



## WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP

### SEPTEMBER 8TH DEADLINE TO SIGN YEZIDI FAMILY REUNIFICATION PETITION

Project Abraham is petitioning the Government of Canada to speed up the process of Yezidi family reunification.



Only the government can bring over internally displaced people from Iraq under the current rules.

The government brought over about 1,000 Yezidis in 2017 and 2018. Eight years after the 2014 genocide, many Yezidis still live in IDP camps in fear of their lives, with no homes to return to, no opportunity for employment, and no hope of returning to normalcy. We are still hearing horrific reports of Yezidis being tortured, murdered, and raped. Their relatives here in Canada are sick with worry and desperate to be reunited with their family members.

**500 signatures are needed by September 8th to have the issue discussed in Parliament. We are close but still need an additional 17 signatures. Please help by signing the petition at the link below and by sharing the link with your network:**

[Petition e-4048 - Petitions \(ourcommons.ca\)](https://ourcommons.ca/petitions/e-4048)

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*Our vision is to become the leading resettlement organization supporting victims of persecution, empowering them to create a future for themselves and their children as fully integrated Canadian citizens.*

Donations are gratefully accepted: [projectabraham/donate](https://projectabraham/donate)



## OUR EXPANDED HOMEWORK CLUB!

Nadia Naso, a member of the London Yezidi community, has been Project Abraham's Homework Club Coordinator for the past year but this summer her role expanded significantly. Thanks to funding from the TD Bank and the York Region District School Board (YRDSB), enrollment in our Homework Club has grown exponentially. The Homework Club started with 40 Yezidi students and 2 tutors a year ago. During the summer of 2022, we hired an additional 11 tutors to support the learning of 150 grade K-12 students who are newcomers or struggle with learning disabilities. We are waiting to hear if renewed funding will enable the expanded program to continue throughout the school year.

Nadia was 7 years old when her family moved from a refugee camp in Syria to Vancouver, eventually settling in London, Ontario.

In addition to her Homework Club Coordinator job, Nadia also does one-on-one tutoring for 20 students. As a result of the traumatic experiences they have suffered, Yezidi students can have trouble staying focused, but customized tutoring enables them to overcome this challenge. "In general," she says, "this is such a great program, whether they are newcomers to Canada, are students with disabilities, or have been through trauma. I've personally seen them progress." Nadia's teenaged students will even call her outside of tutoring hours if they need someone to talk to. "They see me as a big sister, which makes me feel good."

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## Get to Know the Team at Project Abraham NEW BOARD CHAIR - ANAT WERTHEIM



This June, Board Director Anat Wertheim replaced Karen Goldenberg as Chair. Anat has an extensive background in the non-profit sector, including working at an agency that focused on helping newcomers find employment. What drew her to Project Abraham was the similarity between the hardship and trauma that the Yezidi people have experienced to the suffering of the Jews during the Holocaust. As Chair, Anat's goal is to ensure our organization has the resources to deliver its programs to communities that are survivors of genocide.

The most rewarding aspect of working with Project Abraham for Anat is "seeing people successfully integrate, advance in their language classes, and move on to employment, especially people in communities that have been through such hardship. That's because the process of integration for individual survivors of discrimination and genocide takes much longer."

One such success story is a Grade 7 Homework Club student who was significantly behind for her age. She was unable to recognize numbers from 1 to 10 or sight read. After only 10 weeks of tutoring, she could write numbers and do long addition and subtraction without help from her tutor. She had also dramatically expanded her core vocabulary and started reading A-C level texts with minimal help.

**We welcome Anat to her new role and look forward to her leadership.**

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**Join the team at Project Abraham! [projectabraham/volunteer](https://projectabraham.org/volunteer)**