



**Shannon Coppa**

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I have no other place to post this and say this, and I need to share it.....this picture is of my great-grandparents (on the left) and my great-grand uncle and his wife on the right. They came to America as refugees. My GGfather was a young newlywed when the Ottoman Empire tried to take him- he escaped somehow but got separated from my GGMother. She and her young sons were sent on the Death Marches of the Armenian Genocide. Sadly the boys didn't survive. She was left for dead, but rescued by Persians (nowadays Iran) from her hometown of Van who found her. Nursed back to health, they sent her to America and was reunited with her husband in California thanks to the Red Cross. They had 4 more daughters (2 of which are in this picture), the 4th being my Grandmother. I don't know my purpose in sharing this with you, but I need to share it. It's not about politics anymore. This is me. I am immigrant stock on both sides! (Irish from the other side!) This is all of us! This genesis story is not so unusual, and while that is sad of itself, it's also unifying. This is \*us\*...all of us! Seeking freedom, peace, love. Seeking a way out of oppression and hatred.

I want to share this because we are all so connected, and it boggles me that so many can't see it. I stand in solidarity and love with this community, and I appreciate and respect every one of you. [#americaisalreadygreat](#)

\*edit: thank you for all the love and light- it's bringing tears to my eyes. I just wanted to clarify, in no way am I trying to minimize the injustices done to the indigenous peoples of both the Americas and Africa (and elsewhere/anywhere)- my feeling was more that we all have these stories in our past, we have injustices done to us and by us, and it still boggles my mind how other-ism so easily separates us. When we can come together, as the persians did for my ggmother, and America did for my family when they were reunited, we would be that much stronger. This isn't a "no, but" ....it's a "yes, and...". Blessings! \*