

## WEB SYMPOSIUM

### **The Christian historical-cultural heritage of the peoples of the Armenian Highlands and the adjacent territories**

Organizer: Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe, Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and The Club of Vienna - Pan-European Centre for Political and Economic Analysis and Prognoses – Alliance for Peace Defence (PANAP – Alliance for Peace Defence)

Venue: Web Symposium held via Zoom

Date: 3 – 4 March 2021

The Christian historical-cultural heritage of the peoples of the Armenian Highlands and the adjacent territories has attracted the attention of various scholars since the 19th century, who have often devoted extensive scientific volumes to the study of Christian monuments in the above-mentioned region. During the Soviet Union, these works continued, however, they were more or less conditioned by the domestic policy of the Soviet power, and were subjected to “corrections” accordingly. In modern political conditions, when nationalist aspirations in the region have led to widespread falsifications of history, to serve that nationalist propaganda, Christian historical and cultural monuments in particular have been endangered. The aim of this conference is to raise awareness of the existing problems in this field within the scientific community, as well as various international structures, organizations, in order to draw their attention to these issues and demand that they take active steps to protect historical and cultural heritage, belonging and identity.

## WEB-SYMPOSIUM

### **The Christian historical-cultural heritage of the peoples of the Armenian Highlands and the adjacent territories**

#### **Organizers:**

- ❖ Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe, Switzerland
- ❖ Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin
- ❖ The Club of Vienna - Pan-European Centre for Political and Economic Analysis and Prognoses – Alliance for Peace Defence (PANAP – Alliance for Peace Defence), Slovakia

#### **Chairs:**

- Prof. Dr. Mikhail Piotrovsky - General Director of the State Hermitage Museum, Russia
- Dr. Ashot Grigorian - President of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe and co-chairman The Club of Vienna - Pan-European Centre for Political and Economic Analysis and Prognoses – Alliance for Peace Defence (PANAP – Alliance for Peace Defence), Slovakia

#### **Executive Secretary:**

- Tatevik Grigorian – lawyer, UK
- Harutyun Khudanyan – historian, employee of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences, Armenia

#### **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

- Ass.Prof. Dr.Dr. Jasmine Dum-Tragut B.N.Sc. – Head of the Center for the Study of the Christian East, Head of Dept. of Armenian Studies. University of Salzburg, Austria
- Prof. Dr. Ac. Ashot Melkonyan – Doctor of History, Professor, Academic of Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Director of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences, Armenia
- Karine Gevorgyan – political scientist, orientalist, representative of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe, Russia
- H.E. Bishop Tiran Petrosyan – Pontifical Legate of the Armenian Apostolic Church for Central Europe and Scandinavia, Austria
- FATHER Garegin - Armenian Apostolic Church, Etchmiadzin, Armenia

## TOPICS:

### **1. The falsification of the history of Caucasian Albania.**

- Armenia, Artsakh, Caucasian Albania: their connection.
- The falsification of the history of Azerbaijan in the 50s of the last century.

### **2. Preservation of Christian monuments in the Armenian Highlands and adjacent territories.**

- Christian historical and cultural monuments in Iran.
- Christian historical and cultural monuments in Azerbaijan.
- Problems of Armenian historical and cultural monuments in Azerbaijan and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh).
- Distortions of Christian monuments, cultural history and identity in Azerbaijan. The political goal pursued by the state and its participation in the given policy and process.

## PROGRAM

Maximum time for presentations - 15 minutes

Discussion, questions - 5 minutes

Day 1

March 3, 2021

Web symposium opening: 13:00 (Central European Time (CET))

13:00 – 13:45 (CET)

**Opening by the moderator Dr. Ashot Grigorian** - President of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe and co-chairman The Club of Vienna - Pan-European Centre for Political and Economic Analysis and Prognoses – Alliance for Peace Defence (PANAP – Alliance for Peace Defence), Slovakia

**Opening speeches:**

- His Holiness Karekin II. Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians
- The Baroness Cox, of Queensbury - member and Former Vice Speaker of the British House of Lords, Sociologist and Renowned Human Rights Defender, UK
- Prof. Dr. Mikhail Piotrovsky - General Director of the State Hermitage Museum, Russia
- The Rt Rev. and the Rt Hon. The Lord Carey of Clifton - former Archbishop of Canterbury, UK
- The Most Hon. The Marquess of Reading, UK
- The Very Rev. Cor Episcopos Prof. Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo - International Director of Barnabas Fund, UK
- H.E. Bishop Tiran Petrosyan – Pontifical Legate of the Armenian Apostolic Church for Central Europe and Scandinavia, Austria

**Presentations:**

13:45-14:00 (CET)

1. **The Baroness Cox, of Queensbury** Founder and CEO Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, UK.

**Topic: 'The Preservation of Armenia's Spiritual and Cultural Heritage'**

**14:00 – 14:05 Discussion, questions**

**14:05-14:20 (CET)**

**2. Prof. Dr. Svante Lundgren – Prof. Lund University, Sweden.**

**Topic: 'Heritage terror – reasons and consequences'**

**14:20 – 14:25 Discussion, questions**

**14:25-14:40 (CET)**

**3. Pontifical Legate Pargev Martirosyan**

**Topic: 'Catholicosate of Caucasian Albania and its Spiritual Heritage'**

**14:40 – 14:45 Discussion, questions**

**14:45-15:00 (CET)**

**4. Ass.Prof. Dr.Dr. Jasmine Dum-Tragut B.N.Sc. – Head of the Center for the Study of the Christian East, Head of Depart. of Armenian Studies.**

**University of Salzburg, Austria**

**Topic: "Underreported and forgotten - Armenian Christians in Karabakh and Azerbaijan.**

**A scrutinising look at reporting on worldwide persecution of Christians - and a critical look at minority and religious freedom legislation and practice in Azerbaijan."**

**15:00 – 15:05 Discussion, questions**

**15:05 - 15:20 (CET)**

**5. Naira Zohrabyan – Journalist, public and political figure, deputy of the Armenian parliament, chairman of the "Prosperous Armenia" party, Armenia**

**Topic: "Cultural values of Artsakh, their safety and protection"**

**15:20 – 15:25 Discussion, questions**

**15:25-15:40 (CET)**

**6. Vladimír Palko - Former member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and former Interior Minister of Slovakia**

**Topic: "Is the West able to protect the Christian heritage?"**

15:40 – 15:45 Discussion, questions

15:45 -16:00 (CET)

7. Prof. Dr. Ac. Ashot Melkonyan – Doctor of History, Professor, Academic of Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Director of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences, Armenia  
Topic: "will be specified later"

16:00 – 16:05 Discussion, questions

16:05 – 16:20 (CET)

8. Aram Alajajian – Architect and founder of Alajajian/Marcoosi Architects Inc., is member of the AIA, USA  
Topic: "Preservation of Historical monuments in Western Armenia (Eastern Turkey) "

16:20 – 16:25 Discussion, questions

16:25 – 16:40 (CET)

9. Dr. Hamlet Petrosyan – Doctor of Historical Sciences, Armenia  
Topic: "The monument and the society: Tigranakert of Artsakh"

16:40 – 16:45 Discussion, questions

16:45 – 17:00 (CET)

10. Karine Gevorgyan – political scientist, orientalist, representative of the Forum of the Armenian Unions of Europe, Russia  
Topic: "Christian heritage of the Islamic Republic of Iran"

17:00 – 17:05 Discussion, questions

17:05 – 17:20 (CET)

11. Dr. Arsen Hakobyan – Candidate of Historical Sciences, Researcher at the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Armenia

**Topic:** "From Memorial of Deir ez-Zor to Cathedral of Shushi: Ethnic and Cultural Cleansing in Progress"

**17:20 – 17:25 Discussion, questions**

**17:25 – 17:40 (CET)**

**12. Simon Maghakyan – Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Colorado Denver, USA and founder of Djulfa.com, USA**

**Topic:** "The 1997-2006 cultural genocide of Nakhichevan's Armenian past: documentary evidence"

**17:40 – 17:45 Discussion, questions**

**17:45 - 18:00 (CET)**

**13. Tatevik Grigorian – Lawyer, UK**

**Topic:** "Cultural genocide as a legal concept"

**18:00 – 18:05 Discussion, questions**

**Discussion: 18:05 – 19:00 (CET)**

**Day 2**

**March 4, 2021**

**13:00 (CET)**

**Discussion of the results of the web symposium and preparation of a resolution**