

For immediate release – October 5, 2018

Nadia Murad honoured for drawing attention to the torture of Yazidi women and girls in war

Vancouver – The Women Refugees Advocacy Project (WRAP) celebrates Nadia Murad, co-winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize. We are a group of Vancouver women bringing attention to the desperate need for comprehensive trauma care for the 1,200 female survivors of ISIS, now in Canada. Although the federal government promised to provide this care, it has not been delivered. Please read and sign our [petition](#).

Nadia Murad, along with many women and girls, was captured during the genocidal massacre of the men, boys, and older women, by ISIS in Northern Iraq starting August 3, 2014. She witnessed the murder of her mother and brothers, later saying of the horrors of her experience, 'I wish they had killed us all.' She was enslaved and tortured by ISIS and later escaped.

When she was 23 years old she was chosen to be the United Nation's first goodwill ambassador for the dignity of survivors of human trafficking. As Goodwill Ambassador, Nadia Murad spoke out for the Yazidi people calling for the international community to stop ISIS and free the Yazidi women and girls still captive and being tortured by ISIS.

On October 25, 2016, the Canadian parliament voted unanimously to bring 1,200 survivors of ISIS enslavement to Canada as refugees. At that time, the government promised the Yazidi refugee program would include social and psychological supports, such as trauma counselling, for "the unimaginable trauma" the Yazidi women and girls had suffered. [i]

Later, we read in Chatelaine magazine and The New York Times that the Yazidi women and girl survivors in Canada were suffering horribly from extreme post traumatic stress disorder and were not being provided with their own specific program of housing or trauma care or even basic assistance.

Appalled by the suffering of the Yazidi women and girl refugees in Canada, survivors of the genocide [ii-iii], the Women Refugees Advocacy Project launched a petition which must come down on Tuesday evening, October 9, so we can deliver it in person to Ottawa on October 29, 2018:

[The Canadian government must keep its promise to female victims of ISIS](#)

Last week, WRAP brought Rev. Majed El Shafie to Vancouver to raise awareness for our petition and to speak out about the suffering of Yazidi women and girl refugees in Canada who survived the campaign of genocide, rape and enslavement perpetrated by ISIS in Northern Iraq. El Shafie is the founder of One Free World International, an organization that works to rescue the Yazidi who are still enslaved and advocates for all people who are persecuted for their religion. Today there remains an estimated 3,200 Yazidi women and girls in captivity.

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Women Refugees Advocacy Project (WRAP) wrapforjustice@gmail.com
Contact: Peggy Thompson thompson.peggy80@gmail.com 604-831-3792
WRAP website: <http://womenrefugeesadvocacyproject.ca>
Petition: <http://tinyurl.com/YazidiTraumaCarePetition>

Footnotes:

[i] Macleans [Canada will take in 1,200 primarily Yazidi refugees](#)

[ii] Chatelaine: <https://www.chatelaine.com/living/yazidi-refugees-canada-dasni-family/>

[iii] New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/16/world/canada/canada-refugees-yaz...>