

Petition for an EU Special Representative for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU

We, the undersigned citizens of EU, urge Members of the European Parliament to call for the strengthening and the institutionalization of the mandate of the Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) outside the EU.

When the European Parliament recognized ISIS' genocide of Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities [in February 2016](#), it also called for the creation of a permanent Special Representative for FoRB to prevent similar violations. This call was only half heard. A Special Adviser to the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development [was appointed](#), but his mandate is only temporary, deprived of human and financial resources and is not fully integrated in the wider EU foreign strategy and policy.

Today, almost three years later the persecution of religious minorities is worsening worldwide. Grave and growing violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion are reported. Therefore, we ask you - our representatives - to urge the EU institutions, namely the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, to pay adequate attention to the issues of the persecuted Christians and other religious minorities, as well as non-believers, through a more active and more responsible foreign policy of the EU.

In particular, we request that the report on the [EU Guidelines and the mandate of the EU Special Envoy on the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU 2018/2155 \(INI\)](#), which you will vote in January 2019, firmly calls for the creation of an EU Special Representative for the promotion of FoRB in the world. It is essential that this multi-year mandate, fully integrated in the EU foreign policy, includes adequate human and financial resources to enable the effective promotion and protection of FoRB worldwide.

It is time for the EU institutions to step up their commitment to the promotion and protection of this fundamental human right.