MILLE



## AL-KHOEI FOUNDATION General Secretariat Office



## مُؤسسَنة الإمام الخوئي الخيرية مكتب الأمانة العامة

His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

The Asidene of aundation is Blavapte Counter less of Figer of Shi's wees shippers in a suicide bombing at a Shi'a mosque during Friday prayers in Kunduz, Afghanistan, on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021, which killed at least 50 Shi'a Muslims and injured more than 100 people. We share the pain send our condolences to the bereaved, families. The attack is vet another reminder that Shi'a Muslims in Afghanistan are a highly vulnerable group at risk of persecution and terrorist targets.

Condolences on the Passing of His Holiness Pope Francis ISIS still poses serious threats to the region particularly religious minorities in the Af-Pak region. Its local chapter IS-K has conducted deadly attacks against Shi'a Hazaras, most notably the horrific attack in Dashte Barchi, Kabul, which killed 24 people including pregnant women and children. The group also attacked farmer with Marking 185 seek considerations and children. The group

Francis. On behalf of the Al-Khoei Foundation and the wider Shi'a Muslim community, I convey my Welcalso remindithat the Talibans whole dimits the Alexander ged dind work to the spector in ority of lights, are also involved in war crimes against the Shi'a Hazara community. Amnesty International has revealed Pope Francis was a beacon of hope in a time of immense uncertainty - he manifested the great virtues of compassion, humility and devotion to God and Humanity, recognising and promoting the dignity of all. Although there were Muharram processions this year of the following the dignity of all. Although there were Muharram processions this year of the following the dignity of all informed that they continued to face harassment and intimided to face

Weystrass thaty the cigternational community on usternathabandonic Afghanista praind nitsure ligious and ethnicionimistics who are feeling in derseige, with erable to flint feeling the Por Violence and terror ship in Muslims, specifically ship a Hazaras, have a riong distance of persecution and have been religious dialogue and other global issues through the lens of faith. These exchanges were symbolic of the facing war crimes committed by the non-state, as well as state, actors dating back to the 1890s. Therefore the interpational communities, and a testament to the mutual respect that has grown between the forest the interpational communities, and a testament to the mutual respect that has grown between against the Shi'as of Afghanistans in the advactations process schooled continue and those who are at high risks, such as the members of civil society, religious minorities particularly Shi'as, Sikhs and people of no faith also be aware of His Holiness's visit to the holy city of Najaf, Iraq, in March 2021 and meeting with His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Al-Sistani. That encounter marked an unprecedented step

Wercall birthe is the adjournment, who had red ministed to providing seed by and safety to religious essential role that religious leadership plays in promoting mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. It was a minorities, to identify the perpetrators of this cowardly explosion and to expose their barbaric acts. powerful message of unity and understanding at a time when sectarian conflict threatened the social fabric. They must sensure that these attacks should not repeat, and religious and ethnic minorities should have the freedom to practice their faith freely.

In this moment of mourning, we also take time to celebrate as we reflect on His Holiness's supreme service Wealso wellome the appointment of a pew, special rapporteur on Afghanistan to hange our special rapporteur on Afghanistan to a starting etherough our free work and well belief (Forb) in Afghanistan.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may God grant solace and strength to all those who grieve his passing.

With my personal prayers and deepest sympathies, Stone Ha Tel: Fax: Web: Charity Reg No: Website: Stone Fax: Charity Reg No: Tel: Lond Sayvid (Sahel JAI-Khoei +44 20 8960 6378 +44 20 8960 6398 www.alkhoei.org 802000 Secretary-General