

TURKISH COALITION *of* AMERICA

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





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Executive Summary

Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) was founded in 2007 as an educational, charitable organization with a mission to:

- Foster friendship, understanding, and cooperation between the United States and Turkey.
- Expand Turkish American outreach to American public and private entities.
- Promote and advance the interests of the Turkish American community and Turks.
- Protect the character and ensure a realistic portrayal of Turkey and Turkish Americans in the media and the arts.
- Identify and recognize the achievements of Turkish Americans in academia, arts, business, education, government, public service, and science.

TCA's work is undertaken by a professional team and interns from offices in Washington, DC and Boston.

TCA Leadership

DR. YALCIN AYASLI, Chairman
G. LINCOLN MCCURDY, President

TCA Staff

DR. NILSU GOREN, Program Director
LOUETTE RAGUSA, Operations Director
DAVID SALTZMAN, Legal Counsel
CAROL ANN JACKSON, Executive Assistant, Boston
LAWRENCE CENK LAWS, Program Coordinator
ARDA CANKAT, Program Coordinator

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Financial Statement

Turkish Coalition of America invested a total of **\$2,204,006** in 2019 to pursue its mission and implement its programs. The following is a categorized breakdown of all TCA administrative and program expenses.

\$69,531 ■ **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- Education and Public Awareness Through Publication
- Turkish Coalition of America Website
- Travel to Speak with Community
- Community Outreach

\$67,799 ■ **CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH**

\$58,508 ■ **HERITAGE AND HUMANITARIAN GRANTS**

- UMD & ACBH – Supplemental Office Grant

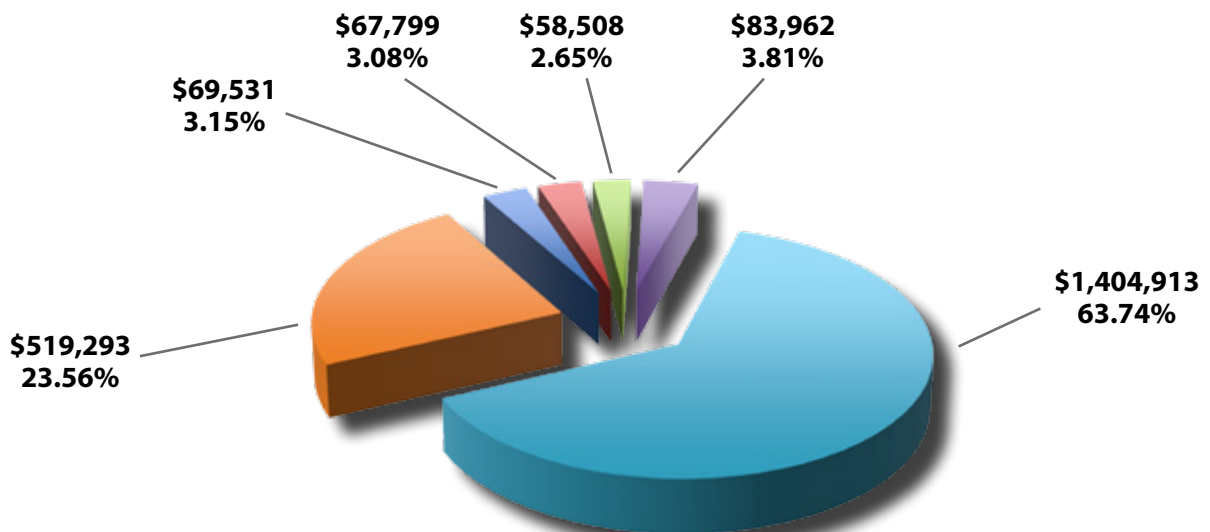
\$83,962 ■ **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Grassroots Grants
- Community Sponsorships

\$1,404,913 ■ **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- Turkish American Legal Defense Fund

\$519,293 ■ **ADMINISTRATIVE**



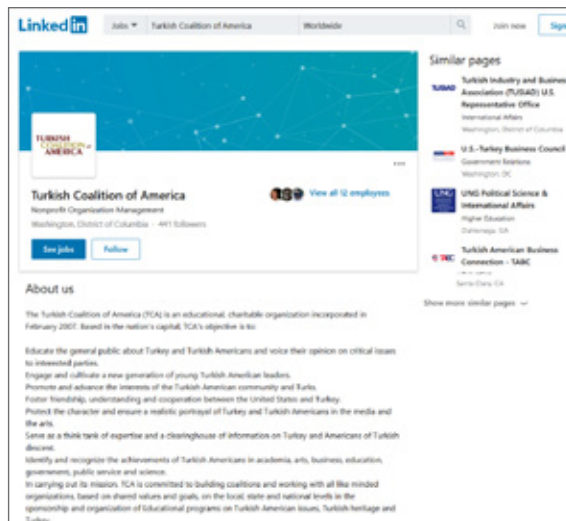
Educating the Public

Through outreach efforts and a proactive strategy, TCA works to ensure accurate and balanced media portrayals of Turkish Americans and Turkey.

Throughout 2019, TCA’s team monitored American, Turkish, and international media. TCA staff engaged with journalists through in-person meetings and by providing fact sheets and information about both history and current events regarding Turkish Americans and Turkey.

Another source of information for the general public is the TCA [website](#), which features topical as well as in-depth information on issues concerning Turkish Americans and U.S.-Turkey relations. The website features an extensive compilation of reference materials, talking points, and resource and reading lists on Turkey.

In 2019, TCA continued its social media campaign to expand its online presence. In the last year, TCA’s [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) profiles reached thousands of people.



Investing in Youth and Education

TCA is proud of its pillar programs for youth that are designed to enrich Turkish American participation in public affairs and to foster future generations of Turkish American leaders.

TCA Washington Summer Internship Program

The TCA Washington Summer Internship Program gives young Turkish American college students and recent graduates the opportunity to work in Washington, D.C., as interns with members of the U.S. Congress and select non-governmental organizations and think tanks. The goal of the program is to foster young Turkish Americans' interest in public affairs and service and to enhance their knowledge of American political life. It also seeks to prepare future Turkish American political and community leaders.

In the summer of 2019, TCA welcomed 10 young Turkish Americans from across the United States to participate in the [Washington Summer Internship Program](#).

The participants worked at the following organizations and offices: the office of Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA/8th); the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC); the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB); the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA-DC); the Turkish Heritage Organization (THO); LB International Solutions; the University of Utah, Turkish Studies Project; and the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA).

On June 18, TCA hosted a welcome lunch for the June interns. Students interning with the [United Macedonian Diaspora](#) (UMD), [Advisory Council for Bosnia & Herzegovina](#) (ACBH), and [Global Policy Institute](#) (GPI) also attended.

The summer interns for June attended meetings and/or briefings featuring Mick Mulvaney, Acting Chief of Staff for President Donald J. Trump, and representatives [Brendan Boyle](#) (D-PA/2nd), [Tim Burchett](#) (R-TN/2nd), [Tony Cardenas](#) (D-CA/29th), [Robin Kelly](#) (D-IL/2nd), and [Ayanna Pressley](#) (D-MA/7th). TCA interns also attended the Immigrant Heritage Month celebration hosted by the Ethnic Council of the Democratic Party.

As part of the Washington Summer Internship Program, TCA hosted its annual Summer Intern Orientation at its Washington, D.C., office on July 10.

“

Interning with TCA has been a unique and important experience for me because I've been exposed to so much. The opportunities to participate in events on the Hill and think tanks are very rewarding. Just being in the office and performing my day-to-day tasks granted me an exceptional amount of exposure to Turkish American topics of interest and the intricacies of the U.S.–Turkey relationship.

”

- **Amelia Atalay, 2019 TCA Washington summer intern**

“

My experience here has been very valuable for my future endeavors. The connections I have made and the insights I have gained on how Washington functions will last with me forever. I hope one day to return to D.C. for work. Thank you, TCA.

”

- **Andrew Yildizlar, 2019 TCA Washington summer intern**

Investing in Youth and Education



2019 TCA Washington Summer interns with Congressman Brendan Boyle (D-PA/2nd) (center)



2019 TCA Washington Summer interns with Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH/1st)

TCA Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress

The annual Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress is a program specifically geared toward involving young Turkish Americans in the U.S. political system. It offers college students, recent graduates, and young professionals of Turkish American heritage the opportunity to spend a weekend in Washington, DC learning about the U.S.-Turkey relationship, the political systems of both countries, and the importance of political advocacy in their own lives.

2019 marked TCA's sixth annual Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress. Fourteen young Turkish Americans, a Turkish Canadian, and a Turkish Australian attended and came away inspired to take a more active role in local and national politics and to become effective representatives of their community.

Since the program began in 2014, 144 Turkish Americans have attended the Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress. Applications for the Youth Congress open every year in July.

2019 Youth Congress delegates attended meetings and briefings with Turkish policy experts, congressional staffers, representatives from the U.S. Department of State, journalists, political activists, and leaders in the Turkish American community. They also had the chance to learn more about civic engagement from a former member of Congress, the Honorable Glenn Carlyle Nye III. Additionally, a representative from the [Council of Turkish Canadians](#) (CTC), as well as a representative from the [Australian Turkish Advocacy Alliance](#) (ATAA), accompanied the delegates throughout the weekend and briefed the delegates on the political systems in Canada and Australia and the challenges faced by their respective Turkish communities. It provided an impetus for cross-border dialogue and relationship building between Turkish Canadians, Turkish Australians, and Turkish Americans.

Delegates toured the United States Capitol and the Newseum, while also attending the Maryland American Turkish Association's (MATA) celebrating the 96th Annual Turkish Republic Day. Their visit to the nation's capital was topped off with brunch at the locally loved Clyde's, which serves traditional American foods.

The following sponsored this year's Youth Congress: **Recep & Lisa Akdogan, American Borate Company, Bulent & Sema Basol, Hastat-Kinay Group, Ergun & Juliana Kirlikovali, Aydin & Hulya Koc, Turkish Philanthropy Funds, United Minds for Progress, Mukemmel Sarimsakci, Mehmet Halici – MH Realtor, Mehmet Kirdar, Ersal Ozdemir, Saltzman & Evinch PLLC.**

Over the course of the weekend, Youth Congress delegates were able to network with other young Turkish Americans while learning about the U.S.-Turkey relationship and the political systems of both countries. They engaged in an active dialogue on the state of U.S.-Turkey relations, and they learned about the role that citizens can play in policymaking as well as the steps they can take to be successful Turkish American advocates.

Investing in Youth and Education



TCA 2019 Youth Congress delegates with President G. Lincoln McCurdy.



Career Development Panel during Youth Congress. (Left to right) İlayda Aydın, Daphne McCurdy Dr. Nilsu Goren and Elizabeth Clark.

TCA - University of Utah Turkish Studies Project

2019 ACTIVITY REPORT

The project entitled *Memory, Identity, History and Nationalism: Socio-economic and Political Origins and Contemporary Challenges of Turkic Peoples of Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Including Relations with Modern Turkey ("Origins and Contemporary Challenges of Turkic Peoples")* aimed to explore the past histories and shaping of contemporary Turkic-majority states and their relationships with modern Turkey via scholarly work, community participation, social media, and support for new research.

During 2019, the Project carried out the following research, publications, and conferences:

Post-Doctoral Fellows:

This year we had participating fellows (individual and collective). The first was Professor Mehmet Arisan of Istanbul University. Due to COVID-19, Professor Arisan could not come to The University of Utah and he carried out his work in Istanbul. We conducted regular conferences via Zoom. He is working on a project that examines the role of Yakup Kadri Karaosmanoğlu and the Republican Imagination: The Novels 'Yaban' and 'Ankara,' The outcome of his research has been published in an article for an edited volume titled, *Turkey: Beyond the Modernization Thesis*

TURKISH STUDIES PROJECT

HOME ABOUT SCHOLARS EVENTS PUBLICATIONS CONTACT

THE ORIGINS OF ETHNIC CLEANSING

MEMORY, IDENTITY, HISTORY AND NATIONALISM

Written by M. Hakan Yavuz

The scope of work proposed herein is part of a larger project entitled *Memory, Identity, History and Nationalism: Socio-economic and Political Origins and Contemporary Challenges of Turkic Peoples of Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, including Relations with Modern Turkey ("Origins and Contemporary Challenges of Turkic Peoples")* that will explore the past histories and shaping of contemporary Turkic-majority states and their relationships with modern Turkey via scholarly work, community participation, social media, and support for new research. The project will focus on how intellectual and political developments in Russia and the Caucasus relate to Ottoman and Turkish identity and the Republic's formative ideology and national identity.

Background of Origins and Contemporary Challenges of Turkic Peoples Project.

The main goal of our project is to examine intellectual origins which led to the dehumanization of Ottoman Turks or Ottoman Muslims. This phenomenon of intellectual dehumanization is manifested in terms of the dominant narrative of Turkophobia, which is found in Europe and in Russia. Our publications and conferences have examined how Turkophobia has been constructed in various ways and then how these negative images have been deployed to carry out European policies against the Ottoman state. In summary, the Turkish Studies Project has given us the essential platform to

TURKISH STUDIES PROJECT

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Investing in Youth and Education

(Istanbul: Istanbul: University Press, 2020). Professor Arisan is working on a book project on the role of nostalgia in the early Republican era.

The group of fellows included Professor Jamil Hasanli of Baku University and Dr. Eldar Abbasov of Moscow University. Their project entails a detailed examination of the Russian archives. They are working to produce the first comprehensive book on the origins of the Karabakh conflict. We hope to have the finished manuscript by May 2021. Dr. Abbasov also has been researching an article on Turkish–Soviet Relations, 1915-1939. His article is expected to be published in 2022.

Graduate Student Fellow:

For 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 graduate student fellow is Ala Mohsen, who is working on the Ottoman legacy on Yemen. Mohsen is studying on topics that pertain to international relations and comparative politics, with a focus on the Middle East region. More specifically, his research interest is focused on dynamics of cooperation and rivalry between Turkey and the Arab states and how the historical legacy of the Ottoman empire both enhances and impedes their political exchanges. He also studied the role of international systemic conditions and transnational ideologies in reshaping and reorienting this evolving relationship between Turkey and Arab states. As for his dissertation, he is planning to investigate the impact of collective memory and “images about the other” on the construction of national identities, state formation and foreign policy of these respective states.



Entrance to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

PUBLICATION SUPPORT IN 2019

The TSP organized a two-day conference to examine the political experiences of the Muslim communities in the Balkans and the experiences of the Armenians in Anatolia. The papers of this issue were published in *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs Vol. 39, No. 3, 2019*.

Minorities: Muslims in the Balkans and Christians in Anatolia. Eds. M. Hakan Yavuz and Hakan Erdagoz.

Raymond Taras, "Islamophobia Never Rests in the Balkans: Muslim Communities and the Legacy of Exclusionary Nationalisms and Ethnic Expulsions."

Senadin Musabegovic, "The Schizoid Border in Construction of Ethno Nationalist Body."

Admir Mulaosmanovic, "Islam and Muslims in Greater Serbian Ideology: The Origins of an Antagonism and the Misuse of the Past."

Mehmet Arisan, "Violence as a Means of Nation-Building: The Case of Balkans (1890-1913)."
Igor Despot, "The Balkan Wars: An expected Opportunity for Ethnic Cleansing."

Hakan Erdagoz, "Reading the Eastern Question through the Prism of Orientalism: Hubris, Founding Genealogy and James Bryce."

Umut Uzer, "Ömer Seyfettin, the Balkan Wars, WWI, and His Criticism of Ottomanism and Minority Nationalisms."

Brad Dennis, "Armenians and the Cleansing of Muslims 1878-1915: Influences from the Balkans."

Christopher Gunn, "Armenians and the Cleansing of Muslims 1878-1915: Influences from the Balkans."

The Turkish Studies Project also funded the following book projects as well.

1. William Holt, *The Balkan Reconquista and Turkey's Forgotten Refugee Crisis*.

During the Russo-Ottoman War of 1877–1878, Russian troops, Cossack auxiliaries, and local Bulgarians participated in what today would be called ethnic cleansing. Tensions in the Balkans between Christians and Muslims ended in disaster when hundreds of thousands of Muslims were massacred, raped, and forced to flee from Bulgaria to Turkey as their villages were sacked and their homes destroyed.

In this book, William H. Holt tells the story of a people and moment in time that has largely been neglected in modern Turkish and Balkan memory. Holt uncovers the reasons for this mass forgetting, finding context both within the development of the modern Turkish state and the

Investing in Youth and Education

workings of collective memory. Bringing together a wide array of eyewitness accounts, the book provides unprecedented detail on the plight of the Muslim refugees in their flight from Bulgaria, in Istanbul, and in their resettlement in Anatolia. In crisp, clear, and engaging prose, Holt offers an insightful analysis of human suffering and social memory.

2. Jeremy Salt, *The Last Ottoman Wars: The Human Cost, 1877–1923*.

During the last half century of its existence, the Ottoman Empire and the lands around its borders were places of constant political turmoil and unceasing military action. The enormous costs of war were paid not only by politicians and soldiers, but by the Ottoman civilian population as well. This book examines the hardships that ordinary people, Muslim and Christian alike, endured during decades of warfare.

Jeremy Salt brings to the surface previously ignored facts that disrupt the conventional narrative of an ethno-religious division between Muslim perpetrators and Christian victims of violence. Salt shows instead that all major ethno-religious groups—including Armenians, Turks, Kurds, and Greeks—were guilty of violent acts. The result is a more balanced picture of European involvement in the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans, one that highlights the destructive role of British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and other European leaders grabbing for Ottoman resources up to the end of World War I. The effects of these events are felt to the present day.

This extraordinary story centers not on military campaigns but on ordinary civilians whose lives were disrupted and, in many cases, destroyed by events over which they had no control. Disease, malnutrition, massacre and inter-communal fighting killed millions of people during the First World War alone. Until now this epic saga of human suffering has remained a story largely untold.

3. Brendon Cannon, *Legislating Reality, Politicizing History: Contextualizing Armenian Claims of Genocide* (Manzara Verlag, 2016). The second edition of the book is published. The German version is also published this year.

The 1st edition was well-received, and the publisher assesses a 2nd edition with the addition of two new chapters, an index and updated maps as well as a new Preface and Foreword will generate great interest in this important and contested subject. Based on the feedback received regarding the 1st edition, both the publisher and author agree that the new edition is strongly in need of professional proofreading and editing. This process could begin immediately, provided funding is found, because the new chapters and other additions have already been completed (a German-language translation based on the above-referenced English-language 2nd edition was published in mid-December 2019).

CONFERENCES IN 2019

Workshop: The Clash of Authoritarianisms: Secularism versus Islamism in Turkey, (The University of Utah, April 1, 2019, Salt Lake City, USA) Turkey and Globalization special issue has been published Middle East Critique.

The Turkish Studies Project at the University of Utah organized one-day workshop (April 1, 2019) that took place at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City and will focus on (a) the AK Party's evolving ideology, identity, and policies, and (b) the causes and consequences of the July 15 coup and its domestic and international ramifications. The workshop focused on five broad sets of questions:

1. Methodological Issues: How do we account for the current political crisis in Turkey and the challenge of democratic consolidation? What did we as a scholarly community miss in our earlier studies of the AK Party? What are the ways in which to understand the deeper divisions in Turkish society? Does it make sense to study Turkish politics as a clash between Islam and secularism? What should be the new paradigm of the study of the society and politics of Turkey?

2. Context: What are the major social, ideological, and political factors that led to the transformation and radicalization of the AK Party? How and when did the objectives and strategies of Erdogan change and how does one explain the divergence between professed ideals and practices? What was the role of external factors and powers in the transformation of the AK Party? What was the role of Fethullah Gülen with regards to the coup and what will the future of the societal Islamic networks? How is the coup related to international events and actors and specifically the counter-revolution against the Arab Spring targeting countries like Libya, Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Yemen, and Turkey?

3. The Coup and Culpability: What are the claims for and against the Gulenist involvement in the July coup? How credible are Gülen and the GM's claims of innocence and their claims that the coup was staged? How did Turkish state officials react to the coup and why did they fail to detect it earlier? How should we explain the traumatic events between 14:00 PM and 9:00 PM on July 15th? How did the coup reshape the relations between the state and society in Turkey? What are the impacts of the coup on the key state institutions such as the judiciary, justice, and education? How has the coup effected Turkey's foreign relations?

Building Bridges

TCA has enhanced its educational mission by sponsoring a diverse collection of scholarship programs.

TCA Study Abroad Scholarship for American Students of Minority and Heritage Communities

Through the TCA Study Abroad Scholarships for American Students of Minority and Heritage Communities program, TCA provides up to 100 scholarships per year for American students of African, Armenian, Bosnian, Filipino, Hispanic, Macedonian, and Native American descent who have been accepted to a study abroad program in Turkey, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, or Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2019, two scholarships were awarded. Since 2008 TCA has awarded 504 scholarships.

Scholarship recipients came from University of Texas, Austin, and Indiana University, Bloomington. They studied at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey.

“

I got to meet lots of great new people and also got to put the Turkish I have been learning into practice through conversing with native Turkish speakers.

”

– *Jazmine Solorzano, 2019 Study Abroad Scholarship Recipient.*



TCA 2019 Study Abroad Scholarship Recipient Jazmine Solorzano visiting Istanbul, Turkey.

Meetings with Turkish and American Universities and Organizations

On January 15, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy attended a reception hosted by Turkish Ambassador Serdar Kilic for members of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans and new members of Congress.

On February 11, TCA hosted a parliamentary delegation from Turkey at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) delegation was led by the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ambassador (ret.) Volkan Bozkir (AKP), former Minister of European Union Affairs and Chief Negotiator for Turkish Accession to the European Union. Other members of the delegation included former Minister of Youth and Sports Osman Askin Bak (AKP), Head of the Turkish Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly; Ambassador (ret.) Unal Cevikoz (CHP), Deputy Chairperson, Republican People's Party; Prof. Dr. Kamil Aydin (MHP), Deputy Chairperson, Nationalist Movement Party; Ambassador (ret.) Aydin Sezgin (Iyi Party); and Ambassador Hidayet Bayraktar, Chief Advisor to the Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman.

The delegation came to Washington to meet with members of Congress, exchange ideas with U.S. based NGOs, and strengthen the friendship between the U.S. and Turkey. Members of the delegation made their first stop at TCA, where they discussed the importance of maintaining strong U.S.-Turkey relations, the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans, TCA programs and activities, and U.S. politics.

On February 12, TCA hosted Abdullah Eren, President of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (Yurtdisi Turkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Baskanligi - YTB) and his delegation. TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy briefed the delegation on TCA programs and the importance of Turkish American grassroots activism. Mr. Eren explained the YTB scholarship programs to study abroad in Turkey for foreign nationals.

On February 21, TCA Directors Nilsu Goren and Louette Ragusa attended an event organized by Turkish Women's International Network (TurkishWIN) Washington D.C. chapter at Bay Atlantic University (BAU).

On April 29, the TCA team attended a reception celebrating Turkish artist Ziya Gurel and his latest exhibit titled "Istanbul and Beyond: An Eastern Tale" at Annapolis City Hall. Gurel's solo exhibition illustrates a unique tale of East and West, moving between fiction and reality.

From May 19-21, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy the German Marshall Fund of the United States' 18th Trilateral Strategy Meeting in Washington, DC.

On May 22, Erhan Karabardak of Melbourne, Australia, and a member of the Australian Turkish Advocacy Alliance (ATAA) visited TCA. As an ATAA official, Karabardak hosted TCA President McCurdy when he visited Melbourne in August 2018.

Building Bridges



Turkish parliamentarian delegation lead by Ambassador (ret.) Volkan Bozkir visiting TCA headquarters.



TCA hosted a delegation of American students from the University of California, Irvine (UCI).

Building Bridges

On May 31, TCA hosted General Secretary Muazaffer Baca of the Eurasian Universities Union and discussed education projects.

On August 8, TCA hosted a delegation of American students from the University of California, Irvine (UCI), who are participating in UCI's "Olive Tree Initiative, Armenia-Turkey" study group. TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy briefed the delegation on TCA-TCF programs and activities. The group also held a roundtable discussion about the Turkish American community.

On September 9, TCA hosted an orientation for the 2019 American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA-DC) Young Cultural Ambassadors Program with a group of high school students from the DC-MD-VA metropolitan area. The purpose of the program was for the students to learn more about the Turkish culture, meet with members of the Turkish-American and international community, and enhance their communication and diplomacy skills. During the orientation, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and Program Director Nilsu Goren brief the students and parents on TCA programs and activities.

On October 3, TCA, under its Turkish American Women's Leadership Initiative, hosted a cocktail prolonge honoring former Consul General in Istanbul Jennifer Davis followed by a panel discussion on U.S.-Turkey relations. The event was held at the Cosmos Club with the co-sponsorship of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TUSIAD).

From December 4-8, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy traveled to Europe for meetings with Turkish business organizations, think-tanks, and members of the Turkish community in Brussels and Berlin. In Brussels, McCurdy met with officials from the representative offices of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), Turkish Industry and Business Association (TUSIAD), and Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). In Berlin, he met with the TUSIAD representative and a Turkish Visiting Fellow at the American Division of the German Institute for International Security Affairs (SWP). The meetings focused on U.S.-Turkey and EU-Turkey relations.

McCurdy also participated in meetings and had discussions about challenges Turkish guest workers face in Europe and how Turkish entrepreneurship has contributed to Germany's economic growth. In Berlin, he met with Ozcan Mutlu, a member of the Green Party and former parliamentarian. Their discussions also focused on current developments in Germany and the United States, the importance of Turkish people to participate in the political arena in their adopted countries, and Turkish success stories in the German and American political systems. McCurdy also encouraged the Turkish community in Germany to join Turkish Australians and Canadians by sending a delegate to TCA's 2020 Annual Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress.



Left: TCA Founder and Chairman Yalcin Ayasli Right: UMD Co-Founder and President Metodija A. Koloski.

Heritage Partnerships

On April 13, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and TCA Director Louette Ragusa attended the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina's (ACBH) gala to honor women leaders and celebrate the 70th anniversary of NATO.

TCA Founder and Chairman Yalcin Ayasli received a commemorative plaque from the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) at its 15th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC, on November 9th. The plaque was presented by Metodija Koloski, Co-Founder and President of UMD, "in honor of [his] deep friendship, strong commitment, and generosity to UMD for over a decade".

In the Community

Since its founding, TCA has supported Turkish American organizations in an effort to strengthen the Turkish American voice through education and civic participation.

Supporting Community Growth and Civic Contributions

In 2019, TCA continued to support the Turkish American community by providing incentives to Turkish American organizations to enhance their local presence and participation in national community activism.

On January 9, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey to Boston, Ceylan Ozen Erisen visited the TCA office in Washington, D.C. Discussion focused on congressional perspectives on the U.S.-Turkey relationship and the Turkish American community. TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy also briefed Consul General Erisen on TCA's outreach program to the African, Hispanic and Native American communities, its grassroots activities throughout the country and the internships and youth leadership congresses for Turkish American college students.

From February 15 to 18, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy visited Florida. In Fort Lauderdale, he addressed the membership of the Turkish Center on "The Political Climate in Washington and How It Impacts the Turkish American Community."

On April 1 and 2, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy met with Turkish Americans in Irvine, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to discuss grassroots activities in California. He also met with Turkish Consul General Can Oguz in Los Angeles.

Between April 26-28, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and TCA Director Louette Ragusa attended an event hosted by Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL/20th) with representatives from the Turkish American community in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. McCurdy and Ragusa also attended a Turkish American networking reception in Miami, attended by Miami Turkish Consul General Burc Ceylan.

On May 3, TCA hosted the Turkish Heritage Organization's Turkey-based non-resident fellows. TCA President Lincoln McCurdy and TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren briefed the group on TCA programs and the current state of the U.S.-Turkey relations.

On October 5, TCA attended the ATAA 40th Anniversary Conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Independence Movement. TCA Founder and Chairman, Yalcin Ayasli, was featured as a keynote speaker during the conference, where he highlighted the importance of political and civic engagement among the Turkish American community. Yalcin Ayasli was also presented with the ATAA Special Award in recognition of his ongoing support for the ATAA and outstanding leadership and service to the Turkish American community.

From November 2 until November 6, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy visited Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and attended the Republic Day Gala of the Turkish American Friendship Society of the United States (TAFSUS) in Essington, PA, on November 2. He also met with Turkish American community leaders in the Philadelphia area and Paterson, NJ.

In the Community

On November 8, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy spoke about civic entrepreneurship at the BLISS Summit (Business Leadership, Innovation, Science, and Society) organized by the New England Turkish Student Association at Babson College's Boston campus. The theme of the summit was "Both Sides of Entrepreneurship - Gains & Pains."

From December 6-7, TCA Operations Louette Ragusa traveled to Southern California to meet with representatives of the Turkish American community. On December 7, she represented TCA at the Turkish American "Holiday Community Giving Reception" sponsored by Ergun and Juliana Kirlikovali at their residence in San Juan Capistrano, CA. This was TCA's first time participating in this annual event.

On December 6, Ragusa met with Turkish American women leaders in Los Angeles and led a discussion about a follow-up event for the Women's Forum which was sponsored by TCA earlier in the year.

Turkish American Women's Leadership Initiative

In May 2017, TCA created the Turkish American Women's Leadership Initiative to work with local Turkish American organizations and women's groups in an effort to educate and encourage Turkish American women to run for elected office on the local, state, and federal levels; seek positions on governmental commissions; attend political conventions, meetings, and forums; and actively participate in political parties.

On March 11-12, 2019, the Turkish Coalition of America held its First Annual Turkish American Women Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C.

During the Turkish American Women Leadership Forum, 34 distinguished female community leaders from all regions of the United States traveled to the nation's capital for discussions on enhancing women's political engagement. Delegates came from the District of Columbia and 15 states—California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

The Forum highlighted the leadership role that Turkish American women can play in their communities in reaching out to their elected representatives and raising the Turkish American voice on the local, state, and federal levels. The program included panel discussions on issues pertinent to Turkish American women, the responsibilities of congressional offices, the importance of maintaining continuous dialogue with elected officials, entrepreneurship, perspectives on U.S.-Turkey relations, women's rights and activism and women in U.S. politics. Participants had the opportunity to speak with Congressional members, such as Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC-05) and Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-01).

Throughout the Forum, the participants were able to network and bond with one another to create a stronger community across the United States for the Turkish American women, from disciplines spanning the law profession to technology.

In the Community



U.S. Capitol Rotunda photo – Congresswoman Virginia Foxx add (R-VA/5th).



Participants of the TCA Turkish American Women's Leadership Initiative reception on Capitol Hill with Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK/4th).

Turkish American Legal Defense Fund

TCA established the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund (TALDF) in 2009 to protect and defend free speech, expression, assembly, and other constitutional or legal rights of Turkish Americans.

TALDF continued its mission year to protect and defend free speech, expression, assembly and other constitutional and legal rights of Turkish Americans. Efforts included addressing deficiencies in renewed Massachusetts legislation that would impact the state's public-school social science curriculum in ways that would likely mischaracterize Turkish history and negatively impact Turkish-Americans in that state.

TALDF analyzed proposed Texas state legislation that would misrepresent historical facts and demean Turkish Americans in the state. The Fund responded to inquiries by a sociologist regarding the civil liberties challenges of Turkish Americans and responded to journalists' questions regarding programming to support Turkish Americans' civil rights. Though TALDF did not engage in any litigation in 2019 it evaluated a child-removal case in Arizona in which aspersions were cast by a state agency on the national origin and religion of the parents.

TALDF also continued its investigation into a criminal conspiracy case that has targeted a prominent Turkish American. The Fund managed the renewal of a multi-year academic grant with the University of Utah.

TALDF continued its engagement by addressing the Annual TCA Youth Congress, providing training on the American civil liberties framework and how to identify potential violations. Finally, the Fund tracked and, when necessary, responded to hate speech directed at TCA and its employees and donors.

TURKISH AMERICAN TALDF LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

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CENSORSHIP OR ACADEMIC FREEDOM?

Last year, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and freshman student Sinan Cingilli sued the President of the University of Minnesota, the Director of its Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS), and the University itself for constitutional violations in the process of dishonoring its own statement of academic freedom. The Board of Regents for the University declared on December 8, 2006: "Academic freedom is essential to achieving the University's mission. Community members are expected to: promote academic freedom, including the freedom to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to explore all avenues of scholarship, research and creative expression and to speak and write as a public citizen without institutional discipline or restraint; and...defend intellectual honesty and freedom of inquiry and instruction [and] to respect those with differing views..." [read]

ISSUES & CASES

- Another TALDF Triumph
- Free Inquiry Triumphs, Prof. Guenter Lewy's Reputation Restored

In Congress

A significant component of TCA's mission is to enhance understanding of the importance of U.S.-Turkey relations in Congress.

Strengthening the Voice of Turkish Americans

TCA has made it a primary objective to strengthen the voice of Turkish Americans in public affairs. TCA works to monitor legislation and issues discussed in Congress that concern the Turkish American community. TCA also regularly provides information and analysis to members of Congress and their staff on issues related to Turkey and U.S.-Turkey relations through TCA bulletins as well as through face-to-face meetings.

Supporting the Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans

Throughout the year, TCA works with the Turkish American community to increase the membership of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans (the Turkey Caucus). In 2019, the Turkey Caucus had 103 members, representing 41 U.S. states and five territories.

TCA worked closely with the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans; Representatives Steve Chabot (R-OH/1st), Joe Wilson (R-SC/2nd), Stephen Cohen (D-TN/9th), and Gerry E. Connolly (D-VA/11th).

TCA engaged members of the Turkey Caucus on several occasions throughout the year. It sponsored numerous events relating to the mission of the Turkey Caucus, including facilitating the participation of Turkey Caucus members in Turkish American events, hosting meetings with members of the Turkish American community, promoting the work of its individual members, and integrating such TCA programs as its scholarship program and Washington Summer Internship Program into the members' own constituent services.

On January 9, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey to Boston, Ceylan Ozen Erisen visited the TCA office in Washington, D.C. Discussion focused on congressional perspectives on the U.S.-Turkey relationship and the Turkish American community. TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy also briefed Consul General Erisen on TCA's outreach program to the African, Hispanic and Native American communities, its grassroots activities throughout the country and the internships and youth leadership congresses for Turkish American college students.

On January 9, TCA Directors Louette Ragusa and Nilsu Goren attended an event with freshman Congressman Van Taylor (R-TX/3rd) on Capitol Hill.

On January 10, Ragusa and Goren attended an event with Congressman Austin Scott (R-GA/8th) on Capitol Hill. They also attended an event with Representatives Rashida Tlaib (D-MI/13th) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN/5th) of the freshman class, and Congressman Andre Carson (D-IN/7th), organized by the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) in Crystal City, VA.

On January 16, Goren attended events with freshman Representatives Michael Waltz (R-FL/6th), Kevin Hern (R-OK/1st), and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA/7th) in Washington, D.C.

In Congress



TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and TCA Program Director Dr. Nilsu Goren with freshman Congressman Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA/14th) on Capitol Hill.



TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and Louette Ragusa, TCA Operations Director, with Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC/6th) at Rep. Hastings' annual South Florida event in April.

On January 24, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy met with Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA/3rd) who serves on the Armed Services and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations.

On January 29, McCurdy attended events organized by the Congressional Black Caucus PAC (CBCPAC) to meet with freshman members of the Black Caucus. At the breakfast meeting Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC/6th) and Assistant Majority Leader Ben Lujan (D-NM/3rd) made opening remarks. McCurdy spoke with CBCPAC Chairman Gregory Meeks (D-NY/5th), Representatives Steven Horsford (D-NV/4th), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE/AL) and freshman Congresswomen Jahana Hayes (D-CT/5th) and Lucy McBath (D-GA/6th).

On February 8, McCurdy met with Congressman William Timmons (R-SC/4th) on Capitol Hill.

On February 12, Goren attended events with Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM/1st), who serves on the House Armed Services Committee and is one of the first Native American women in Congress, and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC/2nd), a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans.

On February 13, McCurdy, and TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren attended an event organized by the CBCPAC for senior congressional staff members of the Black Caucus.

Also, on February 13, McCurdy met with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC/5th) about TCA's Turkish American Women Leadership Initiative. Throughout the month, he also met with senior congressional staff members on TCA programs on women's leadership. McCurdy went on to meet with Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA/3rd) who serves on the Armed Services and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees to discuss his meeting with the Turkish Parliamentary delegation.

TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy visited Florida from February 15 to 18. In Key Biscayne, McCurdy attended the National Republican Congressional Committee's Winter Meeting and had conversations with several members of Congress, including Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23rd), on issues important to TCA.

On February 26, McCurdy attended an event organized by the Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee (CBCPAC) on Capitol Hill.

On February 28, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy attended an event with Senator James E. Risch (R-ID), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, in Washington, D.C. He also attended an event with Congresswoman Madeleine Dean (D-PA/4th), Co-Chair of the Congressional Bipartisan Women's Caucus.

In the month of March, the TCA team met with members of Congress at various events in Washington, D.C. On March 5, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy met with Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA/3rd). On March 7, McCurdy met with Congresswoman Annie Kuster

In Congress



TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy with Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC/1st) (Center), and members of the Turkish American community in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.



TCA Operations Director Louette Ragusa and representatives of the Florida Turkish American Turkish Association (FTAA) with Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL/20th) at his annual South Florida event with members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

(D-NH/2nd) while TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren met with Congress Tim Burchett (R-TN/2nd). On March 8, McCurdy met with Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA/8th) while Goren met with Congressman David Trone (D-MD/6th).

On March 13, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy, and TCA Operations Director Louette Ragusa attended the CBC Chairman's Dinner. They spoke with CBCPAC Chairman Gregory Meeks (D-NY/5th), Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Chairwoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL/17th), Assistant Majority Leader Ben Lujan (D-NM/3rd) and Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA/13th), Jahana Hayes (D-CT/5th), Lucy McBath (D-GA/6th), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX/30th), Andre Carson (D-IN/7th) and Brenda Lawrence (D-MI/14th). Presidential candidates Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) were keynote speakers.

On March 11 & 14, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy met with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC/5th).

On March 22, TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren attended a DCCC political update briefing on Capitol Hill.

On March 25, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy, TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren, and TCA Operations Director Louette Ragusa met with Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN/9th), a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans (Turkey Caucus).

On March 27, TCA Directors Nilsu Goren and Louette Ragusa attended the DCCC Spring Reception, hosted by DCCC Chairwoman Cheri Bustos and attended by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

On March 28, TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren met with Congressman Mark Green (R-TN/7th).

On March 28-30, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy attended the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) PAC Spring Meeting in Palm Springs, CA. He spoke with Reps. Greg Meeks (D-NY/5th), CBCPAC Chairman; Barbara Lee (D-CA/13th); Gwen Moore (WI/4th); and Steven Horsford (D-NV/4th)

On April 3, TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren attended a breakfast event with Congressman Ron Wright (R-TX/6th), organized by the Government Relations Association (GRA).

On April 18, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and TCA Director Nilsu Goren attended the [Cook Political Report](#) briefing on the 2020 presidential, senatorial, congressional and governor races.

Between April 26-28, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and TCA Director Louette Ragusa attended an event hosted by [Congressman Alcee Hastings](#) (D-FL/20th) with representatives from the Turkish American community in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. At the event, they had

In Congress

the opportunity to speak not only with Congressman Hastings but also with several other Members of Congress including Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC/6th), Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Karen Bass (D-CA/37th), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC/1st), and Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ/10th).

On May 1, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) hosted a dinner reception to honor former Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX/32nd) for his outstanding service as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans (Turkey Caucus) in TCA's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

On May 2, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy, and TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren met with Congressman Tony Cardenas (D-CA/29th), the Chairman of the Bold PAC.

Goren also met with Congressman Greg Pence (R-IN/6th) at a breakfast event organized by the GRA.

On May 8, the TCA team attended the Annual Pig Roast event of the Bold PAC, campaign arm of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, on Capitol Hill. They spoke with Representatives Pete Aguilar (D-CA/31st), Tony Cardenas (D-CA/29th), Lou Correa (D-CA/46th), Assistant Majority Leader Ben Lujan (D-NM/3rd), and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD/5th).

On May 9, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy met with Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA/3rd) and discussed U.S.-Turkey relations.

On May 10, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren met with Congressman Gil Cisneros (D-CA/39th). Goren also attended a breakfast event with Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA/5th), organized by the Government Relations Association (GRA).

On May 14, TCA Operations Director Louette Ragusa attended an event with Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL/14th).

On June 19, McCurdy, Goren, and TCA Operations Director Louette Ragusa met with [Congressman Ben McAdams](#) (D-UT/4th). Also on June 19, McCurdy attended a breakfast event with [Congressman Alex Mooney](#) (R-WV/2nd).

On June 20, Goren attended a breakfast event with [Congressman Ben McAdams](#) (D-UT/4th). Also on June 20, McCurdy and Goren attended a lunch hosted by [Congressman John Garamendi](#) (D-CA/3rd) and discussed U.S.-Turkey relations.

On June 21, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy attended a breakfast event with [Congressman Steve Watkins](#) (R-KS/2nd) and [Congressman Brett Guthrie](#) (R-KY/2nd). On June 21, Goren attended the (Hispanic) [Bold PAC](#) political update with its chairman, [Congressman Tony Cardenas](#) (D-CA/29th), as the featured speaker.

In Congress



TCA hosted a dinner reception to honor former Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX/32nd).



TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy with Congressman Bass (D-CA/37th),
Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.



TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy with Congresswoman Elaine Luria
(D-VA/2nd).

In Congress

On June 24, Goren attended the Immigrant Heritage Month celebration, hosted by the [Ethnic Council of the Democratic Party](#) at the Women's Democratic Club.

On June 25, Goren attended the launch event of the new organization US-EU Alliance. [Mick Mulvaney](#), Acting Chief of Staff for President Donald J. Trump, and [Congressman Brendan Boyle](#) (D-PA/2nd) were keynote speakers. Also, on June 25, Goren attended a lunch event with Congressman Tim Burchett (R-TN/2nd) organized by the Government Relations Association (GRA).

On June 26, TCA Program Director Nilsu Goren attended a [Congressional Black Caucus](#) (CBC) PAC breakfast and panel discussion with Congresswomen [Robin Kelly](#) (D-IL/2nd) and [Ayanna Pressley](#) (D-MA/7th).

July 10, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy attended an NRCC briefing with Chairman [Tom Emmer](#) (MN/6th) and Rep. [Sean Duffy](#) (WI/7th).

July 12-14, McCurdy attended the [National Republican Congressional Committee's](#) (NRCC) Annual Summer Meeting at the Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, PA. He spoke with several representatives, including Minority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) (CA/23rd) and NRCC Chairman [Tom Emmer](#) (MN/6th), about U.S.-Turkey relations and issues important to Turkish Americans.

July 12-13, TCA Directors Nilsu Goren and Louette Ragusa attended the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Bold PAC Summer Retreat in Cambridge, MD. They spoke with Chairman [Tony Cardenas](#) (D-CA/29th) and Reps. [Pete Aguilar](#) (D-CA/31st), [Gil Cisneros](#) (D-CA/39th), and [Susan Wild](#) (D-PA/7th).

On July 16-17, McCurdy and the new [TUSIAD](#) President Simone Kaslowski met with Reps. [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL/16th), [Alex Mooney](#) (R-WV/2nd), and [Mike Waltz](#) (R-FL/6th).

On July 16, McCurdy attended a luncheon hosted by Rep. [Mike Turner](#) (R-OH/10th), who serves on the House Armed Services Committee.

On July 18, McCurdy attended a luncheon hosted by Rep. [Mike Waltz](#) (R-FL/6th) of the House Armed Services Committee.

On July 23, Goren attended a meeting with Rep. [John Joyce](#) (R-PA/13th) organized by the Government Relations Association (GRA).

On July 24, McCurdy and Goren met with Rep. [Elaine Luria](#) (D-VA/2nd) of the House Armed Services Committee. Goren attended a luncheon with Rep. [Michael McCaul](#) (R-TX/10th), the Ranking Minority Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Rep. [Dan Crenshaw](#) (R-TX/2nd).

In Congress



Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC/5th) with the participants of the TCA Turkish American Women's Leadership Initiative in the U.S. Capitol.



TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy with Congresswoman Ann Kuster (D-NH/2nd).



TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy with Congressman Greg Meeks (D-NY/5th).

In Congress

On July 25, McCurdy attended a lunch hosted by Rep. [Alex Mooney](#) (R-WV/2nd) with special guest Rep. [Blaine Luetkemeyer](#) (R-MO/3rd). Goren attended a GRA luncheon with Rep. [Glenn Thompson](#) (R-PA/15th).

On July 26, McCurdy and Goren attended a lunch with Rep. [Ruben Gallego](#) (D-AZ/7th) of the House Armed Services Committee.

Throughout the month of September, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and the Washington team have met with Members of the U.S. Congress at various events after the congressional summer recess. The representatives were [Don Bacon](#) (R-NE/2nd), [Salud Carbajal](#) (D-CA/24th), [Steve Chabot](#) (R-OH/1st), [Lacy Clay](#) (D-MO/1st), [Tom Cole](#) (R-OK/4th), [Tom Emmer](#) (R-MN/6th), [John Garamendi](#) (D-CA/3rd), [Al Green](#) (D-TX/9th), [Alcee Hastings](#) (D-FL/20th), Steven Horsford (D-NV/4th), Richard Hudson (R-NC/8th), Bill Johnson (R-OH/6th), Robin Kelly (D-IL/2nd), Ann Kuster (D-NH/2nd), Brenda Lawrence (D-MI/14th), Elaine Luria (D-VA/2nd), Gregory Meeks (D-NY/5th), Richard Neal (D-MA/1st), Jim Hagedorn (R-MN/1st), Donna Shalala (D-FL/27th), Steve Stivers (R-OH/15th), [Susan Wild](#) (D-PA/7th), [Glenn Thompson](#) (R-PA/15th), and [Steve Watkins](#) (R-KS/2nd).

Throughout October, TCA President G. Lincoln McCurdy and the Washington team attended briefings and meetings on Capitol Hill with Members of Congress and congressional staff. McCurdy had met with Representatives Richard Hudson (R-NC/8th), Bill Johnson (R-OH/6th), Billy Long (R-MO/7th), and Greg Walden (R-OR/2nd) at National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) activities. TCA Program Coordinators Arda Cankat and Cenk Laws along with Hulya Erol-Garvett, representing Turkish Americans from Michigan, participated in an event with Representatives Andre Carson (D-IN/7th) and Marc Veasey (D-TX/33rd) of the Congressional Black Caucus. Laws also participated in a meeting with Congressman Gil Cisneros (D-CA/39th) and Fred Keller (R-PA 12th). TCA met with staff members of Representatives Don Beyer (D-VA/8th), Virginia Foxx (R-NC/5th), Ann Kuster (D-NH/2nd), and Elaine Luria (D-VA/2nd).

TCA's Washington team met with the following Members of Congress at events on Capitol Hill during the month of November—Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC/12th), Jim Baird (R-IN/4th), Anthony Brown (D-MD/4th), Andre Carson (D-IN/7th), Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX/18th), Darin LaHood (R-IL/18th), Gregory Meeks (D-NY/5th), Denver Riggleman (R-VA/5th), and Steve Watkins (R-KS/2nd).

On December 5, members of the TCA team attended the Congressional Black Caucus PAC Holiday Reception. The team spoke with members of the Black Caucus and their congressional staff.

Support TCA

The Turkish Coalition of America is a U.S. tax exempt public charitable organization and your contributions are U.S. tax deductible. TCA is supported entirely by private donations. Checks can be mailed to: Turkish Coalition of America, 1510 H St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005.

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