



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

AFIC objects to Tasmanian Resolution Relating to Türkiye and Armenia

Media Statement 17 May 2023

We note the motion passed by the Tasmanian Parliament on 11 May 2023 referred to as "Genocide of the Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks" relating to the historical events that occurred during and after the first World War.

Such a resolution is disappointing as it is not mindful of the historical circumstances and the political dimension to the current campaign to badge what were clearly atrocities as acts of genocide. The circumstances leading up to these events and which ultimately formed part of the prelude to the war itself were complex and influenced by world events at the time.

As with all global conflicts, even those we still see today, atrocities occurred on many sides and Turkish people themselves suffered terribly through these events. However, there is no credible evidence to suggest or support that there was a co-ordinated Government campaign by Türkiye to eradicate a whole ethnic minority.

The modern campaign to rebadge these events as genocide is political and involvement by a Government in Australia will only serve to damage the bi-lateral relationship between our two countries.

President of AFIC, Dr Rateb Jneid said "This motion is driven by political lobbies and minority interests that does not reflect the full historical story and will achieve nothing other than to hurt Australia's relationship with Türkiye. "

AFIC notes that Türkiye has proposed a joint historical commission with Armenia to explore these events and that this offer has not been accepted. This is an indication of the political motives behind the campaign that led to resolutions such as this and we urge all Government's to resist being used in this way.

Authorised by:

Dr Rateb Jneid
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Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing
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