

**What is the UK's view on the events of 1915? Did Turkey commit "genocide" against the Armenians?**

Our view is that it is not for governments to decide whether genocide has been committed as this is a complex legal question. Where an international legal body finds a crime to have been genocide, this will often play an important part in whether we will recognise one as such. The massacres that were committed on Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century were rightly and robustly condemned by the British government of the time. Since then, successive British governments, including the current government, have repeatedly acknowledged the massacres and terrible suffering of Armenians. We believe that this issue can only be resolved through a process owned by those directly involved. Our main concern today is to ensure that the lessons are learnt, and relationships are re-built to ensure a peaceful and secure future for everyone living in the region.

**Does the Scottish Parliament motion signal a change in UK policy towards recognising the Armenian massacres as genocide?**

No. Under the terms of the devolution settlement foreign policy is a reserved policy matter and is the responsibility of the UK Government and UK Parliament. Whilst the Scottish Parliament is able to debate any matter that it wishes it does not have policy or legislative competence in this area and does not alter or signify a change to British Government policy.