



**37th 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