

Challenging the social amnesia and politics of oblivion through the Hrant Dink Site of Memory

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Armenian journalist **Hrant Dink** was assassinated on **January 19th, 2007** in front of the weekly Turkish-Armenian newspaper *Agos*, which was located at Sebat Building in Istanbul. Following its establishment, the Hrant Dink Foundation (HDF) started operating at the Sebat Building until HDF and *Agos* moved to their new building in March 2015. The office at Sebat Building has naturally become a site of conscience and memory where people from different backgrounds, cities and countries continue to gather every year on January 19th to pay their tributes, to remember Hrant Dink's messages for dialogue and to show their stance against impunity in political assassinations.



Due to its special memory and symbolic meaning HDF would like to transform this venue into a site of memory and small memorial museum which will focus on the story and vision of Hrant Dink while touching upon the subjects concerning Armenians and minority rights. The creation of Hrant Dink Site of Memory and Conscience is a work in progress which includes a participatory process from a variety of individuals belonging to different disciplines and professions. The presentation will focus why creating a site of memory is important in Turkey and how creating such a site will contribute to coming to terms with the past, reconciliation and mutual understanding as well as setting a precedent for the creation of other sites.



BIO of Nayat Karakose

Nayat Karaköse received her B.A in sociology from the Galatasaray University and her M.A in human rights from the University of Essex. She was a 2014 Columbia University fellow within the scope of Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Fellowship Program. Nayat is a program coordinator at the Hrant Dink Foundation and is particularly interested in sites of memory as a means for remembering, raising awareness and dealing with violent pasts. Karakose is coordinating the project for creating the Hrant Dink Site of Memory and Conscience in Turkey.