

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 16 December 2010 10:55

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Armenia: Ealing Council "recognises Armenian genocide"

[redacted]

So that you and the Minister are aware – our Embassy in Yerevan flagged up this morning this news report (below) that Ealing council has officially recognised the events perpetrated against Armenians in Ottoman Turkey in 1915 as “genocide”. Ealing council’s own website doesn’t yet confirm this, although we do know from some web searches that it was on the agenda on Tuesday, so the story is likely to be factually correct.

The Turkish Embassy in London has already been in touch with Turkey team, and are likely to protest formally to Ealing Council. Our lines to the Turks, and more broadly if asked, are that our position has not changed and that the views of Ealing council (which for background has the largest concentration of Armenians in any London borough) do not represent the central government, and therefore national position.

[redacted]

Official Recognition of Armenian Genocide by Ealing Council

Yerevan, December 15. ArmInfo. At full Council meeting of 14th December 2010, Ealing Council voted by absolute majority to recognise the Armenian Genocide.

The motion moved by Ara Iskandarian, a Labour Councillor of Armenian descent, stated: "Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2011 is recognition of not only the suffering of those who died in the holocaust but also recognition of all the people who have suffered as a result of genocide.

The London Borough of Ealing is home to an Armenian Community of some several thousand and has hosted an Armenian population since shortly after the First World War. The borough has subsequently been seen as the centre of Armenian community life within the United Kingdom.

Many of the Borough's Armenian residents are the second and third generation descendants of survivors of the 1915 Armenian genocide in which one and half million innocent victims were murdered by the Ottoman Empire during the First World War.

Last April, the Armenian community of Ealing planted an apricot tree, by way of a simple memorial to the victims. Their intention was to place alongside the apricot tree an explanatory plaque reading:

"This Apricot Tree (*Prunus Armeniaca*) serves as a memorial to the one and half million victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide." The plaque has yet to be put up.

Council resolves:

"To again observe Holocaust Memorial Day as an acknowledgement of all the victims of genocide.

To categorically acknowledge and recognise the events of 1915 perpetrated against the Armenians as constituting genocide.

To include the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in subsequent Holocaust Memorial Days and related events within the borough.

To reconfirm this Council's commitment to cohesion between communities, both locally and nationally, and its ongoing support for dialogue and reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian communities.

To allow the unveiling of a commemorative plaque containing the above text and for it to be placed in the closest possible proximity to the apricot tree on Ealing Green."

The motion was carried with absolute majority.

Labour Party Councillors Julian Bell, the leader of the Council, Bassam Mahfouz and Ara Iskandarian, were instrumental in securing the vote.

The Chairman of Armenian Community and Church Council of Great Britain, Mr. Ara Palamoudian and the head of The Armenian National Committee of UK, Mr. Sevan Artin were present at the chamber during the meeting.

Mr. Stephen Pound MP (Member of Parliament) for Ealing North has been closely cooperating with ANC UK and the Armenian Community and Church Council (ACCC) of GB towards successful conclusion of this resolution.