

**To the Prime Minister and extended Kurdish Regional Government:**

Dear Mr. Prime Minister.

The world has watched intently over the past years as your people and government have sought to build a community in which peace and opportunity prevail. You have done this in the midst of enormous opposition and conflict. We applaud your efforts to secure a future of peace and freedom by the creation of a new nation. Furthermore, we strongly support your intention to guarantee within this new nation religious freedom for all your people, so they can choose and practice their faith without fear, they can choose their vocation without intimidation, and they and their families can chose to work hard and prosper.

We believe this is your moment in history to:

- Create in the Middle East a country where people of all faiths can live in peace and raise their families. The new nation of Kurdistan will be known throughout the world as a safe haven for all faiths, Christians included.
- Rewrite your constitution to ensure the promised and viable freedom for all people to practice their faith without governmental or social intimidation.
- Provide protection and equal opportunities for Christians, in all fields of endeavor, living in the Kurdish region.
- Rebuild and restore churches that have been desecrated or destroyed, and provide assistance to those Christians whose homes also have been damaged or destroyed.
- Make known to the peoples in your region and countries around the world that Kurdistan is a place of peace, opportunity, and religious freedom for all who choose to live there.

OVER 

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# SIGN THE PETITION

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By signing this petition, you are respectfully voicing these statements as outlined in this document to the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq and Christians living in the region.

_____	_____	_____
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	SIGNATURE
_____	_____	_____
CITY	STATE	COUNTRY

I would like to sign up to receive email updates as this historic event unfolds:

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## To Church Leaders and Christians Living in the Nineveh Plains:

Dear friends in Jesus Christ,

We in the West have prayed for you during these years of struggle and oppression. We celebrate your courage and your faith in Christ which has given you strength in the face of terrible persecution.

As you consider the way forward while the Kurdistan government is seeking to build a new nation, we want to encourage you to remain in Kurdistan and be a powerful voice in the shaping of this nation.

We would ask you to consider the following ideas, and as you do, we Christians in the West, pledge to stand alongside you in support and faith, believing the Spirit of God is leading you to take a stand, to raise a banner of faith, and to make known to the world the resilience of your choice to serve God in this place of your ancestors.

*First: You are indigenous to this land. It is your ancestral land. It was here that Saint Thomas, the apostle, established one of the earliest churches in Christendom. We encourage you to keep alive this flame of faith, until the time of the Lord's return.*

*Second: As this is your ancestral home, it is also part of your calling to give witness to the faithfulness and love of the Risen Lord to all the peoples of Mesopotamia. Only by remaining in Kurdistan can this be done.*

*Third: Remarkably, your government is communicating to you its strong desire that you stay. Such a moment may not come again. This is an opportunity of the Spirit.*

*Fourth: This convergence of the building of a new nation and the government's promise of religious freedom for Christians offers an historic and unprecedented opportunity to all Christians in your nation and Christians throughout the Middle East.*

*Fifth: Many of your loved ones fled Kurdistan during these past difficult years. Some of them are living as refugees in camps in Europe and others have fled to far-flung nations. The new Kurdistan can be a beacon encouraging them to return to their homeland.*