

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2026]

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3 **Resolution marking the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and declaring**
4 **April 24, 2026, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day” in the City and County of**
5 **San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, The Armenian people, living in their historic homeland for thousands of
8 years, were subjected to severe persecution by the Turkish government of the Ottoman
9 Empire before and after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres,
10 usurpation of land and property, and destruction of cultural institutions and monuments during
11 the period from 1894 to 1896, and again in 1909; and

12 WHEREAS, The unspeakable horrors experienced by the Armenian people at the
13 hands of the Ottoman Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is now known as the
14 Armenian Genocide; and

15 WHEREAS, From 1915 to 1923, Turkish authorities orchestrated and carried out a
16 genocide against the Armenian people - one of the world’s oldest civilizations, with over
17 3,500 years in its ancestral homeland resulting in the deaths of approximately 1.5 million
18 Armenian women, men, and children, the loss of more than half of the Armenian population
19 in that homeland, and the widespread seizure or destruction of their personal and communal
20 property; and

21 WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 296
22 (Schiff) on October 29, 2019, which states it is U.S. policy to commemorate the Armenian
23 Genocide and the US Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 150 (Menendez) on December
24 12, 2019, which formally recognizes and affirms the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide
25 on behalf of the U.S. government and calls for broader education on this heinous crime and its

1 impact on generations of Armenians; and

2 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, President Joseph Biden became the first U.S. President
3 to formally recognize the massacres of Armenians as genocide; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite the unequivocal acknowledgement of this crime as genocide,
5 Turkey and Azerbaijan continue to deny that it took place; and

6 WHEREAS, The legacy of the Armenian Genocide and the consequences of its denial
7 are seen to this day in the ongoing policy of violence and discrimination Armenians face at the
8 hands of the governments of Turkey and Azerbaijan; and

9 WHEREAS, This policy of aggression culminated in the assault on the Armenian region
10 of Artsakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh, by Azerbaijan with Turkey's support in 2020,
11 followed by a 10-month blockade depriving the remaining Armenian population of vital
12 supplies; and

13 WHEREAS, Since September 23, 2023, the Government of Azerbaijan has fully
14 occupied and ethnically cleansed Artsakh of its Armenian population, uprooting 120,000
15 Armenians from their homelands, with no clear intention to allow their return on the part of the
16 Azerbaijani Government, and destroying Artsakh's Armenian cultural heritage sites; and

17 WHEREAS, On February 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No.
18 052-23, condemning Azerbaijan's Blockade of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh)
19 and ongoing human rights violations, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution
20 as if set forth fully herein; and

21 WHEREAS, In the wake of the war, Azerbaijani and Turkish leaders publicly praised
22 the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide, and proliferated rhetoric aimed at dehumanizing
23 the Armenian people, destroyed Artsakh's Armenian cultural heritage sites, and continued the
24 imprisonment and torture of Armenian prisoners of war; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Government of Azerbaijan has occupied Armenia's internationally
2 recognized territories since September 2022; and

3 WHEREAS, The Azerbaijani ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh has uprooted
4 120,000 Armenians from their homelands, with no clear intention to allow their return on the
5 part of the Azerbaijani Government; and

6 WHEREAS, April 24, 2026 marks the 111th anniversary of the beginning of the
7 Armenian Genocide; and

8 WHEREAS, Denial is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres; and
9 the continued denial of the Armenian Genocide by successive governments of Turkey and
10 Azerbaijan and the lack of accountability and reparations for those crimes has added to the
11 injury and losses suffered by the genocide victims and their descendants, created an
12 atmosphere of intimidation and mistrust among neighboring states, enabled and emboldened
13 further acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing against the Armenian people, and sent a
14 message to the international community that genocide can be carried out without punishment;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby designates April 24,
17 2026, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day” in the City and County of San Francisco,
18 marking the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San
20 Francisco School District and San Francisco Board of Education to support public education
21 of the Armenian Genocide and its long-term repercussions, so as to ensure the lessons of
22 history are not forgotten, its influence on current events are understood, and so that students
23 will recognize their role in effecting positive global change; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors expresses its
2 condemnation of genocide denial in all its forms, noting that the prevention of atrocities must
3 begin with holding perpetrators to account; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its
5 support for the Armenians of Artsakh and reaffirms its support for efforts to hold Azerbaijan
6 accountable for its ongoing occupation of the region.

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk
8 of the Board to transmit copies to members of the San Francisco Board of Education and
9 United States Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, and
10 United States Representative Kevin Mullin.

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