



## Welcome to Mafa's 1st Issue

Welcome Dear Circassian Friends and Family!

It is with great excitement and pleasure that we launch Mafa, our very first edition of our newsletter. Our mission within this organization is to aid and assist Circassians through adversity, alleviate all hardships, and facilitate a return to our homeland in the North Caucasus. With your aid and support, we can achieve our objectives and serve greater purpose to many Circassians around the world.

For almost 260 years, our people have been faced with great tragedy. Circassians have endured numerous conflicts and countless humanitarian disasters. Now, we are reaching out to all Circassians around the world to support our cause to help our people.

As we continue with our mission, our goal is to keep our dear Circassians informed on our critical initiatives to carry on our work. The CRO Education Program continued to offer the backpack drive, that was initiated in 2019. This year, the drive supported young students in the Republics of Adygea, Kabardino-Balkaria and other areas. In honor of World Children's Day in November, we sponsored a children's painting contest. Our aim is to improve the lives of everyday Circassians. Unfortunately, the Third International Circassian Conference has been postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It is planned to take place in September 2021 in Istanbul, Turkey.

We look forward to keeping you informed on many other initiatives and progress made within our organization.

# THANK YOU!

Dear CRO Members and Friends,

We hope you and your families are healthy and safe during these unprecedented times. Thank you for your generous contributions and efforts. It is only through your support, we have been able to accomplish our goals for 2020 and are continuing to work towards them even with the challenges we have been facing during a global pandemic. Your continuous help and support can truly make a difference for the Circassian Community. We are extremely grateful to each one of you. It is highly important to note that membership fees and donations are the basic seeds that makes the execution of our programs possible. They ensures that our children receive backpacks for the new school year, provide charity and economic relief to those in need, and offer interest free loans to small businesses.

Thank you again for your support!  
Best always,  
CRO Board



## 2020 Backpack Drive

The CRO, driven by its vision and firm belief that education is the key to unlocking a bright future for the younger generations, has successfully completed its 2020 Backpack Drive. This year, the CRO Backpack Drive had a budget of \$17k for this year's campaign. This was an increase of 42% compared to 2019 budget of \$12k, resulting in four times as many students being supported. Moreover, the 2020 campaign has expanded its geographical coverage. Through the generous contributions of our donors, the CRO has effectively managed to provide 768 students with school supplies. We were able to provide educational support in Republic of Adygea, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, and other areas.



## 2020 Backpack Drive IN NUMBERS



**42%**  
Increase in budget



**4x**  
Increase in students supported





## Challenges During a Global Pandemic The Third International Circassian Conference

The CRO and the Circassian Culture Association in Nuremberg in join-venture with the Circassian Federations and Associations in Turkey will organize the **Third International Circassian Conference**. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19, the organizers have communicated the decision to postpone the Conference to 2021. The Conference will be held in “The Baglarbasi Congress and Culture Center”, Istanbul, Turkey between September 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of 2021. All of the originally planned sessions and programs of The Third International Circassian Conference will still be offered and the meeting is expected to be one of the largest Circassian events in 2021, where the Circassian Art Exhibition, the Circassian Film

Festival, and other events 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 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. 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.

## 2020 Higher Education Scholarship Program

The CRO Higher Education Scholarship Program aims to support Circassian students in their educational pursuits in an engaging, thought-provoking, and memorable manner.

The program in its first year 2020, has received 7 applicants for the 2020-2021 academic school year. The program committee, based on the applicants' scores, has awarded one applicant a full scholarship. Recipient will be receiving \$1,000 to be put towards their post-secondary education. Another 2 applicants were awarded partial scholarship.

We wish all the best to our students!



## CRO – US Branch

### New Facebook Page

A new Facebook page, CRO-US has been launched for our US branch on October 22, 2020. It aims to provide the latest updates on our organization in USA.



## What's Next?

### December 2020 – February 2021

- Announcement of Winners of 2020 CRO Awards.
- Announcement of Winners of The Kadir I. Natho Short Story Prize.
- Announcements of Winners of The Qoueqoua Nalbi Short Story Prize.
- Small Business Support Program – Matching Program

---

**Happy New Year 2021  
to all our Members & Friends**

## Kids Drawing Contest

In honor of the **World Children's Day** on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the US CRO branch hosted a kids drawing contest for ages 6–12. Two winners received \$50 and a chance to have their artwork displayed at our next International Conference in Turkey. The winner's are **Alanna Mazokh** – Age 10 and **Tahlia Majbour** – Age 7. Congratulations!

**WORLD  
CHILDREN'S  
DAY** 20 November

## JOIN CRO and BRING YOUR FRIENDS

The CRO urges you, your friends and family to join our organization!

### MEMBERSHIP FEE

Monthly: \$2 | Annual: \$24

We are currently **WAIVING** the registration fee of \$20!  
(use discount code: 1ECD60E61C)

Follow us:



For any questions or need help with your application, please contact [info@croworld.org](mailto:info@croworld.org)

Here are **6 Reasons** on why you should become a member of the Circassian Repatriation Organization:

1. **To support Circassian students in their academic journey**
2. **To preserve and protect our language, culture and folklore**
3. **To raise awareness among Circassians especially the youth**
4. **To provide aid for Circassians who reside in regions of crises and disasters**
5. **To aid any Circassian who wishes to return to the homeland**
6. **To spread awareness on the importance of volunteering in serving our community**

