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## THE ELIE WIESEL FOUNDATION FOR HUMANITY

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### Nobel Laureates Call for Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation

News

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New York – The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity (EWF) released today an appeal signed by 53 Nobel Laureates endorsing Turkish-Armenian reconciliation.

The appeal calls on the government of Turkey to end discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities and abolish Article 301 of the Penal Code, which makes it a criminal offense to “denigrate Turkishness”. Laureates also call on Armenia to reverse its authoritarian course, allow free and fair elections, and respect human rights.

Laureates urge the governments of Turkey and Armenia to open the Turkish-Armenian border thereby improving economic conditions on both sides of the border and enabling human interaction, which is essential for human understanding. They call on the governments to accelerate bilateral contacts and the establishment of full diplomatic relations. They also support practical projects between civil society representatives that address shared problems.

In addition, the appeal suggests a legal approach to address the gap in national perceptions over the Armenian genocide. It also notes that the Genocide Convention has never been applied retroactively and, therefore can not be used as the basis for reparations or territorial claims.

EWF was established by Elie and his wife, Marion, soon after he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986. EWF’s mission, rooted in the memory of the Holocaust, is to combat indifference, intolerance, and injustice through international dialogue and youth focused programs that promote acceptance, understanding, and equality.

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