

The Rt Hon. Boris Johnson M.P.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

17 March 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

I write conscious that at this time you are very busy and engaged in navigating our country through the coronavirus and would like to thank you for the tremendous work you have done in keeping the country safe.

Nevertheless, I would like to bring one particular request before you for consideration. The Ottoman destruction of Armenians and other Christian minorities over the period 1893-1923 is recognised by most historians outside Turkey as the first modern genocide. Yet the UK government has failed to recognise the genocide, placing itself apart from France, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Canada, Russia and many other countries. The Armenian Genocide has been recognised by the Welsh and Scottish parliaments.

Recognition of the Armenian Genocide is the right and just thing to do, not only for the 1.5 million Armenian victims who died and the 2.25 million Assyrian, Syriac and Greek victims who also died, but also to make clear that a genocide of this nature will not be ignored and should never happen again. Your heroic great-grandfather Ali Kemal spoke out passionately against the massacres of Armenians as they were happening during the First World War; perhaps this was the reason for his brutal lynching.

The UK has a long tradition of strong democratic values and for centuries has been at the forefront of promoting global human rights, often at significant cost to the country. It would be right for this government to maintain that historic record.

Prime Minister, we urge you to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide, expanding this term to embrace all of the 3.75 million Christians of several ethnic backgrounds, who died in the Ottoman campaign of extermination. Please make this principled stand against persecution and for human dignity and rights.

Yours sincerely,



The Very Rev. Cor Episcopos Dr Patrick Sookhdeo
International Director of Barnabas Fund

P.S. You may remember my name from around 16 years ago when I wrote a couple of articles at your request for *The Spectator*.

We, the undersigned, fully support this letter:

The Rt Rev. and Rt Hon. The Lord Carey
Former Archbishop of Canterbury

His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland

The Most Hon. The Marquess of Reading

The Baroness Cox, independent member of the House of Lords