Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Urgent need to protect Syria's endangered ethnic and religious communities

Written declaration No. 834

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

The situation of ethnic and religious minorities in Syria has deteriorated to an unacceptable and dangerous level. Communities such as the Druze, Christians and others are facing escalating persecution, State-sponsored violence and displacement.

Across multiple regions, these minorities suffer targeted attacks, arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances and the destruction of their cultural and religious heritage. Entire neighbourhoods have been emptied, and families who remain live under constant fear, exposed to abuses by actors linked to Syria's new regime.

The international community's insufficient response has contributed to impunity and further endangered these communities, whose presence is integral to Syria's historic diversity.

We therefore call on all Council of Europe member States to:

– exert pressure on Syria's transitional government to end violations against minority populations;

– support independent monitoring mechanisms documenting abuses;

– expand humanitarian access and urgent protection pathways for at-risk minority groups;

– place accountability for crimes against these communities at the centre of all diplomatic efforts concerning Syria;

– connect the protection of ethnic and religious minorities to any normalisation of commercial or diplomatic relations with Syria's authorities.

If action is delayed, these communities may not survive to see a peaceful future.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

BAKOYANNIS Dora, Greece, EPP/CD
BONNEAU François, France, ALDE
CHATZIIOANNIDOU Maria-Nefeli, Greece, EPP/CD
DAVIDOVICI Natalia, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
EROTOKRITOU Christiana, Cyprus, SOC
FASSINO Piero, Italy, SOC
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD
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JOSWIG Julian, Germany, SOC
LEYTE Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
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STAMATIS Georgios, Greece, EPP/CD
STYLIANIDIS Evripidis, Greece, EPP/CD
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TIBLOM Victoria, Sweden, ECPA
TORNARITIS Nicos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
VOKSHI Albana, Albania, EPP/CD
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, ECPA

Total = 25

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
ECPA: European Conservatives, Patriots and Affiliates
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left