

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

The questions below may be used for individual reflection and/or discussion in groups after seeing the video interviews and documentary films on each of the topic and case pages of this resource.

Cases

Yazidi

- What are the similarities and differences between the Yazidi religion and (other) monotheistic religions, like Christianity, Islam and Judaism?
- What is the situation for the Yazidi in Iraq years after the ISIS genocide started in 2014?

Iraqi diversity

- How would you describe the ethnic and religious diversity in Iraq?
- How does it differ who is in a majority situation at national, regional and local levels in Iraq?

Topics

Human rights

- In what different ways could one argue that minority rights are human rights?
- What are the reasons why some components of society that are numeric minorities but have a long history in Iraq reject the term “minority rights”?

Genocide

- In what way(s) does genocide differ from ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity?
- What human rights have been violated as part of the genocide of the Yazidi?

Prevention

- What may be root causes of genocide, and why did ISIS select the Yazidi in particular?
- What are different strategies for prevention of genocide or other massive human rights violations?

Reconciliation

- In what ways is “justice” a precondition for reconciliation after genocide, like the ISIS genocide of the Yazidi?
- How can religious representatives and (other) human rights defenders contribute to prevention of genocide?

Diversity

- What human rights ensure the right to be different from the ethnic and religious majority?
- How is religious and ethnic diversity expressed in the Iraqi constitution and political system?

Civil society

- What measures does civil society actors at the national level have in promoting the rights of ethnic and religious components that are in a vulnerable position?
- How can religious leaders and other civil society actors in Iraq contribute to prevention of discrimination and incitements to violence directed at Yazidi and other smaller components?

Education

- What are main challenges for developing curriculum and training material that informs about religious and ethnic diversity in Iraq?
- How can such challenges be addressed, and how can civil society actors contribute?