



## Joe Biden's Support for the Armenian People

*"I stand...with all Armenians and the Armenian-American community, which has contributed so much to our nation, in remembering and honoring the victims of the Armenian Genocide."* Vice President Joe Biden, April 24, 2020.

### What Joe Biden Has Done

- As a U.S. Senator, Joe Biden [led congressional efforts](#) to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Last year, Joe Biden [endorsed](#) bipartisan legislation in Congress that officially recognized and established an ongoing U.S. commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.
- This year on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, he [called for](#) the genocide to be fully acknowledged and pledged support for its recognition. He stated then that "[i]f we do not fully acknowledge, commemorate, and teach our children about genocide, the words 'never again' lose their meaning."
- The Obama-Biden administration provided U.S. assistance to Armenia and humanitarian support for Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh). [With the Vice President's leadership](#), the United States was a full partner in the OSCE Minsk Group peace process to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
- When the conflict reignited in September 2020, Joe Biden called for the Trump administration to more actively engage in seeking a peaceful resolution and to demand that other states, such as Turkey, stay out of the conflict.
- The Obama-Biden administration pushed for the full normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia, including opening the border and resumption of trade.

### What Biden Will Do

- Joe Biden [will recognize the Armenian Genocide](#) and make universal human rights a top priority for his administration so that such a tragedy can never again occur.
- Joe Biden will strengthen the U.S.-Armenia partnership to improve the lives of the Armenian people.
- Joe Biden will push for lasting peace in the region, reinvigorating U.S. engagement in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, [as he did in office](#), including seeking additional international observers to monitor the ceasefire. He will also work to prevent interference by third parties, including nation-states like Turkey and Iran, and foreign mercenaries paid to commit crimes against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Joe Biden will fully support U.S. aid to Armenia to strengthen democratic governance and promote economic growth, and review our security assistance to Azerbaijan to ensure it is not being repurposed for offensive means.
- He will continue the long-time U.S. demining and humanitarian assistance in Nagorno-Karabakh -- which President Trump has tried to end.
- He will condemn hate crimes committed against Armenian American communities and strengthen protections for faith communities, including by expanding security grants to faith-based organizations and establishing a new law enforcement program in the Department of Justice dedicated to preventing attacks against faith communities.



**Joe Biden** ✓

@JoeBiden

...

With casualties rapidly mounting in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, the Trump Administration needs to call the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan immediately to de-escalate the situation. It must also demand others — like Turkey — stay out of this conflict.

# NAGORNO-KARABAKH – STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

I am deeply concerned by the collapse of the October 10 ceasefire and the resumption of fighting in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. Drones, mortars and long-range artillery are claiming hundreds of lives on both sides of the line of contact and displacing thousands of civilians.

Inexplicably, the Trump Administration has been largely passive, and disengaged, throughout this recent period of escalation. Since the outbreak of hostilities on September 27, neither President Trump nor Secretary of State Pompeo has placed a single phone call to the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, even as the region goes up in flames. Rather than delegating the diplomacy to Moscow, the administration must get more involved, at the highest levels, by working with our European partners to de-escalate the fighting and return the two sides to negotiations.

The Trump Administration must tell Azerbaijan that it will not tolerate its efforts to impose a military solution to this conflict. It must make clear to Armenia that regions surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh cannot be occupied indefinitely and that credible negotiations on a lasting resolution of the conflict must commence immediately once a ceasefire is concluded. Finally, it must stop coddling Ankara and tell both Turkey and Iran to stay out of this conflict. Turkey's provision of arms to Azerbaijan and bellicose rhetoric encouraging a military solution are irresponsible. A diplomatic resolution will not be easy to achieve, but the Trump Administration has an obligation to try. It should do so urgently before more lives are lost and the conflict expands.

# NAGORNO-KARABAKH – STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Following the collapse of the ceasefire announced by Secretary of State Pompeo on October 25, a large-scale humanitarian disaster is looming for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, who have already suffered too much and need to have their security protected. After a month of fighting, it is long past time for President Trump to directly engage the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey to push for immediate de-escalation and stop the advance of Azerbaijani troops into Nagorno-Karabakh.

While he brags about his deal-making skills at campaign rallies, Trump has yet to get involved personally to stop this war. The administration must fully implement and not waive requirements under section 907 of the Freedom Support Act to stop the flow of military equipment to Azerbaijan, and call on Turkey and Russia to stop fueling the conflict with the supply of weapons and, in the case of Turkey, mercenaries. The United States should be leading a diplomatic effort to end the fighting, together with our European partners, and push for international humanitarian assistance to end the suffering; under my administration that is exactly what we will do.