

A Letter of Support for the Yezidi People
On behalf of the communities of the
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church

April 2015

On behalf of the communities of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, we affirm our support of Yezidi People, who are today suffering from what is, unfortunately, only the most recent wave of ethnic and religious persecution. This time they have been ruthlessly targeted by the group known as the Daesh or ISIS in an onslaught, which has resulted in the tragic deaths of thousands of innocents, and the ongoing victimization of countless men, women and children, by violence and human trafficking.

We join our voice to all those of good conscience who condemn these deplorable crimes, and call upon the international community to provide humanitarian aid to displaced persons, and facilitate freedom for those still in tribulation at the hands of ISIS.

Though the Armenian People share neither ethnicity or religion with the Yezidi people we are profoundly bonded by a common history of persecution at the hands of extremism. For this reason, Yezidis today comprise the largest minority community in the Republic of Armenia, where they enjoy their God-given rights to live according to their unique culture and faith in peace, without fear of oppression.

This month, on April 24, we observe the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish Government, an event which has been referred to as the first genocide of the 20th Century, most recently by His Holiness Pope Francis I. The most meaningful call-to-action that can be gleaned from this event is the necessity for the nations of the world to be courageous in acknowledging crimes against humanity. It is our most fervent prayer that a century from now, our descendants not gather to commemorate the centennial anniversary of another preventable genocide.