



**I n t e r n a t i o n a l  
A s s o c i a t i o n for  
A s s y r i o l o g y**

<http://iaassyriology.org/>

### **Statement of the *International Association for Assyriology***

The growth of humanitarian crises in the Middle East continues to be a tragedy for the residents across the region. The IAA is particularly sensitive to this human tragedy since the ancient societies that we study all had their homes in the region, and our members have a long history of working with colleagues and communities there. Alongside the danger to human life, these conflicts pose a grave threat to the rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Middle East. Damage to this heritage strikes at the identity and valued traditions of the peoples of the region. There is also a long history of the politicization of the surviving sites, monuments, and remains of the ancient communities of the region. We decry all damage to cultural heritage and efforts by any party to instrumentalize this tragedy politically in order to claim advantages in today's conflicts. The IAA calls on its members, the international community, and all parties to respect the right to life of all citizens and to work to prevent, minimize and repair damage to the heritage of the region.

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