

## Association Culturelle Kurde de Genève

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm Yala Saadi (?), Syrian, of Assyrian descent. As a result of more than 50 years of exclusionary educational curriculum in Syria, a whole generation of youth has been feeling cultural marginalization and deprivation. The Syrian government, by not recognizing the existence nor the rights of indigenous people in the Syrian constitution, imposed Arabization and ethnic assimilation policies into its minorities of which the most dangerous was the policy of assimilation in education. Today, at the same time, in the province of Al-Hasakah, we face other ideological education curriculum, imposed by the de facto administration of the so-called Democratic Self-Administration, led by the Democratic Union Party, known as the Kurdish PYD. This exclusionary curriculum, imposed 2016, segregates the students since first grade based on their ethnic background in separate classrooms, claiming to teach the curriculum to each group in their own respective languages. This is contrary to the original desires of parents to teach children their mother tongue in schools in an inclusive way. This specific policy creates dangerous ethnic division in the youth and contradicts the 1960 UNESCO Convention, which protects against discrimination in education. Therefore, building on the recommendation of the Forum of Minority Issues of 2008, we recommend UNESCO to strengthen its supervision on the education systems in Syria in order to eliminate the politicized and ideological education curricula. Second, recognize the Assyrian people as indigenous people in Syria alongside the other diverse ethnic and religious groups in the constitution and educational curriculums. Third, adding mandatory courses in human rights to promote equality and tolerance. Fourth, stop all the procedures done by the de facto administration that aim to divide students from their colleagues. Five, allow youth to form student clubs in their schools to celebrate and rival their own cultures without fear of punishment. We, the Assyrian youth of Syria, are helpful to adopt the UN measure 2250 in Syria under the UN supervision to activate the role of Syrian youth in achieving complete social justice in our country and promote the peace-making efforts. Thanks to Assyrian Universal Alliance for giving us a chance to make our voices heard. ???, thank you.