

**Opening Session**  
**Ms. Nadia Taha**  
**Yazda**  
**Germany / Iraq**

His Excellency President Lykketoft, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,

Heads of State and Government, Honorable Ministers, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen.

I am a survivor of the Yazidi Genocide, now a refugee, a villager who found herself ripped from her free life with dreams to that of a slave without hope under the rule of the so-called 'Islamic State'.

When Daesh attacked us, they killed men and enslaved women, they killed my mother with 80  
older women because they did not want to use them for sexual enslavement, they killed six of

my brothers and took me with other 6500 Yazidi women and children.

Many days passed and I wished I had died before what happened so that I did not see everyone I love killed or enslaved, or at best a refugee or displaced.

I wished that the rapes I endured by 12 terrorists were 12 bullets in my flesh.

Despite the tragedy that devastated me for the last two years, I was lucky comparing to others. My three nieces were with me, Rojyan aged 13, Kathrine 19 and Nisreen 16 when they took us to Mosul. There they separated us by force, punching us in the face and lashing us with whips,

I met many refugees in Greece whose lives, freedom and dignity have been destroyed. One of them said, and I quote, "There is no life here, and there is no place to return to".

Millions of children are living in a state of fear, they are not able to go to school, they are not able to

health and education

We live in a third world war – but without naming it such.

Today I want to pass a message from all victims in the world because you must know as leaders whatever you do will impact either positively or negatively on the lives of simple people such as me.

You decide whether it is to be war or peace.  
You decide to give hope or suffering.

We have to address the causes of immigration, not just the immigration itself, we have to eradicate terrorism and stop instability, we have to end wars and put humanity first, we have to hold accountable those who have taken the lives of innocent people, we have to hold accountable those who have committed genocide, war crimes, war crimes against humanity