



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, during the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian men, women and children as well as over one million Greeks, Assyrians, Syrians and others were massacred as part of the planned complete eradication of those indigenous communities by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern genocide that still requires justice; and*

*WHEREAS, Near East Relief's efforts, with the active participation of the state of Alabama, resulted in delivering an unprecedented \$117 million of assistance from the American people between 1915 and 1930; and*

*WHEREAS, Raphael Lemkin cited both the systemic destruction of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire and the Jews, Gypsies, Poles and others by the Nazis when he coined the word genocide in 1943; and*

*WHEREAS, the United States government first officially acknowledged the Armenian Genocide in 1951, in a document submitted to the International Court of Justice; and*

*WHEREAS, the Republic of Armenia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Artsakh are now free, independent, democratic states and strategic allies of the United States of America in the region; and*

*WHEREAS, other cases of genocide include the killings in Cambodia in 1975, the massacres in Bosnia in 1992, the slaughter in Rwanda in 1994 and now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the displacements and deaths in Darfur as well as targeting of religious minorities by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the Middle East; and*

*WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives adopted H. Con. Res. 75 in 2016, declaring the atrocities perpetrated by the ISIL against Christians, Yezidis and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as*

# *Genocide Awareness Month*

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2023.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor