



## RESOLUTION:

### **To protect Christian and Yazidi minorities from abuse and violence**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting, Rome, Italy on the 10th of February 2017*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- That there are over 215 million Christians persecuted around the world according to the Last Open Doors report.
- That in North Korea, India, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Iran, Libya, Christians are victims of a massacre.
- That in the last few years, Europe was the destination of many Christian refugees who flee wars and other kinds of violence in their countries because of their religious beliefs;
- That many wars are religiously motivated and Europe is seen as the land of democracy where all people are protected indistinctly regardless of their religious belief.
- That it is a fundamental purpose of the European Union and its Institutions to defend and promote democracy and its values.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- That many Christians escaping from the ISIS threat are now in refugee camps in Europe where they undergo violence and assaults from other refugees, because of their religious beliefs.
- That, just in Germany, particularly between February and September 2016, 743 Christians and 10 Yazidi have suffered death threats, sexual abuses or other violent attacks of various kinds.
- In Germany, 91% of Christians and Yazidi assaulted refugees report that they have been victims of Religious assaults by other refugees, members of other religious communities and most commonly the Muslim community and 28% says that have suffered violence by the guards of the refugee's camps <sup>1</sup>.
- That there is a concrete possibility that a considerable number of refugee victims of violence in the camps omit to file a formal complaint reporting these incidents due to a feeling of shame and fear to may lose their priority right of political asylum.

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<sup>1</sup> Open doors source

- That those most in danger of attack and assault are the converted Muslims, as the change of belief is considered a crime punishable by death penalty.
- That indicatively of the situation is the fact that the following writing was found in a refugee camp: "It's time to cut the head to the 'un-faithful'".
- The European Union was founded on Judeo-Christian traditions and values of solidarity, compassion and protection and is still committed to those values.

**YEPP calls on:**

- The EU and the High representative to condemn publicly these acts.
- The EU Institutions to discuss a special assistance for the Christians and Yazidi refugees in Europe enforcing security policies.
- The EU and the European External Action Service's delegations to take on actions for the protection of the Christians and Yazidi victims of abuses and violence considering the measures that the EU Institutions will decide.
- The EU to protect the right of religious freedom.