



## RESOLUTION:

### **STAND UP AGAINST PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIAN MINORITIES**

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting  
In Zagreb, Croatia, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2015

#### **Recognising that:**

- In many countries Christian minorities are not safe, because of attacks by extremist Islamic terror groups;<sup>1</sup>
- Recently thousands of Christian minorities have been murdered by Islamic terror groups, such as Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria, Al Shabaab in Somalia and the Islamic State in Iraq, Egypt and Syria;<sup>2</sup>
- International pressure could help improve the position of Christian minorities and prevent aggression directed towards them. However, international pressure is often only used after incidents in the form of media attention.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- The European People's Party stands for the protection of minorities, especially when they are in need;
- For the European People's Party, international solidarity and public justice are important values;
- Everyone in this world should be able to carry out his or her religion in freedom, according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nu.nl/buitenland/3941428/boko-haram-overvalt-christelijk-dorp.html>,  
<http://www.trouw.nl/tr/nl/4496/Buitenland/article/detail/3827071/2015/01/10/Boko-Haram-zaait-verderf-in-Nigeria.dhtml>, <http://www.nu.nl/buitenland/3846653/christenen-vlucht-in-irak-strijders.html>, <http://www.elsevier.nl/Juist/blogs/2013/7/Christenvervolging-in-moslimlanden-1299750W/>,

<sup>3</sup> For example, by international pressure has the death of Meriam Ibrahim from Sudan prevented  
<http://blog.amnestyusa.org/africa/victory-meriam-released-thanks-to-your-help/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.amnestyusa.org/research/human-rights-basics/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

- Incidents alone should not be at the core of the battle against Christian persecution: the perilous position of Christian minorities should receive attention structurally.

**YEPP calls on:**

- The European Commission to make the battle against persecution of Christians minorities a core objective of its foreign policy, along with the goal of achieving religious freedom;
- The European Commission to impose financial sanctions against countries, individuals and third parties who are responsible for the persecution that takes place or passive with battling it; such as ceasing or restricting trade mission or development aid;
- The European Commission to pursue a proper policy on this subject, for instance, by aiming at international research, international judgment and trial of perpetrators.