

**Statement from the Brussels Conference on the
Nineveh Plain by present
Chaldean/Syriac/Assyrian political parties:**

Throughout history, the Chaldean/Syriac/Assyrian people have faced relentless persecution which has tested the limits of our ability to survive in our ancestral homeland.

Since the 2003 invasion alone, we've seen our numbers decline from 1.5 million to fewer than 250,000 today. When ISIS began their Genocide against our people in 2014 we were forced to confront the genuine possibility that our time in the lands which we have inhabited since time immemorial was coming to an end.

This week, nearly 3 years since the ISIS invasion of the Nineveh Plain, we the parties representing the Chaldean/Assyrian/Syriac people in Iraq, along with our church leaders and NGO's, have gathered in Brussels to find consensus on a unified policy representing the legitimate demands of our people to remain in our ancestral homeland.

After a long and often contentious process of negotiations, we have agreed upon a set of policies

and principles which reflect the legitimate demands of the Chaldean/Syriac/Assyrian people for self-security and self-governance .

When we asked Lars Adaktusson to host an international conference we did so in order to put an end to years of disagreements and political divisions which severely restricted our ability to move forward on the core principles to which we all ascribed.

This consensus policy puts to rest, once and for all, any confusion or equivocation regarding the demand of the Chaldean/Syriac/Assyrian people of the Nineveh Plain.

In January 2014, the Iraqi Council of Ministers adopted a motion to create three new provinces, including one in the Nineveh Plain.

Our policy makes clear our expectation that this resolution be implemented, with the eventual goal of the creation of a region as enumerated in the Iraqi Constitution.

There is a clear legal and moral precedent and process for realizing this policy, and we were pleased to hear the representative of the Iraqi government confirm their support for our ambitions.

We welcome the clear support for autonomy from the representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government. We also express our deep gratitude to the KRG for all its efforts to shelter our people during one of its biggest disasters.

We are eternally grateful to Mr. Adaktusson for believing in our cause even when some in our own community regrettably attempted to obstruct the process.

We are pleased to have the opportunity in Brussels to present our unified policy to the EU parliament, US Department of State, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and other world leaders.

We once again thank Mr. Adaktusson, the EPP, the European Union, the US government, and all those who believed in our ability to find consensus.

Now we need your support to realize this policy.

Make no mistake that this historic moment is not the end of our cooperation.

We will take this consensus to global leaders in every corner of the world, from Washington, to Brussels, to the United Nations and everywhere in between.

We will accept no less than our absolute right to shape the future for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

Finally, we invite everyone to endorse the Brussels Position Paper.

Thank you.