



“This was so moving, I felt like a different person afterwards.”  
—Svetlana

## The Circle of Life

in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide and atrocities around the world



London university students and community members, representing many nationalities, joined hands in solidarity, harmony and dignity to commemorate all victims of atrocities around the world, on the occasion of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. Artist and choreographer **Shakeh Major Tchilingirian** led "The Circle of Life" circle dance at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) on 11 March 2015. The event was hosted by the Armenian and Kurdish student societies.

"As we join hands and take steps together, we not only remember the victims but, more significantly, we affirm the dignity and value of lost human lives," explained Shakeh in her introduction. "With our presence here tonight, we show our determination and collective strength to stand up against injustice and inhuman treatment of fellow human beings," she continued.

The emotionally charged three circle dances in the program brought young and old people with diverse backgrounds together around a large candle in the middle. Participants wore butterfly shaped badges that bore the names of over 50 victim peoples who were subjected to systematic destruction in the last one hundred years.

Hratch Tchilingirian, the producer of the program, said: "We wanted to emphasize the essential human and moral dimensions of the societal rupture that a genocide causes and the process of reconciliation through living culture."

“Most inspiring and beautifully realised ceremony. Thank you for taking us into a space without boundaries where we could meditate without words.”  
—Nouritza

