

B

A

- ,

A

E



COMPLEMENTARY STRATEGIES IN LAW, GOVERNANCE, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

GENOCIDE

There is an urgent need to provide justice and accountability, as well as holistic mechanisms for valuing and protecting human rights, supporting vulnerable people's lives, heritage and cultures, and enhancing their sense of dignity as part of a trifold agenda for action. This should include the following:

- (1) Address the Genocide Convention and initiate domestic court prosecutions on the basis of **universal jurisdiction** of returning Daesh foreign fighters for genocide;
- (2) Provide sufficient **support** for Ezidi people to rebuild their lives, economically, socially, culturally, and mentally, in safe environments;
- (3) Provide diverse and equitable opportunities to **empower** Ezidi lives through educational, creative, research and professional avenues while

5. Provide **accessible, low-cost, and /or no-cost spaces** for skills-sharing, cross-group dialogues, and creative, educational and recreational activities at grassroots levels;
6. Integrate more diverse representation in **national educational curricula**, and enable more support for relevant **resource-development, capacity-building, opportunities and outlets** for vulnerable groups more widely;
7. Provide more funds and support for atrocity-prevention, monitoring, and remedial work in **post-conflict areas** amongst survivor groups including establishing a **UN regional office and human rights defence team** to document and monitor the local political situation, address human rights violations, and identify early warnings of harmful speech and acts;
8. Advocate for these recommendations on a **global stage**.

In 2016, the United Nations Human Rights Council declared that 'ISIS has committed the crime of genocide as well as multiple crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Yazidis'.¹ This was followed by declarations by the European Parliament and several governments, including the UK, in 2023. All five counts of Article 2 of the **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide** (Genocide

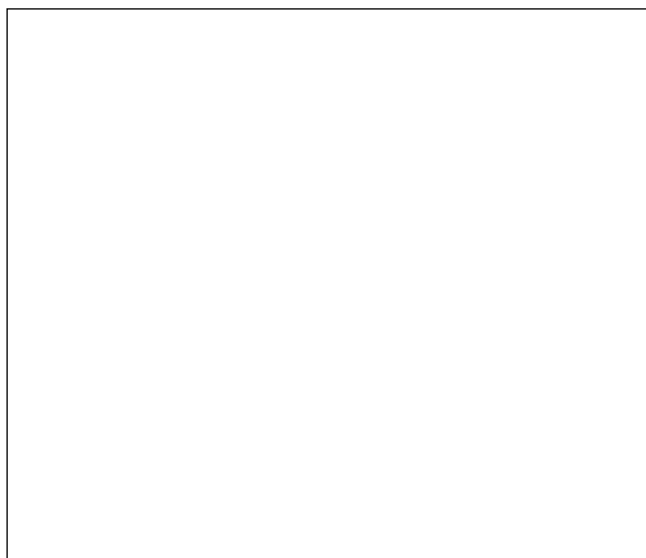


The **International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute** made the following recommendations for addressing the genocide of the Ezidis:²

- States and international bodies to map all initiatives engaged in **collecting and preserving evidence** of Daesh atrocities and identify best practices for indexing the evidence and **collaborating with prosecutors globally**;
- States to facilitate the collaboration of their war crimes units with those who hold evidence of Daesh crimes, to **facilitate prosecutions** of returned foreign fighters;
- States and international bodies to identify challenges preventing courts from prosecuting Daesh for their

Following the above, there is a complementary need to counter the objectification of Ezidi people and empower them by engaging them fully in creative, educational, research, and professional work in a safe and supportive environment as recommended above in this trifold agenda for action.

The complementary proposals require ensuring a **balance** between (i) contextual specificities of particular atrocities and (ii) their universal relevance – ‘crimes against humanity could affect anyone’ – by making **cross-connections** between genocide-affected communities. These might include groups targeted in the Holocaust, the Cambodian genocide, Sikhs in 1984 India, Muslim communities in the former Yugoslavia, Tutsi people in 1994 Rwanda, Rohingya people in Myanmar, Uyghur, Kazakh and other Turkic people, as well as the Ezidi case among many other instances of systemic violence against ethnic/racial/religious groups across the world. The policy therefore has wider relevance to all countries with atrocity-affected and displaced populations.



F

Email: rk39@sussex.ac.uk

Thanks to Dr Aldo Zammit Borda (City, University of London), Dr Leyla Ferman, Hamid Sabi (Sabi and Associates), Dr Sajib Hosen, Sinah Hellweg (HÁWAR.help), Ewelina Ochab (Coalition for Genocide Response), Zekiye Kartal, Farhad Shamo Roto (Voice of Ezidis), Rez Kabir (Tamarind Theatre), Professor Mohammed Ihsan (Kings College), Dr Ben Worku-Dix (PositiveNegatives), Mukul Ahmed (Mukul and Ghetto Tigers) and Dr Caroline Bennett (University of Sussex). Photographs are by Sol Carroll of ‘Mabruka’s Lament’ by Marc Littman, a theatre play on Ezidi lives and the genocide produced by Sohay Visions and Mukul and Ghetto Tigers in 2023, and funded by Arts Council England. www.sohayavisions.com/mabrukaslament Other photographs are from Women for Justice and Creative Commons (Wikimedia).