

From: [redacted]

Sent: 14 November 2013 17:16

To: [redacted] PS Minister Lidington - Action

Cc: PUS Action; DL DG Political Private Office; Special Advisers Office; Judith Gough; Jonathan Aves ; Irfan Siddiq (Restricted); [redacted]

Subject: Submission - Genocide Recognition of Armenian Massacres

[redacted]

The Minister was grateful for this advice and agreed your recommendation. [redacted]

To: [redacted]

From: [redacted]

PS / Minister for Europe

Date: 8 November 2013

SUBJECT: CENTENARY OF ARMENIAN MASSACRES OF 1915-16

Issues

Ahead of the Centenary of the Armenian Massacres in 2015,

- should HMG change its current policy of non-recognition of the massacres as genocide?, and
- how should HMG be involved in centenary commemoration events?

Recommendation/s

We recommend that we maintain our current policy on non-recognition of the massacres as genocide but take a forward leaning stance on HMG participation in centenary commemoration events in April 2015.

Timing

Routine.

Comment

I agree. There are strong arguments for maintaining a consistent HMG line that it is for courts, not governments, to decide what constitutes genocide, and this needs to dictate our approach on recognition. But we should ensure that this is not mis-read as lack of recognition (in the wider sense) of the appalling events of 1915-16. It would be right to participate more actively in 2015 centenary events, as well as continue efforts to promote reconciliation. [redacted]