



Third International Circassian Conference

“Together for a Better Future”

October 9-11, 2020

The Baglarbasi Congress and Culture Center
Istanbul, Turkey

Second Announcement

Invitation and Greeting

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 9th and 11th of 2020 in the Baglarbasi Congress and Culture Center in Istanbul, Turkey. (*Date might be changed based on the Covid-19 conditions*). 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 extraordinarily 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.
- Circassian Youth: Identity, Responsibilities, Opportunities and Prospective

This year and for the first time, the Conference will be welcoming participants to submit abstracts to present their works and ideas in the form of posters. All topics related to Circassian issues will be accepted as the theme for Posters is Open. Posters will be displayed for the entire three days. Posters and oral presentations presented by participants who are younger than 25 years will be evaluated for best presentations. The top three Oral Presentations and top three Posters will be Awarded.

The Third International Circassian Conference is expected to be one of the largest Circassian events in 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 the 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 commence the working group meetings, present the outcome of the working group meetings, evaluate the performance on the 3rd conference and plan the 4th 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 languages of the conference are Circassian, Turkish and English. Furthermore, simultaneous translation will be provided.

The second announcement of the scientific program is outlined below. We are encouraging potential speakers to contact us regarding the topics listed below by Jul. 15th, 2020. Once the scientific program along with the speakers is finalized, it will be published via the third announcement. Information about the, accommodations in Istanbul and conference fees will be also disclosed in the third 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.

All Abstracts need to be e-mailed to Prof. Günsel (Şurdum) Avci <drgunselavci@gmail.com> and is recommended to “cc” both Dr. Faidi Barsbai and Dr. Otrfan Shouakar-Stash.

When submitting Abstracts, please follow the instructions in the Abstract Template Document.

Best regards

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The Third International Circassian Conference
October 09th - 11th, 2020
Baglarbasi Congress and Cultur Center, Istanbul, Turkey

Conference Agenda and Timetable

07:30 - 09:00 Registration

First Day - *Friday October 09th, 2020*

09:00 - 09:30 Session 1 Welcoming and Greeting (Opening Speeches)

09:30 - 11:00 Session 2 The Current Status of Circassians in the world and Circassian Identity

- *The Demographic Situation of Circassians Around the World*
- *What Defines the Circassian Identity: E.g. Language, Culture, Xabza, Style of living, etc.*
- *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

****Posters will be displayed for all three days – It is recommended to visit the Posters during Tea and Lunch Breaks****

11:30 -13:00 Session 3 The Role of the Existing Circassian Institutions in Preserving the Circassian Identity: Activities and Collaborations

- *What is the Role of the Circassian Institutions in the Homeland and in the Diaspora?*
- *Circassian Institutions in the Homeland: Activities and Achievements*
- *Circassian Associations in the Diaspora: Activities and Achievements*
- *The Role and Activities of the International Circassian Association*
- *The Circassian Repatriation Organization (CRO): Objectives and Achievements*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

13.00 - 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 -15:00 Session 4 Opening Ceremony of the Circassian Art Exhibition
The Power of Art on the Survival of Culture and Identity and the Expectations from Circassian Artists

The Importance of the Foundation of International Circassian Art Union

15:00 – 16:30 Session 5 Circassian – Circassian Relations and How to Improve Cooperation

- *The Importance of Improving the Circassian – Circassian Dialogue for the Future*
- *The Challenges Facing the Collaboration Between Circassian Associations and Activists in Homeland and Diaspora and How to Overcome these Challenges*
- *How to Utilize Social Media to Improve Circassian – Circassian Dialogue Relations*
- *How to Improve Dialogue and Relations Between Intellectuals/Academics and the Public*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

16:30 – 17:00 TEA BREAK

17:00 – 19:00 Session 6 How to Improve Circassian – Circassian Relations and How to Improve the Awareness of Circassian Identity: The Need of Forming Working Groups

- *Identifying Obstacles Concerning the Preservation of the Circassian Identity: Measures to Overcome Difficulties*
- *Identifying Short-Term and Long-Term Effective Activities and Achievable Targets Concerning the Preservation of the Circassian Identity*
- *Uncovering Ways to Initiate Dialogue and Cooperation Between Circassian Institution in Homeland and Diaspora with the Aim of Forming a Circassian Professional Network.*
- *What Kind of Studies Are Needed to Preserve and Promote the Circassian Identity in the World? And How to Secure Funding for Such Studies.*
- *Addressing How to Receive Support form Related Governments and International Organizations to Help Preserve the Circassian Language, Culture, and Identity.*
- *How Can Political Institutions Beneficial in the Preservation of Circassian Language, Culture and Identity?*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

Forming Working Groups:

- ❖ Working Group to Address Improving the Dialogue between Circassian Institutions and Preserving the Circassian Identity
- ❖ Working Group of Intellectuals and Academics to Address Critical Issues and Help Put a Strategic Plan

19:00 – 20:00 Dinner

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

09:00 – 10:30 Session 7 The Circassian – Russian Federation Relations

- *Circassian in the Homeland: Challenges and Advantages – What need to be done to Preserve Identity?*
- *Circassian in Diaspora: Challenges and Advantages – What need to be done to Preserve Identity?*
- *Russian Federation Laws Concerning the Rights of Various Ethnic Groups*
- *Russian Federation Laws Concerning the Rights of Circassians in the Homeland in Diaspora*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

10:30 – 11:00 TEA BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 Session 8 Business Relations Between Circassian in Diaspora and Circassians in Homeland and the Russian Federations

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

The Circassian - Russian Relations (Cont.)

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 14:30 Session 9 The Circassian Film Festival

- *Opening and Discussion*

14:30 – 16:30 Session 10 The Relations Between Circassian in Diaspora and the Russian Federation and the Right of Return

- *The Importance of the Right of Return: Right and Demands of Circassians in Diaspora*
- *The Role and Perception of the Russian Federation in the Realization the Right of Return*
- *The Role and Perception of the Host Countries in the Realization the Right of Return*
- *The Role and Responsibilities of the United Nation, European Union and International Organization in Attaining the Right of Return*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

16:30 – 17:00 TEA BREAK

16:00 – 18:30 Session 11 How to Accomplish the Right of Return

- *The CRO's Vision on the Right of Return*

- *Expected Collaboration Between Circassians in the Motherland and in Diaspora on the Right of Return*
- *The Role of Political Parties: E.g. Pluralist Democracy Party in Turkey*
- *The International Circassian Movement in Jordan: Ideas and Objectives*
- *The Role and Advantages of Establishing a World Circassian Congress in Diaspora*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

Forming Working Groups:

- ❖ *Working Group to Address the Right of Return*
- ❖ *Working Group to Assess and Explore the Advantages of Establishing a World Circassian Congress in Diaspora*

16:00 – 18:00 Session 12 (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

Third Day - *Sunday October 11th, 2020*

09:00 – 10:30 Session 13 *Circassian Youth in Homeland and Diaspora: Identity Awareness*

- *Raising Awareness of the Circassian Identity in the new Generation*
- *The Role of Activities and Effectiveness of Circassian Institutions in Stressing the Significance of Preserving the Circassian Identity in Younger Generations*
- *The Effects of Educational Institutions on Rasing Awareness of the Circassian Identity in Youth*
- *The Effect of Social Media on the Circassian Identity in Youth: Advantages and Disadvantages*
- *The Role of Circassian Families in Preserving the Circassian Identities in Youth*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

10:30 – 11:00 TEA BREAK

11:00 – 13:00 Session 14 *Circassian Language and Dialogue Between Circassian Youth in Homeland and Diaspora*

- *The Position of the Circassian Language Among World Languages*
- *The Use of Different Alphabets: A Reflection of Perspectives*
- *Advantages and Benefits of Teachning Multiple Languages to Children*
- *The Role of Family and Social Media in Preserving and Developing the Circassian Language*
- *The Best Practical Methods of Teaching Circassian to Children and Youth*

- *The Effects of Lack of Dialogue and Cooperation Between Circassian Institutions on Future Generations*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:45 Session 15 *The Circassian Youth: How Can They be Supported?*

- *Ways to Enhance Identity Awareness Among Younger Generations*
- *How to Attract Younger Generations to Work on Circassian Issues?*
- *Mechanisms of Supporting Students Who are Seeking Education in Circassian Related Fields Such as Language, History and Culture*
- *How to Support Gifted Circassian Youth in Pursuing Path in Sports and Fine Arts?*
- *How to Support Newly Graduated Students in Finding employment and Starting a Career Path?*
- *Existing Circassian Youth Organizations and Their Activities*
- *How to support Circassian youth who devotedly work in Circassian institutions*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

14:00 – 15:45 Session 16 *(Parallel Session) The Circassian Film Festival*

- *Screening of Non-Competition Circassian Films.*

15:45 – 16:15 TEA BREAK

16:15 – 18:00 Session 17 *The Circassian Youth: A Potential for Achieving A Better Future*

- *The Potential of the Younger Generations of Preserving Circassian Culture and Identity*
- *How to Build an Effective Circassian Youth Network to Connect Circassian Youth in Diaspora and the Homeland*
- *The Role of Circassian Youth in Improving the Dialogue and Cooperation between Circassian Institutions*
- *The Importance of Forming an International Circassian Youth Organization to Preserve Circassian Language, Identity and Culture*
- *Discussion and Summarization*

Forming Working Groups:

- ❖ *The International Circassian Youth Organization Working Group*

18:00 - 19:00 Session 18 *The Circassian Film Festival: Awarding the Best 2020 Circassian Short Film*

19:30 – 20:30 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 12th, 2020 10:00 – 12:00*

09:00 – 09:30 Breakfast

09:30 – 10:30 Working Group Meetings – Separate Meeting

- ❖ Working Group to Address Improving the Dialogue between Circassian Institutions and Preserving the Circassian Identity
- ❖ Working Group of Intellectuals and Academics to Address Critical Issues and Help Put a Strategic Plan
- ❖ Working Group to Address the Right of Return
- ❖ Working Group to Address Establishing a World Circassian Congress in Diaspora
- ❖ Working Group to Address Forming the International Circassian Youth Organization
- ❖ Working Group to Address forming the International Circassian Art Union

10:30 – 11:30 Presentations of Outcomes of the Working Group Meetings (Schedules and Work Plans)

11:30 – 11:45 TEA BREAK

10:30 – 11:30 Discussion on How to Secure Finding for These Working Groups

12:30 – 13:30 Closing and Final Comments

- Evaluation of the Third International Circassian Conference
- Determining the Location and the Topic of the Fourth International Circassian Conference
- Reading the Final Declaration and Concluding Remarks of the Third International Circassian Conference