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Thank you,

As a result of more than 50 years of exclusionary educational curriculums in Syria, a whole generation of youth has been feeling cultural marginalization and deprivation.

The Syrian government, by not recognizing the existence nor the rights of indigenous people in the Syrian constitution, imposed “Arabization” and ethnic assimilation policies onto its minorities of which the most dangerous was the policy of assimilation in education.

This was done by:

1. Politicizing courses by emphasizing only the history and importance of Arabs, ignoring entirely the role of non-Arabs (such as Assyrians) in building Syria, and
2. The Ba’ath Party’s oppressive ideology in public education and
3. Prohibiting the teaching of non-Arabic languages in public schools. As a Syrian of Assyrian descent, I was one of millions of students who suffered from these practices from my elementary education until my graduation from Law School in Aleppo.

Today at the same time, in the province of Al Hassaka, we face another ideological education curriculum imposed by the de facto administration of the so-called “Democratic Self Administration”, led by the “Democratic Union Party”, otherwise known as the Kurdish PYD. This exclusionary curriculum, imposed in 2015, segregates the students based on their ethnic background in separate classrooms claiming to teach a curriculum to each group in their own respective language. This is contrary to the original desires of parents to teach children their mother-tongue in schools in an inclusive way, one which is respectful of other ethnic groups, yet is still deferential to a larger Syrian identity.

This specific policy creates dangerous ethnic division in the youth and contradicts the 1960 UNESCO Convention, which protects against discrimination in education.

Therefore, building on the recommendation of the Forum of Minority Issues of 2008, Sections 2 and 3, recommendations 10 and 27, we as youth recommend UNESCO to strengthen its supervision; on the education systems of the Syrian government and the de facto administrations in order to pressure them to:

- First: Eliminate the politicized and ideological education curriculum
- Second: Recognize the Assyrian people as an indigenous people in Syria alongside the other diverse ethnic and religious groups in the constitution and in educational curriculums.
- Third: Adding mandatory courses in Human Rights to promote equality and tolerance.



Fourth: Stop all the procedures done by the de facto administration that aim to divide students from their colleagues.

Fifth: Allow youth to form student clubs in their schools to celebrate their own cultures without fear of punishment.

We, the Assyrian youth of Syria are hopeful to adapt the UN measure 2250 in Syria, under the UN supervision, to activate the role of youth in achieving complete social justice in our country and promote the peacemaking efforts.

Thanks to the Assyrian Universal Alliance for giving us a chance to make our voices heard.