



## Third International Circassian Conference

*“Together for a Better Future”*

October 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Baglarbasi Congress and Culture Center  
Istanbul, Turkey

**First Announcement**

## Invitation and Greeting

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Dear Colleagues and Friends

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Circassian Repatriation Organization (CRO), and the Circassian Culture Association in Nuremberg are joining venture with the Circassian Federations and Associations in Turkey to organize the **Third International Circassian Conference**. The conference will be held between October 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of 2020 in the Baglarbasi Congress and Culture Center in Istanbul, Turkey. The Third International Circassian Conference will be a great platform for Circassian Activists to meet, exchange ideas, share research results and project outputs, and initiate discussions and collaborations. The Circassian communities in the motherland and in diaspora are very rich with experts in various fields and it is extremely important to create a platform that can be utilized to bring all these experts together. The motto of the Third International Circassian Conference is *“Together for a Better Future”*

The main topics of the third Conference are:

- The Circassian - Circassian Relations: Overcoming Challenges and Initiating Collaborations.
- The Circassian - Russian Relations: Addressing Critical issues including the Right of Return and Implementing Solutions.

The Third International Circassian Conference is expected to be one of the largest Circassian events in the 2020, where The Circassian Art Exhibition and the Circassian Film Festival will be held in conjunction with the conference. Furthermore, the CRO Awards Ceremony is planned to take place during the conference. Therefore, we are encouraging all Circassian organizations, associations, individuals and media outlets around the world to partner with us in order to develop a professional network that works together and provides information to all Circassians across the globe.

The first day of the conference will focus on the Circassian – Circassian Relations, including strategies and efforts to promote the dialogue between the Circassian Associations and Institutions in Diaspora and Homeland. The second day will focus on the Circassian – Russian Relations, including the Right of Return. The third day will be dedicated to the Circassian Youth Program, including their prospective on the future of Circassians. Time will be allocated at the end of each session for discussion and summarization. At the end of each day, a general discussion session will be organized to summarize outcomes, produce a final declaration and draw a road map. The conference will be followed by a half day meeting to evaluate the performance on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference and plan the 4<sup>th</sup> conference.

The success of this conference can only be achieved by the support and participation of experts on all Circassian related issues from the motherland and worldwide. Therefore, the organizers would like to invite Circassian associations, activists, intellectuals, professionals and businessmen to participate in this conference not just by attending but also by presenting their ideas and

experiences. The official language of the conference is Circassian, Turkish and English. Furthermore, simultaneous translation will be provided.

The first draft of the scientific program is outlined below. We are encouraging potential speakers to contact us regarding the topics listed below by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Once the scientific program is finalized, it will be published via the second announcement. Information about the, accommodations in Istanbul and conference fees will be disclosed in the second announcement. Abstracts of the presentations, with short CV and a photograph of the speaker will be printed in the abstract book. We look forward to receiving your participation and contribution for the Third International Circassian Conference.

Best regards

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The Third International Circassian Conference  
October 09<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Baglarbasi Congress and Cultur Center, Istanbul, Turkey

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## Conference Agenda and Timetable

07:30 Registration

### First Day - Friday October 09<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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09:00 – 09:30 Session 1 Welcoming and Greeting

09:30 – 11:00 Session 2 The Current Status of Circassians in the world

- *The Demographic Situation of Circassians around the world*
- *What defines the Circassian Identity: E.g. Language, Culture, Xabza, Style of living*
- *The Status of the Circassian Identity in Diaspora and the Challenges Facing its Survival*
- *The Status of the Circassian Identity in the Homeland and the Challenges Facing its Survival*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

11.00 – 11:30 TEA BREAK

11:30 – 13:00 Session 3 The Role of the Existing Circassian Institutions in Preserving the Circassian Identity

- *The Activities of the Circassian Associations in the Homeland*
- *The Activities of the Circassian Associations in the Diaspora*
- *The Role and the Activities of the International Circassian Association*
- *The Circassian Repatriation Organization (CRO): Objectives and Achievements*
- *How to Secure Financial Support for Activities Concerning the Preservation of the Circassian Identity.*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

13.00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:00 Session 4 Opening Ceremony of the Circassian Art Exhibition

15:00 – 16:00 Session 5 Circassian – Circassian Relations

- *The Importance of Improving the Circassian – Circassian Dialogue*
  - *The Challenges Facing the Collaboration Between Circassian Associations and Activists*
  - *The Impact of the Social Media on the Circassian – Circassian Relations*
  - *How to Improve Dialogue and Collaboration Between Different Circassian Associations*
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- *How to Form a Circassian Professional Network*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

16:00 – 16:30 TEA BREAK

- 16:30 – 18:30 Session 6      *General Discussion on Improving Circassian – Circassian Relations and Circassian Identity*
- *Identifying the Most Important Issues Concerning the Preservation of the Circassian Identity: Short-Term and Long-Term Achievable Targets*
  - *Addressing the Importance of Raising the Awareness of the Challenges of the Circassian Survival and Identifying Effective Activities*
  - *Examining the Challenges and Solutions of the Circassian Collaboration Activities*
  - *How to Utilize Existing Potentials: Circassian Associations, Financial Support, Skilled Personnel, Historians, Intellectual and Academics*
  - *What Makes a Circassian Association an Ideal Effective Circassian Institution*
  - *Discussion and Summarization*

*\*\*\*\*\*Daily Discussion and Sumarization to Recap All Ideas\*\*\*\*\**

18:30 – 19:30 Dinner

- 19:30 - 22:00 *The Official Opening Ceremony – Including Speeches of Official Guests, Music and Folk Dance*

## **Second Day - Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- 09:00 – 10:30 Session 7      *The Circassian - Russian Relations*
- *Background and History*
  - *Circassian in the Homeland: Challenges and Advantages*
  - *Circassian in Diaspora: Challenges and Advantages*
  - *Russian Federation Laws Concerning the Rights of Various Ethnic Groups*
  - *Russian Federation Laws Concerning the Right of Return*
  - *Discussion and Summarization*

10:30 – 11:00 TEA BREAK

- 11:00 - 12:30 Session 7      *The Circassian - Russian Relations (Cont.)*
- *The Importance of the Right of return*
  - *The Role of the Russian Federation in Materializing the Right of Return*

- *The Role of Host Government*
- *The Responsibilities of the European Countries in Accomplishing the Right of Return*
- *The Role of the United Nation and Related Organization in Attaining the Right of Return*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 14:30 Session 8 *The Circassian Film Festival*

- *Opening and Discussion*

14:30 - 15:30 Session 9 *Business and Economics: Possibilities and Challenges*

- *The Economic Situation in the Russian Federation and in the Caucasus*
- *The Economic Future of the Caucasus*
- *The Possibilities to Start a Business in the Caucasus*
- *The Challenges of Doing Business Between the Circassian in the Motherland and in Diaspora*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

15:30 – 16:00 TEA BREAK

16:00 – 18:30 Session 10 *The Right of Return and the Role of Various Organizations*

- *How to Strengthen the Relation Between the Circassian in the Motherland and in Diaspora*
- *The Advantages and Benefits of the Right of Return*
- *How to Achieve the Right of Return*
- *The Role of Political Organizations: E.g. The Pluralistic Democracy Party in Turkey*
- *The Role of Political Organizations: E.g. International Circassian Movement in Jordan*
- *The Necessity of Establishing a World Circassian Congress in Diaspora*
- *The Role of Sport Clubs: E.g. FK 1864.*
- *The Role of Circassian Academics on Future of Circassians*
- *The Role of Circassian Artists and the Potential of Establishing a Circassian Art Association*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

*\*\*\*\*\*Daily Discussion and Sumarization to Recap All Ideas\*\*\*\*\**

16:00 – 18:00 Session 11 *(Parallel Session) The Circassian Film Festival*

- *Screening of Competition Circassian Short Films*

18:30 – 19:30 Dinner

19:30 - 22:00 Boat Trip Through the Bosphorus

09:00 – 10:30 Session 12 Circassian Youth in Homeland and Diaspora

- *Raising Awareness of the Circassian Identity in the new Generation*
- *The Effects of Lack of Dialogue and Collaboration Between Circassian Organizations on the Younger Generation*
- *How do Young Circassians help Maintain the Circassian Identity*
- *The Potential of the Younger Generation in Saving the Circassian Identity and Culture*
- *Improving and Increasing the Scholarships for Education Opportunities in the North Caucasus*
- *The Role of Circassian Families in preserving the Circassian Identities.*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

10.30 – 11:00 TEA BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 Session 12 Circassian Youth in Homeland and Diaspora (Cont.)

- *Advantages and Benefits of Teaching Children Multiple Languages*
- *The Best Methods of Teaching Circassian to Children and Youth*
- *The Availability of Association Programs to Increase the interaction of Circassian Youth in Various Fields Including, Art, Sport, Culture, Business*
- *The Advantages of Organizing Visits to the Motherland in Strengthening the Relations Between the Circassian Youth*
- *The Role of Academic Departments and Universities in Preserving the Circassian Culture and Heritage*
- *Circassian Youth Organizations and Their Activities*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 15:15 Session 13 The Circassian Youth: Their Prospective and Point of View

- *Expectations of Circassian Youth from Adults and Circassian Associations*
- *The Potential of Circassian Youth to Improve Dialogue Between Circassians*
- *How Can Associations Attract Younger Generations?*
- *How Can Youth be Supported to Achieve Better Future*
- *Methods of Supporting Students Who are Seeking Education in Circassian Related Fields Such as Language, History and Culture*
- *The Benefits of Supporting Newly Graduated Students in Finding employment and Starting a Career Path*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

13:30 – 15:15 Session 14 (Parallel Session) The Circassian Film Festival

- *Screening of Non-Competition Circassian Films.*

15:15 - 15:45 TEA BREAK

15:45 - 17:30 Session 14 The Circassian Youth: A Potential for Achieving A Better Future

- *The Advantages of Forming an Effective Communication Network to Connect Circassian Youth in Diaspora and Homeland*
- *Best Ways of Building a Circassian Youth Network*
- *Attracting Young Talented Circassians to Work on Circassian issues*
- *An International Circassian Youth Organization: Is it time yet?*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

*\*\*\*\*\*Daily Discussion and Sumarization to Recap All Ideas\*\*\*\*\**

17:30 - 18:30 The Circassian Film Festival: Awarding the Best 2020 Circassian Short Film

18:30 - 19:30 Dinner

20:00 - 20:30 The CRO Awards Ceremony

20:30 - 23:00 The Closing Ceremony - Followed by Music and Folk-Dance Show

**Fourth Day - Monday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 10:00 - 12:00**

09:30 - 13:00 Breakfast Meeting - Discussion and Evaluation of the Third International Circassian Conference. Preparing the Closing Remarks. Determining the Location and the Topic of the Fourth International Circassian Conference.