

Kim

Housewires Aid Society, Inc.

New York City, U.S.A.

Madame President

Give us Liberty, or Give us Death!

"Better a free live of few hours,

Than live forty years of servitude and shackles."

We, women and men of Thrace have solemnly sworn, to accept no other solution of our question, ~~that~~ ^{regarding} the conference in Paris, but the union of our land with Mother Greece. The souls of our beloved dead will condemn us and their bones will have no rest nor peace, if we were to accept less.

We seek nothing that does not belong to us. We only desire the freeing of the land, where we live.

Our hearts bleed, danger and despair hangs over our heads, our long cherished hopes and our sacred desires are ignored. Our expectations that we, too, may live free in our beautiful Thrace, Greek from immemorial time, are extinguished.

In these momentous times, and this hour of our agony, we, the women of Thrace, appeal to you, the ladies of the United States, who have the good fortune to be born free, and inhale the breezes of liberty and the inspiring air of your land, to raise the clarion call of danger for downtrodden, poor Thrace.

When the yokes ~~are~~ cast asunder, of servitude, and the peoples of Europe are freed, our distressed land suffers. We hope for nothing less, than the union of Thrace with Mother Greece and the freeing of her from her depressing bonds.

We have passed whole centuries of cruel servitude, the double edged sword of Turk and Bulgar hangs, night and day, over our heads, our honor is not secure, the lives of our fathers and husbands, of our brothers and daughters are not safe. We have stood all the cruel persecutions, deportations, robberies, expropriations, imprisonments, exile, forcible conversions to Mohammedanism, desecration of our houses of worship and the cemeteries, expecting the proper moment to cast aside the onerous tyranny.

When the war was raging in Europe, which we regarded as a war of freedom against servitude, we, the Greek ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ Macedonia, hoped, that the moment ~~approached~~ for Thrace to be freed and throw herself to the bosom of Mother Greece. But to our great sorrow, we are disappointed. The Greek Thrace suffers the yoke of those beasts in human form, the Bulgars and bleeds, in full 20th century, under the feet of bloodthirsty Turks.

After solemn promises of the powerful of the earth, that this was a struggle against tyranny and for the freeing of the downtrodden, when ^{hundreds of} thousands of brothers fought besides the allies, when other hundreds of thousands suffered martyrdom and death in the hands of Bulgar and Turk, thousands of women, old folks and children, naked, hungry and downcast from persecution, ~~left~~ ^{with} their ~~bones~~, unburied and unlamented, far from their towns, after all these we see our rights ignored and in this, the twentieth century, they abandon us, anew, as lands to slaughter. The situation becomes, from day to day, worse, we have no security of life, neither in town, nor village, especially those in the fields are butchered, murders,

and robberies continue, we know not what is to-morrow in store for us, They are armed,
We defenseless.

And now that our future hangs in the balance, our hearts turn to you hopefully
and plead, with all our might, in the name of all the tyrannized greek population
of Thrace, that by all the means in your command raise your voice, through your
society, the press, meetings, by your influence, for our rights that are being ignored.

Hoping that the entire freedom loving American people will support us and
Thanking you, we remain sincerely

! vRI (Thrace), October 15 1919
(Sea of Marmara)

Your greek Sisters of Thrace
Committee Ladies' Benevolent-
Association of "Annunciation"

Catherine Th. Caffoglou, Pres.

Zoe Adamantidis

Christisti A. Hadjopoulou

Polonie Triantafyllou

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ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑ



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ