Dear University of Southern California Graduate Students,

The USC Graduate Student Government expresses our support for fellow Armenian graduate students and the Armenian community in Southern California and across the globe in response to the recent serious escalations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Reminiscent of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 which attempted to annihilate all Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, today Armenians in the Caucasus Mountains are faced with deadly violent aggressions from Azerbaijan and Turkey in a geo-political fight for the unlawful control of the Artsakh, a de facto autonomous state of ethnic Armenians.

We recognize that Southern California is home to the largest Armenian diaspora in the world outside of Armenia and we stand in solidarity with everyone affected by the ongoing conflict in Artsakh. This humanitarian crisis has resulted in the destruction of homes and a historic Armenian cathedral, displacement of many Armenian families, and the loss of so many innocent lives. These escalations are directly impacting our Armenian students and GSG urges USC to support all those who have been affected by this unprecedented threat to their homeland and loved ones.

We call on USC’s administration and the USC community at large to:

1. Formally reject human rights violations, violent aggressions, and injustices affecting civilians and advocate for an end to these war crimes and peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms.
2. Vocalize support for the Armenian community via a school-wide email and raise awareness by informing members of our USC community, including all students and

3https://anca.org/
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We are writing to faculty, on this conflict and the detrimental implications it has not only on Armenians at USC, but also Armenians across the globe.

3. Provide support and resources for Armenian Trojans having to navigate these challenging times amidst an already tumultuous semester.

We stand with local Armenian communities that are raising awareness in Southern California\(^1\) and encourage fellow Trojans who are not familiar with the conflict to learn more\(^2\) and connect with USC ASA and the USC Institute of Armenian Studies to become informed allies.

To our fellow Armenian Trojans, we are here for you. You are an important part of our community. Please know that there are resources available to you and all members of our community who need support during these challenging and uncertain times. A list of relevant resources can be found below. Additionally, our [Executive Board members](https://anca.org/) and [website](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54314341) are always available to you as sources of support and advocacy - you are not alone. If you would like us to advocate for more specific resources that are not listed below, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For those wishing to donate to the Armenian Fund, a [Benefit Concert](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-09/why-are-armenian-americans-protesting#:~:text=Armenians%20across%20Southern%20California%20have%2C%20the%20contested%20Nagorno%2DKarabakh%20region) has been organized by the USC Armenian Students’ Association and proceeds can be sent via Venmo [@usc-asa](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54314341)

In solidarity,

**Graduate Student Government Executive Board, 2020-2021**

**USC Resources:**

- [USC Armenian Students’ Association](https://anca.org/): Join fellow Armenian Students at USC
- [USC Institute of Armenian Studies](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-09/why-are-armenian-americans-protesting#:~:text=Armenians%20across%20Southern%20California%20have%2C%20the%20contested%20Nagorno%2DKarabakh%20region): The Institute promotes scholarship and aims to address global challenges through educational discussions. They are actively hosting webinars with professors and experts on this war every Friday which can be viewed on their [Facebook](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54314341) and [Youtube](https://anca.org/) pages. They are also continuously updating their “[Focus on Karabakh](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54314341)” page with relevant and timely information regarding this conflict.
- [Office of International Services](https://anca.org/): OIS staff is available to assist international Armenian Students.

\(^3\)[https://anca.org/](https://anca.org/)
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- **Free Legal Counseling**: The legal counseling service provided by USG and GSG has officially been extended and appointments can now be made throughout the academic year. The form to request appointments is found [here](#).

- **USC Gould Immigrant Legal Assistance Center (ILAC)**: ILAC provides free, confidential consultations, legal assistance, and referrals to members of the USC Trojan Family, students, staff members, contract employees, faculty and family members, who may be at risk of deportation, who may be eligible to apply for immigration status, or who have questions about their legal status and legal rights under the immigration laws.

- **Counseling & Mental Health Resources**: Through [USC Student Health](#), all students have access to mental health counseling resources, even as classes have moved online. Resources are available to students regardless of their geographic location. More information about these resources can be found [here](#).

- USC prohibits any type of discrimination and harassment. In the event you witness or are subject to discriminatory acts, please report these to the university by contacting the [Office of Equity and Diversity](#) or by submitting a [Public CARE Report](#) (USC’s optionally anonymous platform).

- USC Student Affairs has a number of [additional campus resources](#) through which any student, faculty, or staff can seek support.

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3. [https://anca.org/](https://anca.org/)