



## WE WANT EUROPE IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

**We call on the European Union to engage with, and provide assistance to, the population of Nagorno-Karabakh.**

Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked mountainous territory in the South Caucasus, home to 150 000 people. It is one of several unrecognized states that emerged from the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 and it is one of the most disadvantaged areas in Europe.

The inhabitants of this small territory have been under blockade for more than 20 years. The Republic of Azerbaijan claims sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh and sought to isolate it from the outside world; this has caused considerable hardship.

The territory has **one of the world's highest per capita mine casualty rates**. Every year, civilians – mostly children and farmers - are victims of anti-personnel land mines. The Halo Trust is the only international NGO working on the ground, but it receives no public funding to clear the remaining fields.

With front lines on most of its borders and regular flare-ups of the conflict with Azerbaijan, **security is a major issue**. Atrocities have allegedly been committed during clashes at the border, but there are no international observers or NGOs to investigate them.

Oil-rich Azerbaijan invests considerable effort and money to ensure that foreign political leaders, officials, journalists and aid organisations stay out of the territory. At Azerbaijan's insistence, **the European Union (EU) also stays out of Nagorno-Karabakh**. In the past 20 years, no EU official has travelled there and no EU assistance whatsoever has been provided to its population.

**Nagorno-Karabakh's isolation is unique**. The EU provides aid to 150 countries around the World. It also provides aid to people in many unrecognized territories such as Abkhazia, Transnistria and Northern Cyprus regardless of their status. This policy is called "engagement without recognition".

Sign the petition at: [www.change.org](http://www.change.org)  
Find out more about the campaign and what you can do to help at:  
[www.agbueurope.eu](http://www.agbueurope.eu)  
Email: [4EUinKarabakh@agbueurope.eu](mailto:4EUinKarabakh@agbueurope.eu)



We call on the EU to engage with Nagorno-Karabakh and support projects to improve the living conditions of its population because **EU policies should contribute to the welfare, not to the hardship of populations** in Europe and in its periphery.

We also call on Europe to engage with Nagorno-Karabakh, because **it must be present and contribute to peace as conflict escalates on its doorstep.**

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