

The scope of the impact

Jack Danielian asserts that, "Trauma is contagious and the contagion is likely to be insidious. All who come in contact with it can come away marked, including victim, victim families and progeny, observers, bystander witnesses, advocates, researchers, and yes, perpetrators."⁶ Further corroboration comes from Ervin Staub. Writing about the impact of genocidal violence on survivors and its relevance to Armenians today, he suggests that "trauma can be transmitted by survivors to children and grandchildren and on to later generations."⁷ Second-generation survivors are thus dangerously "marked" by the trauma their parents experienced.

Levon Boyajian and Haigaz Grigorian believed that not enough psychological research had been done on second-generation Armenian survivors to afford a clear picture of their mental and emotional status as related to the nation's past. They were among the first to study this aspect through research and interviews with the offspring of Genocide survivors in the 1980s.⁸ They noted that in their own research they had learned quite a bit from the numerous research studies on survivors of the Jewish Holocaust and found it

⁶ Jack Danielian, "A Century of Silence: Terror and the Armenian Genocide," *American Journal of Psychoanalysis* 70:3 (2010): 245-64.

⁷ Ervin Staub, "Healing and Reconciliation," in *Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Confronting the Armenian Genocide*, ed. Richard G. Hovannisian (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 2003), p. 264.

⁸ Levon Boyajian and Haigaz Grigorian, "Psychosocial Sequelae of the Armenian Genocide," in *The Armenian Genocide in Perspective*, ed. Richard G. Hovannisian (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 1986), pp. 177-85. According to the authors, Alen J. Salerian, a psychiatrist in Washington, DC, was the first to interview survivors and their offspring and to present his observations in a paper cited by the authors.