Bergen Community College’s new Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation is an important educational and ethical contribution to the College’s curriculum. In creating this new center, Bergen enters an urgent global conversation and creates new, dynamic educational opportunities for its students and faculty. In a world marred by genocide, human rights crimes, war and its aftermaths, Bergen’s focus on international justice and healing is timely and important.”

– Peter Balakian, Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of Humanities and Director of Creative Writing at Colgate University’s English Department

For additional information, please email cpjr@bergen.edu.
The Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation at Bergen Community College

Founded in 2009, the Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation (CPJR) develops the awareness and skills needed to work for peace, justice, and reconciliation by sponsoring educational initiatives, exhibitions and dialogues. The Center’s purpose is to examine the issues of war, genocide, and social justice, and to develop skills in conflict resolution through interdisciplinary study.

Central to the mission is a focus on the Armenian genocide – the first genocide of the 20th century – in which the systematic denial of human rights, separation of families, and mass deportation became a template for later genocides. By framing programs and activities around the Armenian genocide, CPJR has achieved a unique identity that distinguishes it from other college-based centers intent on promoting peace.

Education

Armenian Genocide Education Initiative
This project aims to establish the Armenian genocide as an integral and ongoing component of curricula in secondary schools throughout Bergen County.

TED Talks Video Series
CPJR is one of only a handful of college and university-based organizations in the country licensed to host TED video events.

United Nations Ambassador Series: Dialogue, Discussion, and Debate
Working with the Office of Student Affairs, CPJR hosts ambassadors from the United Nations, offering insight into the challenges facing citizens of the global community.

Peace Scholarship Challenge
The Center hosts an annual scholarship challenge for students on the theme of conflict and conflict resolution.

Genocide Awareness Initiative and Armenian Genocide Commemoration
CPJR raises awareness of genocide among the community, students and faculty through educational workshops, performances, films, guest speakers and commemorative events.

Internship Program
Student interns work closely with faculty to design and develop programs related to the mission of the Center.

Campus and Community Dialogues
The Center hosts forums exploring creative solutions to conflict, such as a dialogue about gun and gang violence, a forum on the protection of children, and a conference on justice for victims of domestic violence.

Scholarship

Resource and Research Center
CPJR’s office has electronic, print and new media resources available to students, faculty and members of the community.

Lecture Series
The Center sponsors lectures exploring issues of political violence and genocide.

Academic Conference
CPJR co-sponsored its first international academic conference, “Forgotten Genocides: Memory, Silence, Denial.” An edited volume devoted to the conference proceedings is forthcoming.

Grant Awards Program for Faculty
CPJR offers annual grant awards to support the development of projects that enhance the mission of the Center and raise awareness of the Armenian Genocide.

Gallery Exhibits
In cooperation with Gallery Bergen, CPJR sponsors exhibits exploring the relation between visual arts, social justice, conflict and culture. Past exhibits include “Spirit of Survival: the Armenians,” and “Fractured History, Reconstructing Identity: Degrees of Westernization in Armenian Painting and other Mediums.”

Barbara Yeterian, Genocide Series #27

Vartoush Magarian, March to the Desert