



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.”

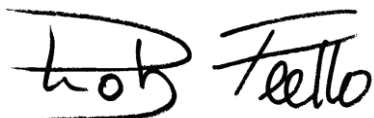
There is no doubt in our minds that the targeting of Christians and other religious minorities by Daesh falls within that definition. We hope that by meeting with us we will have the opportunity to convince you to use all the influence of Her Majesty’s Government at the United Nations to obtain an agreement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

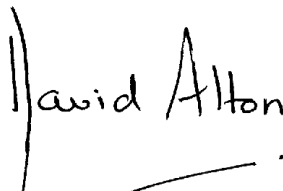
We do hope that you will give this request for an urgent meeting your most careful and sympathetic consideration.

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  
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