

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2026 APR -3 AM 9: 21

DATE RECEIVED

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of
Bristol: The undersigned hereby respectfully
requested of your Honorable Body that:



April 1, 2026

Dear Bristol Town Councilors,

We had been made aware by Melissa Cordeiro, your Town Clerk, that Bristol has a flag policy that allows exceptions for flags like the one for Armenia by us submitting 25 signatures of registered voters annually. As the years go by, more cities and towns are implementing new flag policies and understandably so. We have met the requirements in the past but have opted for what appears below as a viable second choice.

While seeing our flag flying at your town hall has been a moving site for the Armenians that live in your beautiful town, we would be just as pleased if you could issue a proclamation or a resolution acknowledging that the crimes committed against the Armenians before, during and after World War 1 by the Ottoman Turkish Government are properly recognized. Attached are resolutions passed at the State House last year and a copy of the Governor's proclamation.

I will do my best to get to the council meeting to testify if needed.

Steve Elmasian

Co-chairman

Armenian National Committee of RI

573-7888/steveelmasian@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: ✓

Please ensure that your petition is submitted by 4:00 PM, two (2) Wednesdays before the Town Council meeting scheduled for

in order to be included on the docket. According to Council policy, petitions cannot be addressed unless recommendations, if needed, from the relevant departments are received before the Council meeting

SIGNATURE: Steve J Elmasian
NAME: STEPHEN J ELMASIAN
ADDRESS: 28 HUXLEY AVE
TOWN: PROVIDENCE
BUSINESS TEL. N
RESIDENCE TEL.
EMAIL ADDRESS



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month

WHEREAS, from 1915-1923 during the Armenian Genocide, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian men, women and children as well as over one million Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Pontians, Syriacs, and others were massacred as part of the planned complete eradication of these Christian indigenous communities by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern genocide that still requires justice; and

WHEREAS, Near East Relief's efforts, with the active participation of the State of Rhode Island, resulted in delivering 117 million dollars of assistance between 1915 and 1930 that directly resulted in the salvation of the Christian Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian survivors from being annihilated by the Genocide; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island recognized the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 decades ago affirming recognition of persecuted Armenians; and

WHEREAS, prior to the implementation of the Holocaust, to garner support from his followers, Adolf Hitler asked "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"; and

WHEREAS, the genocide has been recognized by the US House of Representatives, US Senate and the President of the United States and over thirty countries, including: Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, the Vatican, and Argentina; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Armenia is now a free, independent, democratic state and a strategic ally of the United States; and

WHEREAS, as a continuation of genocidal policies, in the lead up to the collapse of the Soviet Union and declaration of independence of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), ethnic Armenians were brutally killed in Sumgait (February 1988), Kirovabad (November 1988) and Baku (January 1990), and the entire Armenian minority of Azerbaijan, numbering over 350,000 people, was forcibly deported from the country; and

WHEREAS, in July of 1988, within months of the Sumgait pogroms, the United States Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690 to the Fiscal Year 1989 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (H.R. 4782), concerning the Artsakh conflict and calling on the Soviet government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people ..." and noted that "dozens of Armenians have been killed and hundreds injured during the recent unrests ..."; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the United States Senate condemned the anti-Armenian Pogroms in Azerbaijan and called upon the Soviet government that "those responsible for the killing and bloodshed be identified and prosecuted"; and

WHEREAS, on December 10th of 1991, despite continued violence against the people of Artsakh, a popular referendum proclaiming the republic took place in Artsakh during the process of the Soviet Union disintegration; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan committed massacre against the peaceful civilians of Maragha on April 10, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives has adopted H.Con.Res. 75, declaring the atrocities perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) against Christians, Yezidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; and



WHEREAS, Azerbaijan attacked the Republic of Artsakh on September 27, 2020, for 44 days causing the death and mutilation of thousands of Armenians on their own historic lands; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan committed human rights violations by hiring Islamic militants, using prohibited cluster munitions, banned white phosphorous, and directly targeting civilian targets and civilian populations; and

WHEREAS, from December 12, 2022 and for ten months, Azerbaijan blockaded the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia which halted all food, medicine and fuel from entering Artsakh, and periodically cut off gas, electricity, water and lines of communication creating a dire humanitarian crisis with the intent to annihilate the ethnic Armenian population; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan unleashed systematic military attacks against the population of Artsakh again on September 19, 2023, indiscriminately killing civilians, women, children and the elderly and forcibly removing all Armenians from their 4,000-year-old homeland as a final step with the genocide of the Armenians of Artsakh; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan continues to occupy large swaths of territory in the Republic of Armenia and continues to threaten more violence against its population including the annihilation of Armenians from the territories it threatens to further usurp and occupy; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan continues to illegally hold Armenian civilians, non-combatants, and prisoners of war in direct violation of the Geneva Conventions; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing, remembering, and educating those about the Armenian Genocide, and the second Armenian Genocide in the Republic of Artsakh, the Holocaust, the Pogroms in Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad, the massacre in Maragha, and all cases of past and ongoing genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar atrocities do not occur again, and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Daniel McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as **Genocide Awareness and Prevention** month in memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the Artsakh Genocide, the Holocaust and all other genocides in honor of all the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as residents of the State of Rhode Island, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.



Given under my hand and the seal of
the Office of the Governor of the State
of Rhode Island, this 1st day of April, 2025.

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

2025 -- H 6258

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LC002450
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 24, 2025, AS "ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY"
TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915 TO 1923, AND IN HONOR
OF ARMENIAN-AMERICANS

Introduced By: Representatives Kazarian, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Costantino, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, and Furtado

Date Introduced: April 24, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide was conceived and carried out by the Ottoman
2 Empire from 1915 to 1923, and resulted in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000 Armenians, of
3 whom 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed, and the remaining 500,000 survived but
4 were expelled from their homes. This act succeeded in the elimination of the Armenians from
5 their historic ancestral homeland where they had resided for over 2,500 years; and

6 WHEREAS, On May 24, 1915, for the first time ever, the Allied Powers of England,
7 France, and Russia, jointly issued a statement explicitly charging another government of
8 committing "a crime against humanity"; and

9 WHEREAS, This joint statement declared, "the Allied Governments announce publicly
10 to the Sublime Porte that they will hold personally responsible for these crimes all members of
11 the Ottoman Government, as well as those of their agents who are implicated in such massacres";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, United States Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr. explicitly described the
14 policy of the Ottoman Empire's government to the United States Department of State as "a
15 campaign of race extermination," and on July 16, 1915, was informed by United States Secretary
16 of State Robert Lansing that the "Department approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian
17 persecution"; and

18 WHEREAS, The post-World War I Turkish government indicted the top leaders involved
19 in the organization and execution of the Armenian Genocide and in the "massacre and destruction

1 of the Armenians," and in a series of court-martials, officials of the Young Turk regime were
2 charged, tried and convicted, for organizing and executing massacres against the Armenian
3 people; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1948, the United Nations War Crimes Commission invoked the
5 Armenian Genocide as "precisely . . . one of the types of acts which the modern term 'crimes
6 against humanity' is intended to cover" as a precedent for the Nuremberg tribunals; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds
8 extensive and thorough documentation on the Armenian Genocide, especially in its holdings
9 under Record Group 59 of the United States Department of State, files 867.00 and 867.40, which
10 are open and widely available to the public and interested institutions; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent federal
12 agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that the United States Holocaust Memorial
13 Museum would include the Armenian Genocide in the museum and has since done so; and

14 WHEREAS, When one enters the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, there is an
15 exhibit depicting Adolf Hitler, who on ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without
16 provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by stating "[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the
17 annihilation of the Armenians?", thus setting the stage for the Holocaust; and

18 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, United States President Joe Biden stated, "...we
19 remember the lives of all those who have died in the Ottoman-era Armenian genocide and
20 recommit ourselves to preventing such an atrocity from ever again occurring"; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1918, after the fall of the Russian Empire, the Azerbaijan Democratic
22 Republic and the First Republic of Armenia both declared independence; however, shortly
23 thereafter, they became part of the Soviet Union. The modern Republic of Azerbaijan once again
24 proclaimed its independence in August of 1991, shortly before the dissolution of the USSR.
25 Within its borders, however, the predominantly Armenian enclave known as the Republic of
26 Artsakh officially voted to become part of Armenia; and

27 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan sought to suppress the separatist movement, while Armenia
28 backed it. Turkey has close ties to Azerbaijan and was the first nation to recognize Azerbaijan's
29 independence in 1991. In 1993, Turkey, in addition to engaging in numerous hostilities, shut its
30 border with Armenia in support of Azerbaijan during the war over the Republic of Artsakh; and

31 WHEREAS, In Turkey's continuing aggression and genocide of Armenians that began
32 more than 100 years ago, the 2020 unprovoked war between Azerbaijan, with military support
33 provided by Turkey, and the Republic of Artsakh resulted in Artsakh being forced to return many
34 of the surrounding territories it had occupied for millennia; and

1 WHEREAS, Beginning in May of 2021, Azerbaijan has been making armed incursions
2 into, and taking lands within, Armenia's internationally recognized borders including in the
3 Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces; and

4 WHEREAS, In March through early April of 2022, following several days of escalated
5 tensions, Azerbaijan's military open fired on Armenian military posts along the western part of
6 the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, and days later, shelled various villages, mostly located along the
7 eastern border of Artsakh; and

8 WHEREAS, Currently, there are no diplomatic relations between Armenia and
9 Azerbaijan, and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has continued to ignite clashes and casualties;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, On January 1, 2024, when faced with the prospect of rule by Azerbaijan,
12 more than one hundred thousand people, 80 percent of Nagorno-Karabakh's primarily Armenian
13 population, fled to Armenia in one week; and

14 WHEREAS, Most recently, Azerbaijan's President has stated that opening the Zangezur
15 corridor, which is the Armenian territory separating Azerbaijan from its exclave, Nakhchivan, is a
16 priority; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
18 recognizes April 24, 2025, as "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day" in the State of Rhode
19 Island; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests the President of the United
21 States and the United States Congress to call on the government of Turkey to face history and
22 acknowledge this crime of genocide committed by the Ottoman Turks in 1915, and urge the
23 Turkish government to make restitution for the loss of lives, confiscated properties, and general
24 unlawful deportations, separating the indigenous population from their homeland; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That this House expresses its deepest sympathy to the Armenian-American
27 community of Rhode Island and assures them that this genocide will always be commemorated
28 and never forgotten; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
30 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald Trump, President of the
31 United States, the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Rhode
32 Island, the Armenian Assembly of America in Washington, and the Armenian National

2025 -- S 1025

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LC000427
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 24, 2025, AS "ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY"
TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915 TO 1923, AND IN HONOR
OF ARMENIAN-AMERICANS

Introduced By: Senators Tikoian, Gallo, Patalano, Ruggiero, Raptakis, Ujifusa,
Bissaillon, LaMountain, Zurier, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: May 05, 2025

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide was conceived and carried out by the Ottoman
2 Empire from 1915 to 1923, and resulted in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000 Armenians, of
3 whom 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed, and the remaining 500,000 survived but
4 were expelled from their homes. This act succeeded in the elimination of the Armenians from
5 their historic ancestral homeland where they had resided for over 2,500 years; and

6 WHEREAS, On May 24, 1915, for the first time ever, the Allied Powers of England,
7 France, and Russia, jointly issued a statement explicitly charging another government of
8 committing "a crime against humanity"; and

9 WHEREAS, This joint statement declared, "the Allied Governments announce publicly
10 to the Sublime Porte that they will hold personally responsible for these crimes all members of
11 the Ottoman Government, as well as those of their agents who are implicated in such massacres";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, United States Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr. explicitly described the
14 policy of the Ottoman Empire's government to the United States Department of State as "a
15 campaign of race extermination," and on July 16, 1915, was informed by United States Secretary
16 of State Robert Lansing that the "Department approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian
17 persecution"; and

18 WHEREAS, The post-World War I Turkish government indicted the top leaders involved
19 in the organization and execution of the Armenian Genocide and in the "massacre and destruction

1 of the Armenians," and in a series of court-martials, officials of the Young Turk regime were
2 charged, tried and convicted, for organizing and executing massacres against the Armenian
3 people; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1948, the United Nations War Crimes Commission invoked the
5 Armenian Genocide as "precisely . . . one of the types of acts which the modern term 'crimes
6 against humanity' is intended to cover" as a precedent for the Nuremberg tribunals; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds
8 extensive and thorough documentation on the Armenian Genocide, especially in its holdings
9 under Record Group 59 of the United States Department of State, files 867.00 and 867.40, which
10 are open and widely available to the public and interested institutions; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent federal
12 agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that the United States Holocaust Memorial
13 Museum would include the Armenian Genocide in the museum and has since done so; and

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15 exhibit depicting Adolf Hitler, who on ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without
16 provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by stating "[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the
17 annihilation of the Armenians?", thus setting the stage for the Holocaust; and

18 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, United States President Joe Biden stated, "...we
19 remember the lives of all those who have died in the Ottoman-era Armenian genocide and
20 recommit ourselves to preventing such an atrocity from ever again occurring"; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1918, after the fall of the Russian Empire, the Azerbaijan Democratic
22 Republic and the First Republic of Armenia both declared independence; however, shortly
23 thereafter, they became part of the Soviet Union. The modern Republic of Azerbaijan once again
24 proclaimed its independence in August of 1991, shortly before the dissolution of the USSR.
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26 Artsakh officially voted to become part of Armenia; and

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28 backed it. Turkey has close ties to Azerbaijan and was the first nation to recognize Azerbaijan's
29 independence in 1991. In 1993, Turkey, in addition to engaging in numerous hostilities, shut its
30 border with Armenia in support of Azerbaijan during the war over the Republic of Artsakh; and

31 WHEREAS, In Turkey's continuing aggression and genocide of Armenians that began
32 more than 100 years ago, the 2020 unprovoked war between Azerbaijan, with military support
33 provided by Turkey, and the Republic of Artsakh resulted in Artsakh being forced to return many
34 of the surrounding territories it had occupied for millennia; and

1 WHEREAS, Beginning in May of 2021, Azerbaijan has been making armed incursions
2 into, and taking lands within, Armenia's internationally recognized borders including in the
3 Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces; and

4 WHEREAS, In March through early April of 2022, following several days of escalated
5 tensions, Azerbaijan's military open fired on Armenian military posts along the western part of
6 the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, and days later, shelled various villages, mostly located along the
7 eastern border of Artsakh; and

8 WHEREAS, Currently, there are no diplomatic relations between Armenia and
9 Azerbaijan, and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has continued to ignite clashes and casualties;
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11 WHEREAS, On January 1, 2024, when faced with the prospect of rule by Azerbaijan,
12 more than one hundred thousand people, 80 percent of Nagorno-Karabakh's primarily Armenian
13 population, fled to Armenia in one week; and

14 WHEREAS, Most recently, Azerbaijan's President has stated that opening the Zangezur
15 corridor, which is the Armenian territory separating Azerbaijan from its exclave, Nakhchivan, is a
16 priority; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes April 24,
18 2025, as "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

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22 Turkish government to make restitution for the loss of lives, confiscated properties, and general
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31 Island, the Armenian Assembly of America in Washington, and the Armenian National