



CANADA & THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



SARA CORNING CENTRE FOR GENOCIDE EDUCATION

45 Hallcrown Place, Toronto, ON M2J 4Y4 | 647-206-4769 | www.corningcentre.org | info@corningcentre.org

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *CANADA AND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE*

- 1- Name and discuss genocides that have taken place during the 20th century. What were the missions of the perpetrators?
- 2- On April 24, 1915, an early phase of the Armenian Genocide took place, which consisted of the arrest then murder of over 200 Armenian intellectuals. Why do you think the Ottoman government targeted the intellects of the population first? Why was this strategic plan the initial action?
- 3- What difficulties and challenges do you think survivors of genocide face? What are some of the responsibilities and burdens they carry?
- 4- In Turkey, the history of the Armenian Genocide continues to be denied. How does this become a social injustice for survivors and their descendants? How does this denial affect Turkish citizens?
- 5- How does the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turkish government act as the backbone for other injustices that have, and continue to, take place in Turkey and across the globe?
- 6- Why is it important for the Armenian Genocide to be recognized by all governments? Why is it important for Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide?
- 7- What should justice look like for Armenians?
- 8- Evaluate Canada's involvement in aiding Armenians and compare it to contemporary assistance to war-torn or troubled areas. Do you see similarities or differences? How has the past shaped our collective understanding of humanitarianism in Canada? How would you respond to a call for help today?
- 9- What does *collective commemoration* mean? Why is it important to commemorate collectively? What importance does it have for victim groups? What importance does it have for wider non-victim group communities?
- 10- Why is Canada's recognition of the Armenian Genocide through government motions and statements important? What significance does it have internationally?
- 11- What is the significance of the plaques placed on what was once the home Georgetown's Armenian orphan boys? What roles do these plaques play?
- 12- Examine the images in the pamphlet. Choose two that speak to you. Discuss with a partner why you related to those photographs or why they stood out to you. What do they mean to you? How do they help you understand the Armenian Genocide?