



مبادرة **NADIA's**  
نادية **INITIATIVE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

# MISSION STATEMENT

Under the leadership of 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad, Nadia's Initiative (NI) is on a mission to create a world where women are empowered and can live peacefully, communities that have experienced trauma and suffering are supported and redeveloped, and perpetrators of atrocities are held accountable for their crimes.

Beginning with the Yazidi community in Sinjar, Iraq, we are working with survivors of the 2014 genocide to rebuild the region. In the decades before the ISIS invasion, the community had suffered from resource deprivation, inadequate service provision, forced land removals, and underrepresentation in the region's local governance and security forces. This targeted marginalization by the Iraqi state left them vulnerable to ISIS's attacks, which destroyed 80% of Sinjar's public and private infrastructure.

Using a grassroots approach to sustainable development, NI works with the local community and a variety of implementing partners to design, support, and implement projects that promote the restoration and improvement of education, healthcare, livelihoods, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), women's empowerment, and cultural preservation. Our goal is for the community to thrive, rather than simply survive.

All of NI's programs are community-driven and survivor-centric, generating local solutions to local problems with the aim of fostering long-term peacebuilding and security.

On a global level, NI works tirelessly to advocate for justice and accountability. We want to see perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and genocide face the consequences of their actions, and we want to deter others from using CRSV as a weapon of war.

Nadia regularly meets with world leaders, highlighting the need for justice and asking for support and recognition for the Yazidi people. She speaks to students and fellow activists, inspiring the next generation and urging them to act. Nadia also sits on advisory committees and boards for other organizations that share our aim of empowering women and protecting survivors of CRSV. Through media outreach, Nadia spreads awareness of the long-lasting effects of genocide and CRSV.

We believe that together we can build a more just world.

## Our work is:

**COMMUNITY DRIVEN**

**SURVIVOR CENTRIC**

**SUSTAINABLE**

**ORIENTED TOWARD  
JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS**

**ACCOUNTABILITY  
FOCUSED**

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# WORDS FROM NADIA



## Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the journey of Nadia's Initiative (NI) over the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support you've provided to our cause. Every year, our annual report outlines the progress we have made in our mission to advocate for survivors of genocide and sexual violence, and to rebuild communities torn apart by war.

Through our programs and advocacy, we have empowered survivors, women, and communities affected by crises to reclaim their voices and rebuild their lives. From providing essential support services to advocating for justice on the global stage, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that survivors are not only heard, but also empowered to become agents of change in their own communities.

In the five years since its founding, NI's impact in Sinjar has increased dramatically—from three small-scale projects in 2018, to more than 130 by the end of 2023. While there is much work left to be done, I am proud of the progress we have made. I hope you will be encouraged to read about the projects carried out in 2023 across all of NI's areas of focus.

This year I was able to visit my homeland of Sinjar to see some of the progress firsthand. It was an emotional journey, being confronted anew with great loss and also inspired by the strength and determination of the local community.

Being there for the inauguration of the newly constructed Yazdi Genocide Memorial was profoundly moving. It was built at the site of the mass grave where my mother and 80 other women were left. Like so many Yazidis, the remains of my beloved mother and family members have still not been identified. My hope is that the memorial will provide a measure of closure and healing for families who have yet to be reunited with their loved ones. The site stands as a reminder of the depths of evil humanity can sink to, but also as a testament to the resilience of the surviving Yazidi community.

That resilience was on full display when I visited the village of Wardiya. While ISIS sought to destroy the community's future, against all odds, residents have returned and taken up the difficult task of rebuilding. NI has stood beside them throughout, restoring electricity, rehabilitating their schools and a primary healthcare center, and most recently, building a Women's Sports Complex. It was there that I witnessed young people playing sports, socializing, and expressing a renewed sense of hope for the future.

My advocacy efforts continue to be driven by the debt of justice still owed to survivors of genocide and CRSV worldwide and ending the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

I was invited to Ukraine by First Lady Olena Zelenska, where I met with survivors of CRSV in the midst of Russia's brutal invasion. I was heartened to see the Murad Code in action as they began to tell their stories, and I advocated for the swift provision of reparations.

Since justice cannot be realized without accountability, I have also continued to advocate for holding ISIS and other like-minded groups accountable using every tool available. With support from Amal Clooney and her team, I am serving as the lead plaintiff alongside other Yazidi-Americans to hold French conglomerate Lafarge accountable for providing material support to ISIS during the genocide.

We find ourselves at a pivotal moment. For the Yazidi community, the 10th anniversary of the genocide serves not only as an important moment for remembrance, but also a stark reminder of what's left to be done. More than 2,000 Yazidis are still missing, nearly 200,000 remain displaced, dozens of mass graves have yet to be exhumed, and thousands of victims have not yet been identified.

At the same time, conflict and CRSV are on the rise around the globe, with nearly a quarter of the world's population residing in areas affected by conflict. This past year has presented the world, and especially the Middle East, with vast challenges. Yet it has also reaffirmed the strength and resilience of the human spirit. In the face of adversity, we must continue to stand together, united in our commitment to bringing about peace and positive change in the world.

I want to thank you again for your friendship and support. Carrying out this vital work would not be possible without you.

Sincerely,  
**Nadia Murad**



**President and Chairwoman of the Board  
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate  
UNODC Goodwill Ambassador**



# STATE OF SINJAR

In 2014, the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) committed genocide against the Yazidi community, an ethnoreligious minority residing primarily in the Sinjar region of northern Iraq.

Thousands of men and older women were massacred. Over 6,500 young women and girls were enslaved, trafficked, and subjected to rape and sexual violence. Nearly 400,000 Yazidis were displaced due to the violence and the destruction of their ancestral homeland. Nearly 200,000 of them still reside in camps for the internally displaced.

Since the area was liberated in 2017, ad hoc aid efforts have trickled in with minimal long-term planning or attention to the sustainability of programs.

The lingering effects of conflict, a tense political environment, the increased presence of local militias, and other security threats have prohibited the region from receiving comprehensive redevelopment aid. Not enough has been done to address the persistent underdevelopment in the region and the utter devastation left by ISIS.

Such precarious circumstances in Sinjar have left it increasingly vulnerable to further conflict and violence and hinder the permanent resettlement of the Yazidi population.

## *Nearly a decade after the genocide:*

Nearly  
**200,000**  
remain displaced

Over  
**2,600**  
Yazidis are still missing

Despite the challenges, over  
**160,000**  
Yazidis have returned to Sinjar with the hope that the region will recover

Since 2018, NI has been working to sustainably redevelop the region; support Yazidis currently living in Sinjar; and allow for the wide-scale return of those who remain displaced.

Our organization has implemented over 120 projects aimed at expanding educational access, rehabilitating clean water infrastructure, empowering Yazidi women and other survivors, and improving the healthcare sector.

# OUR IMPACT

*From the Founding of NI to the end of 2023*

11,000

Direct Beneficiaries in 2019

140,000

Direct Beneficiaries in 2020

150,000

Direct Beneficiaries in 2021

300,000

Direct Beneficiaries in 2022

450,000

Direct Beneficiaries in 2023





Ambassador Beth Van Schaack:

***“Nadia has transformed the field with her survivor-centric approach to human rights advocacy and rebuilding.”***

*Event: Rebuilding After Atrocities: Accountability and Reconstruction in Sinjar and Beyond at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, January 2024*

### **A Note on NI’s Beneficiary Totals**

Directly informed by local perspectives, NI’s multi-sectoral programmatic approach is intended to address a wide variety of needs for all survivors of the Yazidi genocide and the local community.

NI both facilitates the return of Yazidis displaced by the genocide and provides returnees the necessary foundation to reclaim and sustainably rebuild their lives.

Accordingly – as the leading supporter of Yazidis and survivors in the region – we feel strongly that each and every resident of Sinjar benefits directly or indirectly from our services, from rehabilitating

primary schools and healthcare centers to establishing a Yazidi Genocide Memorial open and dedicated to all those affected by the genocide.

We therefore choose to project our annual impact in terms of total number of Yazidis who have returned to Sinjar, in part because of NI’s assistance, and can be reasonably assumed to seek out NI’s diverse resettlement assistance this year and going forward.

Beneficiary figures associated with each project implemented since NI’s founding are located in

**[NI’s Projects Overview \(2018-2024\).](#)**



*NI Spotlight On*

# YAZIDI GENOCIDE MEMORIAL

On 18th October 2023, NI opened the Yazidi Genocide Memorial. Located in Solagh Village just outside of Sinjar City, the memorial is a monument to those who suffered and died at the hands of ISIS during the genocide and a place of remembrance and healing for those families who were never reunited with their loved ones.

The beautiful stone monument stands as a permanent reminder of the incredible resilience of the Yazidi people in the face of deep injustice and persecution.

The memorial is full of deeply significant and symbolic touches.

At the heart of the memorial is the “Grave of Mothers,” a mass grave protected by a glass cover where over 80 older women were murdered and left by ISIS. The slaughter of older women was a deliberate attempt by the terror group to strike at the heart of the Yazidi community and culture.

A dramatic marble monument sits at the highest point

of the memorial. The gradual rising of its peaks reflects the symbolism of Mount Sinjar, as well as the status of women within the Yazidi community. Three-dimensional carvings in the monument depict the experiences of those who fled for the safety of the mountain.

In the courtyard, nameless headstones face West, in accordance with Yazidi burial rituals. Their anonymity reflects the sad reality that so many Yazidis are still missing. Their fate is still unknown, but their families now have a space to mourn and remember them.

[▶ Click here to watch video](#)

With input from survivors and the local community, and the assistance of a Yazidi architect, the memorial project was carried out by NI and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



The land was purchased and donated using funds from Nadia's Nobel Peace Prize.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony Nadia said:

***“I am often asked what justice looks like for survivors. And I always reply that it takes many forms. This memorial is one form. A permanent monument to our grief nine years on. But this site isn't enough to heal our suffering, nor is it enough to ensure it is never repeated. The perpetrators must be held accountable.”***

Learn more: [Yazidi Genocide Memorial](#)



*NI Spotlight On*

## WARDIYA VILLAGE: FROM RUINS TO RESILIENCE

South of Sinjar Mountain, the small village of Wardiya is in the midst of a remarkable renewal. Nearly a decade ago, like many other villages across the Sinjar region, Wardiya faced one of the darkest chapters of its history: the brutal genocide carried out by ISIS starting in August 2014. But in 2017, ISIS was defeated and, in defiance of the terrorists who had taken so much from them, surviving residents of Wardiya returned to their village and took up the difficult task of rebuilding.

With the generous support of key international partners and in constant consultation with the Yazidi community, Nadia's Initiative stepped in to facilitate reconstruction and rebuilding.

We rebuilt the school and primary healthcare center and worked with the Sinjar Electricity Directorate to reestablish electricity access for nearly 11,500 people.

However, few projects have done as much for the village as the Women's Sports Complex.

Built by NI from the ground up at the direct request of survivors, the complex opened in 2023 and now provides a safe place where more than 1,000 women and young people from across Sinjar come together to find community, empowerment, and healing through sports.

Building and repairing infrastructure is an important prerequisite to NI's true mission in Sinjar, which is to increase access to opportunity, restore hope, and honor the courage and resilience of local communities. NI's overarching model is to serve as a support structure, not a replacement, for locally-led development efforts in communities in crisis. Wardiya provides a powerful example of locally-led development in action.

Learn more:

[Stories from Sinjar - Wardiya's Journey from Ruins to Resilience](#)

[Click here to watch video](#)



*NI Spotlight On*

## SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

Supporting survivors is at the heart of our mission. We believe women, men, and children who have endured physical, mental, and cultural trauma need direct and practical help to restart their lives.

Nadia's Initiative does this through several projects and partnerships. We have collaborated with the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) to establish Interim Reparative Measures (IRM) and survivors' networks for Yazidi women and children who survived captivity under ISIS.

Survivors of captivity and sexual assault face challenges on many fronts. First and foremost, they have physical and psychological health issues that must be treated. Many of them need shelter in addition to financial, livelihood, and educational support. Rather than creating a broad one-size-fits-all project that may or may not fit survivor needs, interim reparations provide specialized and holistic support tailored to individual needs. At Nadia's Initiative, we believe survivors know best what they need to build their futures, and reparations help facilitate that.

However, it is not always easy to access reparations, particularly those that come from the state. In partnership

with the Global Survivors Fund, we are working to strengthen survivors' networks, empowering them to advocate for the survivor-centric implementation of the Yazidi Female Survivor's Law.

The law was passed by the Iraqi authorities in 2021, to provide comprehensive individual and collective reparations to women and children who were held captive by ISIS. However, advocacy is needed to ensure that reparations are administered fully and effectively, and to reduce administrative burdens that create challenges in access and can often be re-traumatizing for survivors. Survivors' networks empower survivors to work as a group toward this end. We provide leadership training, teach advocacy skills, and facilitate psychosocial support activities.

By empowering survivors and ensuring they have access to vital reparations, Nadia's Initiative is building a brighter future for families in Sinjar.



# NI Spotlight On WASH

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Access to clean water is crucial to health. However, when ISIS invaded Sinjar they destroyed most of the region’s pipelines and sanitation infrastructure. Lack of drinking water, which was already a problem in northern Iraq, has kept many survivors from returning home.

With generous support from UAE Aid, Nadia’s Initiative is working closely with the Iraq team at Dorcas International Aid to bring clean water back to Sinjar.

This year we have focused on drilling new water boreholes and rehabilitating existing ones. We rehabilitated internal water networks, laid new pipelines, and built protection rooms. Crucially, we also installed water tanks and electrical transformers so 8 villages in Sinjar now have consistent access to clean, safe water.

In addition to restoring WASH infrastructure, 8 “Village WASH Committees (VWCs)” were established and trained, giving them the capacity to work with local authorities to manage and maintain their water networks independently and lead healthier lives.

Proper WASH facilities in villages not only reduce the risk of disease but mean survivors no longer have to travel long distances to collect water.

[Click here to watch video](#)





## Case Study: **FAISAL KHALAF QASSEM**

“We settled down in the Shekhan camp for IDPs for over three years, until the villages in Sinjar were finally liberated and we were able to return home.

However, no basic services were accessible there and we had to buy water as we did before 2014. Upon our return, we found a lot of NGOs operating in the area, giving us hope that someone would eventually solve the drinking water crisis in the village, but no one took care of it.

Luckily, NI and Dorcas completed the WASH project for the village, giving every family easy access to water.

After all the stages of the project were completed, some people from my village and I decided to volunteer to operate the project and supervise the water network management and water distribution.

Every single family in Borek village finally has access to safe drinking water. I would like to thank UAE Aid, NI, and Dorcas for all they did for us. We hope they can implement more projects like this.”



# PROJECTS AT A GLANCE



A year of progress in Sinjar.

[Click here to watch video](#)



# 7

## Women's Empowerment Projects

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women in Sinjar have experienced immense trauma and suffering yet are often neglected in the region's redevelopment initiatives. Many long for opportunities to gain economic independence, provide for their families, and become active leaders in their communities.

Nadia's Initiative designs survivor-centric women's empowerment programs aimed at addressing the needs of women and girls in Sinjar by providing them with small business training and grants, rehabilitating their farmlands, rebuilding their homes, and empowering them to become advocates for change within their communities.

### Opening of the Wardiya Women's Sports Complex

Nadia's Initiative constructed and opened a recreational complex for women and young people in Wardiya village, Sinjar. The Women's Sports Complex is equipped with sports facilities, a café, and a library, and provides a dedicated space for the community to come together and find healing and empowerment through sports.

**Beneficiaries:** 2,762 women

**Support:** Austrian Development Agency





### Development for Youth in Sinjar Through Sports and Leadership Training

Nadia's Initiative partnered with Sunrise NGO to provide sports and leadership activities for girls, women, people with disabilities, and youth at the Women's Sports Complex in Wardiya village.

**Beneficiaries:** 815 young adults

**Support:** German MFA



### Empowerment for Young Women Through Sports

Nadia's Initiative worked with Free to Run to empower adolescent girls and young women through running. Free to Run's program promoted leadership, access to sport, and physical and mental wellness, equipping participants to become agents of change in their communities.

**Beneficiaries:** 200 young women and girls

**Support:** German MFA

### Interim Reparative Measures for Yazidi Survivors of ISIS Captivity in Sinjar and Duhok

With support from the Global Survivors Fund, Nadia's Initiative worked with Danish INGO Mission East to provide individual and collective interim reparations to survivors of ISIS captivity in Sinjar and Duhok.

**Participants:** 1,042 women, girls, and boys

**Support:** Global Survivors Fund



### Rescue and Documentation project

Nadia's Initiative has been cooperating with a variety of partners to document and locate missing individuals in Iraq, Syria, and beyond. In 2023, Nadia's Initiative successfully rescued Yazidi women who had been held captive by ISIS since 2014. These women were reunited with their families and provided with support to aid in their recovery.

The reunification of these women with their families, after nearly ten years, gives us hope that more can be found.

### Supporting Sinjar Survivors' Registration: Sinjar GDSA Office

Nadia's Initiative supported Sinjar survivors' access to the General Directorate of Survivors' Affairs (GDSA) registration process to ensure a survivor-centered approach to reparations guaranteed under the Yazidi Survivors Law.

**Beneficiaries:** 300 survivors

**Support:** USAID

### Building Women's Capacities with Sewing Training

Nadia's Initiative provided vocational training to build the capacity of women in Sinjar and improve their sewing and dressmaking skills. Women's economic empowerment helps to create more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful societies.

**Beneficiaries:** 32 survivors

**Support:** Government of Flanders 2023

# 3

Education  
Projects

## EDUCATION

Nadia's Initiative believes that education is key to creating opportunities, reimagining futures, and transforming societies. As we invest in educating young people, we are laying the foundation for economic empowerment, gender equality, and strong, thriving society.

### Continued Operation of Sinjar Kindergarten

Nadia's Initiative partnered with Sunrise NGO in offering the second successful year of the Sinjar Kindergarten program.

**Beneficiaries:** 200 children

**Support:** Government of Flanders

[Click here to watch video](#)

### Continued Education Support for Survivors with JWL

Nadia's Initiative is restoring and improving access to higher education in Sinjar thanks to JWL's programs, giving Yazidi women and youth the chance to enroll in English courses and pursue professional certificates.

**Beneficiaries:** 39

**Support:** Global Survivors Fund

[Click here to watch video of Najwa's story](#)

### Child-Friendly Space in Siba Sheikh Khidir

Nadia's Initiative worked with Sunrise NGO to create a dedicated space for children in the village of Siba Sheikh Khidir. This space offers children a place to learn, play, and socialize, providing them with engaging activities in a nurturing environment.

**Beneficiaries:** 201 children

**Support:** Government of Flanders

[Click here to watch video](#)

## WASH

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Access to clean water is the most basic human right, but in an arid region like Sinjar it's a rarity. Returnees to Sinjar must grapple with destroyed and polluted water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. Few can afford to purchase bottled water. Many face severe health issues resulting from consuming contaminated water.

To counter this, Nadia's Initiative is rebuilding the WASH infrastructure in villages, schools, clinics, and farms throughout Sinjar. Reconstruction work is complemented by water management training and hygiene awareness sessions aimed at empowering the community to independently manage their own water sources and lead healthier lives.

### Rehabilitation of WASH Infrastructure in 8 villages in Sinjar

With support from UAE Aid, Nadia's Initiative worked with Dorcas Aid International to rehabilitate WASH infrastructure in 8 villages across Sinjar: Khenis, Bab Al Khan, Kaniya Edo, Nisyria, Zaytonia, West Tel Qasab, Rojeen, and Borek. Additionally, through this project, 8 "Village WASH Committees" were established and trained, giving them the capacity to work with local authorities to manage and maintain their water networks.

**Beneficiaries:** 20,867 residents

**Support:** UAE Aid

### Amplifying Community Voices in Qahtaniya Around Water Shortages

Nadia's Initiative and USAID provided Qahtaniya Water Directorate with a water tanker to facilitate better services to returnees. Nadia's Initiative conducted sessions with the community to increase returnees' participation in local advocacy efforts around water shortages.

**Beneficiaries:** 6,892 residents

**Support:** USAID

▶ Click here to watch video

# CULTURAL PRESERVATION

As in the case for many other communities, Yazidis believe that their loved ones should be buried with dignity and according to their traditions. During the genocide, thousands of Yazidis were left in mass graves by ISIS. To this day, there are dozens of mass graves that have yet to be exhumed, and remains of Yazidis that have yet to be identified and returned to their families.

Over the past year, Nadia’s Initiative has focused on memorializing lost loved ones, providing a space for those who have not yet been reunited with the remains of their family members, and building cemeteries to lay some of the victims to rest.



## Construction and Opening of Yazidi Genocide Memorial

With support from USAID, Nadia’s Initiative worked with IOM Iraq to build the Yazidi Genocide Memorial in Solagh village. The memorial serves as a place of remembrance and healing for families who were never reunited with their loved ones.

**Beneficiaries:** 150,000 individuals

**Support:** USAID, IOM

## Construction of Kocho Cemetery

Nadia’s Initiative is working with IOM Iraq to build a cemetery in Kocho with input and involvement from the Kocho community.

**Beneficiaries:** 150 families

**Support:** USAID



## Burial of Thirty-Nine Remains of Yazidis in Sinjar

Nadia’s Initiative worked with local groups and the community to organize a burial ceremony for the families of 39 people exhumed from graves across Sinjar.

**Beneficiaries:** 39 families

**Support:** Government of Flanders



### Yazidi New Year for Survivors

Nadia's Initiative organized an event for survivors in conjunction with the GDSA to celebrate the Yazidi New Year. Activities included speeches, religious rituals, musical performances, and egg painting.

**Beneficiaries:** 250 individuals

**Support:** Government of Flanders

### Yazidi New Year for Children

Nadia's Initiative and Sunrise NGO organized an event for children to celebrate the Yazidi New Year. The celebration included music, dancing, and the distribution of gifts.

**Beneficiaries:** 250 individuals





# HEALTHCARE

## 2 Healthcare Projects

The healthcare sector in Sinjar was in a beleaguered state prior to ISIS's invasion, with few specialized doctors and services available to residents. Since the destruction in 2014, hospitals have had to rely heavily on support from international organizations to provide basic care.

Nadia's Initiative is working to improve the region's healthcare sector by rebuilding hospitals and primary health centers, providing them with critical supplies, furniture, and medical equipment, and training specialized staff to provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed care.

### Opening of Al Hateen PHC

With support from Hungary Helps, Nadia's Initiative worked with Hungarian Interchurch Aid to rehabilitate and open Al Hateen Primary Healthcare Center in Dugure.

**Beneficiaries:** 10,256 individuals  
**Support:** Hungary Helps

### Opening of Solagh PHC

With support from Hungary Helps, Nadia's Initiative worked with Hungarian Interchurch Aid to rehabilitate and open the Solagh Primary Healthcare Center.

**Beneficiaries:** 1,068 individuals  
**Support:** Hungary Helps

[Click here to watch video](#)



# LIVELIHOODS

## Opening of Sinjar's Old Market

With support from USAID, Nadia's Initiative re-established and opened the old marketplace in Sinjar City.

**Beneficiaries:** 35,000 individuals

**Support:** USAID

[Click here to watch video](#)

For centuries, farming was the mainstay of life in Sinjar, and 75% of its pre-2014 income was based on agriculture.

When ISIS attacked, they attempted to destroy the community's livelihoods by burning down farms, polluting boreholes, and stealing and vandalizing farming equipment; all of which threaten the region's food security.

This year we have opened Sinjar's Market, a place for farmers to sell and trade their goods once more.



# ADVOCACY VISION

Nadia's Initiative advocates — at the local, national, and international levels — for resources and policy changes needed to protect and support survivors of sexual violence and rebuild communities in crisis.

We collaborate with global leaders, governments, and international organizations to raise awareness and direct critical funding necessary to make positive, meaningful change.

## GENDER EQUALITY

We advocate for global gender equality, an end to violence against women, and the provision of reparations to survivors of sexual violence.

## JUSTICE

We advocate for judicial accountability of ISIS perpetrators of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.

## SECURITY

We advocate national governments and the UN to work collectively and comprehensively to improve security and local governance in northern Iraq.

## GENOCIDE PREVENTION

We advocate for genocide awareness and prevention, including the formal recognition of the Yazidi genocide by nation states and international bodies.

## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

We believe that by engaging and inspiring young people, we can empower the next generation to help us work for change.

# A Year In Advocacy: The Highlights

## *Winter 2023*

[▶ Click here to watch video](#)



### **Nadia Murad and Angelina Jolie visit Sinjar**

Actress and humanitarian, Angelina Jolie, traveled with Nadia to Sinjar to meet survivors of the 2014 genocide. They spoke with women and children who had survived ISIS captivity as well as families who had returned to the region, determined to rebuild their lives.

### **Germany officially recognizes 2014 attacks against Yazidis as genocide**

After campaigning by Nadia Murad and the Yazidi community, in January 2023, the Bundestag officially recognized the ISIS attacks in Sinjar as genocide.

The resolution in the German parliament condemned the “indescribable atrocities” and “tyrannical injustice” carried out by ISIS fighters and it urged the judicial system to pursue further criminal cases against suspects in Germany.



### **Munich Security Conference**

In February, Nadia Murad joined global leaders and campaigners to speak at the Munich Security Conference, highlighting the importance of pursuing accountability.

Nadia met many members of the Yazidi community while in Munich, as well as young leaders from around the world.

### **Chapman University Visit**

As part of her mission to inspire the next generation of activists, Nadia visited Chapman University in California. She gave talks and presentations and was interviewed by the University’s media students.



## Meeting Foreign Ministers

In Spring 2023, Nadia met with Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly to discuss protecting women from sexual violence in Sudan. She highlighted the need to proactively protect women and vulnerable groups during armed conflict.

A few weeks later, Nadia met with the Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg. She called on him, and his government, to officially recognize the Yazidi genocide and to condemn hate speech against the minority community.

# A Year In Advocacy: The Highlights

## *Spring 2023*

### Visit to Ukraine

Nadia was invited to Ukraine by the country's First Lady, Olena Zelenska, to meet with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and witness the horror of the Russian invasion. In a bilateral meeting with the First Lady, she advocated for the prompt payment of reparations to survivors. She also visited a center for survivors and was able to see the Murad Code being used to help survivors as they began to tell their stories.

[Click here to watch video](#)



### 4Gamechangers Conference

In May, Nadia participated in the 4Gamechangers Conference in Vienna. On stage with her barrister Amal Clooney, Nadia spoke about the importance of accountability and justice for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

# A Year In Advocacy: The Highlights

## *Summer 2023*



### **Nadia Murad Meets Chancellor Olaf Scholz**

Nadia Murad met the German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, in Berlin to discuss the desperate plight of refugees across the world. Reiterating that there are now over 100 million displaced people globally, Nadia stressed the importance of finding sustainable and safe long-term solutions.

Speaking about her own Yazidi community, Nadia also advocated for family reunification, telling the Chancellor that many families continue to be separated. There continue to be many cases in Germany where one member of the family has residency but the others still face uncertainty and even danger in internal displacement or refugee camps.

### **Nadia Murad Appears on CNN's Amanpour Programme**

Nadia Murad was interviewed by CNN's Christiane Amanpour to advocate for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. She told CNN about the survivors she met recently in Ukraine and highlighted that they need justice, support and reparations. She reminded the audience that nearly 3,000 Yazidi women and children are still missing and explained the need for international support in rescuing them.



### **Vatican Conference: Declaration of Human Fraternity**

Along with her fellow Nobel Laureates, Nadia participated in drafting a new declaration of Human Fraternity. She was able to ensure that women were particularly named in the declaration and that it referenced sexual violence. The declaration was then presented to Pope Francis, representing an important milestone on the path to peace.

### **Nadia Murad Visits Brazil**

In June, Nadia spoke at the Frontiers of Thought conference in Sao Paulo. Telling her story to a vast audience, she reflected on how she has navigated uncertainty as a refugee.

You can read her interview with Forbes Brazil [here](#).



## Advocating for UNITAD

In September, Nadia Murad and Amal Clooney met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to discuss the end of UNITAD's mandate in Iraq. The pair highlighted their continued support for the UNITAD mission as it documents crimes committed by ISIS and provides critical support to criminal investigations in the home states of ISIS foreign fighters. They told the Secretary-General that it would be profoundly distressing for all the survivors who entrusted UNITAD with their testimony, as well as other victims, if this work was terminated before the mandate is fulfilled, and it would send a message that justice for ISIS victims is not only delayed but denied.

# A Year In Advocacy: The Highlights

## *Fall 2023*

### Visit to Iraq and the Kurdistan Region

In October, Nadia and members of the NI HQ team traveled to Iraq for the inauguration of the Yazidi Genocide Memorial. Addressing those who came to the opening of the memorial, Nadia implored the Iraqi government to do more to support her community.

While in the region, Nadia met with Nechirvan Barzani, President of the Kurdistan Region, to discuss the importance of rescuing missing Yazidi women and children who are still in ISIS captivity in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.

### Nadia Becomes Lead Plaintiff in LaFarge Case

Hundreds of Yazidi-Americans filed a lawsuit against French conglomerate Lafarge S.A. for conspiring to provide material support to a campaign of terrorism conducted by ISIS against the Yazidi population starting in 2014.

You can learn more about the case by watching Nadia's interview on CNN [here](#).

*NI would like to extend a special thank you to Barrister Amal Clooney, Nadia's lawyer and friend, for her crucial role in championing the cause of justice and accountability on behalf of survivors.*

# MEET THE TEAM

There are several qualities that make NI's team stand out, facilitating long-term impact for survivors worldwide and the local community in Sinjar.

Given Nadia Murad's role as Co-founder, President, and Chairwoman of the Board, **the organization is survivor-led.**

**NI's team in Iraq is composed entirely of Yazidis from Sinjar.** As a result, NI is uniquely positioned to facilitate the redevelopment of Sinjar due to its extensive knowledge and understanding of the region.

**NI's team carries out work that is simultaneously local and global.** While the organization's current programming is focused on the Sinjar region, its advocacy and impact is global in reach.

## The Board

**Nadia Murad**

President, Co-Founder &  
Chairwoman of the Board

**Kerry Propper**

Strategic Advisor & Vice Chairman

**Elizabeth Bohart**

Strategic Advisor & Board Member

**Grégoire Théry**

Board Member

**Amanda Nyugen**

Board Member

**Khashayar "Kash" Ghashghai**

Board Member

**Ambassador Philippe Étienne**

Board Member

## HQ Team

**Brandon Jacobsen**

Executive Director

**Abid Shamdeen**

Co-founder & Strategic Advisor

**Alison Anderson**

Head of Finance & Operations

**Lucy Woolliscroft**

Director of Communications &  
Public Relations

**Kirby Neuner**

Director of Development & Impact

**Coralyn Maguigad**

Special Assistant to the President &  
Digital Communications Lead

**Christopher Isele**

Finance & Operations Specialist

**Kinga Ewa Nastal**

Digital Communications &  
Programs Fellow

**Kat Bartusis**

Events & Research Intern

## Iraq Team

**Faisal Ghanem**

Projects Manager

**Salah Hassan Qasim**

Sr. Community Outreach Officer

**Ahmed Hassan Qasim**

Finance and HR Officer

**Nadia Hassan Khalo**

Protection Manager

**Dakheel Khalaf Findi**

Engineering Officer

**Aida Nasir**

Protection Officer

**Jamal Saido**

Documentation & Protection Officer

**Alhan Ibrahim**

Project Coordinator

# IN GRATITUDE

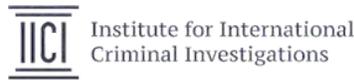
## Programs and Advocacy Partners



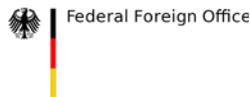
Sunrise NGO  
منظمة سنرايز



Jesuit Worldwide Learning  
Higher Education at the Margins



## Donors



# FUNDRAISING

**\$1,516,259**

of contributions in 2023

# EXPENDITURE

**58%**

**PROGRAMS: \$1,819,713**

**29%**

**ADVOCACY & COMMS: \$904,734**

**11%**

**ADMINISTRATION: \$352,761**

**2%**

**FUNDRAISING: \$61,041**

**\$3,138,249**

total expenses



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