



# Armenian National Committee of America | Western Region

1373 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203

818.862.2622 | ANCAWR.org

## USA-Armenia Alliance

In 1920, US President Wilson proposed an American mandate for Armenia in order to protect the world's first Christian nation against further genocidal attacks by Turkey and newly-created Azerbaijan. Wilson's plan reflected the strong support among the American people for the cause of saving Armenia, a staunch bond of friendship that endures today as an unshakable alliance between Armenia and USA.

## US Support for Armenia

- **America responded to the Armenian Genocide by building and operating 400 orphanages that saved 132,000 orphans.** Over a period of 15 years from 1915 to 1930, the Congressionally-chartered Near East Relief mobilized the entire American nation, and indeed the world, into a well-organized and well-funded relief effort which successfully saved over 132,000 Armenian orphans and one million refugees half a world away. Despite its initial fundraising goal of \$100,000 which was later raised to \$30 million, the NER **ultimately raised \$117 million**, the equivalent of \$2.7 billion in today's dollars! NER built over 400 orphanages, food and clothing distribution centers, medical clinics and hospitals, and vocational training schools throughout the Near East to house and care for the survivors. More than **1,000 American volunteers** left their comfortable lives to travel across ocean and land to dedicate themselves to the relief effort.
- **Since 1988, the US has sent over \$2 billion in US assistance to landlocked Armenia** to help address the devastating impact of Turkey's and Azerbaijan's illegal blockades, as well as the ongoing consequences of the December 1988 earthquake. US assistance has played a vital role in helping alleviate these blockades (among the longest in history) and promoting Armenia's free market and democracy.
- Since regaining independence in 1991, **Armenia and the USA have enacted a range of bilateral economic treaties and agreements** including the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), Bilateral Investment Treaty (1992), Agreement on Trade Relations (1992), Investment Incentive Agreement (1992), WTO Membership (2003), Permanent Normal Trade Relations Status (2004), Joint Economic Task Force (1999), and Trade & Investment Framework Agreement (2015).

## Armenian Support for the USA

- Despite being under constant threat of extermination by two of its neighbors, which has compelled mandatory military service, **Armenia has contributed to US peacebuilding activities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, and Mali** through the deployment of Armenian troops for non-combat missions. In June 2011, as countries were pulling out of Afghanistan, **Armenia actually tripled its troop deployment** there. Armenia had four times as many troops in Afghanistan per capita than Turkey and ten times more per capita than either Canada or France.
- Armenia is home to the **second largest US Embassy in the world**, which occupies over 22 acres, making it also the second largest land holding of the US State Department after Germany. Also, the US-accredited American University of Armenia is steps away from the Presidential Palace.
- Despite suffering from an economic blockade imposed by two of its neighbors, landlocked Armenia has **accepted tens of thousands of Christian and Yezidi refugees fleeing ISIS genocide.**

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