

7th TURKISH CYPRIOT CULTURAL FESTIVAL

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TÜRK KÜLTÜR
FESTİVALİ

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30 JUNE 2024

11:00am - 8:00pm

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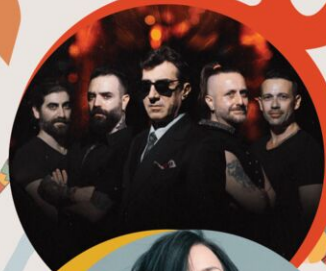


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About us...

Established on 8th March 1983 by the Muftuzadenin Onculugu and Dr Ozkan Hifzi, the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations UK (CTCA UK), also known in Turkish as 'Konsey,' is Britain's largest, democratically elected umbrella organisation representing the vibrant and diverse Turkish Cypriot community. Today, 40 years on, our current Chair is Kenan Nafi.



Our journey over the decades is a tale of unity, cultural resilience, and civic empowerment.

1983 was a milestone year for all Turkish Cypriots. Not only those residing in the UK. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was proclaimed on 15th November 1983 by Rauf Raif Denktaş, then leader of the Turkish Cypriot people. He subsequently became the newly founded republic's first President.

In 2017 CTCA UK celebrated the centenary year for Turkish Cypriots in the UK, who first began arriving in 1917. We acknowledged the contributions of the estimated 300,000-strong community who have made this country their home.

On the 19th November 2023 a joint 40th anniversary

Balo was held at the Grand Banqueting Suite in London to mark a double-celebration of the TRNC and also CTCA UK. TRNC President, Ersin Tatar, Turkish Ambassador to the UK, Osman

Koray Ertaş, and TRNC London Representative, Çimen Keskin, joined CTCA UK and representatives of our 19 Member

Groups (Dernekler) to mark this special occasion. The event stood as a reminder of the strong links which bind the Turkish Cypriot diaspora in the UK with their homeland and showcased the diversity and reach of its member groups across London and beyond.

We look forward to joining together again to mark the next 40 years and beyond...



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Welcome to the 7th Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival!

Dear Guests,

As the Chair of the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations (CTCA) UK and the Turkish Cypriot Festival Committee, I am proud and honoured to address you today. I extend my sincere respects to all our members and heartfelt thanks to the participating tradesmen and businesspeople for their invaluable support. We, Turkish Cypriots living in Britain, are committed to passing on our culture, traditions, and customs to future generations. Since its inception in 1983, CTCA UK has grown stronger each year under the leadership of its dedicated presidents and voluntary members. Together, we have worked tirelessly to promote and preserve Turkish Cypriot culture through our member associations and schools. This commitment is further exemplified by the London Turkish Cypriot Culture Festival, established in 2017, which has now become a cherished tradition. I am proud to say that our festival grows more vibrant every year, reaching wider audiences and leaving a lasting impact.

Dear guests, it is wonderful to see the richness of our culture showcased at the festival, alongside professionals and experts from various fields, from small tradesmen and



"United We Achieve More"

Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations (UK)

artisans to business leaders. We are delighted to organise a festival which features activities which reflecting that culture, from our folk dance to fragrant dishes and traditional jewellery. Our drive to continue to organise the festivals comes from our commitment to keep our traditions and culture alive and to promote them among our community. We must first protect this heritage, then enrich it, and finally pass it on to our children. Therefore, the festival we have organised is crucial for the sustainability of our culture.

On behalf of the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations in the United Kingdom, I would like to thank the presidents and members of the associations who have worked voluntarily for the 7th Turkish Cypriot Festival, the school presidents and members, our business community, our sponsors,

and everyone who helped publicise this beautiful day in the media. I wish you all a festival full of culture and joy.

Kenan Nafi

Chair - CTCAUK



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**Dear Mr. Kenan Nafi, President of the
Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations (UK)
Festival Organising Committee,
Turkish Cypriots living in the UK,**

I congratulate the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations (CTCA) UK and its Festival Committee for organising the seventh Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival in London. The annually organised cultural festival, first organised by CTCA UK seven years ago to celebrate the centenary of the first arrival of Turkish Cypriots to Britain, has over the years become a success story. Representing our culture, traditions and the spirit of the Turkish Cypriot people, it has contributed to the rich fabric of our cultural heritage and fostered our solidarity as well as unity, both in the political and economic sense. It is paramount for our children and future generations to learn about their roots, identity and culture, and festivals of this kind are instrumental in contributing to this sense of belonging. I have special regard to Turkish Cypriots living abroad, who are our voice in the international arena, who have never forgotten their homeland, the TRNC, and are loyal to our national cause. Our struggle as Turkish Cypriot people

is continuing for justice and for the reaffirmation of our inherent rights, namely our sovereign equality and equal international status. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of being integrated into the society in Britain and I commend you for your contributions in all walks of life in the UK. On this special day, I would like to take this opportunity to also call upon parents to enrol their children at Turkish schools, so as to give them an opportunity to improve their fluency in the Turkish language and to learn about our history, culture, folk and traditions. I take great pride in congratulating the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations (UK) and the Festival Committee for organising this fantastic cultural festival, which I hope will bring tens of thousands of you together in a show of unity. With these thoughts, I wish all Turkish Cypriots in the UK a happy, healthy and prosperous lives. Ersin TATAR
President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus



Message of O. Koray Ertas, the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye for the 7th Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival

Distinguished Members of the Turkish Community in the UK

It is a privilege to address you on the occasion of the 7th Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival, organized by the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations in the UK (CTCA UK). This annual festival symbolises our cultural richness and strong ties. This year's festival holds special significance as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Peace Operation.

The Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival not only showcases our culture in the United Kingdom but also demonstrates the strong solidarity within the Turkish community here. I am confident that the Turkish Cypriot Festival will continue to be celebrated with great enthusiasm.

The Turkish Cypriots have struggled to protect and preserve their identity despite unfair isolation and numerous obstacles over the years. Throughout this struggle, Türkiye has consistently stood by the Turkish Cypriot people

and will continue to do so.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to thank CTCA UK for its valuable support of Turkish language and culture schools. These schools work devotedly to teach our language, one of the most important elements of our culture, to young generations in the UK. Teaching Turkish to our children is essential to maintaining strong ties between them and their roots and country.

Let's rejoice in this festival together as a celebration of brotherhood, solidarity, and cultural richness. Our call is to further strengthen our values and unity.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has worked tirelessly to organize this event, notably CTCA festival committee and my sincere wishes and regards to the Turkish people in the UK. I wish great success for the Festival.

TRNC London Representative Ambassador Çimen Keskin's message for the 7th Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival

I am very pleased to come together with you at the 7th Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival organised by the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations in the UK (CTCA UK). Having left its 40th year behind, the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations in the UK continues its successful journey by assuming an important role and responsibility in strengthening the solidarity of our community by bringing together Turkish Cypriots in the UK.

The Turkish Cypriot Cultural Festival is not only an important sign of the presence of the Turkish Cypriot community in the UK, which has reached the 4th generation, but also contributes greatly to the promotion of our culture and serves a meaningful purpose by providing an important platform for preserving and passing on of our culture to future generations. Thanks to this joyous festival, we not only keep our culture alive, but also strengthen our hopes for the future.

More than 100 years after the Turkish Cypriots migration to Britain, we are pleased to see that members of our community have successfully adapted to life in the UK and we are proud of their achievements in all walks of life.

On this day, when we come together to celebrate the richness of our culture, I would like to once again emphasize that, it is commendable that our people who are well integrated into the British society continue to maintain their strong ties with our homeland.

In particular, teaching our mother tongue Turkish, to our children is the most important step to be taken for the passing on of our culture and the continuation of the ties of future generations with our country.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations in the UK for its support of Turkish language and culture schools and for its efforts to maintain our culture and to pass it on to younger generations through the events it organises.

It is my hope that the Turkish Cypriot community in the UK will act in solidarity, transforming their individual success stories into collective achievements. Furthermore, I hope that they will continue to their admirable achievements in all walks of life.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the CTCA UK for continued success and look forward to many more cultural festivals in the coming years.



KUZAY KIBRIS TÜRK CUMHURİYETİ BAŞBAKAN YARDIMCILIĞI TURİZM KÜLTÜR GENÇLİK VE ÇEVRE BAKANLIĞI BASIN BÜROSU

Sevgili Kıbrıslı Türkler,
Kıbrıs Türk Dernekleri Konseyi tarafından bu yıl yedincisi düzenlenen Kıbrıs Türk Kültür Festivali'nde sizlerle birlikte olmak büyük mutluluk duyuyorum. Kültür Bakanı olarak, bu önemli etkinliğe katılmaktan onur duyuyorum.

Kıbrıs Türk Kültür Festivali, köklü geçmişimiz ve zengin kültürel mirasımızı tanıtmak, yaşatmak ve gelecek nesillere aktarmak açısından büyük bir öneme sahiptir. Bu festival, sadece geleneklerimizi ve kültürümüzü kutlamakla kalmıyor, aynı zamanda Kıbrıs Türk toplumunun birlik ve beraberlik içinde geleceğe umutla bakmasını sağlıyor.

Festivalimizin bu yılki temasının, Kıbrıs Türk halkının geçmişten bugüne taşıdığı değerleri, sanatını, müziğini, folklorunu ve geleneklerini yansıtması, hepimizi gururlandırıyor. Birbirinden değerli sanatçılarımızın, zanaatkarlarımızın ve kültür elçilerimizin katkılarıyla zenginleşen bu etkinlik, kültürel çeşitliliğimizi ve birliğimizi pekiştirmektedir. Bu festivalin her yıl tek festival olarak düzenlenmesini desteklediğimi de belirtmek isterim, birlikte yapacağımız her etkinlik bizlerin gücünü daha da artıracaktır. Kıbrıs Türk kültürünün tanıtımına ve yaşatılmasına katkıda bulunan herkese yürekten teşekkür ediyorum. Bu festivalin



düzenlenmesinde emeği geçen Kıbrıs Türk Dernekleri Konseyi'ne, sponsorlarımıza ve tüm gönüllülerimize şükranlarımı sunuyorum.

Hep birlikte, kültürel mirasımızı korumaya, tanıtmaya ve gelecek kuşaklara aktarmaya devam edeceğiz. Festivalimizin, dostluk ve kardeşlik bağlarımızı daha da güçlendireceğine, Kıbrıs Türk kültürünün tanıtımına büyük katkılar sağlayacağına yürekten inanıyorum. Hepinize keyifli ve unutulmaz bir festival diliyorum.

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United Roots, Common Future:

Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities and the 7th Turkish Cypriot Culture Festival

Dear festival participants,

As the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), we take great honour and joy in being part of the 7th Turkish Cypriot Culture Festival held in the United Kingdom. Once again, this valuable event serves as a reminder of the importance of sharing the riches of Turkish culture and of being a strong community. As 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Cyprus Peace Operation, this Festival bears even more importance than ever

As YTB, we consider contributing to the social and cultural development of Turkish communities worldwide, protecting their rights, and maintaining their loyalty to their homeland as our primary duties. Within the scope of this mission, we take great pleasure in our longstanding collaboration with the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations in the UK.

The CTCA UK significantly contributes to the cultural and social development of the Turkish community living in the United Kingdom. With the many collaborations and efforts we have initiated in the past, CTCA UK demonstrates once again how important a role it plays for the Turkish Cypriots living in the UK, through this festival. We would like to extend our gratitude to the members of CTCA UK and our Turkish Cypriot community for their successful efforts.

We hope that the Turkish Cypriot Culture Festival is an event that shares the unity, richness, and togetherness of the Turkish Cypriot community and the Turkish community. This festival is an opportunity for us to underline our commitment and support to Turkish communities globally.

On this occasion, we sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the organization of the festival, and everyone who participated and supported it. It is a great honour for us to be together at this event celebrating our cultural heritage, our values, and the bright future of our community.

We send our greetings and love to all Turkish communities in the United Kingdom and around the world.

With respect



Abdullah EREN
President of Turks Abroad and Related Communities





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THE GREAT POET OF NORTHERN CYPRUS: OSMAN TÜRKAY

By Semra Eren-Nijhar *

Throughout my work on Osman Türkay (16 February 1927 – 24 January 2001), over the last 23 years, I have learned that poets and writers like Osman Türkay are not born every century and he was a genius just like Goethe, Shakespeare, Neruda, Tagore, Dante and Nazım Hikmet as he, like others, left an indelible mark which will live on forever.

That is why it is not surprising that the former Culture Minister of Türkiye, a cultural historian, poet and translator Prof. Dr. Talat Halman once observed that Osman Türkay's work combined Blake's apocalyptic vision with Eliot's gloomy depictions of modern civilisations. Not only Talat Halman makes this remark but goes further to say that Osman Türkay's work goes beyond Blake's and Eliot's scope, arching over the entire geography of world culture.

Osman Türkay was an internationally acclaimed Turkish Cypriot poet and a writer who was twice a candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988 and in 1992. He's accredited with many awards and honours nationally and

internationally for his contribution to literature. Although he was twice nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature, anyone who wants to buy a book by him, anywhere around the world, (except Northern Cyprus) cannot do so. No books by him, bearing in mind he was one of the few poets whose work was translated into many different languages before world literature discovered Turkish writers and poets that can be bought at any book shop, today.

It is sad to note that Osman Türkay who created a kind of an ultra-modernist new poetry is on the verge of being forgotten (except in his native country of Northern Cyprus). As someone who has been conducting research on Osman Türkay's work over the last twenty three years, I am still discovering, exploring, uncovering and coming across something new in his poetry and writings. It is like a deep and wide ocean, the deeper you dive, the more you discover Osman Türkay. It is an ocean where his thoughts rise like waves of philosophical wisdom.

*"I walk and how thoughtfully, the places towards times
I stand for a meaning in the abstraction of numbers Words*

*on tongues, sounds in stars
And a bell rings down the throat of a camel
Words echo, sounds echo, brains echo
As if they collide and crash the mountains in a fight."*

His writings are like the eye of his mind and soul, intelligently traveling to the universe and going from one planet to another, to explore the meaning of what is to be a human on Earth. He describes planet Earth in his poems with a musical rhythm where the soul of Earth is listening to Beethoven, Bach and Mozart.

*Convulsion is a pre-Chaotic silenced
Time supervenes: Light.
Mask which descends on a frightful face,
Earth settles: Water
His freezing heart beats in a mountain lake
and in the depth of the sky is Hammerklavier!*

His concept of inner-space is composed in his poems as messages. The messages reflect the pictures of his spiritual world where philosophy combines with art and science. Osman Türkay has seen the universe as part of the creation and the reasoning behind human existentialism and focused his theories around cosmology. His artistic productivity found a base also in his writings where he combined Earth's past and future as a whole which are intertwined with each other. Türkay was well ahead of his time and technological progress and science influenced his poetry.

He was a poet of the new space age. His model was the universe and the light is the true meaning of everything in the cosmos and the cosmos the real mother of mankind. He cleverly chose these subjects for his poetry and wrote on nature, environment, disasters and the nuclear age. He had seen the destruction of this universe by man-made science which continues its forward march under the veil of progress.

*In situations through which all roads lead to destruction
Death loses its natural quality
And fear becomes a blind alley
In the depths of the vast city which we call Universe*



He was exploring the meaning and the roots of the universe by underlying the importance of light on Earth. His devotion to mountains, sea and the sky is his affection for nature. Nature nurtured his poetry in his native country of Cyprus from an early age as his young adulthood experiences shaped his philosophical writings in his later life.

***Your life is fire,
or, it is hissing waters.
Heat is another terminus, outside
the boundaries of numbers:***

***-Anvil
steel
marble stone
blood.***

***O Man, come then, be a dagger
and slip out of your sheath;
come, be a sea, a light
or water:***

Even extensively written words are too few to describe Osman Türkay's poetry.

Türkay was not only a poet but also a translator who translated into Turkish the works of T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Dylan Thomas, Pablo Neruda and Vladimir Mayakovsky. How his work can go unnoticed by the authorities on literature in Türkiye is beyond anyone's imagination.

His humanism, his abstract formulation of the Universe, the cultural references in his poems and the various themes of his poetry should not be kept to the old publications of his books but should be shared with the 21st Century general public to read and enjoy. That was the reason why I have spent many years researching his works, organising events to introduce him to a wider audience and giving talks on him so that the world can once again get to know him and his philosophy, his poetry, his thoughts and his writings.

Osman Türkay is for Cyprus as Goethe is for Germany, Neruda for Chile, Nazım Hikmet and Orhan Veli for Türkiye, Shakespeare for Britain, Dante for Italy and Tagore for India. Therefore he should again take his place among all the famous great poets as he is like the others part of our world literature heritage.

At a distance far away
the aching soul of a pigeon
veils the universal human conditions.

* Semra Eren-Nijhar is a sociologist, author, poet, documentary filmmaker, an expert on Osman Türkay and an acclaimed expert on migration, Turkish people living in Europe, Turkish heritage in Europe and is the Executive Director of SUNCUT Consultancy & Productions.



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7 Reasons to Visit North Cyprus in 2024



Why not make 2024 the year to visit this peaceful corner of the Mediterranean?

With so much to see and do in North Cyprus, the last thing you'll want to do is just lounge on a sun lounger – though there's ample opportunity to do that too. North Cyprus offers a lot for a destination of its size. Here are just a few of the experiences and sights ripe for discovery:

1. Fairytale Castles

Walt Disney's Sleeping Beauty Castle has become an instantly recognisable landmark of worldwide renown. Did you know that the inspiration for this iconic structure is said to have come from St. Hilarion Castle? Its unusual formation comprises three turrets and three sets of defensive walls. The castle's commanding position overlooking the Kyrenia coastline further adds to the fairytale allure.

2. Postcard Vistas

Kyrenia Harbour is the most photographed vista in North Cyprus. The pretty horseshoe-shaped harbor is flanked by a grand, 16th-century Venetian Castle and ramparts. Along the harbour, you'll find former carob warehouses

that have been transformed into charming cafes and restaurants. The backdrop of the magnificent Five Finger Mountains completes the postcard-perfect scene. The Ancient Port of Kyrenia, which was restored this year, is considered the "Pearl of the Mediterranean" and is a must-visit for all visitors.

3. Exciting Wildlife

Bird-watching holidays have become popular, and North Cyprus is the perfect destination for bird enthusiasts, as it is located along a major migratory route. The island is also home to endangered Green and Loggerhead turtles, and a conservation project led by a team of volunteers ensures their survival and well-being on the island's untouched beaches. Visiting during nesting or hatching season might give you the opportunity to see these amazing creatures up close.

4. Top-notch Golf

The Korineum is North Cyprus' premier golf course, featuring 18 holes, a driving range, a high-end clubhouse, and a pro shop, along with breathtaking 360-degree views of the mountains, countryside, and coast. Additionally, the Korineum offers boutique on-site accommodation, including a private beach club accessible by



shuttle service and a state-of-the-art spa.

5. Dazzling Beaches

The Famagusta coast is famous for its stunning white sand beaches. The ancient site of Salamis, the former capital of the island, lies 6km north of Famagusta. Although the site is impressive as it currently stands, it is only partially excavated, and it's incredible to learn that a large proportion of the ruins still lay buried underneath the sand. The wild and rugged coastal beauty continues as you journey north to the Karpaz Peninsula, known as Cyprus' 'panhandle'. In the far reaches, you'll likely have just wild donkeys for company.

6. Enticing Cuisine

North Cypriot cuisine has its roots not only in Turkey but also in Greece, Lebanon, Syria, France, and Italy. Due to its strategic position in the midst of the Mediterranean on trade routes between Europe, Asia, and North Africa, many civilizations have conquered this island and all have left their culinary trace - from succulent kebabs to

mouthwatering meze and sweet, syrupy desserts. The local tipple is a brandy sour, said to have been invented in 1947 for the visit of King Farouk of Egypt, who didn't want to be seen drinking alcohol in public.

7. Activities Ahoj

From sublime scuba diving to rambling, orchid spotting, and paragliding, the landscape and climate of North Cyprus offer a host of outdoor activities, most of which can be enjoyed all year round.

The Practicalities

There are several accommodation options available in North Cyprus. These range from small boutique and family-run "eco" hotels in the Karpaz region to luxurious beach-front hotels near Kyrenia Harbour and Famagusta region. Additionally, Ercan Airport, which opened its new terminal last year, provides top-notch comfort for visitors. For comprehensive information on planning a holiday in North Cyprus, including tour operator listings, you can visit...welcometonorthcyprus.co.uk.

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UN Resolution 186: 60 Years of Embargoes

By Taşkın İsmet

4th March 2024 marked 60 years since the passing of UN Resolution 186 and the beginning of the embargoes on the Turkish Cypriot people. Embargoes which deny political representation in the international fora and which prohibit trade, communication, travel, cultural and even sporting ties.

CTCA UK-Members, Embargoed! and the British Turkish Cypriot Association (BTCA), joined Young Turkish Cypriots (YTC) and other members of the UK's Turkish Cypriot community to protest this inauspicious date. The group gathered on Parliament Square to protest the UN's role and their continued presence in Cyprus – and specifically to protest the consequences of UN Resolution 186.

Following the Parliament Square protest members of Embargoed! and BTCA hand-delivered letters to the UN Association in Whitehall Court and also handed in a separate letter to the Foreign Minister, David Cameron, at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office in King Charles Street. Embargoed! also hand-delivered letters at the UN compound at Ledra Palace in Lefkoşa /Nicosia and at the UN Association Offices in Via Laietana, Barcelona.

While Turkish Cypriots around the world were lamenting this bitter anniversary, incredibly, the UN thought it appropriate to celebrate their 60th year on the island with a medal parade and the unveiling of a monument outside the Ledra Palace Hotel. Lunch was served, medals were dished out and drinks were had. Modesty and self-reflection - like conflict resolution - is clearly not a strong point.

Given the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP) were deployed to the island for 3 months, simple logic would tell you that their mission has utterly failed. The fact UNFICYP remain in place 60 years later (with a settlement even further away than when they arrived) should have caused them to reflect that their ongoing presence is not a cause for celebration. It would be wrong to say that they have achieved nothing. But only because nothing would be an improvement. Instead, their continued presence and their political meddling have made things infinitely worse. They have utterly failed the Turkish Cypriot people, both militarily and politically.

They first failed to stop the violent onslaught against the Turkish Cypriot people, as the killing and the oppression continued for 11 long years, from 1963 to 1974. They failed to remove the encirclement of Turkish Cypriot villages and enclaves and allowed their presence to become a tool to aid the restriction of provisions into those areas. Relief only came after the Turkish armed forces intervened on 20th July 1974. Not because of the UNFICYP.

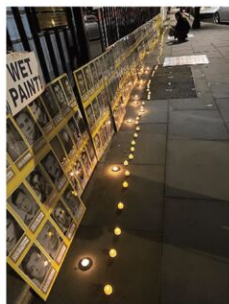
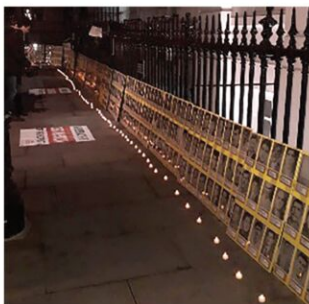
It could reasonably be argued that the Greece led coup d'état - which itself caused the Turkish intervention - occurred because the UN's acquiescence (or collusion?) had given Greece the impression that they had carte blanche to do as they pleased. That is, to attempt to achieve 'Enosis' (the union of Cyprus with Greece). In that sense, you could reasonably



argue that their weakness and double-standards has actually failed the Greek Cypriots too.

Equally, since UN Resolution 186 was passed on 4th March 1964, they have failed the Turkish Cypriot people politically. The role of the UN is – or should be – to act with impartiality. Had they done so they would have set about brokering negotiations for a settlement between two equal partners, just as the 2 communities were defined in the Republic of Cyprus constitution. Instead, they chose to reward the aggressor and to punish the victim. They chose to treat the Greek Cypriots as the sole legitimate authority of the entire island (in complete contradiction of the Republic of Cyprus constitution) and they chose to treat the Turkish Cypriots as 'secessionists and rebels'. In doing so, they have helped to cement the status quo and have made a negotiated settlement all but impossible. The ongoing political failure has served only to cement their military failure. It's high time that the UN took their 'help' elsewhere.





Bloody Christmas Vigil: 60 Years

By Taşkın İsmet

The 'Bloody Christmas' vigil took place on 21st December 2022 outside the Greek Cypriot Embassy to commemorate the horrific events of 21st December 1963. It was organised by CTCA UK-Member Lobby Groups, the British Turkish Cypriot Association (BTCA) and Embargoed! alongside Young Turkish Cypriots. It was a quiet and solemn affair, which served to acknowledge the tragic and needless loss of life during this dark period of the island's history. The vigil was covered extensively by both local and national Turkish television.

This year was particularly poignant as it marked the 60th anniversary of an event which brought a cruel and bloody end to the 1960 power sharing agreement on the island. An agreement which, it was hoped, would serve as a catalyst for Turkish-Greek friendship in Cyprus and in the region. Instead, Bloody Christmas marked the beginning of 11 years of oppression of the Turkish Cypriot people, until Türkiye's timely intervention in 1974.

Contrary to the narrative that the 2 communities were separated in 1974 the split actually occurred in December 1963 – as a direct consequence of the 'Bloody Christmas' attacks. Major-General Peter Young, of the British Joint Force, took out a green marker pen and drew a line through the capital, dividing the city along ethnic lines in an effort to minimize the Greek Cypriot onslaught. The 'Green Line' would eventually stretch across the entire island. By January 1964, the separation had become political too, when Turkish Cypriots were expelled from the government, leaving power in entirely Greek Cypriot

hands. At this point the Government of the Republic of Cyprus had become unconstitutional and thus, illegal.

Perhaps the worst of these Bloody Christmas atrocities took place on 24th December 1963, when 21 Turkish Cypriot inhabitants of Turkeli/Agios Vasileios village were murdered and buried in a mass grave. Their twisted remains were later exhumed in the presence of the British Army and International Red Cross. Incredibly, when the international community agreed that the Turkish Cypriot people required protection, the Greek Cypriot Administration was able to use the emergency – which they themselves had created – to cement their political gains.

This was allowed to happen because UN Resolution 186 (passed in March 1964 to establish a peacekeeping force on the island) incorrectly recognised the solely Greek Cypriot administration as the legitimate government of the island. The now all-Greek Cypriot 'Government' of Cyprus quickly used this newfound legitimacy to enact laws which would ensure the economic and political isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people. In this way, the legitimacy given to one side of a partnership state (the Greek Cypriots), has resulted in the isolation of the other side (the Turkish Cypriots).

A situation which continues to this very day, 60 years later.

The argument now goes that the Turkish Cypriots need not live under embargoes. They need only accept that the current Greek Cypriot administration is the lawful government of the whole island. However, by doing so, they would no longer be partners but, instead, would accept to become a minority in a Greek Cypriot state. This was and continues to be the crux of the Cyprus problem.



Cyprus 1974

The Truth Of The Invasion of Cyprus

By Taşkın İsmet

Anyone with a passing interest in Cyprus' history will have heard about the Turkish intervention of the 20th July 1974. However, it is far more likely that they heard of it as an 'invasion'. In addition, they will have also heard about the many Greek Cypriots who lost their lives and their homes – and how many people remain missing.

We would like to make it clear that we in no way dispute that there was loss of life and, where that occurred, we do not celebrate it. However, it is important to understand why the Turkish intervention took place and what occurred leading up to it. It is very much not how it is presented to us by Greek Cypriot propaganda.

After the initial attacks on the Turkish Cypriot population in December 1963 (known as 'Bloody Christmas') the Greek Cypriots were able to seize political power by ejecting all Turkish Cypriot representatives from the Republic of Cyprus Government. Recognising the clear threat to the Turkish Cypriot population, the UN agreed to send a peacekeeping force to the island to protect the Turkish Cypriots from further harm. However, instead of the UN's intervention helping the Turkish Cypriots, it served only to remove them completely from the political landscape. Sir Anthony Kershaw of the Commons Select Committee explains "It was decided that the UN troops should be sent there to restore order, but the UN can only send troops if the Government of the country concerned asks for them. The only organisation which could, in 1964, be called the Government of Cyprus was the administration headed by Makarios. The Turkish Cypriots pointed out that this was not the legal Government of Cyprus, but such was the pressure of the times that the UN said: Look, your people are dying – let's get the troops out right away and the lawyers can sort it out later. So it was decided, but since that time the UN treated the Greek Cypriots as the only Government of Cyprus, basing this on a treaty and a constitution which had been repudiated and broken by the Greek Cypriot Government itself. I do not deny that the Greek Cypriot Government is the de facto government of the South of Cyprus. It has all the attributes of sovereignty, but so has the government of Northern Cyprus." However, rather than allow the lawyers to 'sort it out' that UN Resolution effectively stripped the Turkish Cypriots of their equal rights on the island and has served as the basis for every UN Resolution thereafter. From that point onwards, in the eyes of the UN and thus the world, the Greek Cypriot Administration had become the 'Government of Cyprus' and the Turkish Cypriots have been cast adrift, left to survive in political limbo. A situation which persists today.

At the time, the Turkish Cypriot population were left to survive in guarded enclaves in just 3% of the land, where they would be forced to endure 11 long years of hardship and violence while the world watched in silence. During those 11 years the Greek Cypriots began to split into factions. Both aiming for Enosis (the union of Cyprus with Greece), but with differing approaches. Some supported Archbishop Makarios, who aimed to move steadily toward his goal in order to avoid any possibility of outside intervention. Others, supported General Grivas. Grivas was the ex-leader of EOKA (the Greek Cypriot terrorist group who had fought the British prior to their departure in 1960). His groups aim then, as in this period, was Enosis. As such, EOKA had also been responsible for the deaths of Turkish Cypriots and even any Greek Cypriots who opposed them. Grivas had been previously expelled from the is-

land. He had returned to form EOKA B. With the British no longer an obstacle, they now set their sights on the Turkish Cypriots, as well as any 'unpatriotic' Greek Cypriots who opposed them. Grivas, however, would not live to see the fruit of his evil seed. He died of heart failure in January 1974, while hiding out in a house in Limassol.

While Makarios was supported by the majority of Greek Cypriots, EOKA B was supported by the new Greek Military Junta in Athens who, having seized power in Greece, felt that Enosis would constitute a great win which would consolidate their rule. There was growing concern in Athens and among some Greek Cypriots that Makarios was moving too slowly, or that perhaps he had grown too accustomed to holding sole power in 'his own' state. Again, it is important to note that both factions publicly espoused support for Enosis. They simply differed on how to achieve it; by slowly bringing the Turkish Cypriots to their knees, as favoured by Makarios, or by a quick decisive blow, as favoured by EOKA B. Athens would choose the latter.

So it was that on 15th July 1974, Athens finally moved to overthrow Makarios in a Greece-led coup d'état. While this date is totally forgotten (or willingly ignored) this is the actual date of the invasion of Cyprus. An invasion which was carried out by Greece. Not Türkiye!

Believing Makarios had died and struggling to find anyone else to accept the Presidency in the chaos which followed, the coupists named a celebrated EOKA terrorist as the new President. Enter, Nicos Sampson, a man known locally by the Turkish Cypriots as 'The Butcher of Omorphita' for his leading role in the deadly attack on that town. A protégé of Grivas, Sampson was linked to numerous other attacks on Turkish Cypriots. He had initially formed part of an EOKA execution team during the fight against British rule, being held responsible for a minimum of 15 murders from that time alone. Just like the organisation itself, after a brief lull in the violence between 1959 and 1963, his focus had moved from the British army to the Turkish Cypriots.

With the coup d'état underway the next step was to crush all those who opposed it. Their attentions momentarily diverted from the Turkish Cypriots, Greek now began fighting Greek. The Greek Cypriot MP, Rina Kastellis, recalled in her diary:

"16th July 1974. Is Makarios alive? Is he dead? The Makarios supporters arrested, the EOKA-B supporters freed. I did not shed a tear. Why should I? Did the stupidity and fanaticism deserve a tear? There are some who beg Turkey to intervene."

"18th July 1974. Oh my God!... Everyone is frozen with fear... The old man who asked for the body of his son was shot on the spot... The tortures and executions at the prison... Everyone is frozen with horror. Nothing is sacred to these people, and they call themselves Greeks!... we must not keep that name any longer."

On 22nd July 1974 The Washington Post reported "Bodies litter the streets and there were mass burials... People who were told by Makarios to put down their guns were shot by the National Guard."

Makarios, however, had not been killed. He had managed to escape and made a radio announcement from a hideout in Paphos before being spirited away by the RAF. From there, he made his way to the US where he stood before the UN in New York and declared "Greece has invaded Cyprus..." It was no slip of the tongue or mistake. He used the word 'invasion' 19 times.

All these events would later be erased from Greek Cypriot mem-

ory. The victims of the Greek coup were conveniently added to those who perished in the resulting war with Türkiye. All blame was laid at the feet of 'the barbaric Turks'. Those Greeks who were unceremoniously buried without the knowledge or presence of loved ones were added to the list of 'The Missing'. Despite some brave people having stepped forward to confirm the truth of the situation, the search for missing Greek Cypriots would continue for years. Mothers, widows and entire families were paraded each year with photos and mementoes in hand, as part of the relentless propaganda drive which has come to underpin the Greek Cypriot cause. On the other side of the divide, the many Turkish Cypriot missing persons were quickly declared 'missing, presumed dead'. A difficult message for the families to hear, but an altogether kinder one. The US Ambassador to Cyprus, Nelson Ledsky, testified before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "Most of the missing persons disappeared in the first days of July 1974, before the Turkish intervention on the 20th. Many killed on the Greek side were killed by Greek Cypriots in fighting between supporters of Makarios and Sampson." Eventually, as more and more people came forward to reveal the truth, the Government of then President, Glafkos Clerides, was forced to admit in 1996 that they were fully aware that there were people buried in the Greek Cypriot cemetery in Nicosia who were still included on the list of 'The Missing'. The (Greek Cypriot) Cyprus Mail wrote on 3rd March 1996 that "(Greek) Cypriot governments have found it convenient to conceal the scale of atrocities during the 15th July coup in an attempt to downplay its contribution to the tragedy of the summer of 1974 and instead blame the Turkish invasion for all casualties. There can be no justification for any government that failed to investigate this sensitive humanitarian issue. The shocking admission by the Clerides government that there are people buried in Nicosia cemetery who are still included in the list of the "missing" is the last episode of a human drama which has been turned into a propaganda tool." The Cyprus Mail would report on 9th June 2001 "Slowly but surely the casualties of war whom the Greek Cypriot Administration claims to have been missing since 1974 are turning up. The latest batch of 36 whose identities have now been confirmed, bring the total identified by DNA testing to 108. The fact is that the 1,600 on the list are not "missing". They are not being held in Turkish jails or any other place from where "sightings" have been reported over the decades. They are - very sadly for their families - dead". With the situation now on a knife-edge, Türkiye asked the UK and Greece for assistance to restore order. When they were unsurprisingly refused, they finally took the decision to defy the intense international pressure and act alone. Türkiye was aware that it had no other option and no further time to waste. It was faced with an existential threat to the Turkish Cypriot population and the likelihood of an imminent declaration of Enosis (with its likely acceptance by the world community). Time was of the essence. Military intervention - not 'invasion' took place on the morning of the 20th July 1974. Following an initial 2 day operation in which a small bridgehead was secured between Kyrenia and the suburbs of Nicosia, a ceasefire was called. Greece, Türkiye and Britain began urgent talks in Geneva. Meanwhile, the Greek forces in Cyprus (of both Makarios and EOKA B) united again and turned their attentions back to the Turkish Cypriots with some of their most brutal attacks. On 22nd July Turkish President, Bulent Ecevit, implored the UN to "stop the genocide of Turkish-Cypriots" but warned that "Turkey has accepted a cease-fire, but will not allow Turkish-Cypriots to be massacred." On 24th July 1974 the French newspaper, France Soir, reported "The Greeks burned down mosques and set fire to Turkish homes in the villages around Famagusta. Defenceless Turkish villagers live in an atmosphere of terror and they evacuate their homes and go and live in tents in forests. The Greeks' actions are a shame to humanity."

In the latest round of meetings in Geneva on the 14th August it became clear that delaying tactics were being employed by the Greeks. Turkish troops found themselves in an increasingly untenable position inside their small bridgehead, with the area around them being heavily mined. In addition to the risk to its troops, armed attacks on Turkish Cypriot villages were continuing. Türkiye's aim had been to stop the coup and to protect the Turkish Cypriots from harm. While the former had been achieved, the latter was clearly an even bigger risk than when they had initially landed on the island. Outside of the talks they were aware that, while the world had understood their need to intervene, the narrative was being controlled by the Greek-Greek Cypriot duo who were painting Türkiye as the aggressor. When this meeting concluded with a request from the Greek Cypriots for yet more time, Türkiye felt that any possibility at resolving the issue by talking was lost and the signal was given for the 2nd phase of the intervention to take place. On that very same day every Turkish Cypriot male between the ages of 13 and 74 the village of Tokhni were rounded up by Greek forces. 18 managed to escape, the remainder were all shot, their bodies thrown into a mass grave, many still alive, with their hands bound behind their backs. On 19th August a mass grave containing 57 bodies was exhumed in Atilar (Aloa) followed by a further 100 in Sandallar (Sandallaris) on 29th August. The latter included the children from the local school. Present at the exhumation was their teacher, Hasan Nihat Mustafa, who could only lament "I was the village teacher. But now there is no need for a school in the village, because there are no children there anymore, they are all gone". On the 30th August 1974 the German newspaper, Die Zeit, wrote "the massacre of Turkish Cypriots in Paphos and Famagusta is proof just how justified the Turks were to undertake their (2nd) intervention." The existence of 2 more mass graves in South Cyprus, containing the male populations of Tatlisu (Marl) and Terazi (Zyyl), have been confirmed by UNFICYP, but permission to exhume them has so far been refused by the 'Government of Cyprus'. Confirmation that these attacks were not a coincidence and that a similar fate awaited the remaining Turkish Cypriots was given by the then 'President', Nicos Sampson, when he declared in an interview with the Greek newspaper, Eleftherotipia, in February 1981 "Had Turkey not intervened I would not only have declared Enosis - I would have annihilated the Turks in Cyprus." On Britain's refusal to intervene, the UK House of Commons Select Committee met to review the Cyprus question in 1976 and concluded that "Britain had a legal right to intervene, she had a moral obligation to intervene. She did not intervene for reasons which the Government refuses to give." Even Greece herself, when reviewing the intervention on 21st March 1979 in the Athens Court of Appeal was in agreement with an earlier report from the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and found that "The Turkish military intervention in Cyprus which was carried out in accordance with the Zurich and London Agreements was legal. Turkey, as one of the Guarantor powers, had the right to fulfil her obligations. The real culprits... are the Greek officers who engineered and staged the coup and prepared the conditions for this intervention." With regard to the silencing of the Turkish Cypriots, the UK House of Commons Committee went on to say that "Equally damaging from the Turkish Cypriot point of view was what they considered to be their effective exclusion from representation at, and participation in, the international fora where their case could have been deployed." "An official Turkish Cypriot presence in the international political scene virtually disappeared overnight."

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Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations (UK)

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UK Turkish Family Association

Ali Rıza Değirmencioglu

Turkish School

The Turkish Family Association of England was established in 1983 as the first Turkish Language and Culture School, with a curriculum under the Founding Chairmanship of the late Ali Rıza Değirmencioglu, whose name it bears with honor. It has been operating since its establishment in 1983. In the early days of our school, we served our community with the number of students exceeding 500, with the interest of Turkish families, and this year we successfully celebrated our 40th anniversary. Parents constitute the board of directors of Ali Rıza Değirmencioglu Turkish School. Our teaching staff consists of local teachers from the Republic of Turkey, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and England.

We serve children of all ages and segments of our society. Our school provides Turkish education at GCSE and A Level levels, following five levels of education, starting from pre-school. We support our children's Turkish education, local folk dances, football, theatre, poetry, music (including saz lessons) and choir studies.

In addition, various cultural activities are held to help our children to learn about Turkish culture and Turkish national days. We help our students improve their education levels in British schools, while Turkish GCSE and A-Level scores have a positive impact on university entrance scores. We regularly have SAT lessons at our school. According to research, the education level of children attending Turkish schools notably increases. Additionally, we have Turkish classes for adults whenever there is demand.

Ali Rıza Değirmencioglu Turkish Language and Culture School has been involved in all studies carried out to ensure the visibility of the Turkish community in England and to share our rich language and culture with our neighbors and other people in the country where we live. Since 1983, we have assisted in

the graduation thousands of students to the society and we continue to work wholeheartedly to establish our Turkish language in England and to live and keep our culture alive.

In 2000, Sevtap Kemal was elected president. Thanks to the efforts of Sevtap Kemal and the board members, our school continues its mission successfully among Turkish schools. As the school administration, we help our students grow up as successful individuals in society with the support and assistance of our parents, volunteers and other organizations.

Our school operates every Saturday between 10.00-15.00 (in accordance with the British education calendar). Our school's address is:

St Thomas More School Glendale Avenue Wood Green
N22 5HN

Any families who are interested in their children attending our school or who would like more information can contact our school president, Sevtap Kemal on Tel: 07782 359 616.



Dr Fazıl Küçük Türk Okulu



Our school, one of the most established schools in London, has been continuing its activities in South London for many years. The building our school currently uses is Harris Girls Academy, Lennard Road Beckenham. (BR31QR)

Dr Fazıl Küçük Türk Okulu has been continuing its work for the last 5 years with the volunteer board members under the leadership of our school presidents Ulaş Tözün and Sultan Özanel. Dr Fazıl Küçük Turkish School has achieved a great increase in the number of students with its successful work and receives great support with its understanding of quality education.

Our school offers Turkish Language and Culture lessons at 13 different levels and classes, including nursery classes and adult classes. With its experienced teaching staff, it not only teaches students our language and culture, but also takes care to create an environment that will be beneficial by steering them away from bad habits. We accept students from 18 months to 18 years of age, while adult classes serve older age groups. Our Turkish Language and Culture lessons take place in our school every Saturday between 10:00 and 13:00. Our school also provides additional support to the success of our youngsters with GCSE and A-Level preparatory classes, to ensure success in their university lives and to assist with them entry into their preferred courses.

Our school offers free social activities every Saturday between 13:00- 16:00 after Turkish Language and Culture classes. These include:

- Cypriot Folk Dances lessons
- Football lessons
- Music/Choruslessons

- Art lessons
- Chess lessons

Our school is one of the most active London institutions in respect of social projects. It has been a pioneer in South London in providing food aid to those in need during the Covid period, by supporting those in need with the organisation of blood donation campaigns. The school also brought together more than 500 volunteers with great effort and dedication during the recent earthquake in Turkey and has pioneered the collection and delivery of hundreds of packages of aid to those in need.

Our school promotes unity and sees it as an important goal to instill the importance of solidarity and helpfulness in the young generations of the future.

Our school, which successfully carries out all ceremonies and programs, strives to raise awareness among parents and students by giving different seminars every year under the name of the conscious Turkish Society.



This year, our school will hold its last lessons on July 6, 2024 and will crown the efforts of the students with a report card ceremony. After a 2-month summer vacation, our school will ring the bell for the first lesson of the new school year on Saturday, September 14, 2024. Registration of the new students will also take place at this time. We invite our community members to enroll our future generations, children and young people, in Turkish schools and to encourage the people around them to do the same.

You can contact us for more information by phone at 07398658461 or by email at drfks@gmail.com Teşekkürler

Hornsey Atatürk School

Hornsey Atatürk School is at the same time also known as The Turkish Youth, Education, Culture and Arts Association. Since 1965 when it first started, the association has become one of London's oldest and best organised establishments, offering the highest achievements in providing services in Turkish education and culture.

Hornsey Atatürk School has since 1991 been continuing its activities from Hornsey Girls School, Inderwick Road, London N8 9JF.

The Turkish Youth, Education, Culture and Arts Association is an organisation that raises all its funding through its own means. All the associations' individuals funding the school's activities are carried out on a voluntary basis.

Objectives

- To educate the Turkish Community about its Culture, traditions and language,

- To promote awareness among the Turkish speaking community in London of other communities' principles and cultures,

- To develop our children's above principles and to preserve the rate of progressive advance made by our community in this area,

- To liaise and closely venture with organisations sharing the same goals in this field, whether these be concerns that are engaged in economic, socially responsible or culturally focused activity. In this respect, to assist in establishing ties to install the foundation for establishing new Turkish Culture and/or education centres.

- To celebrate national and international holidays and landmark dates, by endorsing our support for the embracing of such days that are celebrated by other culturally-based organisations, and not just our own,

- To establish awareness of the existence of our culture through various platforms, particularly our Culture and Art around the United Kingdom and European nations. This has been possible through our success in representing this culture and art.

The School's Turkish Classes

- 1st year primary class

- 5th year primary class • Turkish A2 level class

- 2nd year primary class • 3rd year primary class

- Turkish GCSE introduction & preparation class

- Turkish language for Mature and Foreign students

- Turkish Cypriot Folk Dance

- Art Classes

Among these activities, the most effort and support is afforded to the folk dance teams. The nature of this schools' relationship with its teams means that it is a pre-condition that both the parents/guardians of school children's families and the pupils themselves are managed with special affection as the folk-dance activity is a source of attachment with the school ethos. Therefore, the school's contingency allows for five folk dance teams from four age groups.

Our Teams

- Hornsey Atatürk School Minors Turkish Cypriot Folk Dance team
- Hornsey Atatürk School Juniors Turkish Cypriot Folk Dance team
- Hornsey Atatürk School Seniors Turkish Cypriot Folk Dance team

Both nationally and internationally, our teams have excelled in prompting our cause by taking the lead in embracing the objective

- Reception Class

- 4th year primary class • Turkish GCSE class

The School's Social and Cultural Themes

- Theatre • Chorus • Modern Dance

of representing our culture. Under this difficult task, both our school and country have been represented through the best possible means with the remarkable performances of our teams.

Activities

- Appearances by our Folk Dance teams at various festivals organised by establishments in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, have formed the basis of a general symbol where our teams undertake the representing of London's Turkish Schools and Societies.

- The major international festival, Spoiling Tulip Festival, has for the first time invited a Turkish Dance team. Hornsey Atatürk School has secured an opportunity of competing itself at the said festival for five years, where it will represent with its team's TRNC and TC folk dance and cultural arts performances.

- Our school has participated in multiple festivals in the U.K. representing the Turkish Community at such events organised by various establishments and societies.

- For years our school's folk dance teams performances and various activities represented our country's customs in the best possible way, becoming first in world, European and national competitions.

- Every year our folk-dance team has been invited by the Education and Cultural Affairs Attaché, and our team took responsibility for performing in a Folk Dance event at Excel Arena.





Oakbury Turkish School

OTS education was founded by Yunus Kemal in January 1996 in North London. OTS was initially established to support Turkish speaking children develop their mother tongue.

Our founder Yunus Kemal has achieved a significant number of awards due to his work supporting education and the community since OTS was first established; this has contributed significantly to the success of OTS.

In 1999 OTS expanded to support not only Turkish speaking children with Turkish language, but also with English literacy, numeracy and SATs support. The success of this unique programme led to Turkish speaking children achieving 100% pass rate in SATs at level 4 and above.

OTS was truly established and embedded into education, the Turkish community and continued to offer Turkish language classes to all levels in education.

In 2000 OTS received 3 awards from the national supplementary school's support service for excellence in training, Under 16s High Achievement award and Under 11s high achievement award. OTS's good work continued and in 2002 our founder was asked to prepare a presentation for Enfield council regarding supplementary schools as a 'Model School' the success of this pres-

entation led to a Turkish press release in 2003 and was later broadcast in 2004. Again in 2006 OTS was invited to present in Barcelona as a part of an international conference as an example to the western world: "Educating Migrant Pupils, Promoting High Achievement amongst Bilingual Learners" & "A School of Good Practices."

In 2009 OTS achieved the Bronze Award for Quality Framework Standard for Supplementary Schools. OTS

also initiated and led Edmonton's 1st Festival of Cultures, participants included: Turkish, Polish, Caribbean, Somali, West African & Eastern Europeans Communities. This festival represented the unique diversity within OTS. Our school has a wealth of mixed heritage ingrained in our school, which not only adds to but supports our values as a school.

OTS has been a successful Turkish school

for over 27 years and continues to offer support to all students and parents.

In 2022 OTS was supported by Enfield Council and now has residency in Salisbury House a unique listed building with a unique heritage.

OTS would like to send its deepest gratitude to all students, parents, members, committees and communities who have supported OTS and we hope to continue to deliver high standards of education.



Rauf Raif Denктаş Turkish School



Rauf Raif Denктаş Turkish School first opened in 1996. Initially it was called Bexley Association of Turkish Speakers which also included an elderly group and day centre. It was then called Blackfen Turkish School and in 2012 we changed our name to Rauf Raif Denктаş Turkish School. Our school, led by President Meryem Biricik, Vice President Tülay Şişman, and a 9-member board of directors.

Rauf Raif Denктаş Turkish School first opened in 1996. Initially it was called Bexley Association of Turkish Speakers which also included an elderly group and day centre. It was then called Blackfen Turkish School and in 2012 we changed our name to Rauf Raif Denктаş Turkish School. Our school, led by President Meryem Biricik, Vice President Tülay Şişman, and a 9-member board of directors.

We have students aged as young as 3 through to 17 and 18-year-olds. Our term dates are the same as mainstream schools in the UK. We are open every Saturday, from 9.45am to 1pm. We also run after school classes such as football, folk dance, music and reading classes from 1 pm to 3pm.

At Rauf Raif Denктаş Turkish School we work tirelessly to prepare our students for their GCSE and A Level qualifications in Turkish, which are all recognised in the



mainstream education system. And these efforts show in our outstanding results with 6 students achieving grade 9s at GCSE in the last academic year. The curriculum we work with is set by our president Meryem Biricik, in consultation with experienced teachers and education specialists from the Ministries of Education in Turkey and the TRNC. The syllabus is specifically developed for children in Britain. As with mainstream UK schools, we follow strict guidelines, especially where child safeguarding is concerned. We have many policies and rules in place, to ensure our students are attending a safe learning environment and that the parents are assured that we have these robust systems in place to enable that.



Blackfen School for Girls,
Blackfen Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 9NU
Okul Başkanı | Head Teacher: Meryem Biricik

İletişim Numarası | Contact Number: 07557642366
E-Posta | Email: rrdturkishschool@gmail.com



Southgate Atatürk School

The number of students attending Southgate Atatürk School has recently reached over 70. Our School is run and supported by our volunteers, friends, families and students. We are a welcoming School and take pride in the fact that our students and families love attending our School and being part of our community. Our School was first established in 1972 as a branch of what is now the Ali Rıza Degirmencioglu School and later operated

independently, run by the Southgate Turkish Parents' Association (Southgate Türk Aile Birliği). As a result of the existing management committee winding down, the School was taken over by the management of Hornsey Atatürk School in 2010 and has been operating under the umbrella of the London Atatürk Schools as Southgate Atatürk School since 2011. Our school is run as a not-for-profit organisation.



Southgate Atatürk School Head:
Hanife Öztürk

Accounts and Student Enrolment:
Murat Yıldız

Southgate Atatürk School Deputy Head:
Haltan Hassan

Education Co-ordinators:
Hanife Öztürk & Fehime Engür

Accounts and External Affairs:
Abdullah Halisdemir

Canteen:
Serın Kaymak & Özlem Mehmet

Our Facebook pages:
• Southgate Atatürk School
• Southgate Atatürk School Open Group

Contact information:
• Email: hbaylan@live.co.uk
• Tel: 07947 248435

B.T.C.A.

British Turkish Cypriot Association



The BTCA was established by a few dedicated Turkish Cypriots whose aim was to challenge the lies and negative propaganda put forward by the Greek Cypriots and their supporters in the Cyprus dispute. It was realized that, for far too long the Turkish Cypriot community in the UK (now numbering approximately 300,000 people) had remained fairly inactive in the Cyprus propaganda stakes, losing ground to a much better organized and financed Greek Cypriot community. Although there were many valuable Turkish Cypriot education groups providing education, lunch groups, elderly groups, ladies groups to our community, we were not meeting the political challenge.

Frustrated with the ever-on-going unsuccessful Cyprus negotiations, a small group of young Turkish Cypriots came together to write letters to MP's, the United Nations, newspaper, putting forward the Turkish Cypriot view of the Cyprus dispute and at the same time countering Greek Cypriot views. This group of young Turkish Cypriots initially called themselves the Plan B Forum. This was established in 2012. Their plan B was to explore other possible ways to settle the Cyprus dispute. Following the destruction of the partnership state (The Republic of Cyprus) by the Greek Cypriot side on 24th December 1963 by armed attacks against the Turkish Cypriot, the United Nations was forced to send a peace-keeping force to the island on 4th March 1964. This force UNFICYP - United Nations Peacekeeping Force In Cyprus) remains on the island to this day. Negotiations between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot community to find a settlement to this dispute has been on-going since 1968.

Later in 2012, Plan B Forum changed its name to British Turkish Cypriot Association (BTCA). By 2012, negotia-

tions had been continuing for 44 years without success. The BTCA advocated that since even the Annan Plan of 2004 was overwhelmingly rejected by the Greek Cypriot community in a referendum also simultaneously held in the North of the island and accepted by the Turkish Cypriot people, it was time to talk about a Two State Solution. Thus, the BTCA became the leading lobby group, supporting and defending Turkish Cypriot interests in and outside of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC). The BTCA's main lobbying activity is in supporting a Two State Solution in Cyprus.

Apart from writing letters to MP's and media outlets, in refute of negative Greek Cypriot propaganda, attending talks to promote our views on the Cyprus situation, some of our annual activities include a protest outside the Embassy of Greece on the 15th of July, a vigil outside the Greek Cypriot High commission on 22nd of December. This year marked 60 years of the UN involvement in Cyprus. Along with our sister organization, Embargoed, we organized a large demonstration in Parliament Square, London on the 4th of March. We handed in letters to Foreign Secretary David Cameron, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and the United Nations Association (UK).

Currently, the BTCA has 8 active administrative members, including the Chairperson. However, it has a membership of almost 5 thousand people. Our message to the Turkish Cypriot people living in the UK is "Come Join Us". We need people from all walks of life, to put their skills and experience to good use to help our community's voice be heard. You can contact us on: info@btca.co.uk. Follow us on Facebook.

Kenan Yaman

Chair - British Turkish Cypriot Association (BTCA)

Embargoed!

Interested in getting involved with a community organisation that is making a difference? Look no further than Embargoed! (E! for short)- the voice of the Turkish Cypriot community against unjust embargoes on North Cy-

prus which affects Turkish Cypriots wherever they live. Did you know that we are the only community in the world who cannot fly directly to our homeland due to it being embargoed, for example?



You may remember us from our impactful social media stunt at the last festival, where our dedicated volunteer, Ceyda, held up

a banner inviting hugs from those who felt their voices were unheard. If you were one of the people who embraced Ceyda, thank you for your support! But there's more you can do to contribute - become an official member of Embargoed! Visit our stand in the Derneks hut at the festival to sign up in person. As a token of our appreciation, we're offering lovely tote bag giveaways, cute Turkish Cypriot badges, and other freebies inside. Membership costs just £10 per year and helps sustain our efforts to raise awareness and advocate for our community's rights.



You may have also seen us leading Turkish Cypriot protests, such as the one at Parliament Square, where we stood united to demand

justice and recognition for our cause and protest 60 years of the UN in Cyprus with still no relief for Turkish Cypriots.

Every year in July we also organise a protest outside the Greek Embassy at Holland Park to raise awareness about the Greek militias invasion in 1974 which led to Turkiye's intervention. Please follow our website and social media to stay tuned about the exact dates and times for the 50th anniversary protest this year. (Young people wrote messages with chalk at last year's event at Holland Park).



Earlier this year we also organised a petition to stop Booking.com from breaking anti advertising policy when

they submitted to Greek Cypriot pressure to issue warnings to holidaymakers travelling to North Cyprus.

Our mission is to raise awareness about the issues that affect our community worldwide and to call for an immediate and unconditional end to the international isolation of North Cyprus, and the full restoration of political, economic and social rights of the Turkish Cypriot people.

Embargoed! Chair Zee, Kenan Yaman Chair of BTCA and Halli, VP of CTCA, disrupting a racist event organised by the National Federation of Cypriots at Parliament.

We have no plans to slow down anytime soon, as we have a newly elected chair and executive team at Embargoed!



Our dedicated Secretary Nejla and James Clements- Embargoed!'s trusted executive support continuing their vigil outside of Waltham Forest Council at Fellowship Square. You can learn more about this initiative on our website. www.embargoed.org



We believe that our community's voice needs to be heard, and we are committed to working towards a just resolution for our cause. We are actively seeking

new members to join us and support our efforts. We welcome anyone who is interested in getting involved with our cause to reach out to us. www.embargoed.org



Cezire Derneği

Cezire Derneği was founded in London by Mustafa Kureysi in 2008. Cezire, in Ottoman Turkish, means Island, and as the name suggests, our organisation was established to research and promote the Islamic/Turkish history and heritage of our Green Island—a history spanning 1,400 years!

Since our foundation, the association has been predominantly active throughout Cyprus and the United Kingdom, with a wider international presence.

Our activities include academic seminars, research, article publications, meetings, networking, book translations, festivals, TV programmes, exclusive video and media content, interviews, and solidarity visits to key figures. We research primary sources in Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, English, and Greek. Our research has delved into the records of the national archives of North Cyprus, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Since 2010, our organisation has been a proud member of the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations.

Our memorable events include the seminars 'Turkish War of Independence' (2015), 'Precursors of the Turks

of Cyprus' (2020), and 'A History of the Muslim Turks' (2022). In 2020, we successfully campaigned to preserve the dignity and sanctity of the historic Ottoman-era Zuhuri Tekke Mosque in Lárnaka from a Greek Cypriot redevelopment project that would have included bars within the complex.

Recent projects include: Summer 2023, site inspection of early Islamic inscriptions at Limeniotissa, Paphos. In early 2024, our founder and senior researcher, Kureysi, gave seminars at King's College London on the 'Ottoman Conquest of Cyprus' and at SOAS University of London on the 'Dissemination of Arabic in Cyprus.'

We look forward to furthering our research and projects to raise historical awareness of our identity.

To keep up to date with our projects, please follow/contact us on:

- [youtube.com/cezirederneği](https://www.youtube.com/cezirederneği)
- [facebook.com/cezirederneği](https://www.facebook.com/cezirederneği)
- [instagram.com/cezirekibris](https://www.instagram.com/cezirekibris)
- cezirederneği@gmail.com



Turkish Cypriot Cultural Association

Turkish Cypriot Cultural Association (TCCA) is a registered charity organisation it has long been one of the hubs of the Turkish Cypriot community in London; launched in 1977, has been operating from 14a Graham Road, Hackney since 1986.

SERVICES: Our charity offers a wide range of services to the local Turkish and Turkish Cypriot community, from the basic advice, health talks, welfare advice and mental well-being. We organised courses like computing, hand crafts, cake decorating, ESOL, business English, Pilates, Brazilian dance classes, food and cultures. We regularly do community meet-ups and Turkish Cypriot heritage activities for young people. During Covid-19, we provided many support services and food parcels to the needy and elderly people.

COACH TRIPS & TOURS: We have been organising daily coach trips with private coaches and 5-day residential holidays within the UK since 2013 that our members still remember with joy holidays to Cornwall, Torquay, Isle of

Wight, Scarborough and Weymouth. You could contact us to register for activities and holidays. Visits to museums, parks and other venues organised regularly.

45th ANNIVERSARY: We celebrated with a party, planted a loquat tree and installed a bench to Clissold Park, London N16 to mark the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Turkish Cypriot Cultural Association.

PLANNED TOUR TO BALKANS: We will be touring around 6 countries in Balkans to learn about their cultures, history, food and entertainment in September 2024. You can contact us if you wish to join us on this tour.

Lunch & Tea Club : Wednesdays 12.00 - 2.30

Address : 14a Graham Road, London E8 1BZ

Contact : Gulnur Salih gulnur@tccalondon.org

We welcome volunteers and everyone to join the activities by contacting us on 07946 344 667



Vatan Kulturel Korusu



The Vatan Cultural Music Society (Vatan Kulturel Korusu) was created by Turkan Nalbantoglu with Naci Gocen in December 2011.

It would go on to become the most successful choir ever. The groups workshops began with 19 members learning to sing the most beautiful Turkish songs in harmony. The purpose was to bring out the ladies from their surroundings and introduce them to new Turkish songs, which they would learn together. In doing so, it became a way to socialise, to bring people together and to enjoy quality time together.

In January 2012 Vatan Kulturel Korusu gave a concert in Bickley Manor Hotel to announce their new beginning in front of the Turkish press. It was an extremely successful event. Following this event, the choir began to meet weekly to practice and prepare themselves for upcoming shows.

Unfortunately, Vatan Cultural Choir has been inactive since Covid. However, prior to that time the group had been extremely successful and has made donations to

various charities. As a result of her work, Mrs Turkan Nalbantoglu has won several awards, the latest of which she received on 16th May 2024 when she was chosen as the Mother of the Year on Mother's Day. She also won from Cyprus and 6 awards from various organisations in London.



North London Turkish Islamic Trust



The foundation, which consists of five people under the leadership of Tevfik Zekai, was founded on May 26, 1995 in North London, as its name suggests.

Working in a manner compatible with the Islamic religion and culture, the members of the foundation occasionally carry out their activities in association with other similar associations and organisations operating in North London.

The Trust supports those in need within this context by providing religious information and guidance brochures for worship. Each year we organise meetings, conferences, religious holidays, iftar dinners and religious training. All work is carried out in the name of Allah and supports both social and cultural events.

The Trust also carries out home visits to elderly and needy people and patients who are unable to leave their homes. The North London Turkish Islamic Trust has is a proud member of CTCA UK and always does its utmost to support this important umbrella organisation for the benefit of all our community. The Trust has been a proud member of the council ever since its establishment.

Tevfik Zekai
President of the North London
Turkish Islamic Foundation





Ergazililer

The Ergazililer Association was founded in 1976 by its President Dr. Tahsin Bilginer.

The reason for its establishment is for a continuous solidarity and cooperation between the villagers in Cyprus and England. The proceeds from the balls held every year were sent to Ergazi in Cyprus and the school build-

ing, school garden, road and Ergazi football team (for them to go on away trips) were bought and presented with a minibus.

In 1983 it joined the Council under the umbrella of Turkish Associations in England. Our President, Dr. Tahsin Bilginer, served as President of the Council for one term.

Our current Board of Directors:

President	Dr. Tahsin Bilginer
Secretary	Şener Gökçe
Accountant	Ahmet Orhan
Active members	Mehmet Nalbantoğlu, Celal Bilginer and Ismail Mehmet.

Achievements of Ergazi

- 1976-1977 League Champion
(First champion of the football federation founded in 1976)
- 1977-78: FA Cup Champion
- 1979-80: Charity Shield Champion.
- 1979-80: League Champions
- 1980-81: 2nd in the league
- 1981-82: FA Cup runners-up
- 1981-82: 19 May Atatürk Cup Winner
- 1991-92: 19 May Atatürk Cup Champion
- 1996-97: Runner-up in the 2nd Division.



1981 ERGAZİ SPOR Başkan; Dr. Tahsin Bilginer, Sekreter Şener Gökçe, Menecer, Ali Karayakut

Beyaz Işık

SEN DE KATIL SEN DE PARLA



hep birlikte üretiyor...



Beyaz Isik

Beyaz Isik Dernek was established on January 2nd, 2018.

The group gathers together every Tuesday in south London. Under the leadership of our President, Nilgün Kiliçer, the group bring together the elderly members of

the community. We provide them with essential support through the many activities which we arrange and ensure that the group continue to have an avenue open to them which allows them to socialise and to offer each other much needed mutual support.



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Londra Lefkara Derneği: “Lefkaralılar”

The Londra Lefkara Derneği (also known as Lefkaralılar) is a Charity, which was established in 2014.

In order to inform our community that the Londra Lefkara Derneği was set up, our first port of call was through social media such as Facebook. Apart from relying on word of mouth, this was the fastest way of connecting and informing our community of the establishment of the group.

Over the years, our committee members have changed due to resignation and one of our dearest members passing away. Our current membership number stands at 68 people.

Our aim is to keep our fellow Lefkara community in touch with each other, both those who live in London and also those others around the United Kingdom. As a group, we arrange cultural and social activities such as lunches, dinners and outings to various locations around the United Kingdom.

We also encourage interaction with all people from our Turkish Cypriot Community. This was evident from our recent successful trip to Canterbury which was attended and enjoyed by many people from outside our group.

As a Charity we have donated funds to many worthy causes, such as special needs schools and a child cancer trust which are both located in North Cyprus. When time permits, we also like to visit the elderly in our community. This helps the elderly keep their memories of the old days alive and also helps to keep any loneliness at bay.

We hope that any arranged activities will also help the

younger generation to keep up with Turkish Cypriot traditions and culture.

In the many years that we have attended the annual CTCA festival, we have displayed many handicrafts which Lefkara is well known for. In particular, this of course includes Lefkara Lace. Some of the items on display have actually been made by the members themselves.

The Londra Lefkara Derneği would like to invite everyone who attends the CTCA Festival to come and visit our stall and learn of our village traditions and customs.



Limasollular Derneği

The association was formed by Limassol residents 2002 and has continued its activities since that time, following the same philosophy which led its initial formation. Our intention is to continue working together long into the future.

During the past 22 years the association has been led by 2 Chairs and a determined and devoted board of directors, all of whom have worked tirelessly to extend a helping hand to many people, institutions, organisations and schools. Although small, the island of Cyprus has many differing traditions, customs and cultural fragments in every region, town, village and even neighborhood. This of course includes Limassol. As such, our administrators work together with our members to keep those traditions alive. The association initially came into being as a means of bringing together the people of Limassol. However, with time, our reach has extended to include peoples from all around Cyprus, and indeed the many cultures living in London. This ensures that we draw strength from togetherness.

Limasollular organises traditional, national, religious, social and artistic days. Among other events, these include an annual Mother's Day celebration, a Cultural Bazaar, Iftar Fast Breaking and Teaching Days. We organise regular cultural trips, national and international tours and visits as well as contributing to sports, providing assistance to the elderly and offering guidance to young people through our support to other schools and associations. All of our activities are organised with the same dedication and sense of togetherness which defines our group. In addition, the group also values art, having published 3 books under the name of the association, with the proceeds donated to private education centers.

Our association, which is one of the 19 Derneks under



the CTCA UK umbrella, has proven its strong and enduring commitment by actively supporting and participating in all events, including of course the annual Culture Festival, which will be held for the 7th time this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my love and gratitude to our first president, Emine Sonmez, and to my dear friends who have worked in our previous administrations. I would also like to express my love and gratitude to the current management of our association, which continues its activities under my leadership as Chair.

Our principle aim at Limasollular Derneği is to rejuvenate our association and to make it even more useful and beneficial to society. We came together as a group of people with pure intentions who wished to work together for good causes and we continue walking together towards a better future for our community and beyond.

We would like to thank CTCA UK for its continued support and wish success to all our compatriots working in schools, cultural and social associations.

Limasollular Derneği UK Chair - Arife Retvan





Turkish Women's Philanthropic Association of England



Registered Charity
Number: 271146



Formed in May 1970 and registered as a charity in 1975, the aim of the Turkish Women's Philanthropic Association of England (TWPA) is to provide practical and financial help, advice and guidance for Turkish speaking women and their families.

The TWPA Centre based in Haringey is used as a drop-in centre, information service, offers workshops and therapy, social events and health seminars.

The TWPA was built on the foundations of helping women and their families in our community. A place where all Turkish speaking women from all walks of life can get together, make friends and get support in every aspect of their life. Over the past 50 years our charity has gathered women in our community and help encourage, nurture and give confidence, so they can get: educated, employed and improve the quality of their life and the lives of their families so that they can fulfil their potential. We are proud to say we have helped to bring about change within our community and continue to do so.

Opportunities for women today are enormous and it is wonderful that many of our ladies have embraced this to become doctors, lawyers, councillors, teachers and much more. Turkish women add value and improve the needs of our community by giving back their skills and encourage the younger generation to excel to greatness.

Our centre is always open. We are here to listen to your needs and help as well as advise you in your endeavours. So please don't be shy, come forward, it is important that all voices are heard, young and old. We are here to listen, support and offer our hand in friendship.

TWPA Centre Activities

Tuesdays:

10:30-11:30 Dementia Talk
11.30am-1pm Needle and Craft Courses

Wednesday:

10.30am-12pm Yoga for Seniors

Thursday:

10am-2.30pm Autism Parent Career Support Group
(Acupuncture/group therapy and yoga)

Fridays:

10.30am-2pm Drop-in sessions,
(Tai Chi, Bingo and Brunch)

Saturday:

Autism Music Therapy Session:
10am-12pm Teens and young adults
1pm-3pm Children

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 - Entrance Fees to Museums

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From **£799**



EGYPT TRIP

- > Price Includes
 - 12 Day 11 Night Hotel
 - Breakfast - Dinner
 - Airport Transfers
 - Tour Guide
 - All Sightseeing
 - Cairo - Aswan - Luxor - Hurghada
 - 3 Night Nile Cruise
 - All Inclusive
 - Domestic Flights in Egypt

From **£599**



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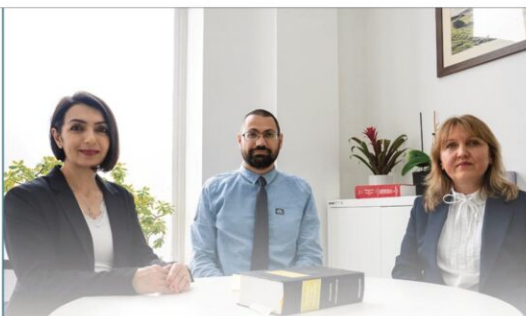


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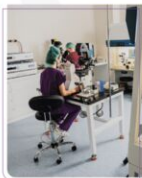


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