



David B. Cohen Mayor

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Department of Health & Human Services

Human & Volunteer Services Division

Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

Beverly Droz, Division Director, 617-796-1290

Marianne Ferguson, Human Rights Commission Chair

August 24, 2007

Mr. Abraham Foxman, Executive Director
Anti Defamation League
605 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10158

Dear Mr. Foxman,

We the Newton Human Rights Commission (NHRC), a No Place For Hate (NPFH) community since its inception, write to strongly support the recent actions taken by the current Board of ADL New England and former Director Andrew Tarsy in recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

We have been closely monitoring recent developments and are very distressed by the firing of Tarsy. While we welcomed your announcement on August 21 that national ADL finally recognizes the Armenian Genocide, we were disappointed by the hesitant nature of your endorsement as well as your August 23 stance against the Congressional resolution.

On August 21 we held a special meeting of NHRC with Mayor David Cohen. It was attended by an overflow crowd of representatives from Newton and surrounding communities. **At this meeting, the NHRC agreed that the following should happen before we would consider remaining a participant in the ADL's No Place for Hate program:**

- National ADL must fully and unequivocally recognize the Armenian Genocide
- National ADL must actively support Congressional resolution HR106
- National ADL must immediately reinstate Andrew Tarsy as Director of ADL New England

We have resolved to review our participation in light of actions taken by the ADL in the coming weeks.

We urge the national Board of ADL to meet before your November 1st scheduled meeting to deal with this deepening crisis. Surely you realize that such procrastination takes its toll on your grassroots organizations, your funding, and the overall reputation of ADL. We strongly urge national ADL to immediately work toward a more definitive position in support of the Armenian Genocide, and in support of the Congressional resolution.

While the No Place For Hate program parallels the ideals and values of our community, and while we have been involved from the beginning, the City of Newton and the Newton Human Rights Commission shall reassess our participation with ADL and this program based on what actions, or lack of actions, are taken by the national ADL.

Sincerely yours,

Marianne Ferguson, NHRC Chair
Human Rights Commissioners: Jane Brown, Peter Brown, Muriel Esdale, Judith Fischbach, Brenda Krasnow, Sheila Mondschein, Sona Petrossian, Susan Thomas