

2020-2021 Impact Report

Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region



Mission Statement

The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region is the largest and most influential nonpartisan Armenian-American grassroots advocacy organization in the Western United States. Working in coordination with a network of offices, chapters, and supporters throughout the region and affiliated organizations around the country, the ANCA-WR serves all aspects of the Armenian Cause by organizing and developing local Armenian communities; promoting the political, legal, social, cultural, educational and economic interests and rights of the Armenian American community at the local, state, regional, and national levels; seeking justice for the Armenian Genocide; supporting economic development and democracy in the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh; ensuring the right to self-determination and independence for the people of Artsakh and Javakhk; ensuring the return of Nakhichevan to its rightful owners; and advocating for all aspects of the Armenian Cause through grassroots mobilization, political relationships, media presence, and education.



Executive Summary

Dear ANCA-WR Advocate,

2020 began like many others, a time of stability and prosperity for our community. By spring, however, we understood that we had entered a unique and difficult moment in our history. From the COVID pandemic to the devastating war in Artsakh, and the new challenges that 2021 has brought, the ANCA-WR was always ready to respond to the crisis by launching campaigns and mobilizing the community. We continued to harness support for the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh, advocate for justice for the Armenian Genocide, and develop grassroots programs to organize and lead the vast Armenian-American Diaspora community in the western half of the United States.

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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From the earliest days of the outbreak, the ANCA-WR teamed up with local Armenian-American groups to make sure vulnerable community members were protected, by providing them groceries, translating materials, and directing community members to the resources they needed. Our staff regularly updated the community by having appearances on Armenian TV channels and hosting live updates with elected officials to provide up to date information to our community.

The Armenian-American community commemorated the 105th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by partnering up with Feeding America and provided 5 million meals to those facing a food insecurity crisis due to the pandemic, to give thanks to America for its philanthropy at our greatest hour of need.

Azerbaijan's Genocidal Invasion of Artsakh

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The ANCA-WR sprung into action following Azerbaijan's genocidal invasion of Artsakh, undertaking efforts to raise public awareness and encourage urgent action to thwart Baku's onslaught. As part of an unprecedented community mobilization effort, the ANCA-WR worked to counter Azerbaijan's attempts to whitewash its crimes at every turn; from dozens of local, national and international media appearances; pressuring PR firms to terminate contracts with Turkey and Azerbaijan; co-organizing one of the largest demonstrations in the history of Los Angeles, bringing over 100,000 people to march on the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles; to activating hundreds of thousands of Armenian-Americans to demand the U.S. hold Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable for their aggression - bringing our issues to the forefront of the 2020 U.S. election campaign.

Armenian Genocide Recognition

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As a result of decades of grassroots advocacy by the Armenian American community led by the ANCA, the U.S. House and Senate recognized the Armenian Genocide in 2019, followed by formal recognition by President Joseph R. Biden on April 24, 2021, finally ending Turkey's gag rule over U.S. foreign policy.

We now focus on the next steps; from institutionalizing the remembrance and memorial of the Armenian genocide, to working to include Armenian genocide education in school curricula, and ensuring recognition and justice for the Armenian Genocide and ongoing genocidal policies serve as a basis for U.S. engagement with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Federal Legislation

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In response to Azerbaijan and Turkey's genocidal aggression against the Armenians of Artsakh during the 44-Day war, the ANCA-WR has worked to support the ANCA's Washington, DC office to pursue a range of measures to hold Baku and Ankara accountable for their perpetration of war crimes, successfully mandating reports into their conduct during the war as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

State Legislation/Divest Turkey

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Building on the passage of the Turkey Divestment bill signed by the Governor of California in 2019, the ANCA-WR supported legislation in the State Assembly and Senate aimed at pressuring the state pension and retirement funds CalPRS and CalSTRS to adopt policies prohibiting the investment of public funds in Turkish government owned entities.

Meeting with Officials

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The ANCA-WR continuously met with dozens of Congressional offices to convey the Armenian community's urgent priorities with regards to imposing accountability measures on Turkey and Azerbaijan over their ongoing aggression against Armenia and Artsakh and with CA State officials regarding legislation related to the divestment of public funds from Turkey, promoting the inclusion of the Armenian community in the Ethnic Studies Curriculum, and the passage of Holocaust and Genocide Education legislation.

Media Engagement

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Understanding the power mass media plays in shaping public opinion and policy, the ANCA-WR made media a priority, resulting in unprecedented coverage of our community and our issues in print and television outlets.

Tatoyan Delegation Visit

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The ANCA-WR hosted Armenia's Human Rights Ombudsman Dr. Arman Tatoyan in California for a 2-week long delegation that included meetings with high-level officials, a conference with leading experts in the field of international human rights law, community forums, and a luncheon at which Dr. Tatoyan was awarded the ANCA-WR's Human Rights Champion Award for his service to the Armenian people.

Stronger Together

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In the midst of deepening social and political polarization, and a concerning rise in discrimination and racist violence, the ANCA-WR continues to stand on the side of equality and justice; from supporting the racial justice movement following nationwide demonstrations over George Floyd's murder at the hands of a police officer, to issuing its strong support for the Asian-American community following vicious hate crimes, participating in a conference on combating Hinduphobia, and condemning the disturbing rise in anti-Semitic violence across the U.S. - founding the Armenian-Jewish Advisory Council (AJAC) to strengthen ties between our communities.

Education Committee

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The ANCA-WR Education Committee trained public school teachers throughout the Western Region on how to teach about the Armenian Genocide, launched a new website that provided resources to educators on Armenian related topics, and worked with a number associations to pass crucial legislation.

Community Engagement

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The ANCA-WR re-launched the HyeVotes initiative and registered new Armenian-American voters, provided voter education, secured government funding for Armenian language voter materials, and conducted community outreach to encourage participation in the elections in order to assert our collective voice.

During the election season, ANCA-WR determined which candidates best grasp the needs of the Armenian American community by releasing endorsement lists, as a public service to voters interested in factoring our insights into the diverse set of criteria they consider when voting. The ANCA-WR recorded a sweeping victory in the federal and state level, where nearly all of its endorsed candidates were victorious.

The ANCA-WR teamed up with the U.S. Census Bureau, in an effort to ensure a complete count of the Armenian-American community in the 2020 Census, by launching its HyeCount campaign and conducting extensive community outreach and actively engaging in the California redistricting process to preserve the integrity of the voice of our community at every level of government.

Tireless efforts went into forging long-lasting, robust relationships with various community organizations.

The ANCA-WR's local chapters played a paramount role in cultivating relationships with public officials, assisting with community outreach, and helping promote grassroots activism to more effectively advance the Armenian-American Cause.

Investing in The Next Generation

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We hosted very talented classes of interns on a local, regional and national level and worked with youth groups and schools to train and motivate a new generation of leaders who will continue our fight to advance the Armenian Cause.

New Initiatives (Impact Media Institute + Duty 2 Prevent)

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To combat the global rise in anti-Armenian hate crimes, which has directly impacted our communities in California, the ANCA-WR launched its Duty to Prevent initiative aimed at documenting and confronting Armenophobia in our communities.

In our commitment to genocide prevention and combating genocide denial, the ANCA-WR continues to advance its Impact Media Institute - developing resources and research on genocide perpetration and denial in the world today, and building coalitions around the combating of genocide denial and the obfuscation of crimes against humanity.

01.

Responding to COVID-19



Engaging with Policymakers to Obtain Latest Information / Ensure Armenian Language Materials

2020 was a challenging and complicated year, to say the least. Our communities were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our compatriots in Lebanon witnessed the horrific explosion in Beirut, and our brothers and sisters bravely defended our homeland as Azerbaijan with support from Turkey, launched a full scale war. As we navigated through the challenges, the ANCA-WR was always ready to respond to the crisis by launching campaigns and mobilizing the community.

As we battled the COVID-19 pandemic as a community, the ANCA-WR and local chapters teamed up with local Armenian-American groups to assist community members in need by providing groceries, translating materials, and directing community members to the resources they needed. Our staff regularly updated the community by having appearances on Armenian TV channels and hosting live updates with elected officials to provide up to date information to our community.

Feeding America to Commemorate the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

On April 24, 2020 in lieu of traditional events, the Armenian-American community commemorated the 105th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by partnering up with Feeding America to provide meals to those facing a food insecurity crisis due to unprecedented levels of unemployment brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic. Through this epic campaign, the entire Armenian community was able to give thanks to America for its philanthropy at our greatest hour of need, and in turn the Armenian-American community was able to help our neighbors of all backgrounds and affiliations who faced food shortages at this extraordinary time. The campaign, whose main goal was to provide 1.5 million meals, exceeded its original goal and we were able to provide more than 5 million meals, in honor of our martyrs.

5,000,000 MILLION MEALS

AMERICA WE THANK YOU

THANK YOU, ARMENIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
Together we made history!

1.5 MILLION MEALS FOR 1.5 MILLION LIVES
BY SURVIVORS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



02.

Azerbaijan's Genocidal Invasion of Artsakh

On September 27th, 2020 Azerbaijan - with Turkey's explicit backing - launched a genocidal invasion against the Republic of Artsakh resulting in the unimaginable: 70% of our ancestral homeland under Azerbaijan's occupation, tens of thousands of Armenians forced from their homes, ancient cultural heritage desecrated and destroyed, and hundreds of prisoners of war still languishing in detention where they face severe mistreatment and torture. Today, the sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia itself is threatened by the encroachment of Azerbaijan into Syunik.

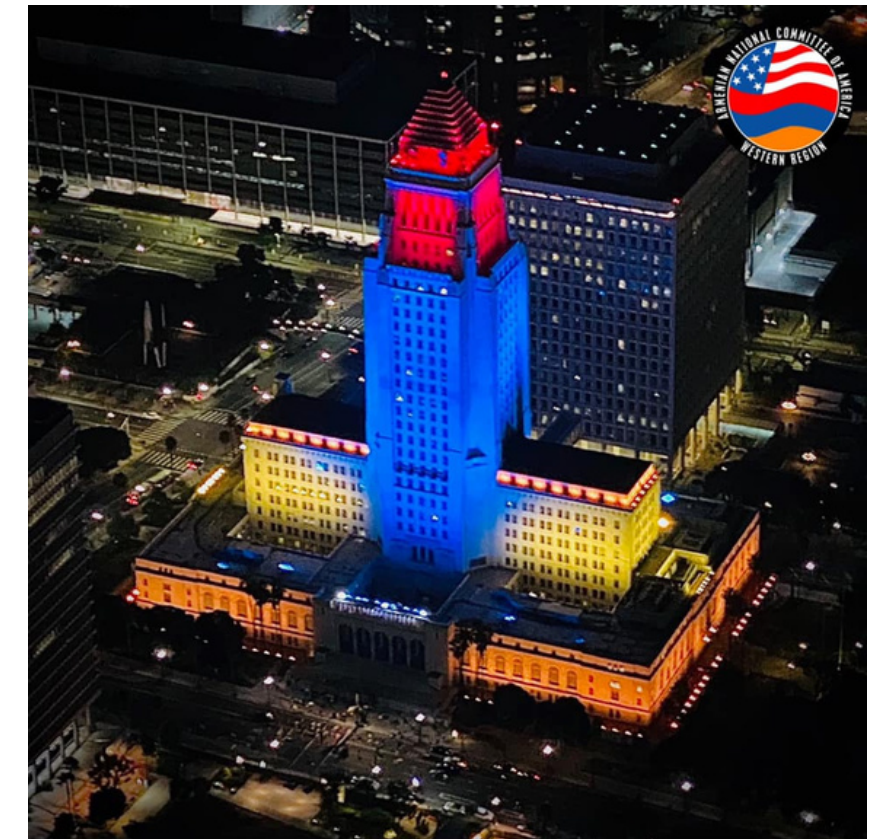


Political Advocacy

For years, the ANCA-WR has worked to protect the inalienable right to self-determination for the people of Artsakh, support the Artsakh Republic's development, and curtail Azerbaijan's ongoing genocidal aggression. In the wake of war, we have only redoubled our efforts to ensure justice for the Armenians of Artsakh.

Following Azerbaijan's unprovoked assault on Tavush and amidst its provocative war games with Turkey, the ANCA-WR was already in the process of seeking to curtail Baku's aggression through demanding an end to U.S. taxpayer support for Azerbaijan's military through the enforcement of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and greater congressional oversight over the provision of U.S. security assistance to Azerbaijan. The ANCA-WR also supported efforts to secure vital funding for humanitarian demining operations in Artsakh.

After Azerbaijan's unprovoked invasion of Artsakh in September, the ANCA-WR immediately commenced advocating for a range of measures to halt Azerbaijan's genocidal aggression, and secure Artsakh's right to self-determination. These included efforts to end U.S. assistance to Turkey and Azerbaijan over their perpetration of grave human rights violations and war crimes, and to conduct an evaluation of how U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan altered the regional balance of power in the lead up to the war.



Since the disastrous ceasefire agreement of November 9th and the loss of 70% of Artsakh's territory, the ANCA-WR has been committed to pursuing efforts to hold Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable for their aggression against both the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia itself. Throughout 2021, the ANCA-WR worked in close coordination with the ANCA Washington, DC office to advocate for the inclusion of amendments to the U.S. Foreign Assistance bill and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in the House and Senate that would seek to hold Turkey and Azerbaijan accountable for their aggression.

As a result of this tireless advocacy, a provision was included in the NDAA that mandates the U.S. conduct a report into four aspects of Turkey and Azerbaijan's aggression; perpetration of major human rights violations and war crimes, the use of U.S. technology in Turkish Bayraktar drones, the torture and mistreatment of Armenian prisoners of war by Azerbaijan, and the recruitment and deployment of jihadist mercenaries by Turkey.

The ANCA-WR also continues to demand the urgent provision of assistance to Armenia and Artsakh to address what USAID has described as an "acute" humanitarian crisis as a result of Azerbaijan's forced displacement of tens of thousands of civilians in Artsakh.

**STOP U.S. ARMS AND
AID TO AZERBAIJAN**
HOLD ALIYEV AND ERDOGAN ACCOUNTABLE

CALL FOR PASSAGE OF ANCA-BACKED
PRO-ARMENIAN AMENDMENTS TO THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
ACT: ANCA.ORG/NDAA



Media Engagement

During and since the war, the ANCA-WR conducted a robust media campaign that drew an unprecedented level of attention to Azerbaijan's aggression against Armenia and Artsakh. The ANCA-WR was quoted in and conducted dozens of interviews with local, national and international media including the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Post, NPR World, BBC World News, The Guardian, The New Statesman, and Politico.

Articles written by the ANCA-WR staff were published widely by mainstream publications including The Los Angeles Times, The National Interest, The Hill, Newsweek, Haaretz, The Jerusalem Post and Foreign Policy. The ANCA-WR also met with the editorial boards of the Los Angeles Times and New York Times, as well as the newsroom directors of local news media outlets to convey concerns regarding the misrepresentation of Azerbaijan's aggression against Armenia and highlight the systematic and deliberate nature of Azerbaijan's anti-Armenian violence.



Peace on Azerbaijan's Terms Won't End the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

Baku is attempting to assert sovereignty through force and ethnic cleansing while denying Armenians the right to self-determination.

Los Angeles Times

Letters to the Editor: Armenians aren't in a 'conflict.' They're fighting for their survival



Opinion | Turkey's Trojan Horse and Iran Appeaser Azerbaijan Is No Ally for Israel

Thanks to the Gulf, Israel no longer needs its oil-for-arms alliance with a Baku in bed with Erdogan's ultranationalist military adventurism. For moral and strategic reasons, Israel should now pivot towards Armenia



U.S. Recognition of Kosovo Sets a Precedent for Artsakh

The case of Kosovo inadvertently laid out a framework for remedial secession that applies directly to the case of Artsakh and the expression of its right to self-determination in the face of the existential threat posed by Azerbaijan.

The United States Must Stop Arming Human Rights Abusers

Whether it be the ethnic cleansing of the Kurds in Northern Syria by Turkey, the devastation inflicted upon the people of Yemen by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, or Pakistan's enabling of regional extremists and abysmal human rights record at home—U.S. arms and aid have perpetuated tragedy at a global scale.

Public Affairs

For years, Azerbaijan has utilized its considerable oil wealth – and international money laundering efforts – to fund a coordinated public affairs campaign designed to whitewash its egregious human rights record. In the lead up to and during its invasion of Artsakh, Baku spared no expense in its attempts to sanitize its public image – contracting public relations firms and PR professionals to clean up the image of its tyrannical dictatorship.

This was met with a powerful response by the Armenian-American community, which applied considerable pressure to several major PR firms demanding they end their contracts with Turkey and Azerbaijan's genocidal governments.

One example of this was Mercury Public Affairs, a global public relations firm that for years has rendered strategic, political, and public affairs services to the Republic of Turkey – and has been complicit in whitewashing the myriad human rights abuses perpetrated by the Erdogan regime. In February 2020, Mercury signed a contract with Turkey's Embassy in Washington, D.C. to the tune of one million dollars.

The ANCA-WR was involved in rallying members of the Los Angeles City Council, members of the California State Legislature, as well as one of Mercury's clients – the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) – to demand Mercury's termination of its contract with the Republic of Turkey. On October 23rd, the ANCA-WR received confirmation that the firm would be terminating its registration as a foreign agent for the Republic of Turkey.

Mercury's decision also followed similar decisions by two other public relations firms – Livingston Group and DLA Piper – that had ended their representation of Azerbaijan amidst public outcry over Turkey and Azerbaijan's aggression against Artsakh.

Another example of Azerbaijan's attempts to influence the public narrative included its use of established global brands to propagate pro-war narratives. Azerbaijan has long weaponized cultural phenomena and global brands from Eurovision, Formula 1 to the Europa League to disseminate state propaganda. During the 44-day war, this was seen when the Azerbaijani franchises of major international fast-food companies including McDonald's and Burger King posted graphics on their social media accounts celebrating Azerbaijan's invasion and occupation of ancestral Armenian lands. In response, the ANCA-WR contacted the corporate leadership of both companies – which promptly removed the offending posts, and issued their apologies and regret.





Community Mobilization

During the course of the war, the ANCA-WR was actively engaged in mobilizing all segments of the Armenian-American community to urge an immediate halt to Azerbaijan’s military aggression. The ANCA-WR saw an unprecedented level of engagement through social media platforms and ANCA action alerts during the course of the war, calling on community members to demand the US impose sanctions on Azerbaijan and Turkey over their coordinated assault on Armenia.

Targeted campaigns against public relations firms and the manufacturers of parts found in Turkish drones, for example, saw immediate results when several companies committed to severing ties with Turkey and Azerbaijan in response to community pressure.

The ANCA-WR was also actively present at protests throughout Los Angeles, addressing crowds of tens of thousands and engaging extensively with media on the ground to highlight the pressing need for international action to halt Azerbaijan’s genocidal invasion.

The ANCA-WR’s community mobilization efforts culminated with the “March for Victory” on October 11th – where, in coordination with a coalition of Armenian community organizations, up to 150,000 people marched on the Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey demanding an end to Ankara and Baku’s efforts to continue the Armenian Genocide. The demonstration – one of the largest in the history of Los Angeles – brought an unprecedented amount of awareness to the plight of the Armenian people, demonstrating the collective strength of the Armenian-American community in the face of extreme adversity.

U.S. Drone Part Manufacturers

During the war, battlefield evidence confirmed that Turkey’s Bayraktar drones – deployed by Azerbaijan against civilians in Armenia and Artsakh – contained parts and technologies manufactured by US firms and US-based affiliates of foreign firms.

In response, the ANCA-WR – in coordination with the ANCA Washington, D.C. office – launched a campaign to compel these companies to cease any and all sales and transfers that were used in Azerbaijan and Turkey’s aggression against Armenia and Artsakh.

As a result, several firms confirmed to the ANCA that they would end the sale of drone technology to Turkey. These included the California-based companies ViaSat and Trimble Navigation, which produced airborder modem transceivers and GPS receivers found in Bayraktar Drones. The Kansas-based US affiliate of the Swiss firm Garmin also confirmed to the ANCA that it would end the sale of its GPS navigation units to the Turkish drone manufacturer.



Meeting and Press Conference with the Israeli Consul General

Amidst Israel's continued sale of offensive military technology including drones and cluster munitions to Azerbaijan used in its invasion of Artsakh - as well as resupplying Azerbaijan in the midst of war - the ANCA-WR met with Israel's Consul General in Los Angeles Dr. Hillel Newman.

Israel is one of Azerbaijan's largest arms suppliers, with independent sources confirming that over the last 5 years the weapons trade between Israel and Azerbaijan has exceeded \$800 million dollars.

The meeting served as an opportunity for the ANCA-WR to convey the Armenian-American community's concerns over Israel's complicity in Azerbaijan's perpetuation of war crimes and human rights abuses directly to the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was followed by a press conference attended by several local media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times. During the conference, ANCA-WR urged the Israeli Government to end its complicity in Azerbaijan's war crimes by suspending the sale of arms of Baku.




Combatting Rise in Anti-Armenian Hate Crimes

Azerbaijan's state-sponsored racism against Armenians has extended well beyond the institutionalized dehumanization of the Armenian people within its own borders. In the lead up to the invasion of Artsakh, Azerbaijan's export of anti-Armenian hatred led to a concerning rise in Armenophobic hate crimes throughout the world - including mob attacks on Armenians in Russia, the vandalism of an Armenian genocide memorial in France, and the arson attack on an Armenian embassy vehicle in Germany.

This rise in Armenophobic hate crimes also hit close to home, with the arson attack on a church building in San Francisco that housed a number of Armenian community organizations - including the ANCA's San Francisco chapter. San Francisco was also the site of two separate anti-Armenian hate crimes at the Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan (KZV) Armenian School - the grotesque anti-Armenian vandalism of school property, and the shooting of the school's sign a few months later. And just recently in Los Angeles, St. Peter's Armenian Church in Van Nuys was vandalized in a suspected hate crime.

In response, the ANCA-WR has not only remained engaged closely with law enforcement officials to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure the safety and security of our communities, but has started a new initiative called the Duty to Protect to document and report on the state of anti-Armenian hate across the United States.

 **Nancy Pelosi** @SpeakerPelosi · Jul 25
Each and every one of us has a duty to stand up to hate wherever it appears. The KZV Armenian School is a part of the beautiful fabric of our San Francisco family. The hateful defacing of this place of community & learning is a disgrace.



03.

Armenian Genocide Recognition

Community Action

Leading up to April 24, 2021, ANCA rallied Armenian Americans from all 50 states to send over 1,000,000 messages to the White House and Congress over the past several months – generating powerful momentum for President Biden to speak truthfully about the Armenian Genocide this April.

The Pan Armenian Council of Western United States and its member organizations, which also includes the ANCA-WR, launched an online petition in April of 2021, urging President Joseph R. Biden to honor his pledge to reaffirm U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Thousands of community members signed the petition. Along with the Armenian Genocide Committee, the ANCA-WR hosted a virtual commemoration, where dozens of elected officials addressed the Armenian community and called on the President to end this shameful chapter of U.S. complicity in Turkey’s denial of this unpunished crime against humanity and unequivocally affirm the official U.S. policy established in a near unanimous historic bipartisan expression by Congress in 2019.

ANCA SUPPORTERS SEND
1 MILLION+
MESSAGES CALLING ON PRESIDENT BIDEN
TO RECOGNIZE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#MARCHTOJUSTICE | ANCA.ORG/GENOCIDE

YES IT'S GENOCIDE

End Denial Of The Armenian Genocide
 Sign Here: YesItsGenocide.org

Congress Calls on the Biden Administration

In March of 2021, a bipartisan group of 37 Senators joined Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) in calling on President Biden to follow the lead of Congress in fully and formally recognizing the Armenian Genocide. A month later, a bipartisan group of 107 U.S. House Members called on President Biden to “clearly and directly recognize the Armenian Genocide” in his upcoming April 24 statement, ending Turkey’s foreign gag-rule against honest U.S. remembrance of this crime. The members of Congress co-signed the letter to President Biden spearheaded by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and the Congressional Armenian Caucus leadership, which cited President Biden’s decades of efforts to reset U.S. policy on the Armenian Genocide.

THANK YOU

Presidential Recognition

After decades of tireless activism by the Armenian-American community led by the ANCA, President Joseph Biden on April 24, 2021 followed the lead of the U.S. Congress in recognizing the Armenian Genocide. President Biden's decision to formally recognize the Armenian genocide was an unequivocal rejection of the longest foreign gag-rule in U.S. history, and dealt a major setback to Turkey's century-long obstruction of justice for its crime.

In joining with the U.S. Senate and House, 49 U.S. states, and a dozen NATO allies, President Biden rejected decades of American complicity in Turkey's denials and confirmed an irreversible government-wide U.S. policy officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide. This recognition is a victory for the Armenian-American community and coalition partners and is a fitting tribute to America's own heroic role in saving hundreds of thousands of survivors of the genocide through the Near East Relief. This victory was only possible as a result of the unprecedented activism and mobilization of the Armenian-American community over decades.

President Biden's recognition of the genocide pivots the U.S. toward a sustained policy that meaningfully and materially supports Artsakh's survival and Armenia's security, while forcefully challenging Turkey and Azerbaijan's anti-Armenian aggression. Alongside growing global condemnation of this crime, U.S. recognition also isolates Turkey and undermines its denials, increasing pressure upon Ankara to end its campaign of lies, cease its obstruction of justice, and open the door to a truthful, just, and comprehensive resolution of present-day Turkey's legal, moral, political, and territorial responsibilities for this still unpunished crime.

THE WHITE HOUSE



BRIEFING ROOM

Statement by President Joe Biden on Armenian Remembrance Day

APRIL 24, 2021 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

Each year on this day, we remember the lives of all those who died in the Ottoman-era Armenian genocide and recommit ourselves to preventing such an atrocity from ever again occurring. Beginning on April 24, 1915, with the arrest of Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople by Ottoman authorities, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in a campaign of extermination. We honor the victims of the Meds Yeghern so that the horrors of what happened are never lost to history. And we remember so that we remain ever-vigilant against the corrosive influence of hate in all its forms.

Of those who survived, most were forced to find new homes and new lives around the world, including in the United States. With strength and resilience, the Armenian people survived and rebuilt their community. Over the decades Armenian immigrants have enriched the United States in countless ways, but they have never forgotten the tragic history that brought so many of their ancestors to our shores. We honor their story. We see that pain. We affirm the history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated.

Today, as we mourn what was lost, let us also turn our eyes to the future—toward the world that we wish to build for our children. A world unstained by the daily evils of bigotry and intolerance, where human rights are respected, and where all people are able to pursue their lives in dignity and security. Let us renew our shared resolve to prevent future atrocities from occurring anywhere in the world. And let us pursue healing and reconciliation for all the people of the world.

The American people honor all those Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago today.



What's Next?

Following the recognition statement, the ANCA-WR hosted two Fireside Chat webinars with David Ignatius of the Washington Post, Author, Actor & Playwright, Eric Bogosian, Professor, Dr. Bedross Der Matossian, Philanthropist and Emmy-nominated Filmmaker, Dr. Eric Esrailian, International Lawyer, Michelle Gulino, and Congressman David Valadao, and Nicholas Kristof of the The New York Times who discussed the future efforts to secure justice for the Armenian Genocide.

Congressional and Presidential recognition of the Armenian Genocide mark the beginning of a new age for Armenian-American advocacy. Most importantly it should inform U.S. foreign policy vis-a-vis the broader region to remedy the consequences of this crime to the genocide-survivor state of Armenia. Future efforts in the pursuit of justice for the Armenian Genocide in a post-recognition world rest upon the further institutionalization of Armenian Genocide education both in schools and in larger institutions like the Library of Congress, broader adoption of statements by legislators at all levels of government to demand justice and reparations for the Armenian Genocide, to counter continued genocidal policies currently promoted by Turkey and Azerbaijan, and stand firmly against complicity in its denial. Armenian Genocide recognition should elevate and inform atrocity prevention, bringing the Armenian Cause to the forefront of these issues.

ANCA-WR advocacy in a post-recognition world also aims to further institutionalize recognition through a variety of initiatives. One important avenue is to reassess the American diplomatic training process at the Foreign Service Institute—especially as it pertains to the history of the Genocide and post-recognition realities. Separately, wider genocide education reform in schools, and establishing permanent museums and exhibits educating on the Armenian Genocide are important steps toward ensuring widespread recognition in American society. The ANCA-WR is also addressing the concerning increase of Armenophobia, hate speech, and hate crimes against Armenians, and working to enact legislation which implements safeguards on social media platforms that ensure the safety and security of Armenians everywhere.

04.

ADVANCING THE ARMENIAN CAUSE ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL

In close coordination with the ANCA Washington, DC office, the ANCA-WR has worked to advance the Armenian Cause in the federal arena through a comprehensive pro-Armenian policy agenda calling for the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance to Armenia and Artsakh in the wake of war, and demanding accountability measures be enforced against Azerbaijan and Turkey over their aggression against the Armenian people.

To advance these federal priorities, the ANCA-WR actively advocated for standalone bills, as well as amendments to both the FY22 Foreign Aid Bill and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), on a range of issues; from demanding the release of Armenian POWs, the provision of U.S. humanitarian assistance to Armenia and Artsakh, and calling for the enforcement of Section 907 restrictions on the provision of military aid to Azerbaijan.

In the FY22 Foreign Operations Bill, the ANCA advocated for an amendment introduced by Rep. Frank Pallone blocking International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Foreign Military Financing (FMF) assistance to Azerbaijan. Additionally, a result of the ANCA's advocacy, the House Committee on Appropriations also called for no less than \$50 million in U.S. assistance to Armenia, and a further \$2 million for humanitarian demining operations in Artsakh. As of this writing, while the Foreign Operations Bill has not yet passed the Senate, the Senate Appropriations Committee echoed the House's calls for the provision of demining assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh.

The ANCA-WR continues to demand that Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act is upheld to prevent the further provision of U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan, and that further assistance be provided to Armenia and Artsakh to address the urgent humanitarian crisis.

As part of its advocacy surrounding the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the ANCA-WR supported several bipartisan amendments designed to hold Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable for their aggression against Armenia and Artsakh during and since the 44-Day War. These included:

BREAKING NEWS

**US HOUSE ADOPTS
5 ANCA-BACKED
PRO-ARMENIAN AMENDMENTS**

ANCA.ORG

THANK YOU FOR CO-SPONSORING AMENDMENT 123 TO NDAA

Requires a report from the Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, addressing allegations that some units of foreign countries that have participated in security cooperation programs under section 333 of title 10, U.S.C. may have also committed gross violations of internationally recognized human rights before or while receiving U.S. security assistance.

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THANK YOU FOR CO-SPONSORING AMENDMENT 122 TO NDAA

Withholds U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan through the Section 333 Building Partner Capacity Program.

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THANK YOU FOR CO-SPONSORING AMENDMENT 408 TO NDAA

Requires a report within 180 days of all US humanitarian and developmental assistance programs in Nagorno Karabakh, including an analysis of the effectiveness of such programs and any plans for future assistance.

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Amendment #52 – Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA): Blocks Federal funds from being used to provide security assistance to Azerbaijan.

Amendment #90 – Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA): Prohibits the transfer of United States security assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan.

Amendment #122 – Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ): Withholds U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan through the Section 333 Building Partner Capacity Program.

Amendment #123 – Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ): Requires a report into human rights abuses perpetrated by recipients of Section 333 funding, i.e. Azerbaijan.

Amendment #408 – Rep. David Valadao (R-CA) / Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA): Requires a report within 180 days of all US humanitarian and developmental assistance programs in Nagorno Karabakh, including an analysis of the effectiveness of such programs and any plans for future assistance.

Amendment #560 – Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) / Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA): Urges the Administration to engage with Azerbaijani authorities to make clear the importance of adhering to their obligations under the November 9 statement, and to immediately release all prisoners of war and captured civilians.

Amendment #579 – Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV): Requires a report by the Secretary of State on the activities of the Grey Wolves organization and a review of the criteria met for designation as a foreign terrorist organization.

Amendment #586 – Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA): Requires a report from the Secretary of Defense on U.S. parts found in Turkish Bayraktar drones deployed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno Karabakh and an assessment of potential violations of Arms Export Control Act.

Amendment #4150 – Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ): Calls for a joint State Department and Defense Department report on Turkey's use of U.S. technology in its Bayraktar drones, with a special focus on whether their sale to third countries, like Azerbaijan, violates U.S. export laws.

Amendment #4251 – Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA): Calls for a joint State Department and Defense Department report, in response to Azerbaijani war crimes during the 2020 Artsakh war, including the use of U.S. technology during the attacks; the use of white phosphorous, cluster bombs, and other prohibited munitions; and the hiring of foreign mercenaries.

Amendment #4177 – Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ): Removes the Presidential Waiver Authority for Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act.

As a result of the ANCA's sustained advocacy throughout the NDAA amendment process, the final language of the spending package mandated reporting by the federal government into the conduct of Turkey and Azerbaijan in line with the requests made through the aforementioned amendments. These included reporting into:

- The use of U.S. weapons or controlled technology employed during the 2020 war, which includes the use of U.S. parts found in Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones.
- The involvement of foreign actors, including the deployment of terror-linked mercenaries by Turkey, in addition to a comprehensive description of the military activities, influence operations, foreign military sales and diplomatic engagement with foreign countries before, during and after the war.
- The ongoing violations of the November 9, 2020 agreement, and the ongoing detention and persecution of prisoners of war and captured civilians by Azerbaijan.
- Violations of international law, asserting that it was the sense of Congress that all obligations under international law (including the immediate release of prisoners of war and civilians) must be met, and that parties (namely Azerbaijan with regards to its incursion into Syunik) must refrain from the threat and use of force in the pursuit of diplomatic resolutions to outstanding disputes.



Next Steps

The ANCA's federal agenda focused on ensuring justice and accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Azerbaijan and Turkey during the 2020 Artsakh War. Through the efforts of the ANCA aid was allocated to Armenia and Artsakh including the reestablishment of humanitarian demining in Artsakh, and the blocking of IMET and FMF funding to Azerbaijan. The provisions to the 2022 NDAA that the ANCA advocated for established reporting standards which initiated multiple federal fact-finding reports on the assessment of U.S. parts in Turkish drones supplied to Azerbaijan and used against Armenians; the involvement of foreign governments and their auxiliaries in the 2020 Artsakh War; a further investigation on Azerbaijan's illegal detention and torture of Armenian prisoners of war; and a summary of Azerbaijan's belligerent violations following the November 9th Agreement. The ANCA is committed and will continue to work with legislators in the House and Senate to ensure further restrictions are imposed on Azerbaijan by reinforcing S.907 of the Freedom Support Act, and the unconditional return of Armenian prisoners of war.

05.

State Legislation

Divest Turkey Movement

In 2021, the ANCA-WR continued to strengthen measures to divest Californian taxpayer dollars from Turkish government-issued bonds and other financial instruments, building on efforts led by the Armenian Youth Federation and Armenian Students Associations across the state that resulted in the unanimous passage of resolutions calling for the divestment of \$74 million invested by the University of California in Turkish government issued bonds.

In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law AB1320 - expanding the scope of the Divest Turkey movement by prohibiting the boards of the California Public Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) from making additional or new investments, or renew existing investments issued or owned by the government of Turkey after federal sanctions were imposed.

The ANCA-WR has continued to make significant strides towards divestment through ramping up pressure on CalPERS and CalSTRS - two of the most significant public investment funds in the United States - to actively divest from Turkish government bonds and securities.

Working with friends in the California State Legislature, the ANCA-WR supported the introduction of AB 1019 and SB 457 by Assemblymember Holden and Senator Portantino, respectively, to mandate CalPERS and CalSTRS expedite efforts to divest state funds from Turkish government-owned securities. As a result of the pressure generated by ANCA-WR's sustained grassroots activism - that saw tens of thousands of Armenian-American community members register their support for the measures - both CalPERS and CalSTRS elected to adopt policies ending all new investments in Turkish government-backed investment vehicles, marking a significant victory for the Divest Turkey movement and laying the groundwork for future efforts to prevent further public investments that would enrich the denialist regime in Ankara.



California Legislative Priorities

The ANCA-WR was also involved in advancing a number of other Armenian-American community priorities in the California State legislature, including:

- **ACR 105 (Holden):** The establishment of a sister-state relationship between California and Armenia's Syunik province, encouraging mutually beneficial educational, economic and cultural exchanges while asserting the importance of this relationship in the face of Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression against Armenia and Artsakh. The bill was adopted by the Assembly, and is currently under consideration in the Senate.
- **AB 57 (Gabriel):** Establishes comprehensive legal procedures and policies across police agencies in the State of California regarding hate crimes, including the development of effective systems of support for victims, and protocols for investigating sharing case information across agencies - particularly pertinent in light of the disturbing rise of anti-Armenian hate crimes in the State of California at the incitement of the Azerbaijani government.
- **SB 693 (Stern):** The establishment of a 15-member Governor's Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education to promote the implementation of and establishment of best practices for genocide and holocaust education in schools across the state. The bill, adopted by executive order of Governor Newsom, provides that the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Committee on Rules would each appoint 5 members of the council, who would be required to be individuals with particular interest in, or expertise on, genocide.
- **AB 1126 (Bloom):** This bill, enacted into law, establishes a commission on the state of hate, which is charged with providing resources and assistance to the Department of Justice, the office of the Attorney General, the Office of Emergency Services, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and the public on emerging trends in hate-related crimes.



Out of CA Highlights

Colorado - In July of 2020, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed a law that mandated the teaching of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust, among other cases of genocide, as a requirement for High School graduation in the Centennial State. The bill was co-initiated and championed for by the ANCA-WR office in Denver, in collaboration with Jewish Colorado and the Coalition Against Global Genocide." During initial hearings, Armenian community members Anahid Katchian, Kim Christianian, and ANCA-WR staffer, Simon Maghakyants joined many others in testifying in support of the bill. The year-long advocacy for the bill would not have succeeded without the efforts of ANCA Colorado activist Cole Wist, the Colorado House's former Assistant Minority Leader, who convinced the state legislature that genocide education is a priority, even during a pandemic.

Nevada- A bill strengthening and mandating Holocaust and Armenian Genocide education in Nevada, which passed both houses of the state legislature with unanimous support, was signed into law by Nevada Governor Sisolak on May 31, 2021. Assembly Bill (AB) 231's passing is timely with U.S. President Joe Biden's unprecedented acknowledgement, affirmation and unequivocal use of the term "Armenian Genocide" after the 2019 passage by the U.S. Congress. AB 231 is a bipartisan piece of legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen and Lisa Krasner and supported by Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall. Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Nevada Co-Chair Lenna Hovanessian, Esq. spearheaded the bill with the Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN) and the sponsorship of Lt. Governor Marshall, a strong proponent for inclusion of the Armenian Genocide, with relentless advocacy by Hovanessian, local and regional, ANCA, and the Nevada Armenian-American community.

On November 17, 2020, following oral testimony from ANCA-Nevada Co-chair Lenna Hovanessian, Clark County, Nevada, home to the world-famous Las Vegas Strip, presented a Proclamation officially recognizing Artsakh. Also, present at the ceremony were Artsakh's Representative to the US, Robert Avetisyan and Consul General of Los Angeles, Dr. Armen Baibourtian.

Idaho - On January 21, 2021, the City of Twin Falls, Idaho, recognized the Republic of Artsakh, thanks to the efforts of survivors of the 1990 Baku pogroms, under the leadership of local ANCA chair Liyah Babayan, resettled in Twin Falls as refugees.



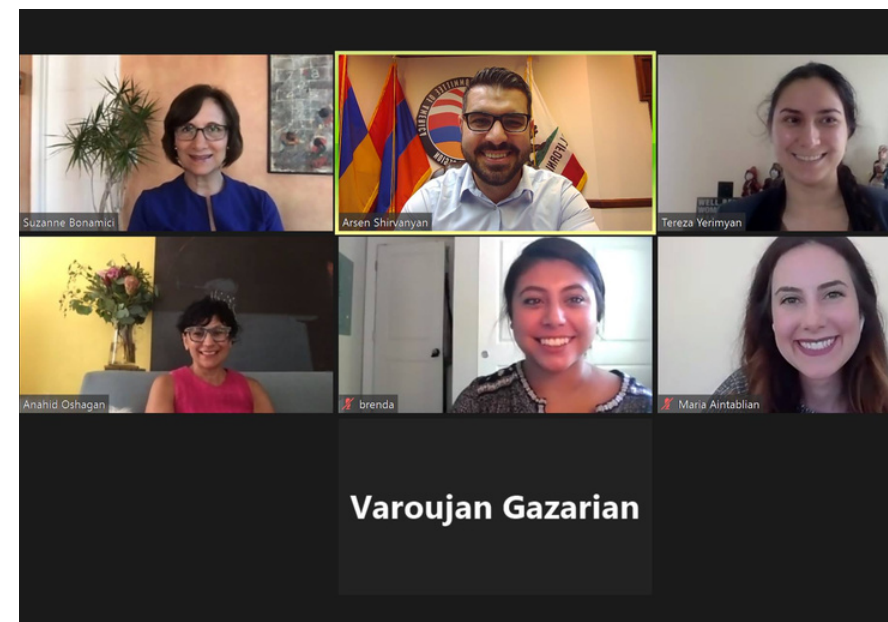
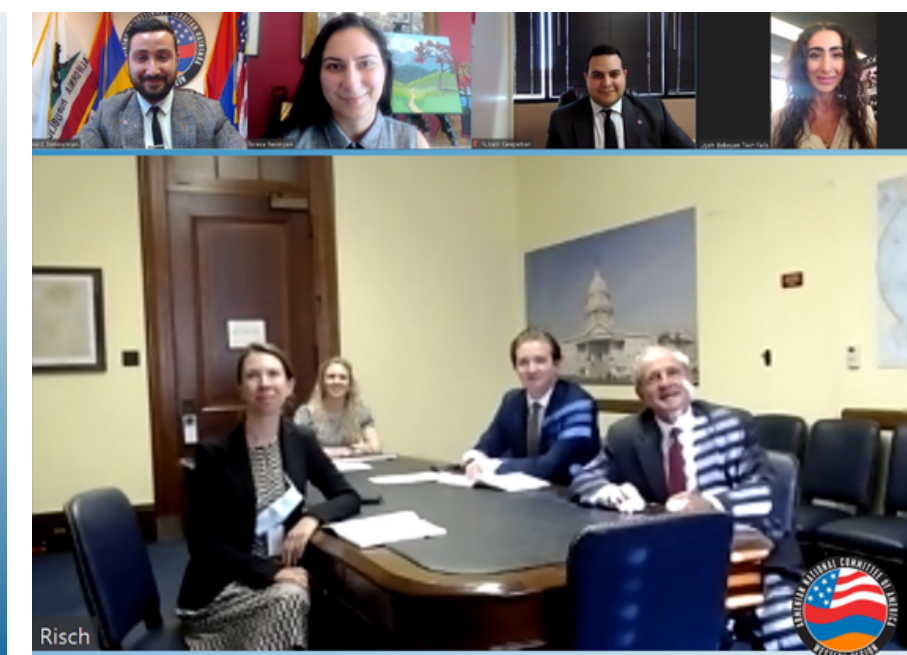
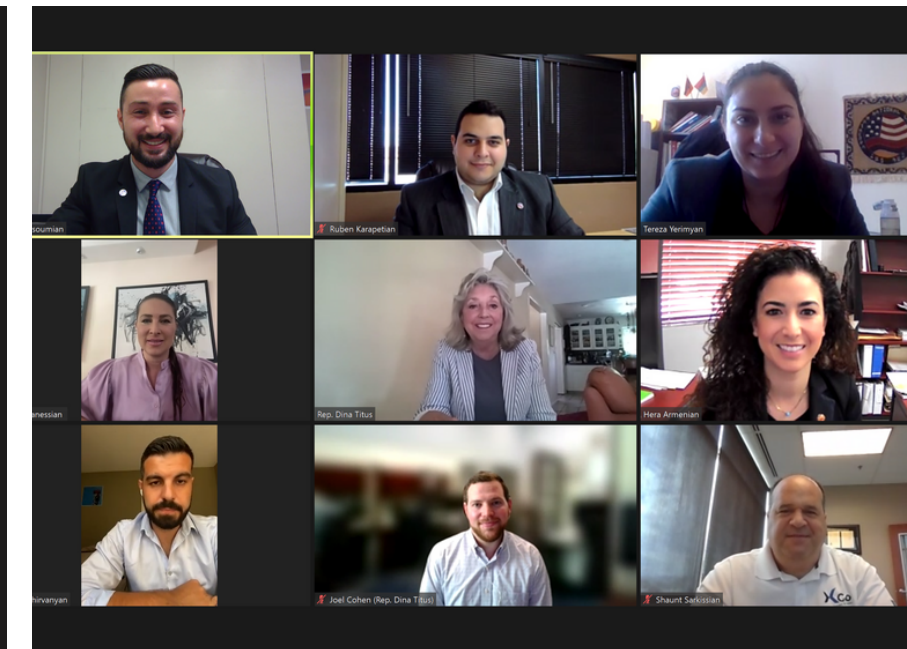
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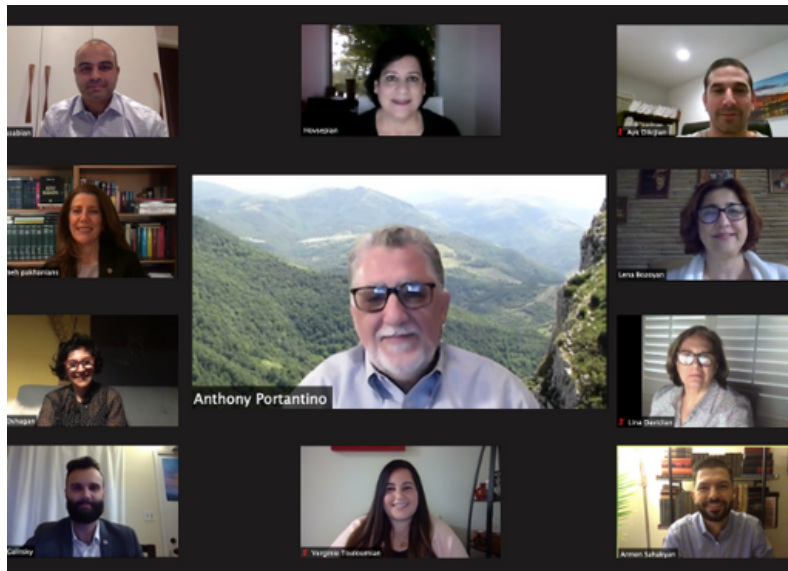
MEETING WITH OFFICIALS

The ANCA-WR also regularly held meetings with our legislative partners discussing and initiating policy on a wide range of topics from combating Armenophobia, divesting in Turkish Government backed securities, and Genocide Education.

August Recess Meetings

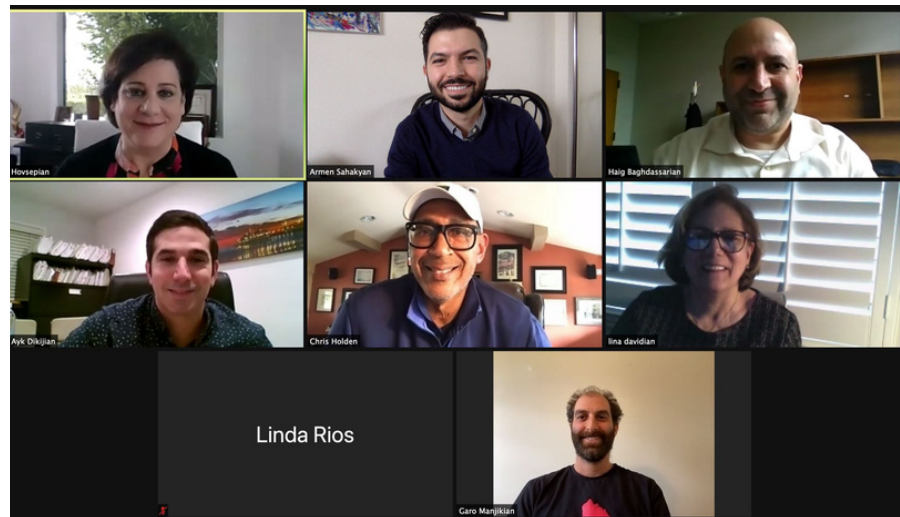
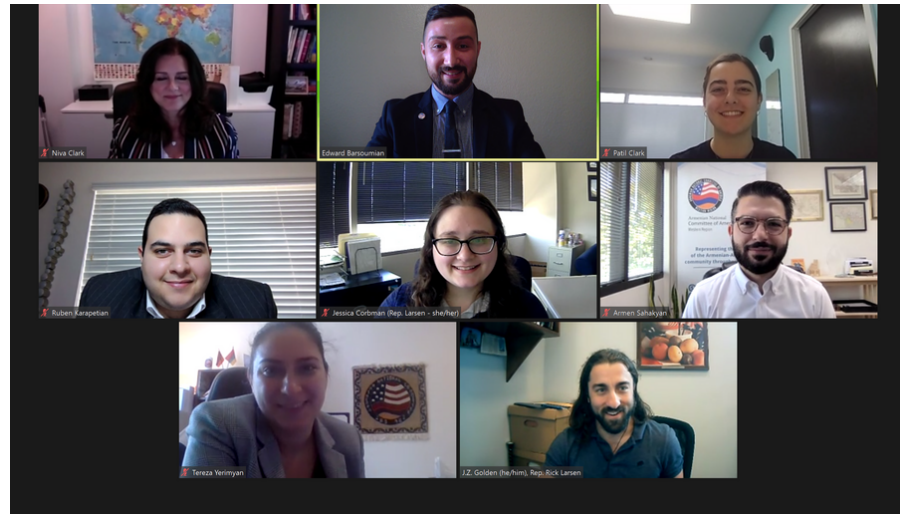
Together with valued ANCA-WR chapters and local constituents, the ANCA-WR successfully organized Congressional meetings across the Western Region during the Congressional August Recess. August Recess is an important time for Armenian-American advocacy, as members of Congress return to their states to meet with constituents and personally address their needs and concerns. The ANCA-WR organized dozens of meetings with members of Congress and their Armenian-American constituents. The meetings focused on educating and garnering support on three vital Armenian-American policy priorities: Ending the Section 907 Waiver of the Freedom Support Act, Aid to Armenia and Artsakh, and the release of Armenian POWs.





Rescinding Proclamations

In October of 2021, the ANCA-WR quickly mobilized its grassroots and issued letters to the Mayors of San Diego and Torrance, CA urging them to immediately rescind proclamations egregiously whitewashing Azerbaijan’s persecution of and aggression against the Armenian people. The letters were prepared in response to a recently issued proclamation by the Mayor of San Diego, Todd Gloria, observing “Azerbaijan’s Restoration of Independence Day” - which was followed by an identically-worded proclamation issued by the Mayor of Torrance, Patrick J. Furey, observing “Azerbaijan Day.” The Mayors of San Diego and Torrance rescinded both proclamations, citing administrative error, in response to community outrage and the ANCA-WR’s grassroots activism. Furthermore, both Mayors recognized that, in light of recent events, issuing the proclamations was inappropriate, and instituted changes to their proclamation approval process so as to ensure such an oversight would not occur again.



ANCA-WR Endorsements

Prior to each election, the ANCA-WR released a list of endorsed candidates for community members, as a public service to voters interested in factoring our insights into the diverse set of criteria they consider when voting. The ANCA-WR Board works in conjunction with its Government Affairs Committee and local chapter constituents to carefully review each incumbent’s track record and each new candidate’s answers to a written questionnaire. Interviews are then conducted to determine which candidates best grasp the needs of the Armenian American community. ANCA-WR endorsements are based largely on the candidate’s preparedness and ability to address issues ranging from justice for the Armenian Genocide, promoting Armenian Genocide education in public schools, support for the independent Republics of Armenia and Artsakh, and local community needs.

Results of the March 3rd, 2020, California Primary elections indicated that of all the 36 candidates endorsed by the ANCA-WR for the federal, state, and Los Angeles races, 33 of them have won and/or advanced to the next stage. The ANCA-WR recorded a sweeping victory in the federal and state level, where nearly all of its endorsed candidates were victorious. For the November 2020 elections, over 95% of ANCA-WR endorsed candidates prevailed and assumed office. Of the 77 Congressional candidates from 11 states, 68 emerged victorious and all candidates endorsed to state-level positions were elected.

07.

Media Outreach

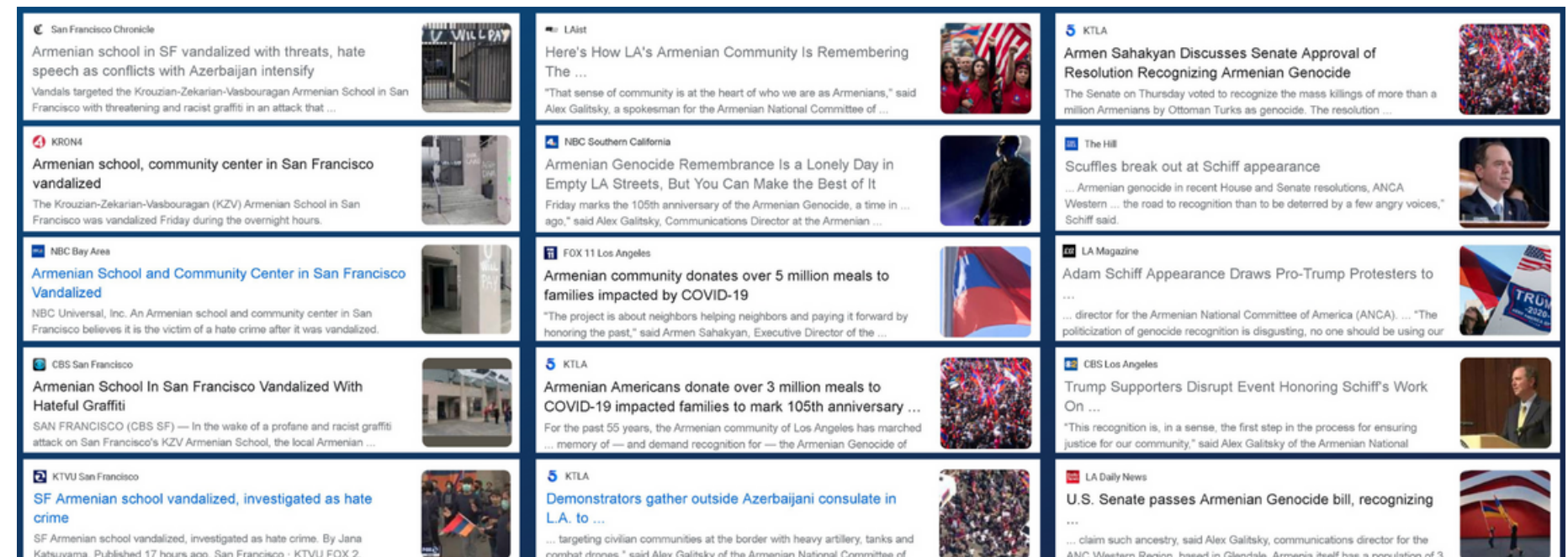
Understanding the power mass media plays in shaping public opinion and policy, in 2020 and 2021, the ANCA-WR made media a priority, resulting in unprecedented coverage of our community and our issues in print and television outlets.

In the lead up to and during the 44-day war, the ANCA-WR provided regular updates and briefings to journalists and reporters, establishing the ANCA-WR as a go-to source of information on the unfolding developments in the region and the impact on the Armenian-American community.

As a result of a concerted media outreach strategy, the ANCA-WR and its representatives were quoted in over 80 news articles and television interviews in local, national and international outlets including The Guardian, BBC World News, the New Statesman, VICE, NPR, Politico, Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times amongst others. ANCA-WR representatives also conducted meetings with the newsroom executives of major local media outlets including FOX11, KTLA and ABC7, as well as with the executive leadership of the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times.

ANCA-WR representatives also collectively published dozens of articles in prominent national and international publications including Foreign Policy, The Hill, The Washington Post, Newsweek, The National Interest, The Los Angeles Times, America Magazine, Haaretz, the Jerusalem Post, and the Asia Times.

Through this unprecedented media outreach, the ANCA-WR has been able to elevate the profile of the Armenian Cause to new heights, bring national and international attention to issues affecting the Armenian community, and effectively counter efforts by Azerbaijan and Turkey to spread misinformation and propaganda - including actively confronting efforts to obscure and distract attention from the myriad human rights abuses perpetrated by their genocidal governments.



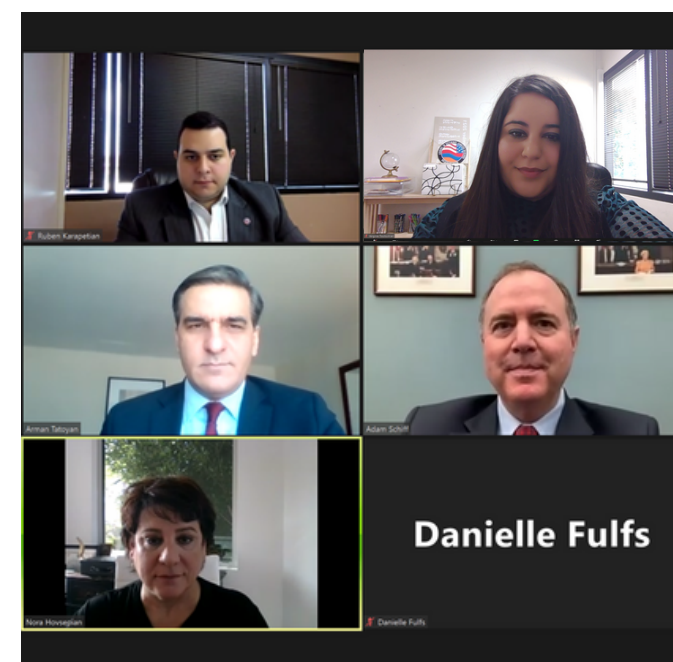
08. Dr. Tatoyan's Delegation Trip

The Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia Dr. Arman Tatoyan visited California for two weeks at the invitation of the ANCA-WR, in which he engaged in meetings with community officials, elected officials, media and academic circles to report on the latest developments in the region.



Dr. Tatoyan's trip kicked off with a meeting with the ANCA-WR Board of Directors and staff during which the discussion centered on the role which Diaspora organizations and communities can play in helping to secure the future of the Armenian Homeland. During his two week mission, Dr. Tatoyan also held constructive meetings with community leadership which included Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, Bishop Torkom Donoyan, Prelate of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, the Pan Armenian Council of Western United States, the A.R.F. Western USA Central Committee, AMAA, and H.E. Ambassador Armen Baibourtian, Consul General of Armenia to Los Angeles.

Several meetings with elected officials and government representatives also led to an exchange of concrete solutions and ideas on how the U.S. may use its influence to secure human rights for Armenian civilians and POWs and help facilitate peace in the region, while simultaneously addressing the rising wave of armenophobia in the U.S. Along these lines, Dr. Tatoyan held meetings with **Congressmember Adam Schiff**, during which he briefed the Congressman on the recent Azeri invasion into Armenia's eastern border, the illegal deployment of Azeri forces on the roads between Armenia's towns and villages which endanger people's lives and well-being, the unlawful detention of POWs, and the importance of international pressure for accountability. Dr. Tatoyan further thanked Congressman Schiff for his recent statement about the attack and for his unwavering support for justice for the Armenian Genocide and a secure and prosperous Armenia and Artsakh. Congressman Schiff asked many important questions and thanked the Ombudsman for the information, reaffirming that he will continue working with his colleagues to ensure that Azerbaijan is held accountable for its ongoing war crimes. Dr. Tatoyan also met with the **Lieutenant Governor of the State of California Eleni Kounalakis, San Francisco Board of Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Myrna Melgar, and representatives of the San Francisco Mayor's office**. During these meetings, he provided a briefing on Azerbaijan's latest acts of aggression against Armenia and its incitement and export of Armenophobic violence - noting how this global wave of anti-Armenian violence had reached the Armenian community in San Francisco. Dr. Tatoyan met with the **Los Angeles Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department**, a newly established agency in the City of Los Angeles focused on addressing discrimination and injustice across the city's diverse communities. Meeting with the department's executive director Capri Maddox, Dr. Tatoyan discussed the threat of hate crimes against the Armenian community emanating from the state-sponsored incitement of anti-Armenian sentiment by the governments of Turkey and Azerbaijan - noting the spate of Armenophobic hate crimes across the world, including in San Francisco.



On the media front, the ANCA-WR facilitated interviews for Dr. Tatoyan and RT America, where he discussed Azerbaijan's incursion into Syunik and the capture of 12 Armenian prisoners of war. Dr. Tatoyan highlighted Azerbaijan's repeated refusal to abide by ceasefire commitments, the immense human impact Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression against Armenia has had on civilian populations, and the threat posed by Azerbaijan's propagation of anti-Armenian sentiment. Individual interviews were also arranged with foreign policy expert and political commentator Hagar Chemali for her Oh My World! show and Araksya Karapetyan of KTTV Fox 11 News, as well as Asbarez News, Horizon Armenian TV, USArmenia, PanArmenian television, and Zartonk Media. Dr. Tatoyan also spoke at a press conference to local and community media, providing a report on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border as well as presenting on his latest reports on Azerbaijan's torture and abuse of Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives.



Dr. Tatoyan's trip also included a series of meetings with the ANCA-WR's coalition partners, including Ramond Takhsh, Board Member of the Assyrian Policy Institute, which focused on the Assyrian Community of Armenia - the effects of the economic downturn following the pandemic on Armenia's Assyrian community, the impact and sacrifices of the Assyrian community during the 2020 Artsakh war, and other issues related to political participation. Dr. Tatoyan emphasized that as the Human Rights Defender of Armenia, the human rights of Armenia's minorities - including Armenia's significant Assyrian community - was an utmost priority. In turn, Takhsh thanked Dr. Tatoyan for his diligent work as Human Rights Defender and expressed his profound thanks for Armenia's role as one of the few safe havens for the Assyrian people in the world today - emphasizing the inextricable links between the Armenian and Assyrian people.

Following the meeting with the Assyrian Policy Institute, Dr. Tatoyan visited the Los Angeles Holocaust Museum where he met with leaders of the Jewish-American community, including executive director of Jewish World Watch (JWW) Serena Oberstein, executive director of the Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN) Dillon Hosier, executive director of the museum, Beth Kean, and Regional Director of AJC-Los Angeles, Richard S. Hirschhaut.

Within the Armenian community, Dr. Tatoyan visited the sites of the anti-Armenian attacks at the Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan (KZV) Armenian School and the community center adjacent to the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in San Francisco. The KZV Armenian school was the site of two separate incidents - a vandalism attack where anti-Armenian graffiti was plastered around school property, and a drive-by shooting of school property after hours - while the church community center, which housed the offices of the ANCA's San Francisco chapter as well as other local community organizations, was severely damaged in an arson attack. The northern California leg of his trip culminated with a Town Hall Meeting in San Francisco, where he updated the community on recent developments in Armenia and presented information from his fact-finding missions. In the Los Angeles area, Dr. Tatoyan headlined an ANCA-WR community town hall in partnership with the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) where he reported on the recent developments in Armenia and fielded a multitude of questions from the audience on a wide range of subjects, from Azerbaijan's obligations under international law to protect the human rights of civilians and prisoners of war, to the need to establish a demilitarized security zone in the vicinity of villages in proximity to Azerbaijan's military outposts. Dr. Tatoyan also visited the Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School in Little Armenia where he spoke to high school students about his role as the Human Rights Defender. Pilibos scholars asked him a series of questions regarding the rights of women and children in Armenia, the recent Azeri invasion into the sovereign territory of Armenia, and the rights of citizens in bordering villages. Dr. Tatoyan also had a chance to visit a classroom, where elementary students gave him hand-written cards thanking him for his selfless work.



The main event of Dr. Tatoyan’s trip was the ANCA-WR’s Grassroots Luncheon on Sunday, November 21st, hosted at the iconic Beverly Hilton Hotel where he was awarded the ANCA-WR’s “Human Rights Champion” Award in front of a sold-out crowd for his tireless pursuit of justice for the people of Armenia and the victims of Azerbaijan’s war crimes. Dr. Tatoyan was also presented with commendations by Senator Anthony Portantino on behalf of the Senate of the State of California and by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his service to the Armenian nation. In turn, Dr. Tatoyan expressed his appreciation for the work of the ANCA-WR, presenting a certificate to the ANCA-WR, as well as to distinguished community members and legal experts Garo Ghazarian, Esq. and Karnig Kerkonian, Esq. for their enduring support of the Ombudsman’s office and for their efforts to hold Azerbaijan legally accountable for its violations under international law.

On November 22nd, Dr. Tatoyan participated in a panel discussion with leading international legal experts on the topic of justice and accountability in the wake of the Artsakh war that took place at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and was co-hosted by the ANCA-WR, the UCLA Promise Armenian Institute, the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights, and CSUN’s Armenian Studies Department. Dr. Tatoyan was joined in conversation by Kate Mackintosh, executive director of the Promise Institute for Human Rights at the UCLA School of Law; Rajika Shah, director of the Genocide Justice Clinic at Loyola Law School; and Karnig Kerkonian, a seasoned international lawyer and legal counsel on Armenia’s case against Azerbaijan at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The extensive discussion examined a range of challenges associated with the justice and accountability process, the importance of international monitoring and reporting, a comparative study between the case of Artsakh and other examples of remedial secession and the prosecution of racially motivated war crimes, and the opportunities at Armenia’s disposal to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its violations of international law.

Dr. Tatoyan returned to Armenia on Sunday, November 28, 2021 and immediately embarked on a fact-finding mission to the Syunik province to investigate the crisis situation along the border.



anca grassroots conference JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AFTER THE ARTSAKH WAR

ARMENIA'S OMBUDSMAN ARMAN TATOYAN
IN CONVERSATION WITH

KATE MACKINTOSH
UCLA PROMISE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

KARNIG KERKONIAN
INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

RAJIKA SHAH
LOYOLA GENOCIDE JUSTICE CLINIC

MONDAY NOVEMBER 22ND, 6:00PM
GRAND SALON, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHRIDGE
REGISTER TODAY AT ANCAWR.ORG/CONFERENCE

The Promise Institute for Human Rights
UCLA School of Law

The Promise Armenian Institute
UCLA

CSUN
Armenian Studies Program

ATTENDEES MUST SHOW PROOF OF VACCINATION OR RECENT NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT

09.

Stronger Together- *Building Bridges*



UNITED AGAINST GENOCIDE DENIAL

A Demand For Action | American Hellenic Council | ANCA Western Region | Assyrian American Association of Southern California | Assyrian Genocide and Research - SEYFO Center | Genocide Watch | Greek Genocide Resource Center | Hellenic American Leadership Council | In Defense of Christians | Israeli-American Civic Action Network | Israeli-American Civic Education Institute | Jewish World Watch | Philo's Project | Together We Remember

Racial Justice

In June 2020, the ANCA-WR issued a statement standing in solidarity with the pursuit for racial justice following the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer - a shameful example of the racial injustice deeply entrenched and institutionalized in the United States today.

As an organization committed to achieving justice for the victims of the deliberate and systematic killing on the basis of race and ethnicity we know as genocide - and as an organization that continues to combat and condemn all manifestations of state-sponsored discrimination - the ANCA-WR condemned in the strongest possible terms the institutionalized discrimination and violence black and brown communities face in the United States.

In response, the ANCA Glendale Chapter participated in a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Glendale - drawing attention to the issue of racism in our communities and demanding equal justice for all.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

IN STUDYING THE HISTORY OF BLACKS AND ARMENIANS, WE CAN SEE THAT WE SHARE A UNIQUE HISTORY WITH MANY INTERCONNECTING EXPERIENCES.

IT IS A HISTORY OF OPPRESSION, EXILE, DISCRIMINATION, AND RESILIENCE.

UNDERSTANDING THIS INTERSECTION BUILDS AND STRENGTHENS CONNECTIONS AND ALLIANCES THAT ARE CRITICAL TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND CREATING THE JUST WORLD WE DESERVE TO LIVE IN.

AS AN ORGANIZATION THAT CONTINUES TO COMBAT STATE-SPONSORED DISCRIMINATION AND INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED AGAINST OUR PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, WE ASK OUR COMMUNITY TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE INJUSTICE FACED BY THEM AND HOW THAT INJUSTICE HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE CONFRONTED AND OVERCOME.

Anti-AAPI Hate

In response to the horrific hate crime perpetrated against Asian-Americans in Atlanta this past year, the ANCA-WR issued a statement of solidarity with the Asian-American community, alongside its strong condemnation of the appalling rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and anti-Asian conspiracy theories and scapegoating - promulgated at every level of government - as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Hellenic, Assyrian, Hindu, Think Tanks, etc.

The ANCA-WR has continued build on its strong relationship with the Greek and Assyrian communities - who have been stalwart allies in the common cause for justice for the victims and survivors of the Armenian, Greek and Assyrian genocides - from participating in video conferences with the Assyrian Policy Institute, to supporting the federal advocacy efforts of the Hellenic American Leadership Council. The ANCA-WR has also continuously worked to expand its external outreach, building relations with other communities on the basis of shared values and common interest. Specifically, the ANCA-WR has been proud to work closely alongside Hindu-American activists - participating in a conference on the disturbing rise of Hinduphobia throughout the United States, sharing the experience of the Armenian community as it tackles the state-sponsored incitement and propagation of anti-Armenian hatred worldwide.

As part of its commitment to genocide prevention advocacy, the ANCA-WR also participated in a conference organized by Omna Tigray and the United Human Rights Council, featuring Uyghur and Rohingya human rights activists discussing the genocide prevention in an era of proliferating violence against at-risk minorities.

AJAC Launch / Jewish-American Community

The ANCA-WR is proud to announce the launch of the Armenian Jewish Advisory Council (AJAC), a coalition of 3 organizations which serve our respective communities in key advocacy efforts. AJAC members include Jewish World Watch (JWW), the Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN), and the ANCA-WR. AJAC's goal is to institutionalize relations between the Armenian and Jewish communities throughout the U.S., united by shared values, historical experiences, and a vision for a more robust intercommunal collaboration. AJAC serves as a platform for regular communications and consultations on a multitude of issues of concern to participant organizations on the local, state, and federal levels. Recent projects coordinated with AJAC partners include the institutionalization of Armenian Genocide education in the broader curriculum of Genocide and Holocaust education, addressing hate crimes and hate speech through joint advocacy in the California Legislature, and a meeting with Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia, Dr. Arman Tatoyan, to discuss the Government of Azerbaijan's ongoing propagation of ethnic hatred towards Armenians, as well as Jewish advocacy groups that spoke out against Azerbaijan's genocidal campaign against Armenians.



10.

Bringing Education to the Frontline

In an effort to bring education to the frontline, in early 2014, the Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region (ANCA-WR) established the ANCA-WR Education Committee, which is comprised of dedicated community members and professionals from the field. The Committee fosters and maintains relations with officials, administrators and representatives from community based organizations that deal with education and youth matters, and its work forms the basis for one of the ANCA-WR's main priorities.



Honoring Educators

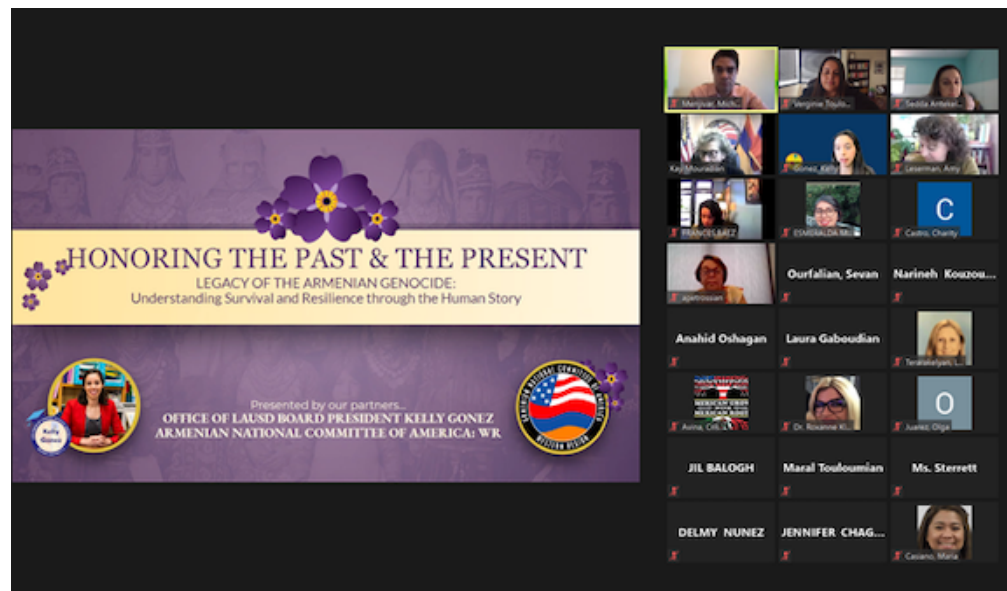
On March 7, 2020 hundreds gathered to celebrate and honor seven outstanding educators for their dedication to teaching the Armenian Genocide in California public schools at the fourth annual Armenian Genocide Education Awards Luncheon. This event once again celebrated educators who have creatively taught the Armenian Genocide within their school communities, across different courses such as social science, English language arts, music, art, theater and film. These educators included Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, Dr. Maria Armoudian, Jennifer Davis, Dr. Michelle Herczog, Susan Quintana, Saakanoush Markarian, and Nancy Nazarian. At the event, a special keynote address was delivered by Ani Hovannisian-Kevorkian and KTLA 5 News Reporter Ellina Abovian, who served as the Master of Ceremonies.



Working with Institutions

In 2020, members of the Education Committee were invited to numerous public high schools and middle school classes virtually to present about the Armenian Genocide and Artsakh to the students. The presentations focused on teaching the students about the humanitarian relief efforts of the Near East Relief, in order to educate them about the major role of millions of Americans in rescuing hundreds of thousands of refugees and orphans who survived the Armenian Genocide. The committee also addressed a letter to the University of Utah President and Board of Directors regarding Genocide Denial.

In April of 2021, several professional development workshops organized in collaboration with the office of LAUSD President Kelly Gonez focused on effective methods for implementing Armenian Genocide education in classrooms and promoting cross-cultural understanding in the community.



Advocating LAUSD

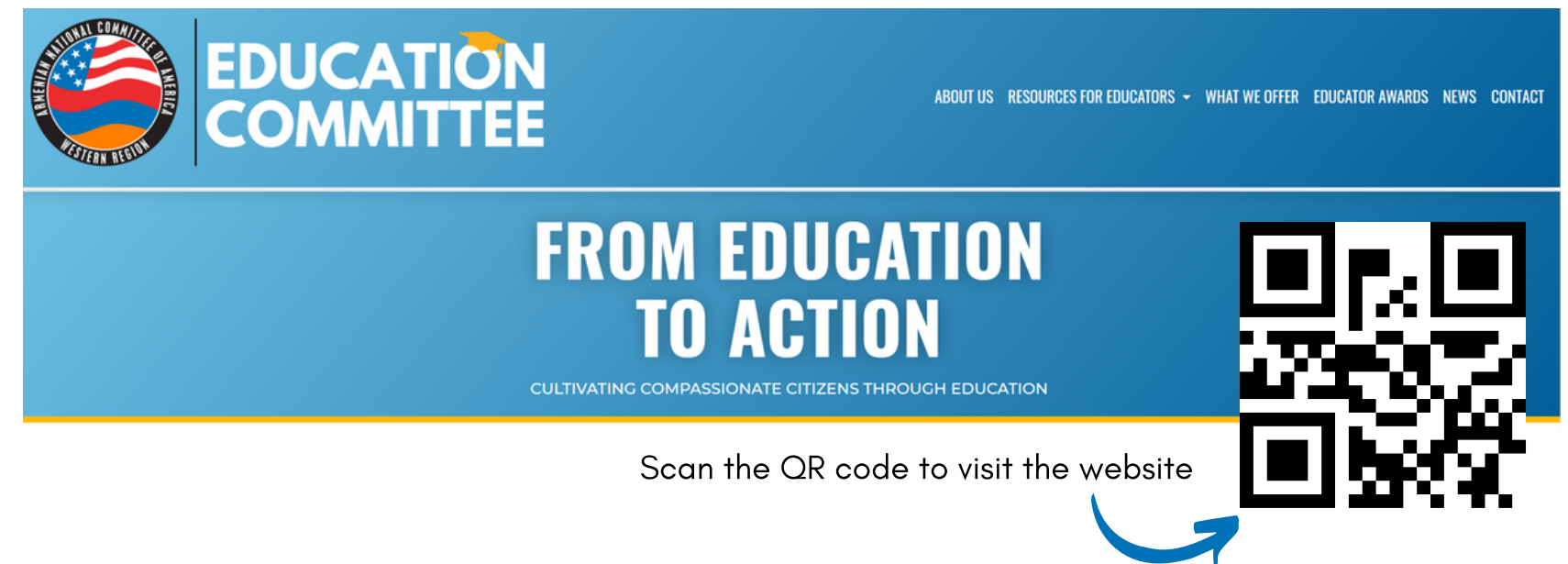
In October of 2020, thanks to the advocacy of the ANCA-WR, the LAUSD Board of Education unanimously voted to give families across the district the day off on April 24 to observe and remember the start of the Armenian Genocide and called out Azerbaijan's coordinated aerial and missile attacks against Artsakh's civilian population in the midst the COVID-19 pandemic and the moral equivalence between Artsakh and Azerbaijan as the latter continued its indiscriminate shelling of Artsakh's civilian population and infrastructure. Several resolutions were also adopted by other school districts that condemned the attacks by Azerbaijan and highlighted their solidarity with their Armenian student body.

Revising the Ethnic Studies Curriculum

The ANCA-WR Education Committee as well as the Ethnic Studies Curriculum Task Force continued to be actively engaged in ensuring the voices of over 1 million strong Armenian-Californians are heard and the Armenian experience is part of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). The Armenian-American community was actively engaged with the California Department of Education, submitting tens of thousands of public comments over this process and demonstrating the importance of this issue. In the final version of the curriculum, released in 2021, the California ESMC included the story of the Armenian-American community.

Launching a New Website

In 2021, the ANCA-WR Education Committee launched its own website that is designed to provide the ultimate user-friendly experience to educators. The website consists of fact sheets, media and book lists, and lesson plans with teacher guides and presentation slides on the Armenian heritage, Armenian Genocide, and Artsakh.



Collaborating with Associations

The committee also worked with several teacher and educator associations throughout the year. Thanks to their network, the California Teachers Association (one of the largest and most powerful teachers' unions in the country with over 300,000 members and a high political profile in California politics) released a statement "standing in solidarity with the Armenian Community in denouncing in the strongest possible terms the aggressions and war crimes committed in Artsakh by the Azerbaijani government."

- In February of 2021, the American Federation of Teachers adopted a resolution that formally recognized the Armenian Genocide and called on the leadership to publish an article and classroom resources for 1.7 million members.
- In May of 2021, the National Education Association released a statement supporting President Biden's recognition of the Armenian Genocide and encouraged educators to teach their students about diversity, overcoming adversity, and taking a stand in the face of prejudice.
- In July of 2021, the National Education Association also passed a resolution affirming that it will share resources with educators to promote teaching about the Armenian Genocide.

11.

Community Engagement



In late 2019, the ANCA-WR became an official partner of the U.S. Census Bureau, forming the Armenian-American Complete Count Committee (AACCC) in an effort to ensure a complete count of the Armenian-American community in the 2020 Census, by launching the HyeCount Campaign.

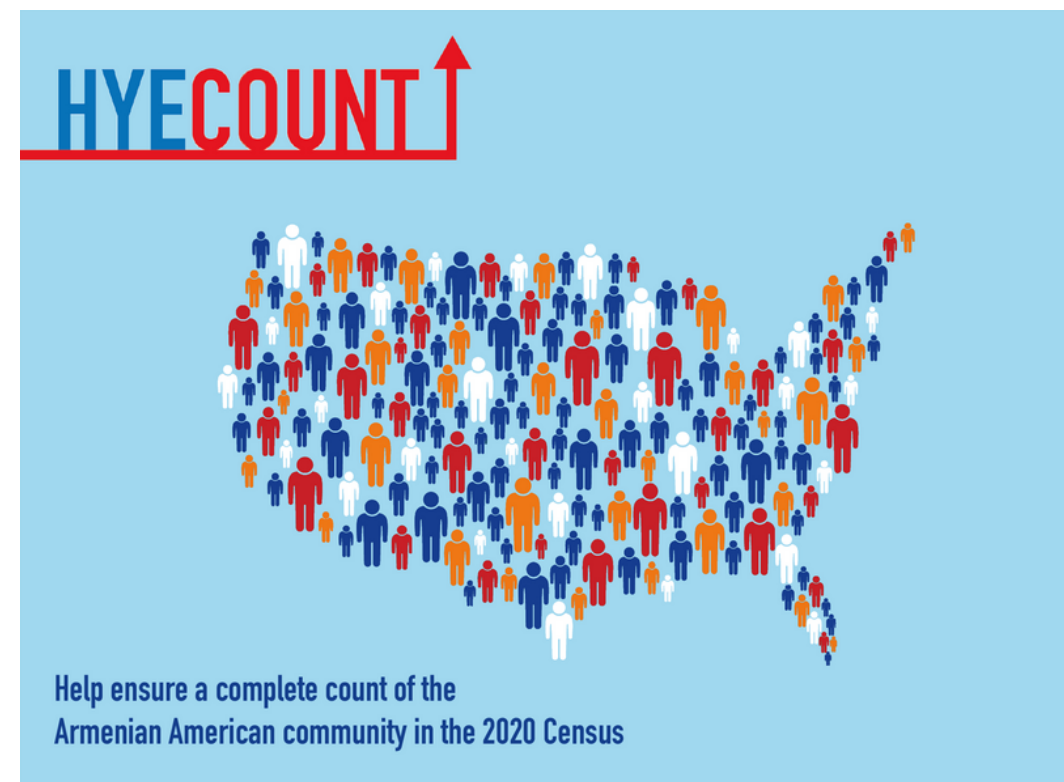
The Census is a nation-wide population survey conducted every 10 years and is responsible for determining how billions of federal dollars are allocated to vital community services and programs, and how communities are delineated during the local, country, state and federal redistricting process.

The Armenian-American community has been historically undercounted in the Census. While estimates have placed the total population of the Armenian-American in California alone at 1 million (with about 500,000 concentrated in Los Angeles County), the 2010 Census recorded fewer than 500,000 nationwide, with approximately half of that residing in California.

This has had severe consequences on the Armenian community's access to funding for programs addressing the needs of our community, including but not limited to Armenian community schools, educational programs, aged care facilities, and Armenian-language services.

The HyeCount campaign called on Armenian-Americans to identify themselves as 'Armenian' on the 2020 Census questionnaire through a concerted campaign involving dozens of grassroots canvassers and organizers, extensive media outreach and public service announcements, social-media engagement, youth outreach, and close coordination across the Armenian community at large.

As of this writing, the U.S. Census Bureau has not yet released the results of this campaign.



HyeVotes

Launched in 2012 by the Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region and successfully registering thousands of new voters in the ensuing years, Hye Votes is a region wide, non-partisan initiative designed to engage community members in the electoral process by addressing these concerns.

Gearing up for the 2020 Primary Elections, HyeVotes worked with local Armenian television stations to release and promote videos and PSAs featuring community leaders and elected officials who focused on the importance of voting. Volunteers conducted phone banking and canvassing to relay important information regarding the elections, and provided voter assistance to community members.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented disruption for the General Elections. However, HyeVotes met the moment by relaunching their website to allow users to register, update their registrations, explore key dates, retrieve details on absentee ballots, and access any other relevant information to vote. We pivoted from in-person conversations and primarily focused on community outreach through phone banking. Our volunteers made thousands of calls to community members and provided voters with comprehensive information about voting, in both Eastern and Western Armenian. A commercial was produced and broadcasted on Armenian TV Channels that gave instructions on how to vote by mail to help those voting with that method for the first time. HyeVotes also worked with local authorities to turn Armenian institutions into voting stations. With the new adjustments, online engagement became more crucial than ever before, so HyeVotes launched its Instagram page to highlight key dates and spotlight the importance of voting. The team also worked with elected officials to ensure that Armenian language voting materials were available for community members.

The ANCA-WR is preparing to relaunch the HyeVotes program for the 2022 elections. In the coming months we will continue our voter assistance outreach in areas with a high concentration of Armenian American constituencies and register new voters to assert our collective voice in service to the Armenian Cause. In order to successfully reach out to the community, HyeVotes will partner with local Armenian schools, churches, organizations, media, and various business institutions.

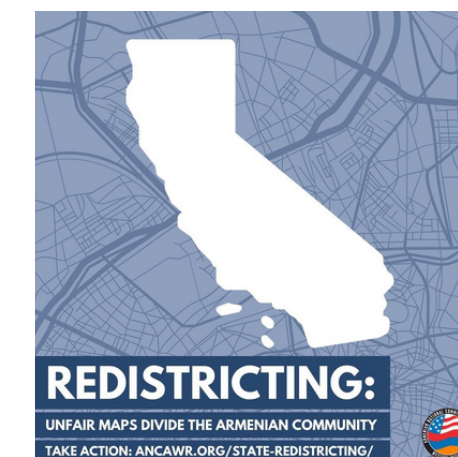


Redistricting

In addition to determining how billions of federal dollars are spent, the 2020 Census also determines the boundaries of local, county, state and federal electoral districts.

The ANCA-WR has been actively engaged in the California redistricting process on behalf of Armenian-Americans to preserve the integrity of the voice of our community at every level of government, mobilizing community members to participate in public hearings as well as presenting to the community on the need to ensure the cohesion of the Armenian community so as to safeguard vital community services.

In Colorado, following written and oral testimony from Colorado's Armenian community led by the ANCA-WR office in Denver, the Colorado Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission recommended and the State Supreme Court approved the new boundaries of Congressional District 6 to, in part, preserve the Greater Denver area's vibrant Armenian American constituency, concentrated in the cities of Aurora and Centennial, within a singular district.



Community Partnerships

Tireless efforts went into forging long-lasting, robust relationships with various community organizations. The ANCA-WR held meetings with representatives of various organizations and attended community events.

The ANCA-WR is a proud member of the Armenian Genocide Committee-Western United States of America (AGC-WUSA), a coalition of twenty Armenian organizations and religious entities, which was established to steer and coordinate Armenian Genocide events in Los Angeles.

As an active member of the Pan Armenian Council of Western USA, the ANCA-WR worked with its member organizations to host a fundraising telethon after a massive explosion in Beirut caused devastation across the city. The HyeAid Lebanon telethon took place on August 30, under the theme of "One Nation, One Future" and raised \$1,375,555 to directly address the needs of community members and to help the rebuilding efforts of Armenian churches, schools, and critical institutions that were severely damaged by the blast. The funds raised through the Hye Aid Lebanon effort have already been transferred to a special bank account that has been assigned by His Holiness Catholicos Aram I for the Lebanese-Armenian Reconstruction Committee. On October 25, 2021, Artak Beglaryan, the State Minister of the Republic of Artsakh, was the keynote speaker at a community public forum hosted by the Pan-Armenian Council of the Western United States.

On July 11, 2021, the ANCA-WR Board and Staff members attended the long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony for the Armenian American Museum in Glendale, a project for which the ANCA-WR has successfully advocated for public funding since its inception. Following the groundbreaking ceremony, Congressman Adam Schiff reported that the 2022 federal government funding bill includes \$950,000 and CA Senator Anthony Portantino announced that his request for \$1.8 million for the Armenian American Museum was approved by the Legislature. The highly anticipated landmark, which commenced construction in July, is set to be the first cultural center of its kind in California.

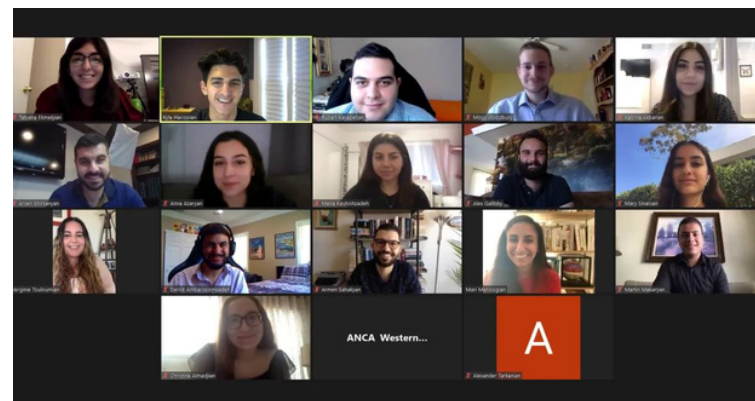


Launching District Ambassador Program

This year, the ANCA-WR launched our District Ambassador Program, with the goal of ensuring Armenian interests are represented in every Congressional District throughout the western United States. This initiative establishes a powerful network of Armenian advocates—even in places with smaller Armenian communities—allowing for the effective and coordinated advocacy of Armenian-American policy priorities across the entire Western Region.

12. Investing in the next Generation

No other Armenian-American public affairs organization in the United States benefits more from young activists than ANCA-WR. Hundreds of high school and college students and young professionals volunteer their time, energy, and talent to make the ANCA-WR the premier organization it is today. Through its internship and development programs and its special relationship with the oldest and most active Armenian American youth groups - the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) and the Armenian Student Associations (ASA) on campuses across the Western United States - the ANCA-WR fosters a spirit of community service, participation, and leadership in our community's youth. By engaging the youth with past and current work being done to advance the Armenian Cause, future generations are given the tools and opportunity to build upon and improve on the work of their predecessors. These efforts provide a valuable foundation for creating a new generation of Armenian-Americans who will be prepared and eager to advance Armenian issues for decades to come.



ANCA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

ANCA-PN is an association composed of Armenian American young professionals in the western United States with expertise in every field who are brought together by heritage, social responsibility, and a desire to expand the civic awareness and involvement of Armenian American professionals working in both the public and private sectors.

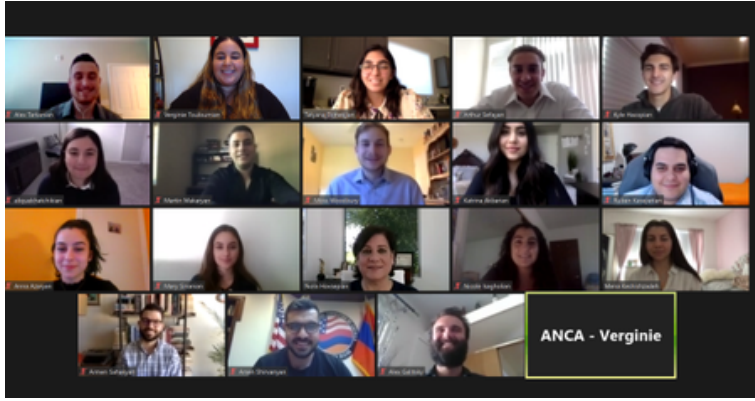
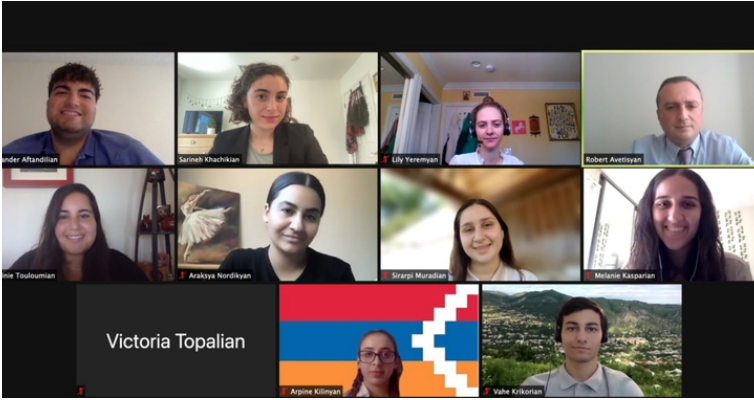
During the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Natural History Museum was forced to shut its doors, the ANCA-PN teamed up with the Museum to provide a Virtual Tour of Dinosaurs available in both Eastern and Western Armenian and invited dinosaur enthusiasts and future paleontologists to step inside the award-winning Dinosaur Hall to explore the history of these prehistoric reptiles in their native language. Emmy award-winning anchor Araksya Karapetyan who anchors the morning newscasts on FOX 11's Good Day LA in Los Angeles is heard narrating the virtual tour in Eastern Armenian and the Western Armenian video is narrated by recording artist and songwriter whose indie-pop band Capital Cities has toured five continents, Sebu Simonian. They also teamed up with NASM-certified personal trainer Lara Bedrossian to bring a five-part fitness series designed to help community members get moving throughout stay-at-home workdays.

The ANCA-PN has taken the lead in providing resources and networking opportunities for young Armenian professionals. Due to the pandemic, the ANCA-PN organized several interviews with professionals online and hosted trivia nights to raise money for Lebanon and Artsakh.



ANCA-WR Internship Program

Acknowledging the importance of providing a pipeline of support to the next generation of our community's leaders, in 2020/2021 the ANCA-WR continued to educate, motivate, and activate our youth through its hands-on internship program. During their tenure, the Interns worked under the supervision of ANCA-WR staff on a variety of projects focused on government affairs, genocide prevention, combatting rising Armenophobia, community outreach, and educational programs. The interns also led several social media campaigns demanding the US impose sanctions on Azerbaijan and Turkey over their coordinated assault on Armenia. Hailing from 4 states (Arizona, California, Nevada, Washington), 44 interns participated in the ANCA-WR Internship Program (Summer 2020, Fall 2020/Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021). The Internship program shows the commitment of the ANCA-WR to invest in programs that benefit emerging leaders in our community and help them develop their leadership and communication skills, which certainly serve as a springboard for a lifetime of effective advocacy supporting our homeland and the Armenian-American community.



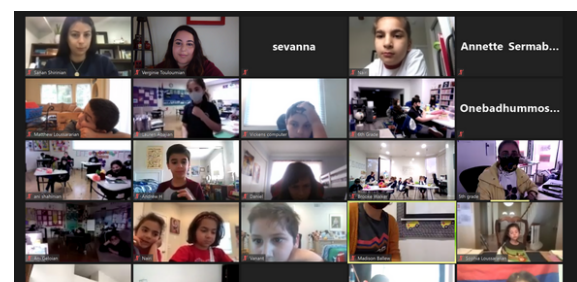
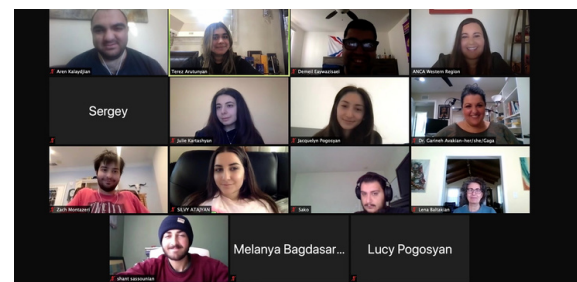
Karabian Fellowship

The Walter and Laurel Karabian Fellowship is a nine-month experience that offers young Armenian-Americans the opportunity to enhance their leadership and professional skills. The purpose of this fellowship is to produce professionals in the public policy and political arena. In 2021, Araksya Nordikyan was selected as the 2021 Walter & Laurel Karabian Fellow. As an exception due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Karabian Fellow spent 6 months at the ANCA-WR office working on policy initiatives and spent the remaining term of the 9-month program at the newly established Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department of Los Angeles.



Campus Tours

ANCA-WR actively toured a number of southern California schools or joined their classrooms remotely, to discuss advocacy, grassroots activism, opportunities for career development, and leadership and updated students on how they can directly impact the Armenian Cause.



Teaching Hye Tad 101 To AYF Campers

With a spirit that would have been admired by the pioneer of Armenian American political activism Vahan Cardashian, the ANCA-WR was busy this summer, teaching hundreds of AYF Camp Big Pines campers on the importance of activism. Over the course of the summer of 2021, the ANCA-WR gave an overview of Hye Tad and of the works of the ANCA through various presentations. The ANCA leadership, week in and week out, shared with the campers that in order to make a difference in their communities, they need to be active and not just be bystanders. As a hands-on exercise, AYF Campers learned how to advocate for Armenian-American issues by participating in mock advocacy meetings.



Youth Leadership in Washington D.C.

During the summer of 2020 and 2021, the ANCA-WR sponsored three students to participate in the prestigious ANCA Leo Sarkisian Internship Program in Washington, DC. The interns learned about the inner workings of the American political system during this eight-week training session in the nation's capital.

During its inaugural year, the ANCA Summer Academy brought a select group of high school students 17-19 years of age with proven community leadership experience to Washington DC to learn more about the Armenian Cause and how our policy priorities are advanced within the framework of America's federal government.

13.

New Initiatives

Duty to Prevent



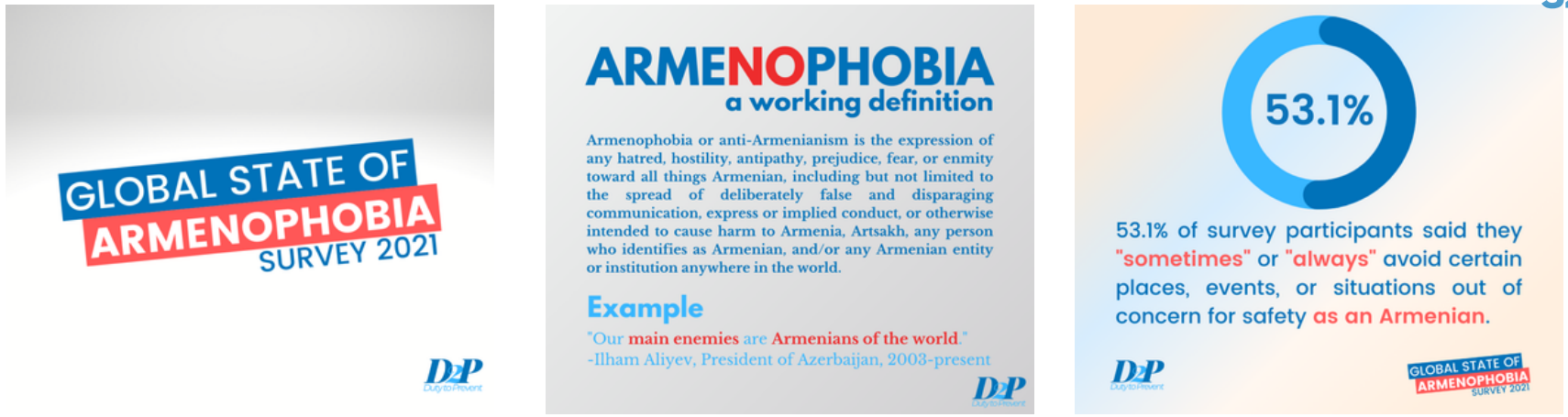
The Duty to Prevent (D2P) Initiative was launched in response to the alarming escalation of Armenophobic crimes and incidents around the world.

For centuries, Armenians have been a target of persecution, ethnic cleansing, and genocide for their ethnic and religious identity. Armenophobia is unfortunately a growing phenomenon in today's world - particularly in Turkey and Azerbaijan, where propagation of hatred towards Armenians has been a longstanding state-sponsored policy.

D2P Initiative refers to the collective duty of the international community to prevent mass atrocities, ethnic cleansings, pogroms, cultural erasure, structural racism, genocide, and other crimes against Armenians by:

- (1) raising awareness about Armenophobic crimes, including their causes and impact;
- (2) promoting truth and justice for the still unpunished crimes;
- (3) using the power of community collaboration to collectively speak out against modern-day manifestations of hate, bigotry, and xenophobia to prevent future crimes from happening;
- (4) offering resources for impacted community members; and
- (5) advocating for policies that reinforce human rights and civil protections.

In 2021, Duty to Prevent, conducted a community-wide survey to measure the perceptions and experiences of Armenian-Americans with Armenophobic incidents. Responses from the survey will enhance ANCA-WR's understanding of the global state of Armenophobia and how best to respond to the hate crimes/incidents.



Impact Media Institute

In 2020, the ANCA-WR began the development of the Impact Media Institute, a genocide education and prevention platform designed to combat genocide denial. The goal of the Impact Media Institute (or, IMI) is not only to confront the denial of historic crimes against humanity, but also to expose the obfuscation of contemporary atrocity crimes by perpetrator states today.

In particular, the IMI is concerned with addressing the failure of civil society leaders, political stakeholders and news media in accurately identifying and characterizing cases of genocide in the world today, particularly with regards to at-risk communities as systematic persecution unfolds.

In pursuit of this mission, for the last 2 years the Impact Media Institute has been steadily building on its database of country assessments that serve as the basis of the institute's risk analysis platform identifying those most at-risk of atrocity crimes in the world today. The Impact Media Institute has also built a coalition of dozens of community organizations, human rights advocacy groups, academic institutions and prominent members of civil society committed to combating and confronting genocide denial.

To assist with the launch of the initiative, the ANCA-WR launched the Impact Media Institute Genocide Prevention Fellowship, welcoming its inaugural genocide prevention fellow Aram Martirosyan to conduct and oversee research into cases of genocide in the world today - documenting state-sponsored persecution of at-risk minorities in the development of a comprehensive online database assessing the risk of the onset of genocidal violence across the globe.



Join the Movement

Become an ANCA Rapid Responder

The ANCA has made it easier than ever to ensure your voice is heard in the Halls of Government on the federal, state and local levels, with the ANCA Rapid Responder System. By signing up, you allow the ANCA to automatically send pre-written letters on your behalf to your legislators. This system ensures that your views and values are shared immediately with key decision makers, every time that the ANCA posts an action alert. This is especially vital when events develop quickly and every minute counts. (We will, of course, forward you a copy of the letter sent on your behalf for your files.)

To learn more and to register, visit: www.anca.org/rapid



Support ANCA Western Region

Donating to the ANCA-WR elevates our advocacy and programming to new heights, in pursuit of the Armenian Cause.

To donate to the ANCA-WR, visit: www.ancawr.org/donate



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 San Fernando Valley East
 San Fernando Valley North
 San Fernando Valley West
 San Gabriel Valley
 South Bay-Torrance
 Sunland-Tujunga

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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ALASKA

ARIZONA

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HAWAII

IDAHO

Boise
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NEVADA

NEW MEXICO

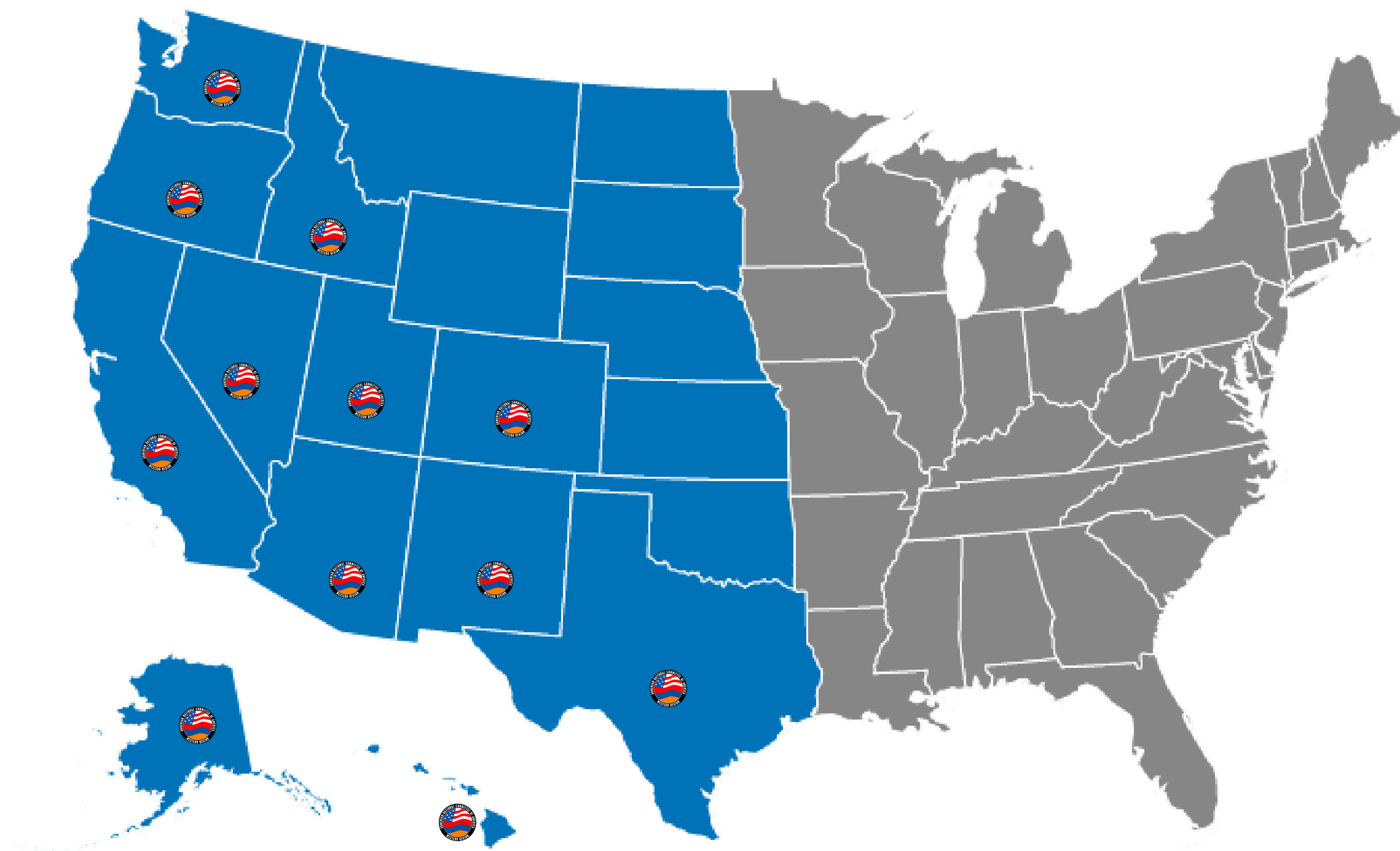
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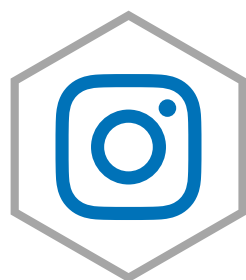
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