

Humanitarianism and Nursing in the Near East in the 1920s

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Introduction

The *New Near East* published by the Near East Relief (NER), contains reports from the humanitarian and rescue operations in the Near East during the Armenian Genocide. These include reports by nurses and record the histories of refugees who were rescued and rehabilitated. The histories of refugees and orphans of the Armenian Genocide from the perspective of nurses been overlooked. These reports also highlight the history of NER and hence the history of relief work, humanitarianism, and nursing in the 1920s.

Objectives

1. Describe NER operations and activities in the 1920s in US, Canada, and the Near East.
2. Analyze the stories of humanitarian workers.
3. Highlight the work of nurses during and in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.

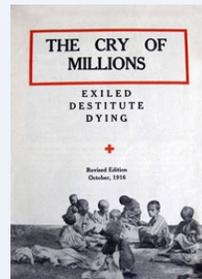
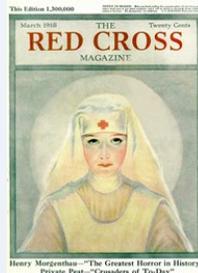
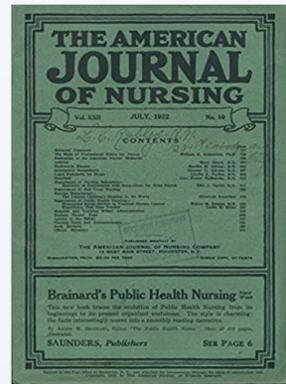


Methods

Use of a historical inquiry and a human rights and genocide framework to explore nurses' humanitarian involvement.

Research of professional journals and newspapers.

Research of archival material.



Results (in progress)

NER was a secular American humanitarian organization and did not have a missionary role.

NER had a pragmatic mission, and its humanitarianism was interventionist in nature.

NER was perceived to be permanent, transnational, institutional, in addition to secular.

NER operated hundreds of hospitals, clinics, orphanages, workshops, rescue homes and rehabilitation centers in the Near East.



Conclusions (in progress)

Humanitarianism in the 1920s was modern and interventionist.

Nurses who were part of the NER were goals driven and were advocates of social justice and their work was political in nature.



Photo credits:

Armenian Genocide Museum Institute
Near East Relief Museum and Foundation
Stanford University Press
Story of Near East Relief" by James L. Barton, New York, 1930
The Globe
The American Journal of Nursing

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