

Filling the Gaps in Social Protection Systems for Minority Women



A UN CSW 68 parallel event to take stock of States' and UN agencies' progress in ensuring that women and girls belonging to minority groups have equal access to social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure



Ann Buwalda

Executive Director
Jubilee Campaign



Caroline Doss

President
Coptic Solidarity



Nadine Maenza

President - IRF
Secretariat
Former Chair - USCIRF



Nicolas Levrat

Special Rapporteur on
Minority Issues
United Nations



Nafiya Naso

Settlement Coordinator
Operation Ezra



Jamileh Naso

Co-Founder & President
Canadian Yazidi Association



Eiga Kenny

Centre for Legal Aid
Assistance & Settlement



Anna Townsend

Author ; Chair of Trustees
Women Without Roofs - Nepal



Date

Wednesday,
20 March 2024



Time

12:30 PM
(EST)



Location

Salvation Army Auditorium

221 E. 52nd Street

New York,
NY 10022



RSVP

<https://forms.gle/5RFyCXDj1WFKwFAF6>



In **Egypt**, Coptic Christian young women and girls routinely disappear from their homes, are forced to "accept" Islam as their new faith, and are trafficked into unwanted marriages. Local and regional government authorities, despite the widespread public cognizance of religiously-motivated kidnappings and the sophisticated Salafist networks that orchestrate such crimes, derelict on their duties to investigate cases of abductions and rescue victims.



In **Pakistan**, a similar concerning trend continues to unfold, with recent statistics indicating that, annually, between 1,000 and 2,000 faith minority girls are wrenched from the safety of their homes and family units, forced to convert to Islam, and married against their will to adult Muslim men often twice their age or more. Medical professionals, Islamic clerics, and political parties collude to ensure that cases of religious conversions and marriages evade due legal scrutiny by fabricating victims' age documentation, issuing fraudulent faith conversion certificates, and expeditiously solemnizing marriages.



In **Iraq** and **Syria**, approximately 2,700 Yazidi women and children remain in custody of ISIS nearly an entire decade after the start of the August 2014 Yazidi Genocide. An astonishing 180,000 to 200,000 Yazidis remain displaced across northern Iraq, and those who have returned to their ravaged communities are striving to rebuild their lives from the rubble. The thousands of Yazidi women and girls remaining in captivity have been subjected to devastating sexual violence and domestic servitude; those that have escaped struggle with long-term psychological trauma, physical injuries and illness, while their abusers evade criminal responsibility.