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Dear Ray,

During questions on Tuesday 2 July, you asked if I could give you a commitment that the Government will ensure that the Yazidi women are heard at the forthcoming PSVI international conference. I am sorry that I was unable to respond to you at the time and I promised to write to you.

The UK Government is working hard to ensure survivors of sexual violence from a range of countries and communities, including the Yezidi community, are involved in the PSVI international conference, to be held 18-20 November 2019. The conference will take a survivor-centred approach, focusing on enabling survivors to inform policy debates and tangible next steps. The Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative remains committed to the 'do no harm' principle, ensuring survivors are not pressured into telling their stories and limiting the risk of re-traumatising.

As part of the evidence-gathering process of UNITAD (the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL) in Iraq, survivor testimonies are being documented to ensure these can be used in any future prosecutions. We will invite UNITAD and other accountability mechanism leads to attend the conference alongside survivors to push for increased accountability, strengthened evidentiary proof and worldwide recognition for these horrendous crimes.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also place a copy in the House library.

Your sincerely,
Annabel

BARONESS GOLDIE

Lord Collins of Highbury
House of Lords