

### 1. What is the Great Britain's position regarding Armenian Genocide in 1915?

We recognise and deeply regret the terrible suffering inflicted on the Armenian people in 1915. Reading the scholarship, visiting the Tsitsernakaberd Museum, seeing the photos and the written testimony, is enormously moving. We believe it is vitally important to honour the memory of the victims; and we must make sure we draw the necessary lessons from history. But while we must never forget the past, we believe that our priority today should be to promote reconciliation between the peoples and Governments of Armenia and Turkey and to find a way for Armenia and Turkey, as the countries which have inherited this tragic joint history, to address that history together. We want to encourage and support any process which will help both countries to do that.

### 2. What is the background of the mentioned state?

### 3. How do you estimate politics and football game relationship between Armenia and Turkey that occurred recently?

We strongly supported the Protocols signed in 2009. President Sargsyan's initiative was bold and imaginative. We – and many others – thought the Protocols represented a real opportunity to move forward in a way which would help secure Armenia's future security and prosperity. It remains very disappointing that the process of ratification has stalled. We continue to press for ratification without any preconditions. The positive dynamic at the moment is that – although things are stuck at the political level – from the bottom up there are many reasons for optimism. Business, tourism, people to people contacts are all increasing and this can only be a good thing.

### 4. Is it possible to say that Turkey has a role in UK's status of not recognizing Armenian Genocide?

We have a strong relationship with Turkey, both as a trade and investment partner, and as a strategic ally in NATO. We strongly support the accession of Turkey to the EU, believing that a modern, democratic Turkey bound to Europe with strong institutional, cultural and economic ties is in our best interests and in the best interests of the wider region. But our position on this issue remains based on the view that there has to be a process of reconciliation led by Armenia and Turkey themselves. As we have discovered in Europe, after the terrible destruction and barbarity of war – it is much easier to become reconciled, to build trust, to face up to history, when you are building up a web of relationships economically, culturally, and politically. This was, in fact, the founding principle of the EU – after the horrors of war, to bring, in the first place, countries' economies together, to create institutions where common interests could be explored and deepened, to give a future focus to the process of reconciliation.

### ***What is the UK's view on the events of 1915?***

☒ The terrible suffering that was inflicted on Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century should not be forgotten. But while we remember the victims of

the past, our priority today should be to promote reconciliation between the peoples and Governments of Turkey and Armenia.

***How does the events of 1915 and the UK's position, affect the relationship between Turkey and the UK?***

☐ The UK's excellent relationship with Turkey is long-standing and based on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues. Turkey is a key strategic ally in the region on a number of international issues, such as Syria, Cyprus and the EU. But the UK government position on this issue is based on our assessment of what is best for the stability and security of the entire region, including both Armenia and Turkey.

***Turkey has made a linkage between the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh unresolved conflict and progress on normalisation of relations with Armenia. Is this unhelpful?***

☐ The UK supports the position that there can be no formal link between the resolution of Nagorno Karabakh and progress on normalisation of relations. We believe that improved relations between Armenia and Turkey can have a positive impact for the whole region.

**(If Pressed)** Our position is unchanged. We acknowledge the strength of feeling about this terrible episode of history and recognise the events of 1915-16 as a tragedy. We would encourage both Armenia and Turkey to build on their progress, despite the challenges, to address these issues together.

Background

☐ **[redacted]** The UK position is that we do not recognise the massacres as "genocide" – this issue is one for Turkey and Armenia to resolve between themselves.

☐ Progress towards normalisation of bilateral relations between Turkey and Armenia was halted in April 2010 as a result of Turkey linking ratification of the relevant protocols with progress on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Normalisation could bring long term benefits for the peace and stability of the whole region.

☐ The UK has supported a number of projects designed to promote normalisation of Turkey-Armenia relations. These have included a Turkish film festival in Yerevan, a touring theatre production about the Turkish/Armenian relationship and bringing together activists in both countries to discuss EU integration.