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**HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION Meeting (HDIM)**

**Warsaw, Poland**

**September 19, 2018**

**Christine Douglass-Williams**

Working session 14: Humanitarian issues and other commitments, including combating trafficking in human beings, refugees and displaced persons, persons at risk of displacement

Thank you Mr. Moderator:

Distinguished attendees, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Christine Douglass-Williams.

The 'human rights-based and victim-centred approach that you identify would imply that focus be on the 'most needy.' The Yazidis come to mind, who have been the victims of the worst human rights violations imaginable. The UK Express reported from since 2015 that the Islamic State was trafficking in Yazidi sex slaves to wealthy clients from Saudi Arabia and Turkey'.

Abuses, persecutions and displacements against Christians and other minorities are also ongoing in staggering numbers strictly because they are minorities.

This raises a key question: why have persecuted and abused minorities in Islamic states not been prioritized as refugees? Their plight is not only as refugees seeking shelter from wars but also of escaping persecution.

I would also like to bring to attention how women and children are treated in accordance with Islamic law which bears impact upon the entire scope of humanitarianism and human rights. To somehow miss this is unimaginable. The suffering of women and girls in refugee camps does not occur independently of their status as inferiors in Islamic law, where far too many women face FGM, gender-based violence, violence in the name of honor, inequities by way of their gender, etc.

In refugee camps, women and children 'endure rape, beatings and abuse' regularly.

I would like to recommend:

- that the OSCE recognize the plight of the most needy and their compounded need for protection.
- That the OSCE begin open-conversations about cultures without shutting down important inquiry by those who are quick—for some peculiar reason—to shout racism and islamophobia thereby also shutting down the means to help the most needy. May I also remind that persecuted Christians and other minorities in Islamic states statistically comprise of: mostly what the West deems to be visible minorities; so it is peculiar to shout racism when starting discussions about certain cultural and religious practices.

Thank you.