



## THE IRAQI CHRISTIAN RELIEF COUNCIL

### Organization Background

The [Iraqi Christian Relief Council](http://www.iraqichristianrelief.org) (ICRC) is a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization based in Glenview, Illinois, which serves the persecuted Assyrian Chaldean and Syriac Christians of Iraq. Established in 2009 and funded through the support of individuals, churches, business and charitable foundations, the ICRC provides humanitarian relief to displaced Christians including food, shelter, and medicine, while offering prayer support and advocacy to raise awareness about the persecuted church in Iraq.

### An Internationally Recognized Christian Genocide

In the wake of the Iraq War in 2003, Islamic terror groups throughout Iraq started to systematically cleanse that country of its Christians by demanding they to convert to Islam and pay heavy taxes, otherwise they would be executed. The Christians who refused were forced to flee – leaving their property behind and escaping with only the clothes on their backs – and walk for days in extreme conditions in search of safety. Thousands of these Christians have been living in overcrowded refugee camps in northern Iraq and in poor neighborhoods in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. Islamic militants also burned homes to the ground, desecrated churches and sacred Christian burial grounds, and destroyed museums and libraries. Much of this devastation occurred in 2014 when ISIS overtook Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, where 35,000 Christians lived. Many Christians who remained in Mosul were tortured and killed. Others were taken prisoner or kept as slaves – and women were raped and forced into the ISIS sex trade. The ISIS terror campaign was so brutal that it has been unanimously recognized as genocide by the United States, the British Parliament and the European Union.

### A Costly Victory

Iraqi Special forces and local military units have liberated Mosul and many villages from ISIS. But the terrorists cut off electricity and water supplies, and dumped toxic chemicals onto farmlands. Returning Christian families found their villages completely uninhabitable, and they must rebuild from scratch.

### Helping Persecuted Christians in Iraq and the Middle East

The Christian humanitarian crisis in Iraq and the Middle East has created dire conditions that require years to improve. In 2016 alone, The Iraqi Christian Relief Council directly helped more than 110,000 persecuted Christians inside Iraq and in its neighboring countries through:

- **Humanitarian Relief** – providing nutrition, hydration, shelter and medicine.
- **Operation Return to Nineveh™** - rebuilding homes and churches, and restoring water to cities, towns and villages in the Nineveh Plain.
- **Public Education** – sharing information on this humanitarian catastrophe by engaging the media through talk shows, radio programs and newspaper articles; and speaking at churches, universities and conferences.
- **Advocacy** – includes fundraising to provide resettlement aid to Christians who have come to the West, urging the U.S. Congress to protect the rights of Assyrians and educating Americans on the region's history and crisis.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE

The Iraqi Christian Relief Council

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[www.iraqichristianrelief.org](http://www.iraqichristianrelief.org)