



# QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

**The following questions are based on Hind Kabawat's Testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. They are intended for students in upper level high school social studies courses.**

1. Define the following terms:

ISIS

ethnic and religious cleansing

pluralistic

safe haven

liberate

buffer zone

no-fly zone

guarantor

diplomacy

conflict resolution

joint operation

Kurds

Assyrians

inclusion

capacity building

Al-Nusra Front

civilian

development projects

self-sufficiency

PTSD

Alawites

civil society building

sectarian

Bashar Al Assad

2. Who is Hind Kabawat? What is the mission of the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution?
3. According to Hind, how has ISIS sought to erase the cultural history of religious minorities in Syria? Why have they focused on erasing the cultural history of these groups?
4. What has been the impact of ISIS's efforts to "cleanse Iraq and Syria of indigenous minority communities?"
5. What is the "two-pronged approach" Hind suggests for those cities that are not fully under ISIS control?
6. Describe the safe havens Hind envisions for Syria. What role would women play in their establishment?
7. According to Hind, what policy is "key to the maintenance and success of safe havens?" What role would local councils play? What services would they provide? How does Hind suggest addressing the "widespread and systematic trauma" suffered by the Syrian people?
8. How has Bashar Al Assad threatened religious minorities?
9. Why does Hind argue that safe havens must be open to all Syrians? What would happen if the west appeared to favor some groups over others?

**For further research and reflection:**

Tanenbaum established its *Peacemakers in Action Network* to support men and women who are risking their life for peace in areas of armed conflict. We select *Peacemakers* who meet five criteria:

1. **Religious motivation.**  
Their peacemaking has been fueled by teachings from their religious traditions.
2. **Armed conflict.**  
They are dedicated to stopping violent conflict and to sustaining peace in war-torn countries.
3. **At risk.**  
They have jeopardized their life or freedom in the pursuit of peace.
4. **Locally based.**  
They are closely connected to the conflict situation “on the ground,” at the local level.
5. **Relatively unknown.**  
Despite the significant impact of their efforts, they have generally gone without the recognition and support they deserve.

Why was Hind named a *Peacemaker in Action*? How does she meet these criteria?