*Letter to your local MP*

Date

Subject: Your urgent support in the rescue and resettlement of Yazidi refugees to Winnipeg.

Dear XXXX,

I am writing to request your support in the rescue and resettlement of Yazidi refugees to Winnipeg through the Operation Ezra initiative.

We are not looking to you for funding for this project but need to raise awareness on the urgency of the plight of this small religious minority facing extermination.

The initiative has raised $217,000 to date through the many campaigns launched under Operation Ezra including the latest campaigns launched by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and Congregation Shaarey Zedek and includes settlement services coordinated by Jewish Child and Family Service.

We are concerned that the Yazidis will be lost in the shuffle to bring other refugee groups to Canada and want to emphasize the urgency to act now to fast track their applications to bring them to safety from the vulnerable situation they currently face.

We are urging MP's, government ministers and the Prime Minister to prioritize and include Yazidis in the current government's initiative to resettle 25,000 Syrians, especially given that local constituent groups are willing and able to privately sponsor them.

The Yazidis are an ethno- religious minority now scattered throughout Iraq, Syria and Turkey. Persecuted for generations, they came to world attention in the summer of 2014 when they were viciously targeted by ISIS in a siege and massacre at Mount Sinjar. Since then thousands of men, women and children have been murdered, kidnapped or sold into slavery.

The Yazidis, whose population has gone from over 23 million to approximately 700 000 worldwide in the past 700 years, are directly targeted for extermination by ISIS and have no homeland to return to. As Canadians, we feel the urgency to remove them from harm’s way and bring them to safety in Canada, a country that celebrates diversity and protects the vulnerable.

I know that as a representative of Canadian values you will agree that this community deserves our support. As part of our Prime Minister’s commitment to provide humanitarian aid to victims of ISIS, I ask for any assistance you can provide to bring Yazidi refugees to safety quickly.

Should you have any questions regarding the Operation Ezra initiative please connect with our committee chairs below:

Michel Aziza at michel.aziza08@gmail.com or 204.510.0636

Al Benarroch, Executive Director at JCFS 204.477.7430

Respectfully,

XXXXX

cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

 The Honourable John Mc Callum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship