

Subject: To portray Turkish Nation as perpetrators of genocide constitutes "hate speech"

Dear Honorable Members of the House of Commons,

Timothy Loughton MP's private members bill which will have a second reading on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 regarding the recognition of "Armenian Genocide" is not supported by history and law.

Genocide is a legal term internationally defined by the 1948 UN Genocide Convention. Article 4 of the Convention classifies crime of genocide as committed by persons, not by a state. And according to article 6, this crime must be heard and proven by a specific court.

Without a fair judicial trial, parliaments – e.g., the House of Commons - has no legal and legislative authority for characterising a historical event as genocide.

Moreover, Timothy Loughton's bill portrays Turkish Nation as perpetrator of genocide, contrary to the framework of the Convention and sadly demonstrates the characteristics of an anti-Turkish, anti-Muslim hate speech.

Hate speech is defined by United Nation's as *"any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor."*

In many instances, there can be specific negative effects of hate speech. Hate-motivated violence is the most serious effect. The Cambridge Dictionary underlines this violence effect of hate speech as follows: *"Public speech that expresses hate or encourages violence towards a person or group based on something such as race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation."*

Hate speech can spread the seeds of intolerance and anger that contribute to "hate crime". It should not be forgotten that a total of 77 people – 58 of them Turkish nationals, including 31 diplomats and members of their families who lost their lives in attacks were carried out by Armenian terrorist groups from 1973 to 1986.

I believe, it is extremely important for the House of Commons not to promote a so-called reason for such hate crimes.

Furthermore, instead of real persons, to characterize Turkish Nation as perpetrators of genocide is a double standard - a double standard that occurs in the context of racial and religious prejudices.

For example, for war crimes in Sudan, not Sudan or Sudanese, but Al-Bashir himself has been accused. In the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia under the UN Genocide Convention, only "real persons" accused of "genocide" were tried in courts. As perpetrators of the Srebrenica massacre, not the Serbian Nation, but the Serbian leaders and some of their commanders were held responsible and sentenced.

As it is a well-known fact that for the Holocaust in the Second World War Germany or the German people are not blamed on any grounds. Hitler and other Nazi leaders are accused as **individuals**. Also, it can be clearly seen in the recent examples of Rwanda, Sudan and Bosnia-Herzegovina that for actions which can be defined as "genocide," the criminal responsibility is directed against real persons, not on **nations**.

It is highly noteworthy that this important judicial clause is discounted when the debate is on the "Armenian genocide" allegations. Instead of real persons, Turkey and Turkish Nation is portrayed as the target, contrary to all the legal guidance.

Double standards should not guide and lead us. We must overcome our prejudicial double standards, especially in the context of intolerances and eliminate all our discriminatory racial hatreds.

Yours sincerely,

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Lecturer in Politics

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Subject: To portray Turkish nation as perpetrators of genocide is hate speech

Dear Honorable Member of the House of Commons,

Timothy Loughton MP's private members bill which will be heard on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022 about the recognition of "Armenian Genocide" is not backed by history and law.

Genocide is a legal term internationally defined by the 1948 UN Genocide Convention. Article 4 of the Convention classifies crime of genocide as committed by persons, not by a state. And according to article 6, this crime must be proven by a court ruling.

Without a fair judicial trial, parliaments – e.g., the House of Commons - has no legal and legislative authority for characterising a historical event as genocide.

Moreover, Timothy Loughton's bill that turns real persons to Turkish nation as perpetrators of genocide, contrary to the framework of the Convention, incomes characteristic of an anti-Turkish, anti-Muslim hate speech.

Hate speech is defined by United Nation's as *"any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor."*

In many instances, there can be specific negative effects of hate speech. Hate-motivated violence is the most serious effect. The Cambridge Dictionary underlines this violence effect of hate speech as follows: *"Public speech that expresses hate or encourages violence towards a person or group based on something such as race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation."*

Hate speech can spread seeds of intolerance and anger that contributes to hate crime. It should not be forgotten that a total of 77 people – 58 of them Turkish nationals, including 31 diplomats and members of their families – who lost their lives in attacks carried out by Armenian terrorist groups from 1973 to 1986.

I believe, it is extremely important for the House of Commons not to promote a so called reason for such hate crimes.

Furthermore, instead of real persons to characterize Turkish nation as perpetrators of genocide is a double standard - a double standard that occurs in the context of racial and religious prejudices.

As a matter of fact, for the Holocaust in the Second World War Germany or the German people are not blamed on any grounds. Hitler and other Nazi leaders are accused as individuals and the Nazis as powers of government. In addition to the "Jewish massacre", it can be clearly seen in the current examples of Rwanda, Sudan and Bosnia-Herzegovina that for the actions which can be defined as "genocide," the criminal responsibility is directed against real persons, not on nationalities.

For example, for war crimes in Sudan not Sudan or Sudanese, but Al-Bashir himself has been accused. In the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia under the UN Genocide Convention, only "real persons" accused of "genocide" was tried. As perpetrators of the Srebrenica massacre, not the Serbian nation, but the Serbian leaders and some of their commanders were held responsible and punished.

This important judicial clause is discounted when the debate is on the "Armenian genocide" allegations. Instead of real persons, illegally Turkey and Turkish nation is portrayed as the target.

Double standards should not guide and lead us. We must overcome our prejudicial double standards especially in the context of religious intolerances and eliminate all our discriminatory racial hatreds.

Yours sincerely,

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