

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

### PROCLAMATION NO. 5

Proclaiming April 24th of 2025 as well as April 24th of every year henceforth as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

#### Multnomah County Finds:

- A. April 24th, 1915 marks the initial stages of the Armenian Genocide when the Ottoman Empire initiated the massacre of 1.5 million ethnic Armenians in eight years at the beginning of WWI.
- B. This systematic program of genocide and forced deportation was undertaken to eliminate the Armenian race and wipe Armenian heritage, culture, and history from the region.
- C. The year 2025 marks the 110th anniversary of this racially prejudiced and horrific genocide in history.
- D. April is the month of genocide awareness, education and action against genocide. It honors millions of losses from the Armenian communities, as well as sacrifices of other communities like Jewish, Cambodian, Bosnian, Greek, Rwandan, Palestinian, Assyrian, Kurdish, Native American, Romani, Lebanese (1 & 2), Syrian, Darfurian and many other populations and encourages us to deepen our understanding of past events and their sequels as well as be aware of current manifestations of genocide and massive human rights violations.
- E. The 2020 attacks on the ethnic Armenians located in Nagorno-Karabakh was a continuation of the sentiments of the Armenian genocide of 1915, the 44 day war was an attack on the Armenian population, resources, and culture orchestrated by Azerbaijan alongside Turkey, the perpetrator of the Armenian Genocide.
- F. The term genocide, coined by Raphäel Lemkin in an attempt to address the atrocities of the holocaust, was defined based on the systematic massacre and persecution of Armenians.




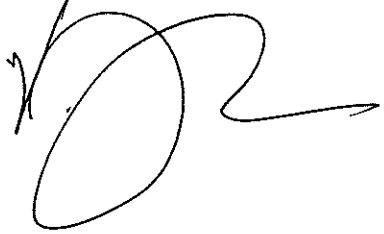
- G. Analyses of the persecution of the Armenians are being incorporated into studies of racial bias, such as the Holocaust and other violations of human rights.
- H. We recognize the importance of raising awareness and acknowledging the atrocities of genocide, so that we may educate and prevent the repetition of such acts of racially motivated violence and hatred.
- I. The commemoration of the 1.5 million Armenian lives lost during the Armenian genocide, is of critical significance to the diaspora of Armenian-Americans and Armenians globally, who have worked to re-establish their communities after the atrocities committed by the Ottoman Empire and successive governments.
- J. Multnomah County is home to the St. Kevork Armenian Apostolic Church of Oregon, serving over two hundred and fifty families. There are about 500 Armenian families in the Portland Metro Area, both as direct immigrants and second, third, and fourth generation members of the Armenian diaspora.
- K. With strength and resilience, the Armenian people survived and rebuilt their community. Over the decades Armenian immigrants have enriched the United States in countless ways, but they have never forgotten the tragic history that brought so many of their ancestors to our shores. We honor their story. We see that pain. We affirm the history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated.
- L. Today, as we mourn what was lost, let us also turn our eyes to the future - toward the community that we wish to build for our children. A place unstained by the daily evils of bigotry and intolerance, where human rights are respected, and where all people are able to pursue their lives in dignity and security. Let us renew our shared resolve to prevent future atrocities from occurring anywhere in the world. And let us pursue healing and reconciliation.
- M. On April 23rd, 1990 Governor Neil Goldschmidt proclaimed April 24th as Day of Armenian Remembrance in Oregon and encouraged all citizens to join in this observance.

N. On April 27th, 2022 Mayor Ted Wheeler proclaimed April 24th to be Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in Portland and encouraged all residents to observe this day; therefore

**Multnomah County Proclaims:**

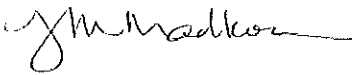
April 24 of 2025 as well as April 24th of every year henceforth to be Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in Multnomah County, Oregon and encourages all residents to observe this day.

**SIGNED this 2nd day of April, 2025.**

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
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Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

Submitted by: Mohammad Bader, Director of County Human Services and Commissioner Shannon Singleton, District 2.