



AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

September 23, 2021

His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary-General Guterres:

On behalf of the worldwide membership of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), a leading Hellenic heritage service organization with a presence in 11 countries, I write to request a meeting as a follow-up to a series of meetings you have held with leaders of countries during the 76th UN General Assembly.

AHEPA was founded nearly 100 years ago in part to help Greek immigrants unify, organize, and protect against the bigotry, discrimination, and defamation faced by people of all ethnic, race, and religious backgrounds. Therefore, values such as fundamental human rights, civil rights, and tolerance for religious freedom are central to the Order of AHEPA as similar values are to the UN, as you cited in your keynote address to the 76th UNGA. Further, in your address, you correctly observed, “Like never before, core values are in the crosshairs,” and alarmingly, people are losing faith in these values.

In your meetings with Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis, President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, and President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, we were pleased to read views and discussions were held on the Cyprus issue with each of these officials, according to UN statements and readouts. As you are aware, Turkey is in violation of several UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, including most recently, two resolutions as they pertain to Turkey’s illegal reopening of Varosha. After 47 years, it is long past time for Turkey to be held accountable for these violations. It is time for a just and viable solution that will lead to a reunified Cyprus—a Cyprus with a single sovereignty, single international personality, and single citizenship; and with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded as described in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Separately, Turkey’s suppression of religious freedom also is of great concern, especially as it impacts the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the world’s oldest and second largest Christian Church. AHEPA will have the honor to host a banquet in honor of the Church’s spiritual leader, **His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I**, Sunday, October 24, 2021, at the Mayflower Hotel, in Washington, D.C. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is also a champion of the environment, leading him to be known worldwide as, “The Green Patriarch.”

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Secretary-General Guterres, we extend an invitation for you to attend our banquet and deliver an address on the topic of “Core Values in the Crosshairs”, and to address our collective “obligation to act” on climate as you shared in your UNGA keynote address, in the presence of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, U.S. and foreign government officials, and prominent members of the American Hellenic community. We also request a brief 15-minute meeting prior to the banquet to discuss this topic. Please contact AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis, basil@ahpa.org, with a reply. Thank you.
Sincerely,

Demetrios “Jimmy” Kokotas
Supreme President

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