

RESOLUTION

Whereas, recent proposals have been made for radical changes to the centuries-old canons, practices and traditions of the Church of Armenia, including conducting the Holy Badarak in English, shortening the Holy Badarak, ordination of women to the priesthood, and the like.

Whereas, although these proposals are made for the purported purpose of seemingly and falsely improving the Armenian Church, their result, if effected, would bring about a totally opposite result, with a serious undermining of the Church that prepares to celebrate 1700 years of life under these canons, practices and traditions, that have given to the Church of Armenia with Her Mother See, Holy Etchmiadzin, the strength and ability to survive and flourish for nearly two millennia, notwithstanding the acts and atrocities that would cause weaker churches to succumb.

Further, **whereas** we believe in our hearts that the present-day Holy Badarak of the Church of Armenia is unsurpassed in its spiritual, mystical attributes thus nourishing the spiritual souls of the overwhelming majority of Her members, whether of Armenian descent or not, and that any change whatsoever to the Badarak does not serve any useful purpose, but in fact, would be greatly harmful and would dismember and disintegrate the Armenian Church at large.

And, **whereas** we believe that every effort must be made to retain our Armenian heritage and Church as we know it, but those efforts must encompass retaining the faithful in the Armenian Church, whether they are Armenian descent or not. One of these methods is to teach the beliefs and teachings of the Armenian Church to all who do not have familiarity therewith. Another is for the clergy to deliver their homilies/sermons in both the Armenian and English.

Now, therefore, **be it resolved** that:

1) The present-day Holy Badarak, together with the canons, traditions, and practices of the Armenian Church that have emanated from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin have sustained our church for many centuries and fully have the ability to continue the sustenance and well-being of the church for centuries to come. The language, canons and traditions give the Armenian Church its identity and form the basis for the unity for the Armenian Church throughout the world.

2) The proposed radical changes to the Holy Badarak (including, without limit, its conduct in English) and to the centuries-old canons, practices, and traditions of the Armenian Church (including, without limit, the ordination of women to the priesthood, and the like) will have a very strong negative and destructive effect on the Armenian Church at large and its members, and will undermine the very foundation on which the Church has stood nobly for centuries.

3) These proposed radical changes should, with all respect, be dismissed and rejected by the Church Hierarchy, who are hereby respectfully urged to do so.

4) This resolution be presented, with all due respect, to His Holiness Lord, Lord, Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians, and to His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Church of Armenia.