

Thank you, Mrs. President, for allowing me to speak before you.

I'm Mark Akram Mia, an advocate from the Christian minority in Iraq. My participation has supported the Minorities Women Forum in Iraq, a participant in CAPNI project in the campaign to defend minority rights.

Hate speech on social media affects me.

- 1- Its pervasiveness throughout the country and the region as a whole has a detrimental effect on religious minorities.**
- 2- It undermines trust and societal cohesiveness, and in the post-war period, we, as Iraqis, must enhance the ties between the various communities.**
- 3- Giving such speeches, whether directly or indirectly, which do not fall under the freedom of opinion and expression, diminishes the value of minority beliefs, even if the expression only consists of one word, and provokes intense rejection and resentment, especially if the speech is of a takfiri nature. This, in turn, causes sectarian conflict and poses a threat of displacement or extermination for the religious minority.**

So,

- 1- I draw the attention of the Iraqi government to pass legislation protecting religious minorities and fostering their linguistic and cultural traditions by allowing them to participate in all facets of public life.**
- 2- I call on the non-governmental organizations in Iraq to intensify their efforts to raise awareness among the people to reject such speeches.**
- 3- I recommend that the agencies and bodies of the United Nations Human Rights Council support Iraq's efforts to end hate speech that threatens community peace through technical assistance.**

Thank you, Mrs. President.