



**Arbeitsgruppe Anerkennung –
gegen Genozid, für Völkerverständigung e.V.
(AGA)**

Contact:
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Wales-Armenia Solidarity Press Release
Eilian Williams
c/o The Temple of Peace, Cardiff
eilian@nant.wanadoo.co.uk

Dear Ms Williams,
Dear friends,

We were shocked when we learnt that the monument, only recently erected to the commemoration of 1.5 million Armenian victims of genocide was desecrated on the UK Holocaust Memorial Day.

In your press release you rightly quote the opinion of a Welsh Armenian describing the importance of such genocide memorials for a dispersed by persecution nation that until today has no access to the killing fields where their ancestors were martyred in 1915 and 1916. Our human rights NGO *Working Group Recognition* works for reconciliation through the recognition of the historic truth by societies in which genocide was committed and then denied. However, until this is fully achieved, we need international remembrance, and we also need places of commemoration where we, together with survivors and their descendents can meet and join in commemoration and concern.

Those, who still deny the recognition of facts and refuse to take responsibility, are the same who act out against these goals, in the name of a more than dubious national honour. We hope that you will be successful in gaining the official recognition of the UK lawmakers and in achieving protection for the memorial in Cardiff.

With deep concern we learnt that even Holocaust and Hrant Dink commemoration events had been disturbed by Turkish protesters. This, we feel is the more regrettable since in many European



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and North American states cross community vigils and other events had been organized on 19th and 20th January in order to commemorate the murder of Hrant Dink. Here in Berlin, Turks, Kurds, Armenians and persons of other ethnicities came together to mourn, learn, exchange and discuss information (see <http://www.aga-online.org/de/aktionen/detail.php?newsId=254> for more details); together they articulated their concern against the increasing nationalism in Turkey. We hope that UK authorities will encourage such cross community cooperation in the spirit of historic truth, recognition and international understanding. This would also be a much needed signal to prevent further aggression.

Be ensured of our profound solidarity and our respect for the work you do,

Sincerely, yours,

(Dr Tessa Hofmann)

Chairperson of the Working Group Recognition (AGA)