



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

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**Intervention by Hungary**

**on the occasion of the**

**Open Arria-Formula Meeting on**

**“Advancing the safety and security of persons belonging to religious minorities  
in armed conflict”**

**22 August 2019**

Your Excellency, Minister Czaputowicz,  
Distinguished Speakers,  
Honorable Members of the Security Council, Dear Colleagues,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

I wish to thank Poland for organizing this meeting, and congratulate for its long-standing leadership on the matter of freedom of religion and belief. Hungary was honored to co-sponsor the establishment of today's international day (on Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief).

Mr. President,

The Hungarian Government is firmly committed to ensuring the full enjoyment of the rights of minorities, including national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and promoting freedom of religion and belief, which are essential for international peace and security.

Hungary is deeply concerned about the persecution of religious minorities in the context of armed conflict and terrorism, with special regard to Christians suffering attacks, displacement and discrimination in many parts of the world.

We have heard the voices of those in need, and have been close contact with concerned communities, including on the highest levels. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met Middle Eastern church leaders in 2016. As a response to their testimonies and concerns, the Hungarian Parliament, passed the same year an all-party resolution on condemning the persecution of Christians as genocide in the Middle East and Africa, and the Government established a separate State Secretariat for the Aid of Persecuted Christians.

The Government, in the framework of the Hungary Helps program, provides rapid and effective humanitarian and development assistance to survivors of humanitarian catastrophes and to persecuted Christians around the world, thereby enabling displaced persons to return and thrive in their homeland, as well as the reconstruction of their homes, schools, hospitals and places of worship.

In the past three years, Hungary supported persecuted Christian communities by more than 36 million USD, and provided scholarships for Christian students in the amount of more than an additional 31 million USD, focusing primarily on the Middle East and the Sub-Saharan region (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Nigeria, Ethiopia and the Congo). Assistance is provided directly to Churches and communities, thus ensuring that 100% of the relief reaches the communities in need, and we recommend this model to UN partners and international aid organisations as well.

We strive to share experience and build an international network to cooperate in protecting and supporting these communities. In this spirit, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter Szijjártó participated at the 2nd International Conference on Religious Affairs organized by the State

Department on 17-18 July. Hungary is currently working with the United States, Poland, Italy and the United Kingdom on common projects, and encourage all partners to join our efforts.

And finally, I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming “2nd International Conference on Christian Persecution”, taking place on 26-28 November in Budapest, with over 600 invited guests, including leaders of Middle Eastern, African, Asian and European churches, politicians and representatives of Hungarian and international organizations. The Conference will be addressed by a number of members of government, including Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. We would like to invite all interested partners, and hope that you will join us.

Thank you for your attention.