

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 7

RESOLUTION – 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE – APRIL 2015\*

This measure would designate the month of April 2015 as a “Month of Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.”

WHEREAS, During the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923, 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian descendants lost their lives at the hands of the Turkish Ottoman Empire in their attempt to systematically eliminate the Armenian race, which constituted one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the world; and

WHEREAS, Armenians have resided in Asia Minor and the Caucasus for approximately four millennia and have had a long and rich history in the region, including the establishment of many kingdoms and also the establishment of the Armenian Empire during the first century B.C.; and

WHEREAS, Despite Armenians’ historic presence, stewardship and autonomy in the region, Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution and brutality including but not limited to widespread wholesale massacres beginning in the 1890’s, most notably the Hamidian Massacres from 1894 to 1896 and the Adana Massacre of 1909; and

WHEREAS, Those citizens of Turkey, both Armenian and non-Armenian, who continue to speak the truth about the Armenian Genocide, such as assassinated human rights activist and journalist Hrant Dink, continue to be silenced by violent means and/or imprisonment based on Turkish Penal Code 301, which encompasses the recognition of the Armenian Genocide as insulting Turkish identity; and

WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide was officially recognized in the United States Government’s May 28, 1951 written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; through President Ronald Reagan’s April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838; and by Congressional House Joint Resolution 148 adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247 adopted on September 10, 1984; and

WHEREAS, In response to the Genocide and at the behest of the President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East Relief organization, the first Congressionally-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to rescue the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities, was founded and provided unprecedented complete access to all U.S. Government documents and files concerning the plight of Christian minorities, over \$117 million of assistance between 1915 and 1930 and rescued over 130,000 orphans of the Genocide; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent recurrence of genocide; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, Glendale Community College has a significant Armenian student population, many of whom have family members who experienced first-hand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and the ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, Every student and person, regardless of ethnicity or national origin, should be made aware of and educated about the Armenian Genocide so that it and other state-sanctioned forms of ethnic cleansing may never happen again; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Glendale Community College District deplors the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this country or abroad, to deny the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Glendale Community College District hereby designates the month of April 2015 as a "Month of Commemoration for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915" and in doing so will assure that the Armenian Genocide is discussed among its faculty, student body, and the community at large through college-wide educational and cultural events; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Glendale Community College District commends its conscientious educators who teach about human rights and genocide; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Glendale Community College District hereby commends the extraordinary service which was delivered by Near East Relief to the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and Assyrian Genocide, including thousands of direct beneficiaries of American philanthropy who are the parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of many Californian Armenian-Americans and Assyrian-Americans and reaffirms its commitment to working with community groups, nonprofit organizations, personnel, and the student body to assure college-wide educational events addressing these humanitarian efforts and this important part of American history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Glendale Community College District hereby calls on the President of the United States to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment, with reparations, of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity; and to work toward a just resolution.

Adopted by the Glendale Community College District Board of Trustees  
September 9, 2014

\*Based on resolution adopted by the Los Angeles Community College District, August 20, 2014