



TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE YEZIDI PEOPLE



The Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF) is a politically independent non-profit organization designed to assist Yezidis in need. It was founded shortly after terrorists attempted to eradicate the Yezidi people in August 2014 in northern Iraq. FYF seeks to implement projects to protect and support the most vulnerable members of the Yezidi community in an ethical manner. Simultaneously, FYF collaborates with UN bodies and like-minded organizations to raise international awareness of the plight of the Yezidis.

FYF is one of the leading Yezidi civil society organizations providing humanitarian and human rights support to Yezidi civilians. FYF is a humanitarian, apolitical, and non-profit organization formally registered in the Netherlands (ANBI), the United States (501c3), and Iraq.

FYF's operational headquarters is in the Duhok province of Iraq. The Foundation prioritizes humanitarian services for Yezidi women and children, with a special focus on trauma recovery and psychological services, economic empowerment, community reintegration, and education. Because justice is a critical precondition for healing, FYF also pursues justice and accountability on behalf of Yezidis affected by ISIS crimes.

While some organizations focus primarily on infrastructure reconstruction in the Yezidi homeland, FYF is dedicated to providing long-lasting skills to serve Yezidis wherever they choose to reside. Together, we can ensure that the Yezidi people are given the tools required to heal from their traumas and build productive, meaningful lives.

WWW.FREEYEZIDI.ORG



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WHO ARE THE YEZIDIS?

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ETHNORELIGIOUS GROUP NATIVE TO IRAQ

The Yezidis are an ancient and widely misunderstood ethnoreligious group living predominantly in northern Iraq. Yezidis typically speak Kurmanji as their native language, and their religious traditions share common roots with Zoroastrianism and elements of Judaism, Christianity, and Islamic Sufism.

Due to religious mischaracterization and harmful ethnic stereotypes, Yezidis have been subjected to widespread

discrimination and systematic violence, dating back centuries.

This violence most recently culminated in a genocidal campaign conducted by the so-called Islamic State (ISIS). In August 2014, ISIS militants swept through the Sinjar region of northern Iraq in a deliberate attempt to annihilate the Yezidis. ISIS employed brutal tactics including mass executions, rape, forced conscription of child soldiers, and sexual

enslavement of young women. In the immediate aftermath of ISIS' devastation, thousands of Yezidis were killed and thousands more were taken captive and sold as sex slaves in ISIS markets. To this day, almost 3,000 Yezidi women and children remain missing and almost 300,000 Yezidis still live in displacement camps in northern Iraq.



SERVING YEZIDIS IN TIMES OF NEED

THE FREE YEZIDI FOUNDATION'S MISSION

Unfortunately, due to political instability, armed conflict, and a lack of vital services, most Yezidis have been unable or unwilling to return home, with hundreds of thousands displaced in IDP camps in Iraqi Kurdistan or elsewhere.

The toll of the genocide, subsequent displacement, and continued discrimination has left a profound impact on Yezidi society, with alarming suicide rates and difficulty in obtaining employment or accessing education.

Sustained support is needed to help Yezidis heal from their trauma, achieve justice, and live productive, fulfilling lives free from discrimination.

The Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF) answered this call in 2014 following the Yezidi genocide. Led by Pari Ibrahim, a Yezidi woman whose family fled Iraq

SUSTAINED SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO HELP YEZIDIS HEAL FROM THEIR TRAUMA AND ACHIEVE JUSTICE.

in the early 1990s, FYF serves the Yezidi community in camp and non-camp locations with trauma treatment, education, livelihoods training, and justice and accountability initiatives, and economic empowerment programs.

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BUILDING SKILLS FOR YEZIDI WOMEN

THE FYF BAKERY & ENTERPRISE TRAINING CENTER IN KHANKE, IRAQ

Khanke internally displaced persons (IDP) camp is home to over 14,000 Yezidis displaced from the 2014 ISIS genocide, with 12,000 more living in makeshift out-of-camp tents. With 35% of families comprised of female-headed households, Yezidi women in Khanke Camp are in acute need of vocational training and educational support. To meet this need, The Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF) currently provides vocational training such as sewing, knitting, language

and numeracy, women's rights, and ICT classes to Yezidi IDPs through its Women's Center, located inside the camp.

Since 2017, 1,033 women have graduated from FYF's Women's Center programs, which are designed to provide transferrable skills for wherever participants choose to reside. To expand upon this training, FYF is constructing a Bakery and Enterprise Training Center

(ETC) to provide Women's Center graduates with expanded business and livelihoods training opportunities. With the support of a European government donor and the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), this bustling campus will feature a bakery, internet café, classroom space, employment center, carpet-making facility, daycare center, and a retail store in which FYF will sell items produced by participants.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

SUPPORTING OUR VISION

Construction of the bakery training center will conclude in April 2021, with baking classes commencing soon thereafter. The ETC will open in stages; the carpet-makers are forming a collective, and the retail store, internet café, and other services will open to the public by mid-2021, barring delays due to COVID-19 restrictions.

FYF is currently seeking funds to cover necessary costs related to staff oversight and operations through the start-up phase and the first two years of operation.

As a result, FYF is currently seeking private and corporate donors to reach a \$130,000 fundraising goal. Donations are tax-deductible and will be earmarked

directly for the Bakery and ETC programs, ensuring your funds are well-spent.

All levels of support are welcome and donations can be made directly at www.freeyezidi.org. For individuals or corporations who wish to make a lasting impact, donations are welcomed at the following levels:

BRONZE | \$10,000

Donors at this level are invited to join an exclusive annual major donors call with Executive Director, Pari Ibrahim.

SILVER | \$25,000

Donors at this level will be honored with a personalized plaque inside our Bakery and Training Center garden.

GOLD | \$50,000

Donors at this level are invited on an exclusive humanitarian learning trip to see the work of FYF in-person.

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FYF CENTERS ARE A
SANCTUARY FOR YEZIDI
WOMEN LOOKING TO
LEARN JOB SKILLS IN A
TRAUMA-SENSITIVE
ENVIRONMENT.



TO ARRANGE A MAJOR GIFT, CONTACT [PARI.IBRAHIM@FREEYEZIDI.ORG](mailto:pari.ibrahim@freeyezidi.org).



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