



**37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
TURKISH AMERICAN  
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE**

**U.S. - TURKEY RELATIONS:  
THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC & CULTURAL DIMENSIONS**  
MARCH 24-25, 2017 | HOUSTON, TX

Friday, March 24, 2017

**U.S. - TURKEY RELATIONS DAY**

7:30am-9:00am **Breakfast**

8:45am-9:15am **Opening Ceremony & Welcoming Remarks**

**Kenan Çağlar**, ATAA President  
**Zafar Tahir**, Member, the City of Houston Planning Commission  
**Honorable Sylvester Turner**, Mayor of Houston

9:30am-10:30am **Session 1.1: U.S.-Turkey Relations: Strategic Issues of Mutual Concern**

*Moderator:* **Gokhan Ozalp**, ATAA First Vice President & Mid Central Region VP  
*Speakers:* **Ambassador (ret.) Ross Wilson**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council  
**Howard G. Beasey**, President, American-Turkish Council (ATC)  
**Reva Goujon**, Vice President of Global Analysis, Stratfor

10:30am-10:45am *Coffee Break*

10:45am-11:45am **Session 1.2: U.S.-Turkey Relations: Opportunities with Trump Administration**

*Moderator:* **Howard Beasey**, President, American-Turkish Council (ATC)  
*Speakers:* **Cenk Sidar**, Founder and Managing Director, Sidar Global Advisors  
**Ambassador (ret.) Ross Wilson**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council  
**Patrick L. Anderson**, Principal and CEO, Anderson Economic Group

12:00pm-1:30pm **Luncheon**

*Video message by* **Ambassador John R. Bass**, Ambassador of the United States to Turkey

1:30pm-1:45pm *Conference Break*

1:45pm-3:00pm **Session 2: Proposed Turkish Constitutional Change and its Impact on the Future of Turkey**

*Moderator:* **Kenan Çağlar**, ATAA President  
*Speakers:* **Cenk Sidar**, Founder and Managing Director, Sidar Global Advisors  
**Reva Goujon**, Vice President of Global Analysis, Stratfor

3:00pm-3:15pm *Coffee Break*

3:15pm-4:15pm **Session 3: Armenian Allegations and Historical Facts**

*Moderator:* **Sevgin Oktay**, ATAA NY Region VP  
*Speakers:* **Professor Justin A. McCarthy**, Department of History, University of Louisville  
**Ergün Kırlikovalı**, Former ATAA President  
**Tal Buenos**, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, University of Utah

4:15pm-4:30pm *Coffee Break*

4:30pm-5:30pm **Roundtable Discussions**



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Saturday, March 25, 2017

**TURKISH AMERICAN DAY**

8:00am-9:30am **Breakfast**

9:45am-10:45am **Session 4: Legacy of Kemal Atatürk**

*Moderator:* **Mazlum Koşma**, ATAA Treasurer

*Speakers:* **Professor Justin A. McCarthy**, Department of History, University of Louisville  
**Professor Bülent Atalay**, President, Atatürk Society of America

10:45am-11:00am *Coffee Break*

11:00am-12:00pm **Session 5: Turkish American Women in Leadership**

*Moderator:* **Lydia Borland**, President, LB International Solutions

*Speakers:* **Pembe Hande Özdinler**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology, Northwestern Medicine  
**Ceylan Rowe**, Founder of Trendy Napkin and Commissioner for MWCSW  
**Professor Banu Arun**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

12:00pm-1:30pm **Luncheon**

1:30pm-1:45pm *Conference Break*

1:45pm-3:00pm **Session 6: Advocacy and Community Outreach**

*Moderator:* **Ayça Altıntuğ**, ATAA Western Region VP

*Speakers:* **Ergün Kırlikovalı**, ATAA Former President  
**Lydia Borland**, President, LB International Solutions  
**Turgut Çakırağa**, President-Elect, Placentia Rotary Club, ATA-SC Former President

3:00pm-3:15pm *Coffee Break*

3:15pm-4:15pm **Session 7: ATAA Bright Future Online Education**

*Moderator:* **Kayhan Yılmaz**, ATAA Education Committee Chair & Capital Region VP

*Speakers:* **Hülya Koç**, Bright Future Committee Member  
**Halil Ersoy**, Ass. Professor Baskent University  
**Dr. Ülkü Ülgür**, Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees

4:15pm-4:30pm *Coffee Break*

4:30pm-5:30pm **Session 8: Turkish American Associations: Bringing Together the Community**

*Moderator:* **Murat Taş**, President of Turkish American Association of San Antonio - TAASA

*Speakers:* **Özlem Adra**, President of American Turkish Associations of Houston - ATA-Houston  
**Naci Kavrar**, President of Turkish American Associations of Northern Texas - TURANT

5:30pm-6:30pm *Conference Break*

6:30pm-7:30pm **Reception**

7:30pm-11:00pm **Annual Gala & Awards Banquet**

*Live performance by Çatkapı Band*