

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
THE CIRCASSIAN GENOCIDE IN THE CONTEXT OF HISTORY AND
CONTEMPORARY POLITICS
CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

17 December 2025 – Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius

Preamble

The participants of the International Conference “*The Circassian Genocide in the Context of History and Contemporary Politics*”, convened on 17 December 2025 at the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

Recalling the historical events that took place between 1763 and 1864, during which the Russian Empire conducted a systematic campaign of invasion, occupation, destruction, and expulsion targeting the Circassian nation in Circassia, located in the Western Caucasus;

Recognizing that this 101-year campaign resulted in the killing of hundreds of thousands of Circassians; the burning of villages, towns, cultural centers, forests, and agricultural lands; the deliberate infliction of famine, disease, and terror; and the mass expulsion initiated in 1864;

Noting with deep concern that more than 90% of the Circassian population was killed or forced into exile, that hundreds of thousands perished during deportation due to starvation, epidemics, and exposure, and that over 6,000 Circassian settlements and cultural-historical sites were erased;

Acknowledging that these events are extensively documented in the archives and official reports of the major powers of the 18th and 19th centuries, including Britain, France, the Ottoman Empire, and Russia itself;

Recalling the definition of genocide contained in the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and **affirming** that the acts committed by the Russian Empire fall within all categories described in Article II (a–e);

Observing that the consequences of this genocide continue today, as millions of Circassians live dispersed around the world as a direct legacy of the 19th-century atrocities, while approximately one million reside within the Russian Federation under significant constraints on fundamental freedoms;

Expressing deep concern that Circassians in the Russian Federation face ongoing political repression, cultural and linguistic restrictions, discriminatory policies, systematic Russification, and obstacles to returning to their ancestral homeland;

Taking note of the OSCE’s 2023 Vancouver Declaration (Resolution on Clarifying the Consequences of the Russian Federation’s Aggression Against Ukraine in Terms of Adherence to OSCE Principles, Article 14), which recognizes the ongoing oppression of indigenous nations under Russian domination, including the Circassians;

Recalling further that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted on 13 September 2007, affirms the right of Indigenous peoples to self-

determination, to maintain and strengthen their distinct institutions, and to freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development;

Recognizing that the Circassian people, as the Indigenous population of Circassia, are unable to secure their rights, freedoms, and future under the current political conditions imposed by the Russian Federation;

Affirming that acknowledging and rectifying historical injustices—including the Circassian Genocide—is essential to preventing future atrocities and contributing to global peace, justice, and human dignity;

Findings of the Conference

The participants hereby state that:

1. The campaign carried out by the Russian Empire between 1763 and 1864 involved deliberate, coordinated, and systematic measures intended to destroy the Circassian nation physically, culturally, and demographically.
2. The mass killings, forced displacement, destruction of cultural and historical sites, deliberate famine, disease, and the eradication of more than 6,000 settlements constitute clear acts of genocide as defined by the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.
3. The consequences of these events continue to threaten the survival of the Circassian nation, particularly through:
 - severe restrictions on linguistic and cultural transmission,
 - political repression and the persecution of activists,
 - arbitrary denial of the right of return,
 - Russification policies,
 - discriminatory socio-economic practices,
 - unlawful detentions, disappearances, and reports of torture.
4. The international community has not yet adequately addressed or recognized the Circassian Genocide, despite extensive historical documentation.
5. Recognition, justice, and restitution remain essential for the preservation of the Circassian identity and for safeguarding human rights.

Conference Resolutions

In light of the above, and acting in the name of historical truth, justice, and human dignity, the participants of the conference **adopt the following resolutions:**

1. Recognition of the Circassian Genocide

To formally recognize the systematic campaign conducted by the Russian Empire between the 18th and 19th centuries to occupy Circassia and annihilate the Circassian nation as an act of genocide, and to explicitly condemn the Circassian Genocide.

2. Affirmation of the Right to Return and Self-Determination

To affirm the Circassian nation's inherent right to return to its historical homeland, Circassia, and to exercise the right to self-determination in accordance with international law, UNDRIP, and universal human rights norms.

3. Support for International Investigation and Recognition

To support the investigation, documentation, and international recognition of the Circassian Genocide—carried out by successive Russian regimes between 1763 and 1864—through engagement with international mechanisms, including the International Court of Justice and relevant UN bodies.

4. Long-Term Solidarity and Cooperation

To engage in sustained, meaningful, and institutionalized solidarity with the Circassian people, including cooperation in political, legal, academic, cultural, diplomatic, and other relevant domains, with the aim of preserving their existence, language, culture, and identity.

Expression of Gratitude

The participants extend their sincere appreciation to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania for hosting the conference and for its principled commitment to justice, historical responsibility, and the rights of oppressed and Indigenous peoples.

Adoption

Adopted in Vilnius on 17 December 2025 By the participants of the **International Conference: “The Circassian Genocide in the Context of History and Contemporary Politics”**