



# 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT

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ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA - WESTERN REGION

# Mission Statement

The Armenian National Committee of America–Western Region (ANCA-WR) is the largest and most influential non-partisan Armenian-American grassroots advocacy organization in the Western United States. For generations, it has served as the driving force behind civic engagement and political mobilization within the Armenian-American community, advancing the full spectrum of the Armenian Cause. Through an extensive network of chapters, offices, and partners across the region and the country, ANCA-WR champions the political, legal, socioeconomic, cultural, and educational rights of Armenian Americans; seeks justice and recognition for the Armenian Genocide; supports the sovereignty, security, and democratic development of the Republic of Armenia; defends the right of return, safety, and self-determination of the people of Artsakh; safeguards the cultural heritage of Armenians in Javakhk; and strengthens grassroots advocacy through civic engagement, policy work, media outreach, and community education.

Rooted in nearly a century of sustained activism, ANCA-WR operates as a powerful grassroots institution built on broad community participation. Headquartered in Los Angeles—home to one of the world’s largest Armenian diasporan communities—the organization benefits from close partnerships with educational, cultural, youth, athletic, charitable, and faith-based institutions, as well as major Armenian-American media outlets such as Asbarez. ANCA-WR maintains chapters across California and throughout more than a dozen western states, coordinating closely with the ANCA’s national headquarters in Washington, DC, its Eastern Region office in Boston, and its global affiliates spanning Europe, the Middle East, Russia, Australia, South America, Armenia, and Artsakh. Together, this interconnected network forms a unified framework of advocacy, enabling Armenian communities across continents to act collectively and strategically.

ANCA-WR is equally committed to strengthening civic engagement among Armenian Americans. Through its HyeVotes initiative, the organization conducts voter registration drives, provides nonpartisan voter education resources, and distributes candidate questionnaires, congressional report cards, and election guides. These efforts ensure

that Armenian-American voters are informed, empowered, and active participants in the democratic process at the local, state, and federal levels. By expanding civic participation, ANCA-WR amplifies the community’s influence and strengthens its ability to shape public policy.

Beyond legislative advocacy and electoral engagement, ANCA-WR invests deeply in community education, outreach, and development. The organization leads “good neighbor” initiatives to promote civic awareness, public understanding, and community resilience. It regularly publishes press releases, policy briefs, fact sheets, and newsletters that keep the public informed on issues affecting Armenia, Artsakh, and the Armenian-American community. These communications help shape public discourse, highlight urgent concerns, and mobilize widespread community action.

A cornerstone of ANCA-WR’s long-term vision is its commitment to cultivating future leaders. Through its regional and national internship programs, the organization provides young Armenian Americans with hands-on experience in advocacy, public policy, research, media relations, and grassroots organizing. These programs nurture emerging leaders who will continue advancing the Armenian Cause with professionalism, passion, and strategic insight. Together, these programs and initiatives form the core of ANCA-WR’s mission: strengthening the political power, civic participation, and long-term resilience of Armenian Americans while advancing justice, security, and representation for Armenians everywhere.

To achieve these goals, ANCA-WR engages in a broad range of political, legislative, and educational initiatives. The organization advances legislation that strengthens Armenia’s democracy and security, supports Artsakh’s right to self-determination, increases U.S. assistance to Armenia and Artsakh, and promotes the appropriate commemoration and understanding of the Armenian Genocide. It also works to ensure that Turkey and Azerbaijan uphold international human rights standards and end policies that undermine regional stability. Through these efforts, ANCA-WR plays a central role in shaping congressional and state-level action on Armenian issues.

# From the Chairman

At the ANCA-Western Region, our mission begins with a solemn truth: the consequences of the Armenian Genocide did not end in 1915. They continued to reverberate through every threat to Armenia's security, every displacement of Artsakh's Indigenous population, every assault on our culture, and every attempt to rewrite our history. Our work is to confront these consequences head-on, to reverse erasure, restore justice, and ensure that our people can live with dignity, and security. This responsibility guides everything we do, from advocating for Armenia's long-term stability to defending the right of secure return for every Artsakhtsi who was forcibly uprooted from their ancestral homeland.

Armenia today stands at a critical crossroads, challenged by an increasingly unstable regional environment and targeted by a regime that continues to pursue expansionist and genocidal policies. Strengthening Armenia's security and sovereignty is not just an aspiration, but a necessity for the survival of our nation. Whether through pushing for a robust U.S.-Armenia security cooperation, calling for sanctions against Azerbaijan's leadership, or mobilizing our community at pivotal moments, we remain unwavering in our mission to ensure that Armenia stands protected, fortified, and prepared for its future. And central to that future is the release of all Armenian prisoners of war and civilians still held unlawfully in Baku. Every Armenian in captivity is a reminder of our unfinished work, and we will not rest until each one returns home.

Here in the United States, we also face an important fight: protecting rights, representation, and dignity of the Armenian-American community. Our efforts must counter the surge in Armenophobia and directly challenge the Azerbaijani and Turkish state-sponsored propaganda machines that attempt to distort our history and undermine our identity. Fabrications such as the false notion of "Western Azerbaijan" are not merely rhetorical—they are political tools aimed at justifying aggression. Our role is to expose these falsehoods, confront them with truth, and ensure they gain no foothold in American policy or public discourse. We stand as the shield between misinformation and the Armenian community.

Yet for all the challenges we face, what inspires me is our community's unbreakable spirit. We are building a new era of activism driven by youth and strengthened by grassroots engagement, and sustained by steadfast partnerships with our elected officials and allies. Every year, more Armenian-Americans step into public service, and into advocacy. Their voices echo in state capitols,

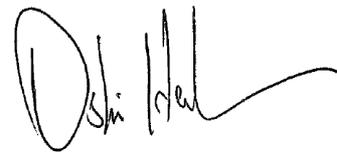
on Capitol Hill, and across institutions of influence. Their presence is a powerful reminder that the future of our Cause is not only secure, but it is expanding.

For years, there were those who believed they could break our unity, undermine our purpose, and fracture the foundations of everything we stand for. They tried to cast us into disarray, to silence our voice, and to erase our presence from the world stage. They tried shattering our structure from the inside out. But today, we look those forced directly in the eye and say: you have failed, and you will continue to fail. Every attempt to weaken us has only strengthened our resolve. Every effort to divide us has only bound our ranks closer together.

As I reflect on these past two years, I see progress marked not only by legislation, community mobilization, and national engagement, but by the courage of our people to continue demanding justice in every arena. Our work is generational. It is deliberate. It is propelled by a deep belief that the Armenian nation – its history, identity, and people – deserve peace, dignity, and a future free from the threats that have defined our past.

The path ahead will require unity, clarity, and unwavering resolve. But together – with our community, our chapters, our youth, our partners, and our allies—we are building a stronger and more secure future for Armenians everywhere. This is our promise, and this is our purpose.

In Common Cause,




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# Government Affairs

In 2024, ANCA-WR advanced a broad and strategically coordinated government affairs agenda across federal and state levels, focusing on Armenian security, human rights, accountability for Azerbaijan's aggression, and the protection of Armenian communities in the Western United States. Through close collaboration with the ANCA National Office in Washington, D.C., ANCA-WR ensured unified national messaging and high-impact legislative engagement rooted in the needs of Armenia, Artsakh, and the Armenian-American community. The year's bills and resolutions reflect a clear and determined push to secure justice, strengthen Armenia's sovereignty, uphold the rights of Artsakh's displaced population, and confront the ongoing threats posed by Azerbaijan and Turkey.

## Federal Legislative Advocacy

### *Repeal of the Section 907 Waiver (H.R. 7288)*

A top ANCA priority in 2024, this bipartisan measure seeks to prohibit the U.S. President from waiving section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act - blocking U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan in FY2024 and FY2025. Introduced by Rep. Michael Lawler (R-NY), the bill mirrors the Senate-passed Armenian Protection Act (S.3000). It represents one of the most substantial congressional efforts to halt U.S. support to Azerbaijan following its ethnic cleansing of Artsakh.



Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY) was joined by Congressional Armenian Caucus co-chairs Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) and Rep. Gabe Amo (D-RI) in spearheading legislation to block U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan.

### *Condemning Azerbaijan for Ethnic Cleansing in Artsakh (H. Res 1327)*

Introduced by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ), this bipartisan resolution defines Azerbaijan's blockade and military assault on Artsakh as acts of ethnic cleansing, urges immediate humanitarian assistance for displaced Armenians, and calls for targeted sanctions on Azerbaijani officials responsible for war crimes. It further underscores Armenians' right of return from Artsakh under international law.



Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) are spearheading a bipartisan resolution condemning Azerbaijan's ethnic cleansing of Artsakh and calling on the Biden Administration to hold the Aliyev regime accountable

### *Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act (H.R. 8141)*

Introduced by Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), this bill directs the Administration to determine whether Azerbaijani officials are subject to sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act or Section 7031(c). The measure directly targets perpetrators of human rights abuses, torture, and war crimes committed against Armenians.



*Representatives Dina Titus (D-NV) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) introduced the “Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act,” giving the State Department 180 days to report whether Magnitsky Sanctions can be applied to Azerbaijani war criminals.*

***Armenian Genocide Education Act (H.R. 2803)***

Authored by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), this bipartisan bill provides \$10 million over five years for nationwide Armenian Genocide education through the Library of Congress, ensuring that accurate, professionally developed curricula reach schools and educators across the country.



**REP. DINA TITUS (D-NV) FOR SUPPORTING  
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE EDUCATION ACT**

**ANCA.ORG/EDUCATION**

***Supporting Armenians Against Azerbaijani Aggression Act (H.R. 5683)***  
Introduced by Armenian Caucus Chair Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), this bipartisan bill authorizes U.S. military financing for Armenia, directs sanctions against the Azerbaijani government, strengthens U.S.-Armenia partnerships, and mandates the development of a comprehensive plan to protect Armenians of Artsakh—including a strategy for safe return. It also repeals the language that enables the Section 907 waiver. Its Senate counterpart is S.2900, introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

***Preventing Ethnic Cleansing and Atrocities in Nagorno-Karabakh Act (H.R. 5686)***  
Introduced by Rep Chris Smith (R-NJ), this bipartisan bill mandates a long-term U.S. strategy to ensure the security and well-being of Armenians in Artsakh, including 24-hour monitoring of cultural sites, humanitarian assistance, foreign military financing for Armenia, and additional sanctions on Azerbaijani officials responsible for war crimes. It also terminates U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan by repealing the Section 907 waiver.



*Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. to push the aforementioned legislation and get support from Congress on pro-Armenia and pro-Artsakh issues*

**Requesting Information on Azerbaijan's Human Rights Practices (H.Res. 735)**  
Led by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), this resolution compels the U.S. State Department to formally report on Azerbaijan's human rights violations, including whether genocide or ethnic cleansing occurred in Artsakh. It assesses whether U.S. security assistance should continue. Failure to submit the report within 30 days will result in the automatic suspension of U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan. Its Senate counterpart is introduced by Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA).

**RESOLUTION DEMANDS**

- DETAILED REPORT ON AZERBAIJAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
- ASSESSMENT OF U.S. ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO AZERBAIJAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
- EXAMINATION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE'S IMPACT ON POWER BALANCE BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA

**ANCAWR.ORG/RES735**

**“ WHEN OUR COMMUNITY SHOWS UP INFORMED AND UNITED, POLICY-MAKERS LISTEN. ANCA MAKES THAT POSSIBLE – EVERY SINGLE DAY.**

*-Dr. Kevork Hagopjian Esq.  
Boardmember*

**Recognizing Artsakh's Independence (H.Res. 320)**

This resolution formally recognizes the independence of the Republic of Artsakh, condemns Azerbaijan's aggression, urges international recognition, and calls for cessation of all U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan.

**Condemning Azerbaijan's Blockade of Artsakh (H.Res. 108)**

Introduced by Rep. Pallone (D-NJ), this bipartisan resolution condemns

**Schiff Seeks Sanctions against Azerbaijan for Illegally Holding Armenian Prisoners**

"My resolution urges the American government and international community to stand up to the gross human rights violations being perpetuated against the Armenian community by the Aliyev regime and return these prisoners back to their families."

**REP. ADAM SCHIFF**  
Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chair

**ANCA.ORG**

Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin Corridor and calls for the suspension of U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan until it halts its offensive actions. It also urges the deployment of international observers.

**Condemning Azerbaijan's Blockade of Artsakh (S.Res 244)**

Introduced by Sen. Alex Padilla, this bipartisan resolution condemns Azerbaijan's blockade of Lachin, urges the U.S. suspension of security assistance to Azerbaijan, and calls for the deployment of international observers to the region.

**Requiring Immediate Return of Armenian POWs and Hostages (H.Res. 861)**

Also introduced by Rep. Schiff (D-CA), this bipartisan measure condemns Azerbaijan's torture, disappearances, and unlawful detention of Armenian POWs. It calls for immediate repatriation, sanctions against responsible Azerbaijani officials, suspension of U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan, and full enforcement of Section 907.

## California State Legislative Engagement

### *Armenian Prisoner of War (SJR 11)*

Led by Senator Bob Archuleta, this resolution calls on the U.S. government to secure the immediate and unconditional return of all Armenian POWs, halt U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan, impose sanctions, and protect Armenian cultural and religious sites. It also expresses support for the aforementioned H.Res 861.



*Governor Newsom and state legislators launched the Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education, alongside Senator Stern's SB 1277 creating the statewide collaborative to train educators on genocide instruction, including the Armenian Genocide.*

### *California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education (S.B. 1277)*

Authored by Senator Henry Stern, SB 1277 creates a statewide program to train educators on genocide and holocaust curriculum, ensuring accuracy and age-appropriate instruction, including on the Armenian Genocide.



*ANCA-WR Board Member Anahid Oshagan with California State Senator Anthony Portantino.*

### *Armenian Doctor pilot Program (S.B. 1041)*

Introduced by Senator Anthony Portantino, SB 1041 establishes a pilot program that enables foreign-trained Armenian doctors to complete U.S.-based medical refresher training and serve in federally qualified health centers in Southern California.

**“ JUSTICE DOES NOT MOVE ON ITS OWN. IT MOVES WHEN ORGANIZED COMMUNITIES DEMAND IT. ANCA TURNS CONVICTION INTO ACTION.**

*~Oshin Harootonian  
Board Chairman*

## Elections and Endorsements

In the 2024 election cycle, ANCA-WR played an active role in shaping electoral outcomes through a strategic endorsement and voter mobilization effort aimed at increasing the representation of Armenian American interests.

Our policies included evaluating candidates' records on human rights, U.S.-Armenia foreign policy, Artsakh advocacy, and community issues, followed by public endorsements at the federal, state, and local levels. The endorsement campaign was supported by voter education at the local level. The endorsement campaign was endorsed by voter-education materials, outreach through our wide range of chapters, and coordinated get-out-

**MEET THE ANCA WESTERN REGION**  
**ENDORSED CANDIDATES**  
**November 5**

**CALIFORNIA - US SENATE**

- ADAM SCHIFF US SENATE
- LINDA SANCHEZ DISTRICT 38
- DAVID MIN DISTRICT 47

**CALIFORNIA - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- DOUG LAMALFA DISTRICT 1
- DAVID VALADAO DISTRICT 22
- YOUNG KIM DISTRICT 40
- MIKE LEVIN DISTRICT 49
- TOM MCCLINTOCK DISTRICT 5
- SALUD CARBAJAL DISTRICT 24
- NANETTE BARRAGAN DISTRICT 44
- SCOTT PETERS DISTRICT 50
- MICHELLE STEEL DISTRICT 45

**NEVADA**

- NANCY PELOSI DISTRICT 11
- JUDY CHU DISTRICT 28
- JOHN DUARTE DISTRICT 13
- LUZ RIVAS DISTRICT 29
- ERIC SWALWELL DISTRICT 14
- LAURA FRIEDMAN DISTRICT 30
- KEVIN MULLIN DISTRICT 15
- GIL CISNEROS DISTRICT 31
- EVAN LOW DISTRICT 16
- BRAD SHERMAN DISTRICT 32
- RO KHANNA DISTRICT 17
- JIMMY GOMEZ DISTRICT 34
- ZOE LOFGREN DISTRICT 18
- TED LIEU DISTRICT 36
- JIM COSTA DISTRICT 21
- SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE DISTRICT 37
- DINA TITUS DISTRICT 1
- STEVEN HORSFORD DISTRICT 4
- SUSIE LEE DISTRICT 3

**TEXAS**

- LIZZIE FLETCHER DISTRICT 7
- JASMINE CROCKETT DISTRICT 30
- JOAQUIN CASTRO DISTRICT 20
- LLOYD DOGGETT DISTRICT 37

**IF A CANDIDATE OR LEGISLATOR IN YOUR DISTRICT IS MISSING FROM THIS LIST, CALL ON THEM TO EARN YOUR VOTE BY TAKING ACTION IN SUPPORT OF ARMENIAN POLICY PRIORITIES TODAY!**

[ancawr.org/2024-elections-center/](http://ancawr.org/2024-elections-center/)

ANCA-WR list of federal endorsements in the 2024 elections.



ANCA Board Member Zanku Armenian, ANCA-WR Community Coordinator Garen Jinbachian with Senator Adam Schiff on the night of his election.



ANCA-WR Community Coordinator Garen Jinbachian with State Senator Elect Sasha Renee Perez on the night of election.



*Chairman of ANCA-WR Board of Directors Oshin Harootonian, and Government Affairs Director Ruben Karapetian with Rep. Laura Friedman on the night of the election.*

the-vote efforts across key districts. As a result of these efforts, 90% of our endorsed candidates won their races, reflecting both the effectiveness of our mobilization and the growing political influence of Armenian-American voters under the ANCA-WR’s guidance.

This year’s electoral work reinforced ANCA-WR’s ability to influence California’s political landscape meaningfully and strengthened relationships with elected officials who will play key roles in advancing Armenian-American policy priorities.



*Chairman of ANCA-WR Board of Directors Oshin Harootonian, and Government Affairs Director Ruben Karapetian with Rep. Luz Rivas on the night of the election.*



*Chairman of ANCA-WR Board of Directors Oshin Harootonian, Government Affairs Director Ruben Karapetian, Danny Donabedian, chairman of ANCA Pasadena, and David Gevorgyan member of ANCA Pasadena Asm. John Harabedian*



*Chairman of ANCA-WR Board of Directors Oshin Harootonian, and Government Affairs Director Ruben Karapetian with Asm. Jessica Caloza*

# Community Efforts

In 2024, ANCA-Western Region advanced a robust and community-centered agenda focused on resilience, education, and rapid response during a period of heightened challenge for Armenians worldwide. Through coordinated outreach, public programming, and crisis-driven engagement, ANCA-WR strengthened its partnerships with local institutions, educators, youth organizations, faith leaders, and public officials across the Western United States. These efforts reinforced Armenian visibility in civic spaces, responded decisively to threats against Armenian communities, and deepened public understanding of the historical & contemporary realities facing Armenians, particularly in the wake of Artsakh’s ethnic cleansing and forced displacement. Grounded in solidarity and sustained by grassroots mobilization, ANCA-WR’s community initiatives in 2024 reaffirmed the organization’s role as a trusted advocate, organizer, and protector of Armenian-American communal interests.

## REROOTED

### *Rerouted-Rerouted Educational Initiative*

At the beginning of the year, the ANCA-WR’s Education Committee advanced the “rerouted-Rerouted” initiative, which explores themes of displacement, identity, and cultural continuity among Armenians. Through teacher training, curated educational resources, and collaborative programming, the initiative provided students with frameworks to understand the historical and contemporary challenges facing the Armenian people. This project strengthened the connection between classrooms and community institutions while equipping young Armenians with tools to articulate their identity and advocate for justice in modern civic spaces.

### *Integrating Artsakh into Armenian Genocide Education Curriculum in LA Unified School District*

With regard to Educational Programming, the ANCA-WR Education Committee also embarked on a robust partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Kelly Gonez to organize an educator’s teaching guide that not only standardizes Armenian Genocide Education across LAUSD but also integrates Azerbaijan’s campaign of genocide against the Armenians of Artsakh as distinctly connected events; a continuation of the Armenian Genocide which takes root in the same ideological motives and tactics. In addition to announcing the adoption of the ANCA-WR Education Committee’s learning guide, the event also featured inspirational performances from students across the district.



*ANCA-WR Education Committee Chair Alice Petrossian offering opening remarks at LAUSD Board District 6 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Ceremony organized with LAUSD Board Member Kelly Gonez.*

**Masis Cemetery Arson Attack Response**

In April 2024, ANCA-WR responded swiftly and decisively to the arson attacks that targeted the Masis Ararat Cemetery in Fresno, California. The desecration of Armenian burial grounds deeply shook the community and raised renewed concerns about rising hate crimes against Armenian institutions throughout California. ANCA-WR immediately issued a public condemnation, engaged with local authorities, and amplified calls for a thorough investigation under state and federal hate-crime statutes. Through coordination with Fresno-area community leaders and heightened media outreach, the organization ensured that the attack received the attention it warranted, reaffirming its commitment to protecting Armenian cultural and religious sites across the Western United States.



*ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian, Government Affairs Director Tereza Yermian, and Policy Director Alex Galitsky offering remarks at the Policy Retreat.*

**“ SILENCE IN THE FACE OF UNLAWFUL DETENTION ENABLES IMPUNITY. ANCA WILL CONTINUE TO DEMAND ACTION, NOT STATEMENTS.**

*~Astine Suleimanyan,  
Boardmember*

**ANCA National Policy Retreat at the Reagan Presidential Library**

In Early 2024, ANCA-WR board members and advocates joined colleagues from the Eastern Region and ANCA-DC for a day of strategic retreat at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. The gathering focused on federal policy priorities – including Armenia’s security needs, sanctions on genocidal Azerbaijan, POW repatriation, and genocide education initiatives – and strengthened organizational cohesion across all ANCA offices. This retreat established a unified national strategy that guided the year’s advocacy and community efforts, reinforcing ANCA-WR’s role as a critical partner in national policy.



*ANCA Board Members Aida Dimejian, Zanku Armenian, & Ani Chaghlassian offering remarks during the Policy Retreat.*

**Junior State of America Youth Congress Conference**

ANCA-WR joined the Junior State of America Youth Congress Conference to present the importance of solidarity, civic engagement, and youth activism in shaping public policy. ANCA-WR staff encouraged students to understand the power of grassroots advocacy and provided context on the ongoing human rights violations against Armenians. This outreach reinforced ANCA-WR's commitment to educating and empowering the next generation of leaders.



*ANCA-WR Media and Comms Coordinator Edward Barsoumian with attendees of the Junior State of America Youth Congress, after raising awareness about Artsakh and the importance of youth activism.*

**Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Glendale City Hall**

In April 2024, ANCA-WR played a central role in planning, coordinating, and executing the annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Glendale City Hall. Working closely with city officials, community organizations, and partner institutions, ANCA-WR helped coordinate and shape the event's messaging to highlight both historical remembrance and the ongoing threats facing Armenians worldwide. The ceremony honored the 1.5 million martyrs of the Armenian genocide and underscored the continued need to confront denialism and safeguard Armenian rights today. Through its leadership and hands-on involvement, ANCA-WR ensured that the commemoration resonated deeply with the public and reinforced Glendale's enduring commitment to truth, justice, and community solidarity.



*Rep. Adam Schiff offering remarks*



*Glendale City officials paying respect to the victims of the Armenian Genocide in 1915*

**“THE ARMENIAN CAUSE ADVANCES WHEN MORAL CLARITY MEETS INSTITUTIONAL DISCIPLINE. THAT BALANCE DEFINES THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA.**

*~Antranig Kzirian,  
Board Secretary*



*Presentation of the flags by Homenetmen Scouts*



*Levon Baronian offering remarks*

**Honoring Armenian Heritage Month – Los Angeles City Event Led by Council President Emeritus Paul Krekorian**

As part of the Armenian Heritage Month, the Los Angeles City Council hosted a celebration program led by Council President Emeritus Paul Krekorian, the first Armenian-American to hold this position in the city’s history. The event celebrated the cultural, societal, and civic contributions of Los Angeles’ Armenian community, featuring musical performances, youth participation, and remarks underscoring solidarity with Artsakh. The program highlighted the city’s deep ties to the Armenian people and reaffirmed the local government’s commitment to supporting Armenian cultural identity and justice-based advocacy.



LA City Council President Emeritus Paul Krekorian with Shushan Karapetian and Ann Karagozian

**LA County Armenian Heritage Month – Supervisor Barger Honors Three Community Leaders**

Closing Armenian Heritage Month, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger honored three distinguished Armenian-American leaders whose work has shaped civic life and strengthened the region. The ceremony recognized contributions in education, medicine, and community advocacy, emphasizing the lasting impact Armenians continue to make nationwide. ANCA-WR’s participation reflected its role in ensuring Armenian visibility and representation in civic institutions.



Dr. Vartan Tachjian, Talin Yacoubian, and Nyree Derderian honorees of Supervisor Kathryn Barger

**International Religious Freedom Summit**

As the largest and most influential grassroots organization representing Armenian-American communities across the Western United States, ANCA-WR consistently seeks opportunities to advance policy conversations that safeguard Armenian interests. In this effort, ANCA-WR staff – including Government Affairs Director Ruben Karapetian–participated in the International Religious Freedom Summit. At this global convening, panelists examined the persecution of vulnerable communities worldwide. A central contribution to the Summit’s policy dialogue was delivered by former ANCA-WR Community Coordinator Dr. Simon Maghakyan, whose presentation traced Azerbaijan’s decades-long campaign of persecution against Armenians of Artsakh and Nakhichevan. He underscored the urgency of confronting the Aliyev regime’s deliberate destruction of Armenian cultural and religious heritage sites—an erasure that forms part of a broader genocidal strategy. The Summit’s diverse assembly of human rights advocates, policymakers, and atrocity-prevention experts provided

**“THE ARMENIAN CAUSE ADVANCES WHEN MORAL CLARITY MEETS INSTITUTIONAL DISCIPLINE. THAT BALANCE DEFINES THE ANCA-WR.”**

*~Antranig Kzirian,  
Board Secretary*



Karnig Kerkonian Esq. & Dr. Simon Maghakyan at the International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington D.C.

fertile ground to build new partnerships, strengthen ANCA-WR’s international network, and open pathways for expanded advocacy on behalf of the Armenian Cause.

**ANCA-WR School Visits – Mesrobian, Chamlian, and Pilibos**

Throughout the year, ANCA-WR staff visited Armenian Schools to deliver workshops and presentations on civic engagement, public policy, and grassroots advocacy. Students were introduced to pathways for community involvement and learned about the crucial role Armenian-American youth play in shaping the future of the Armenian Cause. These visits reinforced ANCA-WR's commitment to supporting Armenian educational institutions and cultivating informed, active leaders of the future.

*ANCA-DC & ANCA-WR Staff at during Mesrobian/Pilibos Hye Tahd Day giving educational talks to the students.*



**Constant Presence at AYF Camp**

During the summer, ANCA-WR continued its long-standing tradition of engagement at AYF Camp, participating in educational sessions, discussion circles, and leadership workshops. Hundreds of Armenian youth were given opportunities to explore issues facing Armenia and the diaspora, understand the foundations of civic participation, and connect with the ANCA's mission and work. This seasonal presence plays a key role in youth development and community empowerment.

**COP29 Students Walk-Out & Walk-a-Thon Demonstration**

On November 18, 2024, more than 500 Armenian High School students across Los Angeles organized a walk-a-thon protest against COP29 being hosted in Baku. Supported and amplified by the ANCA-WR, the demonstration condemned Azerbaijan's environmental hypocrisy and highlighted its ongoing human rights abuses against Armenians. The youth-led action garnered significant public attention and showcased the rising civic power of Armenian-American students, reaffirming the central role of youth activism within the broader Armenian advocacy movement.



*ANCA-DC & ANCA-WR Staff at Chamlian Armenian School giving educational talks to the students.*

**“ ANCA EXISTS TO TRANSLATE COMMUNITY WILL INTO POLITICAL ACTION.**

*~Matt Senekeremian, Boardmember*



### *Plenary Chapters' Meeting*

ANCA-WR convened a Plenary Chapters' meeting with representatives from local chapters across the Western United States. The meeting served as a forum to review the year's accomplishments, align regional messaging, and assess strategic priorities for the year ahead. This collaborative gathering strengthened organizational cohesion and reinforced ANCA-WR's commitment to coordinated grassroots-driven advocacy.

**“UNITY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING HEARD AND BEING HEDED. ANCA EXISTS TO ORGANIZE THAT UNITY INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION.**

*~Oshin Harootonian,  
ANCA-WR Board Chair*



ANCA Western Region Board Members and local chapter representatives gather in Burbank to discuss Hye Tahd priorities and policies in support of Armenian-American advocacy and the rights of Artsakh Armenians.

# Gala Banquet

The ANCA-WR hosted its Annual Gala Banquet, at the Beverly Hilton convening hundreds of community members, elected officials, advocates, and partners for an evening reflecting the resilience, unity, and ensuring strength of the Armenian Cause. The event underscored the collective commitment of the Armenian-American community during a critical moment, reaffirming shared resolve to pursue justice, support Artsakh's displaced families, and strengthen advocacy efforts at every level.



*ANCA-WR Chairman Oshin Harootyan offering remarks*



*ANCA Chairman Raffi Hamparian offering remarks*



*Gala Committee Chairlady Souzi Zerounian offering opening remarks*



*California State Treasurer Fiona Ma offering remarks at the Banquet*



*Rep. Anna Eshoo, accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award*



*Rep. Dina Titus, recipient of the Legislator of the Year, accepting the award*

The Gala honored distinguished leaders and institutions whose work has had a lasting impact on Armenian-American advocacy and public life. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) was recognized with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for her decades of principled leadership and steadfast support of Armenian issues, while Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) received the "Legislator of the Year Award" for her continued advocacy on behalf of the Armenian-American community. The evening also recognized Sam Simonian of TUMO Center for Creative Technologies for his transformative contributions to education and youth empowerment.



*Zaven Keuroglian, Founder of Zartok Media, accepts Steve Artinian Award*



*Van Melkonian, co-Founder of Zartok Media, accepts Steve Artinian Award*



*Anna Khachikyan, Founder of The Armenian Report, accepting Steve Artinian award*



*TUMO Founder Sam Simonian accepting the Global Education Excellence Award*

In addition, independent media outlets Zartok Media, The Armenian Report, and 301 were jointly presented with the “Steve Artinian Visionary Activist Award” for amplifying Armenian voices and delivering critical coverage during pivotal moments for the Armenian nation. More than a ceremonial gathering, the 2024 Gala served as a powerful reaffirmation of collective purpose—renewing determination, strengthening solidarity, and reinforcing the role of organized advocacy in shaping the path forward.

“ THERE CAN BE NO LASTING PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE, AND NO JUSTICE WHILE ARMENIAN PRISONERS OF WAR REMAIN UNLAWFULLY DETAINED. OUR COMMUNITY IS UNWAVERING: ACCOUNTABILITY, ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF EVERY CAPTIVE.

*-Antranig Kzirian, Esq.  
Boardmember*



*ARF Central Committee Member Armen Hovannisian Esq. offering remarks*



*Rep. Brad Sherman offering remarks during the Gala Banquet*

# Youth Programs

In 2024, ANCA-WR and the ANCA National Headquarters continued to invest deeply in building the next generation of Armenian-American advocates. Through a combination of regional and national internship programs, leadership academies, and professional development pathways, Armenian youth were equipped with the skills, confidence, and experience needed to advance the Armenian Cause across all levels of civic and political life. These programs form a unified leadership network that connects students and young professionals to opportunities in advocacy, public service, public policy, and community mobilization.

## *ANCA-WR Summer Internship Program*

The ANCA-WR Summer Internship Program once again served as the region's premier youth leadership initiative. In 2024, the cohort included Alina Isakhanian, Annie Moskofian, Arda Terzian, Artur Melikian, Ellin Manoukian, Gary Shirikchian, Isabel Nargizian, and Gemma Pogossian, each of whom brought a strong commitment to community advocacy and public service. Over the summer, interns conducted policy research, media and communications work, legislative tracking, community outreach, and issues-based programming focused on Armenia and Artsakh. They participated in briefings with elected officials, collaborated on regional initiatives, and contributed meaningfully to ANCA-WR's campaigns and communications. By the conclusion of the internship, the cohort had grown not only in skills and experience but also in their understanding of the responsibilities that come with advancing the Armenian Cause. Many remained actively engaged with ANCA-WR as volunteers and emerging leaders.



## *ANCA National Youth Internship & Fellowship Programs in Washington, DC*

Taking it one step further, ANCA National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. administered five major youth-focused programs in 2024 and 2025, each offering distinct entry points into federal-level advocacy, government affairs, and leadership development. Collectively, these initiatives engaged Armenian-American students and young professionals from communities across the United States, bringing together participants from the Northeast, South, Midwest, West Coast, and Pacific Northwest to Washington, D.C. for immersive civic and policy experiences.



## *Leo Sarkissian Internship (LSI)*

The flagship college-level Leo Sarkissian Internship brought a nationally representative cohort of students to Washington, D.C. for intensive advocate training and hands-on experience in federal policy work. Participants traveled from Armenian-American communities across multiple states and regions, reflecting the program's broad geographic reach. Throughout the summer, interns participated in congressional meetings, policy briefings, community events, and nationwide advocacy campaigns, playing a visible role in strengthening Armenian-American engagement on Capitol Hill.



***Hovig Apo Saghdejian Capital Gateway Program (CGP)***

The Capital Gateway Program supports recent graduates and young professionals from across the country seeking to launch careers in public service, policy, government, and national advocacy. Drawing fellows from a wide range of states and professional backgrounds, CGP provided mentorship, training, and placement support that led to opportunities in congressional offices, federal agencies, and public policy institutions throughout Washington, D.C.



***Rising Leaders Program***

The Rising Leaders Program engages high-school students and early undergraduates from Armenian-American communities across the United States who are beginning their civic journeys. Through workshops, mentorship, and policy-focused programming, participants gained an understanding of how advocacy functions at the national level and how young leaders from different regions can contribute to coordinated efforts for justice, recognition, and accountability.



***Haroutioun & Elizabeth Kasparian Summer Academy***

Designed for high-school and early-college students nationwide, the Kasparian Summer Academy brought together participants from diverse regional communities to learn the fundamentals of government, advocacy, and civic leadership. Students took part in seminars, Capitol Hill visits, and meetings with elected officials, gaining early exposure to how local community concerns are elevated into national policy discussions.

**“ THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON AN INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND PRINCIPLED GENERATION. ANCA’S INVESTMENT IN YOUTH ENSURES THAT ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBILITY ARE CARRIED FORWARD WITH PURPOSE.**

*-Garen Jinbanchian  
Community Coordinator*

20

25

# Government Affairs

In 2025, ANCA-WR continued to build upon its longstanding record of legislative advocacy at both the federal and state levels, advancing policies that strengthen Armenia's security, protect Artsakh's displaced population, counter anti-Armenian hate, and deepen the recognition and understanding of the Armenian Genocide. Working closely with congressional leaders, state legislators, and community partners, ANCA-WR played an active role in shaping legislation that reflects the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the Armenian-American community across the Western United States.

## Federal Legislative Priorities

### Armenian Genocide Education Act (H.R. 2585)

Introduced by Congresswoman Dina Titus with strong bipartisan support, the Armenian Genocide Education Act established a national program through the Library of Congress to promote public understanding of the Armenian Genocide through curriculum development, teacher training, and accessible educational resources. The bill authorizes \$2 million annually for five years to expand genocide education nationwide, with a specific emphasis on underserved areas. By championing this legislation, ANCA-WR continues its commitment to ensuring that the Armenian Genocide is accurately taught, respected, and recognized across the United States.



Armenian Genocide Education Act Introduced in the US House of Representatives

**“ARMENIAN GENOCIDE EDUCATION IS NOT ABOUT REVISITING THE PAST, BUT ABOUT CONFRONTING DENIAL, SAFEGUARDING HISTORICAL TRUTH, AND PREVENTING FUTURE ATROCITIES.**

*-Antranig Kzirian, Esq.  
Board Secretary*

**Condemning the Persecution of Christians (H.Res 594 and S.Res. 327)**  
Both the House and Senate introduced companion resolutions condemning the global persecution of Christians, including Armenian Christians in Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, and other regions where anti-Armenian policies continue to threaten religious and cultural survival. Led by Rep.

Riley Moore (R-WV) in the House, and Sen. John Hawley (R-MO) in the Senate, these resolutions cite systemic violence, cultural destruction, forced displacement, and targeted displacement, and targeted discrimination, explicitly naming the atrocities committed against Armenians in Artsakh as part of the global pattern of religious persecution. ANCA-WR actively engaged in supporting the passage of these measures, ensuring that Armenian suffering and ongoing threats are represented within U.S. human rights discourse.



### Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act (H.R. 5369)

The Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act, also introduced by Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), directs the U.S. President to evaluate whether specific Azerbaijani officials – military, judicial, law enforcement, and political – should be

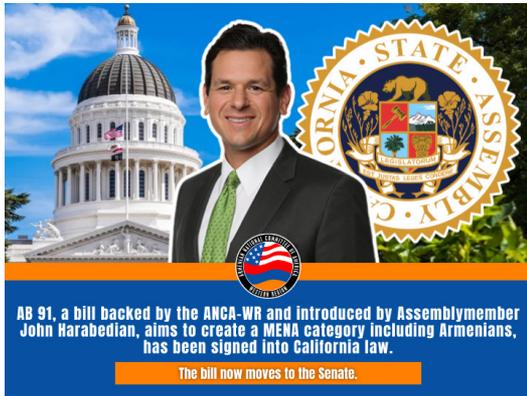


sanctioned under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. With dozens of named officials implicated in human-rights abuses, this bill represents a critical step toward accountability for Azerbaijan's ethnic cleansing of Artsakh's Armenians, unlawful detention of POWs, and widespread cultural destruction. ANCA-WR strongly supports this legislation as part of its broader strategy to secure punitive measures against the Aliyev regime and promote justice for victims of Azerbaijani aggression.

## California State Legislative Priorities

### *MENA Inclusion Act (A.B. 91)*

Introduced by Assemblymember John Harabedian, AB-91 requires all California state and local agencies to include Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) classifications in demographic reporting beginning in 2026. Importantly, this bill explicitly includes Armenians under the MENA umbrella, ensuring improved data representation for resource allocation, education, healthcare, civil rights protections, and community funding. The bill was signed into law by Governor Newsom.



### *Cultural and Religious Calendar Inclusion (A.B. 395)*

Introduced by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, A.B. 395 requires California higher-education institutions -beginning in the 202-2027 academic year-to avoid scheduling major educational events, including first days of class or graduation ceremonies, on significant cultural, religious, or ancestral observances. For the Armenian community, this includes solemn dates such as April 24th and festive ones such as Armenian Christmas on January 6th. The bill promoted equity and inclusion by ensuring that community members are not forced to choose between their heritage and their education. ANCA-WR supported the measure throughout its legislative journey, which was signed into California State Law.



### *Dual Language Instruction Materials Grant (A.B. 865)*

Recognizing the importance of supporting dual-language immersion programs across the state, A.B. 965 establishes a one-time \$5 million grant program that provides \$100,000 awards to participating school districts to develop or purchase instructional materials in a wide range of languages, including Armenian. Authored by Assemblymember Mark Gonzales and Jose Solache, the bill prioritizes both commonly spoken and heritage languages to promote linguistic preservation and educational equity. ANCA-WR strongly supported this legislation as a meaningful investment in the retention of the Armenian language and cultural education within California's public school system.



“THERE CAN BE NO RECONCILIATION BUILT ON CAPTIVITY. UNLAWFUL DETENTION REMAINS UNLAWFUL - REGARDLESS OF YEARS PASSED.

~Aram Sarkissian  
Boardmember

### ***Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program (S.B. 472)***

Introduced by Senator Henry Stern, S.B. 472 creates a statewide Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program to fund teacher training, curricular expansion, and school district initiatives. Critically, the bill



enhances implementation of genocide education mandates and ensures consistent statewide engagement, including instruction on the Armenian Genocide. Local educational agencies will also be required to report annually on their genocide education efforts.

ANCA-WR supported this legislation as a vital step toward strengthening truth-based education and combating genocide denial within California, which was signed into California State Law.



*ANCA-WR Government Affairs Director Ruben Karapetian, Government Affairs Coordinator Sonia Meroian, and NorCal Coordinator Henry Agajanov with Asm. Mike Fong*



*ANCA-WR Board Members Lara Yeretsian, Esq., Astine Suleimanyan, Executive Director Ruben Karapetian, and Assemblymember John Harabedian*

### ***Economic Justice & Consumer Protection***

ANCA-WR forcefully condemned the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) for quietly abandoning its anti-discrimination order against Citibank, despite evidence of explicit targeting of Armenian-surnamed

applicants. ANCA-WR's public response emphasized the broader implications for civil rights and discriminatory financial practices, reaffirming the need for federal accountability and equal protection for Armenian-Americans.



#### **ANCA-WR CONDEMNS CFPB FOR ABANDONING CITIBANK ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDER**

The ANCA-WR strongly condemns the CFPB's decision to end Citibank's consent order three years early, despite ongoing reports of anti-Armenian banking discrimination. This action weakens accountability and signals to financial institutions that bias can go unpunished.

# Community Efforts

In 2025, ANCA - Western Region significantly expanded its community-facing initiatives, strengthening partnerships with public institutions, deepening civic engagement across diasporan communities, and mobilizing Armenians throughout the Western United States around education, remembrance, and advocacy. From public safety collaborations and statewide policy advocacy to youth empowerment, voter mobilization, and large-scale commemorative programming, ANCA-Western Region's community efforts reflected a holistic strategy to inform, protect, and activate the Armenian-American community. These initiatives not only addressed immediate needs but also advanced long-term priorities tied to justice, civic participation, and cultural preservation.

## Strengthening Community Partnerships & Public Safety

### Engagement with LAPD Leadership

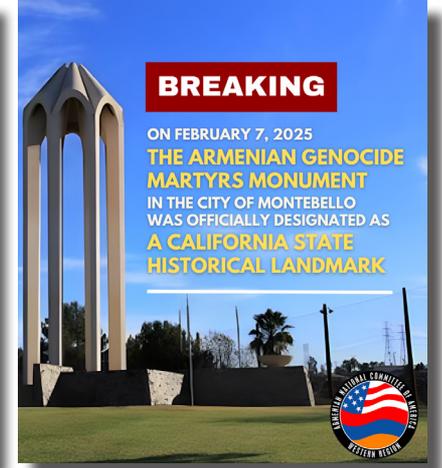
ANCA-WR strengthened relationships with law enforcement through a high-level community meeting with LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell. The discussion focused on addressing hate crimes, improving incident response protocols, and increasing cultural competency within the department. This engagement reaffirmed ANCA-WR's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Armenian institutions and residents across Los Angeles.



ANCA-WR Chairman Oshin Harootonian, LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell, Father Vassilian, and ANCA-WR Board Member Lara Yeretsian, Esq.

### Designation of the Montebello Armenian Genocide Monument as a State Historic Landmark

In Partnership with local leaders and California State Senator Bob Archuleta, ANCA-WR celebrated the Montebello Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument's official recognition as a California State Historic Landmark. This milestone ensures permanent state-level protection of one of the most significant Armenian memorials in the diaspora and strengthens public awareness of the Armenian Genocide within California's historical landscape.



## Education, Youth Empowerment & Leadership Development

### CASPS Leadership Workshop

ANCA-WR joined the California Armenian Student Public School (CASPS) Leadership Workshop to inspire Armenian public-school students to pursue advocacy, civic engagement, and leadership roles. The workshop focused on identity, representation, and community responsibility, reinforcing the importance of Armenian-American youth as the next generation of advocates.



### ***ANCA-WR at AYF Houston Campout***

Expanding outreach beyond California, ANCA-WR’s Garen Jinbachian led an advocacy and civic engagement session at the AYF Houston Campout, connecting directly with youth in the growing Texas Armenian community. The workshop emphasized the importance of political participation, combating misinformation, and strengthening Armenian diasporan networks across state lines.



### ***Honoring the Lives of Nichan Kulukian and Abraham “Apo” Saghdejian***

The 2025 cycle was marked by the tragic loss of Nichan Kulukian and Apo Saghdejian, two Armenians whose lives and legacies carried deep meaning for the Armenian-American community. ANCA-WR honored them throughout the year, reaffirming the organization’s commitment to nurturing, uplifting, and protecting Armenian youth while continuing to champion the causes they represented.



### ***Advancing Religious Freedom Advocacy Through High-Level Engagement***

In 2025, ANCA-WR further strengthened its engagement on issues of religious freedom through its relationship with the Vice Chair of the International Religious Freedom Commission, underscoring the organization’s role as a consistent and credible advocate on matters of faith-based persecution and cultural survival. The Vice Chair – in his own capacity – undertook a fact-finding visit to Armenia in order to assess the religious freedom conditions facing the Armenian people amid ongoing instability and targeted threats to Armenian Christian heritage. During the visit, he conducted meetings on the ground. ANCA-WR’s engagement surrounding this



visit reflected its steadfast commitment to elevating Armenian religious freedom concerns within global human-rights discourse and policy circles.

*ANCA-WR Board Member Dr. Kevork Hagopjian, Esq., USCIRF Vice Chairman Dr. Asif Mahmoud, Asm. John Harabedian, and ANCA-WR Board Member Astine Suleimanyan at 2025 ANCA-WR Gala Banquet*

### ***School Visits, Hye Tahd Days, and Youth Engagement Across Armenian Schools***

Throughout 2025, ANCA-WR deepened its presence within Armenian educational institutions through school visits, engagement sessions, and the annual Hye Tahd Days, reaffirming its role as a constant and steadfast presence in Armenian civic education. These initiatives reached students at Rose & Alex Pilibos Armenian School, Ferrahian High School, Armenian Mesrobian School, and Chamlian Armenian School, fostering sustained dialogue around civic responsibility, student empowerment and pathways to advocacy.

Through interactive discussions, presentations, and Hye Tahd Days, students were introduced to ongoing legislative initiatives, voter mobilization strategies, genocide education efforts, and the importance of countering misinformation targeting Armenian communities. These engagements strengthened intergenerational continuity, ensuring that the next generation enters public life prepared, informed, and committed to advancing the Armenian Cause.



*ANCA-WR Community Coordinator Garen Jinbajian at Mesrobian School engaging with students about Hye Tahd*

### *Town Hall with Nick Schultz*

ANCA-WR hosted a town hall with Assemblymember Nick Schultz, at the ACF Burbank Beshir Mardirossian Youth Center, creating a forum for Armenian-American residents to raise local concerns, discuss public safety issues, and explore ways to enhance civic participation. The town hall reinforced the importance of transparent engagement between elected officials and the Armenian community.



*ANCA-WR Executive Director Ruben Karapetian moderating a town hall with Assemblymember Nick Schultz*

## **Civic Mobilization, Advocacy, & Voter Engagement**

### *Sacramento Advocacy & Commemoration Events*

ANCA-WR, alongside its Northern California Chapters, organized multiple efforts in Sacramento, including the Armenian Genocide Commemoration at the State Capitol and a full day of legislative advocacy. Participants engaged lawmakers on priority issues ranging from genocide education to Armenian security, ensuring that April 24 remained both a solemn day of remembrance and a strategic day of statewide engagement.



*ANCA-WR with Assemblymember Nick Schultz*



*ANCA Burbank Chapter with Assemblymember Nick Schultz*

# Cultural Preservation, Remembrance, and Armenian Genocide Commemoration

## 110th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – Statewide Commemorations

ANCA-WR led a broad network of commemoration events marking the 110th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, ensuring that remembrance remained firmly embedded in public consciousness while drawing attention to the enjoying threats facing Armenians worldwide. The commemorations featured keynote addresses by ANCA-WR Board memebtrs Dr. Kevork Hagopjian, Esq., and Lenna Hovanessian, J.D.

Key events included:



ANCA-WR Board Members Dr. Kevork Hagopjian, Esq., Astine Suleimanyan, with Assemblymember John Harabedian, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, and East LA College Director Dr. Armond Aghakhanian

Glendale Unified School District’s April 24 Commemoration – highlighting educational initiatives and student-led programming.

Los Angeles City Commemoration – a large-scale Day of Unity and Remembrance uniting civic leaders, community organizations, and the public.

San Francisco Commemoration – a powerful gathering emphasizing justice, historical truth, and the defense of Indigenous Armenian heritage.

STATEMENT

**ANCA-WR Statement on the 110th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide: “Truth Preserved, Justice Pursued”**

April 24, 2025

ancawr.org | @anca\_wr



ANCA-WR Board Member Astine Suleimanyan at Armenian Genocide Commemoration in LA



California Senator Adam Schiff offering remarks in Glendale, in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide victims



*ANCA-WR Board Member Lenna Hovannisian J.D. giving a moving and thought evoking keynote speech during the Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Glendale City Hall*

San Gabriel Valley Candlelight Vigil – hosted by ARF Dro Gomideh, resting in a solemn, community-centered space for reflection.

San Fernando Valley Community Commemoration – mobilizing hundreds in a call to action linking past genocide to present-day threats.



*ANCA Orange County Chairman Kev Abazajian offering remarks at the Armenian Genocide Commemoration event in Santa Ana, OC.*

Across all regions, ANCA-WR emphasized the message of **“Truth Preserved, Justice Pursued”**, linking commemoration with contemporary advocacy for Artsakh, Armenia’s security, and global recognition of the Armenian Genocide.



*AYF Western United States Organized its annual protest in front of the Turkish Embassy in Los Angeles*

**“ TRUTH HAS BEEN PRESERVED FOR 110 YEARS. JUSTICE MUST NOW BE SERVED-AND UNTIL IT IS, WE WILL NEVER STOP PRESERVING THE TRUTH AND PURSUING JUSTICE.**

*- Oshin Harootonian,  
Board Chair*



*ANCA-WR Board Chair Oshin Harootonian, and Member Astine Suleimanyan with LA City Council Member Imelda Padilla, presenting a certificate for the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Month*

***March Towards Justice – Over 1,400 Armenian Students Unite for Remembrance and Action***

In April 2025, over 1,400 Armenian students from eight Southern California Armenian schools came together for a powerful “March Towards Justice” in Montebello, CA, honoring the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in the Armenian Genocide and calling for global recognition and justice.



The student-led march—supported by ANCA-WR—brought together youth from **Rose & Alex Pilibos Armenian School, Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School, Bahan and Anoush Chamlian Armenian School, AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, Armenian Sisters’ Academy, St. Gregory Hovsepian School, Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School,** and the host campus, **Mesrobian Armenian School.** Escorted by local law enforcement and blessed at Holy Cross Cathedral before culminating at the Montebello Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument, the event wove together prayer, reflection, and calls for action.

At the monument, students participated in a closing program featuring wreath-laying, songs, and poignant messages about memory and responsibility. Principals, clergy, and community leaders emphasized that the march was more than symbolic; it was a declaration of resilience, unity, and purpose, with young Armenian-Americans stepping forward as torchbearers of truth and justice. ANCA-WR applauded the march as one of the largest coordinated youth initiatives in recent memory, highlighting the critical role of education and collective civic engagement in preserving historical truth and empowering future generations to defend the Armenian Cause.



*Longtime ANCA Activist and ARF Western USA Central Committee Board Representative Garo Madenlian Esq. offering remarks at the Armenian Genocide Commemoration Event in Montebello*

**“ AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT, WE ARE ALSO COMPELLED TO EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN OVER ANY DISCOURSE—NO MATTER THE SOURCE—THAT DILUTES OR REFRAMES THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TO SUIT POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY.**

*-Dr. Kevork Hagopjian, Esq.  
Boardmember*

*ANCA-WR Board Member Dr. Kevork Hagopjian Esq., offering Keynote Speech during the Armenian Genocide Commemoration Remembrance Evening in Holy Martyr’s Ferrahian Armenian School*



***Arranging High-Level Diplomatic & Faith Based Engagements***



*His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)*

During His Holiness Aram I's pontifical visit to the Western United States in 2025, ANCA-WR played

a central role in facilitating high-level meetings between the Catholicos and key elected officials, reinforcing the intersection of faith leadership, diplomacy, and advocacy for Armenian rights. These engagements included meetings with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Former Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, and California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, providing an important platform to raise concerns related to Armenia's security, the protection of Armenian Christian heritage, and the rights of Artsakh's displaced population. Through these coordinated efforts, ANCA-WR helped ensure that the moral authority of the Armenian Church was effectively linked with policy dialogue at the highest levels, strengthening advocacy for justice, accountability, and the protection of Armenian religious and cultural identity during a critical moment for the Armenian people.

*His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia with His Excellence Kegham Khatcherian, Primate of the Western US Prelacy with Lt. Governor of California Eleni Kounalakis*



***A Conversation with Prof. Talin Suciyan***

In collaboration with the Glendale Youth Center, ANCA-WR's Garen Jinbanchian hosted a conversation with prominent scholar Talin Suciyan, author of *Outcasting Armenians*, to explore themes of memory, systemic discrimination, and the continuity of violence from the Ottoman Empire to the present. The event deepened community understanding of Armenian historical survival and reinforced the importance of academic scholarship for contemporary advocacy.



*Dr. Talin Suciyan and Garen Jinbanchian discussing the Armenian Genocide and the Ottoman Empire*

***Meeting Arrangements with His Holiness Aram I and CSI Leadership***

In 2025, ANCA-WR undertook significant steps to strengthen collaboration with global Armenian leadership. The organization coordinated meetings with His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia, along with international human-rights partner Dr. John Eibner, President of Christian Solidarity International (CSI). These arrangements reflected ANCA-WR's efforts to build a unified, strategic approach to confronting anti-Armenian aggression, expanding global advocacy networks, and securing stronger protections for Armenian communities worldwide. Through diplomatic engagement, planning discussions, and alignment of priorities, ANCA-WR helped lay the groundwork for coordinated international initiatives centered on accountability, cultural preservation, and long-term security for Armenians in the homeland and diaspora.



# Gala Banquet

In October 2025, the ANCA-WR hosted its annual Gala Banquet at the Fairmont Century Plaza, bringing together community leaders, elected officials, coalition partners, and grassroots advocates to celebrate a renewed strategic vision for Armenian-American advocacy. The evening underscored the organization's expanding regional and national footprint, reaffirming commitments to advancing Armenia's security, ensuring accountability for Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression, and mobilizing the Armenian-Ameri-



*ANCA-WR Chairman Oshin Harootyan offering remarks*



*ANCA Executive Director Aram Hambarian offering remarks*



*Gala Committee Chairlady Liliane Arejian's opening remarks*



*ANCA-WR Board Member Lenna Hovannisian's remarks*



*Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award*



*Rep. Kim Young (R-CA), recipient of the Legislator of the Year, accepting the award*

can community toward long-term civic and political empowerment. The Gala also honored distinguished individuals and institutions whose leadership and service advance justice, truth, and the Armenian Cause. Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was recognized with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for her enduring commitment to Armenian issues and human rights, specifically with her leadership role in passing the Armenian Genocide Recognition Act in Congress during her Speakership. Representative Young Kim (R-CA) received the "Legislator of the Year Award" for her principled advocacy. Additional honorees included the Armenian Bar Association recipient of the "Vahan Cardashian Award;" Schwartz-Semerdjian Law Group, honored as "Advocate for



*CSI President Dr. John Eibner accepting the Human Rights Champion Award*



*Lucy Varpetian accepting the Vahan Cardashian Award on behalf of ABA*



*Schwartz-Semerdjian accepting the Advocate for Justice Award*



*ANCA-WR's Community Coordinator Garen Jinbachian offering remarks to the youth and internship alumni*

Justice”; and Christian Solidarity International, presented with the “Human Rights Champion Award.” Together, these recognitions reflected the strength, diversity, and resilience of ANCA-WR’s broad coalition. This year’s Gala reaffirmed the power of collective action, spotlighting the essential roles of youth leadership, legislative advocacy, and community mobilization in shaping future progress. With messages of unity and renewed purpose delivered by elected officials, spiritual leaders, and ANCA leadership, the Banquet served not only as a celebration of accomplishments but as a call to deepen engagement, expand influence, and strengthen advocacy efforts heading into 2026.

**“ WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER AND GATHER OUR POWER AS ONE PEOPLE, WE DO NOT MERELY INFLUENCE POLICY -WE SHAPE IT.**

*-Lenna Hovannesian, J.D.  
Board Member*



*Armen Hovannisian Esq. offering a moving speech in solidarity with the Armenian Prisoners of War*



*His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia offering remarks about the Armenian Cause*

# Youth Programs

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## LEO SARKISSIAN INTERNSHIP



APPLY [anca.org/internship](https://anca.org/internship) BE THE VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

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The Capital Gateway Program supports recent graduates and young professionals from across the country seeking to launch careers in public service, policy, government, and national advocacy. Drawing fellows from a wide range of states and professional backgrounds, CGP provided mentorship, training, and placement support that led to opportunities in congressional offices, federal agencies, and public policy institutions throughout Washington, D.C.



**KICKSTART YOUR CAREER**

**Become an ANCA Hovig Apo Saghdejian Capital Gateway Fellow**

Free Housing | Career Workshops | Mentoring | Networking

**Rising Leaders Program**

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**ANCA RISING LEADERS**

APPLY BY **Feb. 17th**

March 2025 | Washington, DC  
Session 1 | March 8 - 11  
Session 2 | March 22 - 25

Apply today at [anca.org/risingleaders](http://anca.org/risingleaders)  
New Application Deadline: February 17th



**Haroutioun & Elizabeth Kasparian Summer Academy**

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**LEO SARKISIAN INTERNSHIP**



APPLY NOW: [ANCA.ORG/INTERNSHIP](http://ANCA.ORG/INTERNSHIP)

**APPLY BY APRIL 14TH**

**“ BUILDING ON OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS AND INTERNSHIPS, WE, AT THE ANCA-WR, EVISION A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM THAT CULTIVATES PRINCIPLED LEADERS AND ENSURES ARMENIAN-AMERICANS HELP SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. THIS IS ABOUT EQUIPPING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT ITS HISTORY, ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE, AND SHAPE ITS FUTURE. THAT IS A TRUE INVESTMENT IN OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE.**

*-Lara Yeretsian, Esq.  
Board Member*

# ANCA-WR In the Media

In 2025, ANCA-WR significantly expanded its media presence, ensuring that Armenian priorities remained visible in public discourse across local, national, and international platforms. Community Coordinator Garen Jinbachtian, alongside ANCA-WR Board Members and leadership participated in numerous media interviews addressing the right of return for Indigenous Armenians displaced from Artsakh, accountability for Azerbaijan’s ethnic cleansing, and the organization’s legislative advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels. These appearances also highlighted ANCA-WR’s long-term investment in youth leadership through its internship and civic engagement initiatives, underscoring the organization’s role in cultivating the next generation of



ANCA-WR's Garen Jinbachtian's comment on the Daily Wire regarding the so-called "peace declaration"

Armenian-American advocates. Through consistent, principled media engagement, ANCA-WR amplified Armenian voices, countered misinformation, and reinforced a rights-based narrative centered on justice, self-determination, and sustained advocacy.

## DAILY WIRE+

— EXCLUSIVE —

### How Trump's 'Unique Solution' For Armenia And Azerbaijan Likely Prevented A Full-Scale War

By Zach Jewell · Aug 14, 2025 DailyWire.com 34 Comments

**"A true and lasting peace requires justice — the right of return for displaced Armenians, the release of hostages, protection for Christian heritage sites, and the withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces from Armenia - none of which are addressed in this agreement," the Armenian National Committee of America added in a statement.**

In a phone call with The Daily Wire, Garen Jinbachtian, the community coordinator for the Western Region of the Armenian National Committee of America, said that Trump's Armenia-Azerbaijan deal "seems like a huge PR stunt to some extent."

**"Frankly, you cannot have lasting peace, you cannot have real peace if one of the parties is held at gunpoint and practically coerced to sign it," said Jinbachtian. "The whole deal is based on injustice, the lack of justice in the region. Ethnic cleansing is not justice."**

ANCAWR.ORG



ANCA-WR Board Member Lenna Hovanesian on ABC7 discussing the horrendous Washington Declaration



Garen Jinbanchian on Metanoya with Hripsime Arakelyan discussing the essence of being Armenian and supporting Armenia from the Diaspora

**“ AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT, WE ARE ALSO COMPELLED TO EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN OVER ANY DISCOURSE—NO MATTER THE SOURCE—THAT DILUTES OR REFRAMES THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TO SUIT POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY.**

*-Garen Jinbanchian  
Community Coordinator*



ANCA-WR Community Coordinator hosting an interview with CSI President Dr. John Eibner about the decades long humanitarian aid offered to Artsakh



ANCA-WR's Garen Jinbanchian on Groong Podcast, discussing OSCE's Human Dimension Conference

**«ՕՐԱԿԱՐԳ»**

**Հիւրեր՝**  
**ԿԱՐԷՆ ՃԻՆԺԱԽԻԱՆ (ԱՌՍ ԱՆՃԵԼԵՍԷՆ)**  
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**Յարույժ Մարկոսեանի հետ**

**Նիւր՝**  
 «ԵԱԳԿ-ի մարդակային իրաւանց խորհրդատուով»

**Հինգշաբթի,  
 6 Նոյեմբեր 2025,  
 կէսօրէ առաջ  
 ժամը 11.00**



**Radio Voice of Van**  
  
 FM 94.7 & 95.0 MHZ.



# ANCA-WR's International Work

## OSCE Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw Poland

In Fall 2025, ANCA-WR participated in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (OSCE WHDC), where ANCA-WR Community Coordinator Garen Jinbanchian delivered remarks and engaged in multilateral discussion around human rights, religious freedom, and accountability for Azerbaijan's ethnic cleansing of Artsakh's Indigenous Armenians. This marked a significant expansion of ANCA-WR's international advocacy presence, bringing Western Region leadership directly into global policy forums where human rights enforcement and genocide prevention are debated. Through interventions, briefings, and coalition meetings, ANCA-WR elevated the urgent issues of POW repatriation, the right of return, and the preservation of Armenian cultural and religious heritage, ensuring that the Armenian Cause remained at the forefront of OSCE deliberations.



*ANCA-WR Community Coordinator Garen Jinbanchian and Aram Kevorkian from EAFJD, participating at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference*



“THE RULE OF LAW CANNOT COEXIST WITH SELECTIVE JUSTICE. IT CANNOT THRIVE WHERE ACCOUNTABILITY IS ABSENT. IF IMPUNITY IS ALLOWED TO PREVAIL, THE CONSEQUENCES EXTEND BEYOND ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN. IT UNDERMINES THE CREDIBILITY OF EVERY INSTITUTION REPRESENTED IN THIS ROOM.

~Garen Jinbanchian  
Community Coordinator

# HyeVotes 2025

## HyeVotes Campaign Relaunch & Special Election Mobilization

**A**NCA-WR relaunched HyeVotes, its non-partisan voter education and mobilization initiative, to strengthen Armenian-American civic participation ahead of the 2026 election cycle. The campaign expands voter outreach, ensuring Armenian-American voices are represented at the ballot box through registration drives, public information resources, targeted workshops, multilingual civic education materials, and partnerships with student and community organizations. The relaunch underscores ANCA-WR's commitment to elevating Armenian-American electoral engagement and strength-



ening civic power across cities and regions with significant Armenian populations. As part of these renewed efforts, HyeVotes launched specialized programming to prepare the community for the November 4, 2025, Special Election in California—mobi-



lizing Armenian-American voters to participate in this critical mid-cycle contest. Through community canvassing, digital outreach, polling-place awareness campaigns, and messaging targeted toward newly registered voters, HyeVotes

**“VOTING IS NOT JUST A RIGHT—IT’S A RESPONSIBILITY, THIS CAMPAIGN IS ABOUT SHOWING ARMENIAN-AMERICANS THE POWER OF THEIR VOTE AND HOW IT SHAPES THE FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

~Alex Manoukian  
HyeVotes Director

demonstrated the power of organized civic engagement. This mobilization marked a key milestone in strengthening Armenian-American participation in statewide elections and ensuring the community remains politically visible and electorally influential heading into 2026.



# Board of Directors



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# Staff

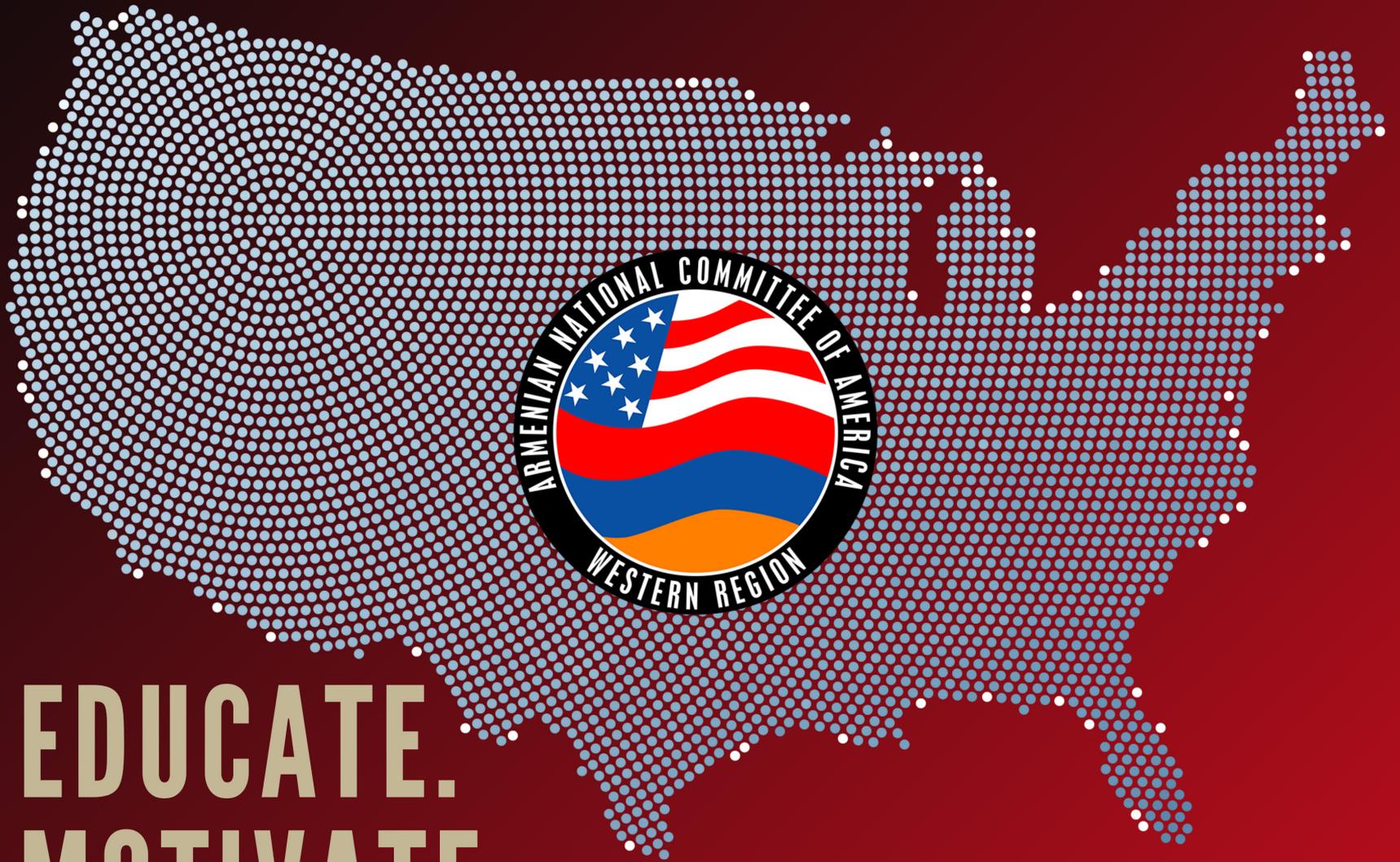
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Garen Jinbachian | **Community Coordinator**

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Edward Barsoumian | **Communication Director** Ex officio since 2025

Sonia Meroian | **Government Affairs Coordinator** Ex officio since 2025



**EDUCATE.  
MOTIVATE.  
ACTIVATE.**

