

Building a new generation of globally minded citizens

On August 10, 1998, the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor enacted into Law the following Act, "The Board of Education shall formulate recommendations on curricular material on genocide and human rights issues, and guidelines for teaching such material. Said material and guidelines may include...the Armenian Genocide."

Using curriculum of the **Institute of Global Ethics, "Tough Choices in History,"** a one week practicum will be offered in Yerevan, Armenia during the April break to cover the Armenian Genocide in compliance with this Act.

"Search for the truth ...takes lots of courage."

-- Paul Mirk, VP Education, Institute of Global Ethics, April 2002

"No amount of money and propaganda disguised as scholarship will succeed in changing the historical record."

-- Marjorie Dobkin, Barnard College and Columbia University, April 1986

"Recently, the International Association of Genocide Scholars wrote a letter to the prime minister of Turkey that the murder of the Armenian people from 1915-1923 conforms to the definition of the United Nations Genocide Convention....We must not yield to this insidious denialism no matter what form it takes."

-- Massachusetts State Senator Steven A. Tolman, February 2006

GOALS

The goal of the practicum is to promote international understanding of genocide through education, travel and interaction between diverse peoples.

We are very proud of the depth of the relationships between American and Armenian high school students who have come to appreciate each other as well as become aware of their global responsibilities as citizens and neighbors of the world.

"I want to thank you so much for organizing and executing this trip to Armenia. But, even more so, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to see the most beautiful country in the world. I was deeply affected by all I saw and the people I met. The trip put my life in perspective and expanded my limited view of the world and its people. I can only hope to one day return to Yerevan, although, I think it would never be so wonderful as this time. You have given me a jewel and let me keep it for ten days." -- a student

"[Our daughter] had a wonderful time, and from what she has told us she learned a lot. From the photos and her stories I know this is an experience she will not forget. Thank you for all your hard work to make this trip a reality, for generously sharing your time and knowledge and for hanging in there when some questioned whether the trip should happen at all. You have made possible a unique experience for all the students and we really appreciate it." -- a parent

"Hitler learned a lesson from the world's response of the mass murder of the Armenians."

-- Henry Sturmer, journalist, Kolnische Zeitung

"The aim of war is not to reach definite lines but to annihilate the enemy physically. It is by this means that we shall obtain the vital living space we need. Who today speaks of the massacres of the Armenians?"

-- Adolf Hitler, 1939

"The facts contained in the reports received at the Embassy from absolutely trustworthy eye-witnesses surpass the most beastly and diabolical cruelties ever before perpetrated or imagined in the history of the world."

-- Henry Morgenthau, Sr., American Ambassador to Turkey, 1913-1916

"Many people from my town have taught me a valuable lesson... It's a lesson from history that should be explained more thoroughly in the history books than it is, if it is ever explained at all... It is imperative to remember atrocities such as these in order to not repeat mistakes of the past."

-- Dan O'Brien, Collegian Columnist, UMass, Amherst, 2004, Watertown, MA resident

PROGRAM

En route to Armenia, and on return to the USA, students will experience the history of Moscow first hand, visiting the Kremlin and Red Square.

Students will be accommodated by the Republic of Armenia, and will be recognized officially at a reception in their honor. Consultant to the program is Salvatore Lopes, retired public high school instructor of genocide studies and specialist in Armenian Genocide Studies.

Consultants to the program and pre-departure speakers are:

- Ara Ghazarians, Ph. D., Curator Armenian Cultural Foundation, International Law and Diplomacy, editor of several books on Genocide and Armenian literary culture
- Rabbi Earl Grollman, pioneer in the field of intervention, author of 27 books, and lecturer extensively though out the world;
- Salvatore Lopes, retired public high school instructor of genocide studies and specialist in Armenian Genocide Studies

The practicum in Armenia will cover:

- the 5 stages of genocide,
- an historical analysis of the Ottoman Empire which led to the Armenian Genocide,
- discussion of the present historical revisionists attempt to deny the genocide and
- analysis of the grounds and motives for historical cover up.

Students will take courses with leading professors at the Yerevan State University and American University of Armenia. They will visit:

- US Embassy, Yerevan
- United Nations, Yerevan
- Peace Corps, Yerevan

and will develop an understanding of the economic, social, and political issues related to current foreign affairs and the denial of the Armenian Genocide.

During the afternoon, students will tour the countryside, villages, and city with local English speaking peers as city guides; they will visit its numerous museums and art galleries and will enjoy the rich cultural and historical heritage of Armenia. They will also have an opportunity to shop at the outdoor craft market. In the evening, students will enjoy dinner in many of Yerevan's notable restaurants, go to a disco

club, experience nightlife in Yerevan in an outdoor café, and attend an opera or theatre.

"Identification, Segregation, Dehumanization, Extermination, and Denial are the five stages of Genocide. Think about it."

-- Vartan Hartunian, Survivor of the 1915 Armenian Genocide

"The Turkish slaughter of the Armenians during 1915-16 was one of the most horrible deeds of modern time. Among the blackest pages in modern history this is the blackest of them all...The Armenian Memorial Day should be a day of reflection and introspection for all of humanity, a day of soul-searching"...

-- Dr. Yair Auron, Israeli Jew, senior lecturer at The Open University of Israel and the Kibbutzim College of Education in Tel Aviv.

'We Zionists look upon the fate of the Armenian people with a deep and sincere sympathy; we do so as men as Jews and as Zionists. As men our motto is 'Homo sum; humani nihil a me alienum puto.' 'I am human being. Whatever affects another human being affects me.'

-- Shmuel Talkowsky, the secretary of Chaim Weizmann, the Zionist leader who became the first president of the State of Israel.

'I would like to see a central chapter on genocide, on this huge and inhuman atrocity. The Armenian genocide should occupy a prominent place...which does justice to the national and personal memory of every one of you, to the memory of all the members of your nation. This is our obligation to you, this is our obligation to ourselves.'

-- Yossi Sarid, former Israeli Minister of Education, April 24, 2000

"For four full days I was engrossed in the book ["Forty Days of Musa Dagh," written by the Jewish author Franz Werfel] and could not tear myself away... I myself was at Musa Dagh; I was under siege. I was one of the Armenians doomed to death. If I lifted my eyes from the book, it was only to hear the cry - Mama, how could this be? The world knew and kept silent. It could not be that children in other countries at the same time went to school, women adorned themselves, men went about their business, as if nothing had happened... And there, a people was annihilated.

-- Inka Wajbort, Holocaust survivor

"Stanley Kerr believes that his story must be told in the face of frequent and intentional misrepresentations."

-- Richard G. Hovannisian, 1973 Introduction to *The Lion's of Marash*, an eye witness account by an Armenian Near East Relief official

Student participating in this program will receive community service hours for the volunteer portion of the week while visiting schools and orphanages to set up sports clinics and arts and crafts workshops.

For more information contact:

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