



Rt Hon David Cameron MP  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

21<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

**Genocide perpetrated by Daesh/ISIS against minorities**

We write to ask you to meet a delegation of Members from both Houses and all parties to discuss our profound concern at what is now clearly best described as “genocide” being perpetrated by Daesh against minority communities including Iraqi and Syrian Christians, Yazidis and other vulnerable groups.

There is now clear evidence that this genocide includes assassinations of Church leaders; mass murders; torture, kidnapping for ransom in the Christian communities of Iraq and Syria; sexual enslavement and systematic rape of Christian girls and women; forcible conversions to Islam; destruction of churches, monasteries, cemeteries, and Christian artifacts; and theft of lands and wealth from Christian clergy and laity alike. ISIS has made its own public statements taking “credit” for mass murder of Christians, and expressing its intent to eliminate Christian communities from its “Islamic State”.

As you know, “genocide” is defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide which makes it quite clear that genocide is not simply the random killing of individuals, but is rather a systematic killing or seriously harming of people because they are part of a recognisable group. That group may be “national, ethnic, racial or religious” and the treaty identifies “acts committed with intent to destroy [that group] in whole or in part.”

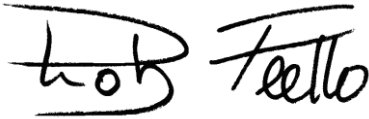
There is no doubt in our minds that the targeting of Christians and other religious minorities by Daesh falls within that definition. We hope that by meeting with us we will have the opportunity to convince you to use all the influence of Her Majesty’s Government at the United Nations to obtain an agreement that the word “genocide” should be used.

This is not simply a matter of semantics. There would be two main benefits from the acceptance by the U.N. that genocide is being perpetrated. First, it would send a very clear message to those organizing and undertaking this slaughter that at some point in the future they will be held accountable by the international community for their actions; they will be caught, tried and punished. Second, it would encourage the 127 nations that are signatories to the Convention to face up to their duty to take the necessary action to “prevent and punish” the perpetrators of these evil acts.

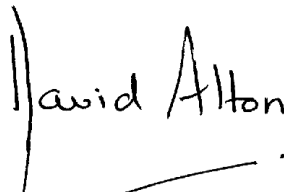
We do hope that you will give this request for an urgent meeting your most careful and sympathetic consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,



**Rob Flello MP**  
Convenor  
Catholic Legislators' Network



**Lord Alton of Liverpool**  
Vice Chair  
All-Party Parliamentary Group on Freedom of Religion or belief

And the following signatories:

**Richard Arkless MP**  
**Lord Avebury**  
**Lord Brennan QC**  
**Baroness Brinton**  
**Alan Brown MP**  
**David Burrowes MP**  
**Sir William Cash MP**  
**Maria Caulfield MP**  
**The Bishop of Chester**  
**Rosie Cooper MP**  
**Lord Cotter**  
**Baroness Cox**  
**Mary Creagh MP**  
**Alex Cunningham MP**  
**David Davies MP**  
**Rt Rev Lord Eames**  
**Lord Edmiston**  
**Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL**  
**Lord German OBE**  
**Stephen Gethins MP**  
**Mary Glendon MP**  
**Mary Goudie MP**  
**Lord Gordon**  
**Field Marshal Lord Guthrie**  
**Meg Hillier MP**  
**Simon Hoare MP**  
**Kate Hoey MP**  
**Prof. Baroness Hollins**  
**Philip Hollobone MP**  
**Sir Gerald Howarth MP**  
**Baroness Hooper**  
**George Howarth MP**

**Mike Kane MP**  
**Seema Kennedy MP**  
**Lord Kilclooney**  
**Jeremy Lefroy MP**  
**Sir Edward Leigh MP**  
**Rt Hon Peter Lilley MP**  
**Rt Hon Lord Luce GCVO DL**  
**Gordon Marsden MP**  
**Baroness Masham**  
**Lord McColl of Dulwich**  
**Rt Hon Lord McFall of Alcluith**  
**Conor McGinn MP**  
**John McNally MP**  
**Mark Menzies MP**  
**Baroness O'Loan**  
**Lord O'Shaughnessy**  
**Mark Pritchard MP**  
**Lord Ribeiro**  
**The Bishop of Saint Albans**  
**Lord Shinkwin**  
**Gavin Shuker MP**  
**Lord Singh of Wimbledon**  
**Gary Streeter MP**  
**Gisela Stuart MP**  
**Derek Thomas MP**  
**Michael Tomlinson MP**  
**Tom Tugendhat MP**  
**Andrew Turner MP**  
**Derek Twigg MP**  
**Lord Willis**  
**Sammy Wilson MP**  
**The Bishop of Worcester**