expulsion.

In the years after the genocide, Ambassador Morgenthau and other concerned Americans launched the Near East Relief, a Congressionally chartered humanitarian organization, which raised \$116 million (over \$2.5 billion in 2017 dollars) to aid the victims of the Ottoman Empire's mass murder of millions of Armenians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Greeks, Pontians, Syriacs, and other persecuted peoples. The generosity of the American people saved countless lives and helped to ensure the continued survival of the Armenian culture.

The Armenian Genocide continues to stand as an important reminder that crimes against humanity must not go without recognition and condemnation. Through recognition of the Armenian Genocide we pay tribute to the perseverance and determination of those who survived, as well as to the Americans of Armenian descent who have helped strengthen our country. It is our duty to honor those contributions with an honest statement of history recognizing the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians as the 20th century's first genocide. By commemorating the Armenian Genocide, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities.

In that spirit of honoring the victims and redoubling our commitment to prevent genocide, we ask you to appropriately mark April 24th as a day of American remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,