

Mr President, thank you

My name is Zemfira Kalashyan,
I am a representative of the Yezidi
community, a national minority in
Armenia. I am here representing the non-
profit “Sinjar Yezidi”

Around 3 million people live in Armenia,
including 30,000 Yezidi.

One of the most serious problems
facing the Yezidi community is
education. Education
has a huge negative impact on all
aspects of life of
Yezidi society, from socio-economic
issues to problems with healthcare.

According to the law of the Republic of Armenia, every child has the right to education. In Armenia, there are twelve years of mandatory school education.

Every year, the number of Yezidi attending higher education has failed to exceed 10.

Very often, Yezidi children develop issues with functional literacy and learning literary Armenian.

Between 40% and 50% of children of school age do not attend high school (from 10-12). Yet, the government is not intervening to resolve this issue.

In fact, more than half of Yezidi children residing in Armenia do not finish their schooling.

Governmental agencies and the relevant authorities frequently note that this attitude to education is connected to the national tradition of the Yezidi. However, this problem is in fact down to a number of social issues and inequalities. Among them: the presence of nurseries in Yezidi villages, the presence of high school classes at schools, regardless of the number of students, regular working transport and others.

We expect the government to fulfil its positive duty in resolving social and educational issues.

I call on the relevant interested parties and the government to adopt the following measures

1. To establish pre-school educational facilities.
2. To establish high school classes in those villages where there exist only middle schools.
3. To establish a regular working transport system in Yezidi villages.
4. To train teachers, taking into account the

particularities and needs of the Yezidi community.

5. To involve social workers in work with community representatives.