

AZUSA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION #22-23:26

**DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS “ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915
COMMEMORATION MONTH” THIS MEASURE WOULD DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF
APRIL AS “AZUSA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTH OF COMMEMORATION OF
THE 108TH 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 Armenia race; and

WHEREAS, the genocide of the Armenians constituted one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the world; and

WHEREAS, despite the overwhelming proof of genocide intent, the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably adamantly denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young Turk rulers; 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 was founded and was provided unprecedented complete access to all U.S. Government documents; and files concerning the plight of Christian minorities; and

WHEREAS, Near East Relief was the first Congressionally-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to rescue the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities from annihilation after U.S. Ambassador to Constantinople Henry A. Morgenthau Jr., pled for assistance upon personally witnessing the systematic massacre of Armenians; and

WHEREAS, Near East Relief efforts resulted in delivering \$117 million of assistance between 1915 and 1930, including the delivery of food, clothing, and materials for shelter, setting up refugee camps, clinics, hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the generous philanthropy of the American people, including many Californians, directly resulted in the salvation of the Armenian and Assyrian refugee’s nation from being completely annihilated by the Genocide by saving more than one million refugees, including more than 130,000 orphans through their humanitarian assistance; and

WHEREAS, Near East Relief evolved into the Near East Foundation in 1930, and continues to provide humanitarian aid to people throughout the Middle East and Africa; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2013, the President of the United States stated, “A full, frank, and just acknowledgement of the facts is in all of our interests. Nations grow stronger by acknowledging and reckoning with painful elements of the past, thereby building a foundation for a more just and tolerant future”; 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 geocide; and

WHEREAS, the concern for human rights is a major element in the History-Social Science framework for California public schools, kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, by consistently remembering and forcefully condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and provide the American public with a greater understanding of history; 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, this measure would provide that the Azusa Unified School District Board of Education deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this country or abroad, to deny the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, the Azusa Unified School District Board of Education should continue to provide teacher-training workshops and educational resources about the Armenian Genocide to all its high school social studies teachers and students; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Azusa Unified School District Board of Education hereby designates the month of April, as “Azusa Unified School District Month of Commemoration for the Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915” and in doing so will ensure that the Armenian Genocide is properly taught to its faculty, student body, and the community at large; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Azusa Unified School District reaffirms its commitment to working with community groups, non-profit organizations and school personnel to ensure that genocide studies remain an important part of the high school social studies curriculum.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Azusa Unified School District, this 25th day of April, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

I, Gabriela Arellanes, Clerk of the Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by said Board of Education at a regularly called and conducted Board of Education meeting held on said date.

Gabriela Arellanes,
Clerk of the Board of Education