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Honorable guests, dear colleagues, and dear members of the Greek community,

I would like to thank the organizers for inviting us to speak at this important conference.

I am glad to stand here today on behalf of FÖGG.

FÖGG, the Association of Ecumenical Memorial for the Victims of Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, has for many years worked to preserve the memory of the victims of genocide in the Ottoman Empire. Through educational projects, conferences, publications, exhibitions, and initiatives for a memorial site in Germany, FÖGG contributes to historical awareness, intercultural dialogue, and the defense of human rights. Its work is not only about remembering the past, but also about building a democratic and humane future based on truth and justice.

Today, we gather here for a painful and often neglected chapter of history: the genocide committed against the Greeks of the Ottoman Empire. As an Armenian, as a human rights defender and member of the Human Rights Association (İHD), and as a journalist reporting on human rights violations and crimes against humanity, this issue is deeply personal for me.

The Armenian people know very well what it means when a society tries to erase not only human lives, but also memory, culture, and truth itself. For more than a century, the genocide has been denied by the Turkish state. Yet despite this denial, Armenians across the world have built institutions, advocacy networks, academic initiatives, and political campaigns that have progressively created international awareness. Today, many states, parliaments, and human rights organizations officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. This recognition was not given freely; it was achieved through decades of struggle, persistence, scholarship, and solidarity.

However, when we look at the Greek Genocide, we do not yet see the same level of international awareness or organized political advocacy. In my opinion, this is a serious deficiency. It is also a question that deserves critical reflection. Why has the suffering of the Greeks remained less visible in international discussions on genocide and crimes against humanity? Why has denial faced less organized resistance in the international field? These are difficult but necessary questions.

At the same time, we must also openly speak about the systematic denial policies of the Turkish state. Turkey spends enormous financial and political resources every year to normalize denial. Through lobbying groups, embassies, consulates, state-supported organizations, and religious-political structures operating in Europe and the United States, denial is continuously reproduced and spread. In Germany, organizations such as DİTİB also play a role in shaping political narratives and influencing public discourse in ways that often prevent an honest confrontation with history.

Denial is not simply about the past. Denial creates a political culture in which violence, nationalism, racism, and impunity continue to survive. If crimes against humanity are not recognized, condemned, educated and lectured openly, societies remain vulnerable to new forms of hatred and authoritarianism. For this reason, the struggle for recognition is not only a struggle

for historical justice; it is also a struggle for democracy, human rights, and peace in the present.

I believe that Greeks and Armenians have potential to work together more closely in this field. Our peoples have shared centuries of coexistence, cultural exchange, friendship, and common experiences of suffering. Today, especially within the diaspora communities across Europe, North America, Canada and Australia there is an important opportunity to build stronger cooperation against denialism.

We need coordinated strategies, common platforms, and lasting institutions.

Armenian organizations like in France and in the United States have shown how diaspora structures can successfully influence public awareness, academia, media, and political institutions. Similar large-scale and effective umbrella organizations could also be created jointly by Greek and Armenian communities in order to confront denial policies more effectively on the international level.

Such cooperation would not only strengthen our voices politically; it would also send an important moral message: that peoples who experienced persecution and displacement refuse to remain divided, and instead choose solidarity, justice, and shared memory.

As a journalist, I also believe that we carry a special responsibility. Silence protects perpetrators, while truth protects human dignity. Journalism, academic research, and civil society activism must continue to challenge denial and create spaces where historical truth can be discussed freely and honestly.

Dear friends,

Commemorating the victims of genocide is not an act of vindictiveness; it is an act of humanity. Recognition does not weaken societies; denial does.

True reconciliation can only begin, when truth is accepted openly and without fear.

Today, I would like to express clearly, that the Armenian people stand in solidarity with the Greek people in their struggle for recognition, justice, and historical memory.

We remain open to all forms of cooperation and joint struggle against denialism, racism, and crimes against humanity.

Thank you.