



Protestant Church
in Switzerland

Commemorating the Armenian Genocide

Beyrouth 24 april 2023

Dear Sisters and brothers

First of all let me thank the Armenian community in Lebanon to have invited us to this ceremony. We are a group of representatives of the Protestant Church in Switzerland and of its Aid Agency HEKS currently visiting evangelical church partners here in Lebanon, in particular the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.

As President of the Protestant Church in Switzerland, I feel honoured to bring you the heartfelt greetings of its council and member churches to this commemoration.

A lot of ties link and bind us, Swiss and Armenian people since the beginning of the persecution of Armenians in the Ottoman empire and the genocide in 1915. The Swiss population of that time was shocked by what they learned about the ongoing deportation and mass murders and urged our government to act. A few number of your people, especially children could be taken out of this tragedy and brought in safety in our country. Since then, the relations between the Protestant Church in Switzerland, Armenian and the Armenian community of Lebanon have been continuous, in particular through our Agency HEKS.

Rita Famos
President



Protestant Church
in Switzerland

With this commemoration, we do not only think of this past tragedy, but we also lament that humankind doesn't have learned so much of it and wasn't able to avoid the repetition of this kind of massacre till today. Therefore, every commemoration of the armenian genocide is a call to all people in power in the world to change their mind and resist to make use of violence. It is also a call for all of us to make use of our small possibilities to remind our governments to do justice to the victims.

On this special day, we think and pray for the victims of the wars in the world, in particular for these wars that aren't anymore in the headlines of the medias, but still continue day by day to bring death and emigration, like in Syria, or in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artzak).

Dear Sisters and Brothers

The Armenian people went through horrible times. But this made you strong and created within your communities a deep understanding for the value of faith, solidarity, education, democracy, freedom of religion. So you became important bridgebuilders for societies. Here in Lebanon, in Syria, and all over the world.

May God bless you in this mission and ministry.