



THE BARONESS COX
HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON SW1A 0PW

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs

4 August 2022

Dear Liz,

It is reported that jihadis in northern Syria recently attacked a ceremony marking the consecration of a new Orthodox Church in the town of Sqeilibiyyah. Two people were killed and over a dozen injured.

The absence of any statement from the British Government is a serious cause for concern, especially among the local Christian population who already fear that the UK is indifferent to their suffering. I and many colleagues have raised similar urgent concerns about the plight of religious minorities throughout the war in Syria – to no avail.

I would therefore be very reassured by your commitment to a public statement condemning the recent attack in the strongest terms and expressing support for Christians in Sqeilibiyyah and across the country. It is essential that the UK shines a light on the perpetrators of this unprovoked and premeditated attack against innocent people. The freedom to believe, to pray and commit acts of worship is a fundamental human freedom.

Yours sincerely,

Copied to: Fiona Bruce MP, Special Envoy for International Religious Freedom or Belief