

## **Statement on the Armenian Genocide commemoration Day, 24 April 2021**

*Delivered by Mr Aram Araratyan, the Political Officer of the Embassy of Armenia to the UK*

Dear Bishop Manukyan,  
The Very Reverend Father Patrick,  
Dear Mr Arman Abrahamyan,  
Distinguished guests,  
Fellow compatriots,

We stand here today in our beautiful church to commemorate the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. On the 24th of April, this day in 1915, the extensive enactment of one of the gravest crimes of the 20th century began with mass arrests of the Armenian intellectuals in Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. What subsequently happened in 1915 and the years that followed was unprecedented in terms of volume and ramifications. Around 1.5 million men, women and children were slaughtered merely for being Armenian. Some survived, with their life stories conveyed as historical testaments to generations to come.

Dear guests,

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize winner, once noted: “To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time”. A sign in the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC with Hitler’s notorious remark “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”, is a stark reminder of the threats of impunity. Denied justice haunts generations of genocide survivors that carry the pain of the tragedy. Hence, the fight against denial has remained one of the greatest priorities for Armenia and it brings up the most important message that the rejected justice cannot disappear and impunity cannot and will not be accepted.

Indeed, rejected justice cannot disappear. We witnessed this last year, when exactly 100 years after the Turkish invasion to the newly-independent Republic of Armenia in 1920 the new war was unleashed against our people in Artsakh by Azerbaijan with the direct engagement of Turkey. The same Turkey that up to this day refuses to recognize the fact of the Armenian Genocide, was again involved in another cycle of horrors, terror and barbarity against the Armenian people. War that left a new scars on our body and psyche.

At the mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome at the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, Pope Francis said that “Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it.” The wound is bleeding, because there is too much silence, neutrality, and denialism around the world, and there is still too little humanity.

Yesterday, we have been delighted to hear the news on the statement of the US President on the commemoration day of the Armenian Genocide, by which the President of the United States has clearly defined the mass atrocities committed against the Armenian people in the early 20th

century as genocide. Although this is a milestone in the struggle for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, but this is not the end of the road. Our join and united efforts will be continued until the country that perpetrated these crimes against humanity will accept its responsibility and will be bring to justice.

As a nation we have experienced the most horrible that is why today our message is that we, Armenians all around the world, shall live and create twice as vigorously – not only for us, but for the eternal memory of our innocent victims of the Genocide of 1915 and Artsakh war of 2020. We should look to the future, because we have proved for so many times that it is impossible to destroy us, our spirit and our faith and because we still have much to say and to give to the world and humanity. I am grateful to all of you for being here to say that nothing is forgotten, and to say that, a hundred and six years past, we remember and we demand.

Thank you.