



## **Chaldean Australian Society Inc.**

***Chaldean Australian Society Submission***  
***to***  
***2016 UNHCR-NGO Consultations***

---

***April 2016***

---

---

Chaldean Australian Society Incorporated  
6/25 Barbara Street, Fairfield NSW 2165  
PO Box: 961 Fairfield NSW 1860  
Phone: (02) 9728 4170 Fax: (02) 9728 1540  
E-mail: [cas@chaldeanauss.org.au](mailto:cas@chaldeanauss.org.au) or [chaldeanaus@live.com](mailto:chaldeanaus@live.com) Website: [www.chaldeanauss.org.au](http://www.chaldeanauss.org.au)

## **About the Chaldean Australian Society (CAS)**

The Chaldean Australian Society (CAS) is a community-based and not-for-profit organisation established in 1993 to serve the Chaldean community in NSW. CAS addresses the settlement needs to the increasing numbers of Chaldeans arriving to Australia under humanitarian entry and family reunion and the majority of them settle in Fairfield, Liverpool, Mount Druitt and South Western Sydney areas. CAS maintains the Chaldean culture and at the same time assists the engagement of Chaldeans with the Australian society. CAS provides advocacy, information and referral, settlement-related advice, community development programs, and social activities.

For more information about CAS, visit our website: [www.chaldeanauss.org.au](http://www.chaldeanauss.org.au)

Chaldean Australian Society serves and supports Chaldean people in Sydney and there are many concerns from our Chaldean members to the situation of their families, relatives and friends in Iraq and in the neighbouring countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Syria).

## **About the Chaldeans**

The Chaldeans are the indigenous people of Iraq who speak the Chaldean language, a form of Aramaic, in addition to Arabic, the official language in Iraq. Chaldeans are Eastern Rite Catholic, led by the Patriarch of Babylon and affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. The Chaldeans form the major part of Iraqi Christians.

## **The Chaldeans in Australia**

The migration of the Chaldeans to Australia began in the 1970s. There are now more than 22,000 Chaldeans in Australia most of them in Sydney and Melbourne. In recent years there has been increasing migration of Chaldeans to Australia due to the war and events in Iraq. According to the Settlement Report published by Department of Social Services: (4,080) Chaldean Catholic migrants settled in Australia from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2015. In Sydney most of Chaldeans live in Fairfield, Liverpool, and South Western Sydney areas. In Melbourne most of Chaldeans live in Hume city area.

## **The Situation of the Iraqi Christians in Iraq and Neighbouring Countries**

In the last 12 years after the 2003 events in Iraq, the Chaldeans as all Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities suffered and they are still suffering from persecution in their home country Iraq. The situation in Iraq is still critical and still there is persecution against the Christians (Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian, and others). Terrorist organisations (groups and members) in Iraq are targeting, threatening, torturing, and even killing Christians and consequently many Christians fled Iraq for their safety to seek asylum in countries like Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey.

In 2014 the Islamic State, a jihadist militant group, occupied Mosul city and Christian towns and villages in Nineveh plain, Nineveh province, in north of Iraq. ISIL has occupied Tikrif, Batnaya, Tikrif, Qaraqosh, Bartella, Karmless, and other Christian habitations. Christians were forced to flee from Mosul city and Nineveh plain to the Kurdistan region or to the neighbouring countries to Iraq like Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan and since 2014 they are living in very bad conditions. The Christian community in Mosul and Nineveh plain is almost as old as Christianity itself. About 120,000 Christians fled Mosul city and Nineveh plain. For the first time in the history of Iraq, Mosul and Nineveh plain are now empty of Christians.

The Christians lost everything. They lost their towns and villages. Their towns and villages are still occupied by ISIL. They lost their lands, possessions, jobs, money and a number of them lost family's members, relatives, or friends. They lost everything for just being Christian.

The Iraqi Christians and ethnic and religious minorities (Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian, and others) refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring countries to Iraq are in very critical conditions and in need for all types of support from the international community. It is estimated a significant numbers of Iraqi Christians are fled to the neighbouring countries.

## Recommendations

- 1- The humanitarian aid is required to help Iraqi Christians displaced by ISIL to the Kurdistan region in northern Iraq and to those who fled Iraq to Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan.
- 2- Speeding up the resettlement process of Iraqi Christians refugees and asylum seekers who are in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Syria to resettle in host countries like Australia, USA, Canada, etc.

For further information about this CAS submission contact Dr Emad Arabo, Secretary and Administration Coordinator, at email: [earabo@chaldeanauss.org.au](mailto:earabo@chaldeanauss.org.au) and Phone: (02) 9728 4170

---

Chaldean Australian Society Incorporated

6/25 Barbara Street, Fairfield NSW 2165

PO Box: 961 Fairfield NSW 1860

Phone: (02) 9728 4170 Fax: (02) 9728 1540

E-mail: [cas@chaldeanauss.org.au](mailto:cas@chaldeanauss.org.au) or [chaldeanaus@live.com](mailto:chaldeanaus@live.com) Website: [www.chaldeanauss.org.au](http://www.chaldeanauss.org.au)