



The present *Analytical Brief* was prepared by CTED in accordance with Security Council resolution 2395 (2017), which directs CTED to conduct analytical work on emerging issues, trends and developments and to make its analytical products available throughout the United Nations system.

CTED *Analytical Briefs* aim to provide the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, United Nations agencies, and policymakers with a concise analysis of specific issues, trends or implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The *Analytical Brief* also include relevant data gathered by CTED, including through engagement with its United Nations partners; international, regional and subregional organizations; civil society organizations; and members of the CTED Global Research Network (GRN).<sup>1</sup>

The unprecedented number of women who j72.02oled



camps in northern Syrian Arab Republic, where Kurdish-led authorities, who do not have an internationally recognized Government, are not prosecuting any of the ISIL-associated foreigners in their custody. There have also been calls for an international tribunal.

- x A number of Western States have put in place measures to allow for the stripping of citizenship from dual nationals ± thereby not only not repatriating women, but also preventing their independent return.
- x A number of States (predominantly across Asia and Eastern Europe) state that they are willing to repatriate women. However, either there is no available evidence of repatriations having taken place or the Governments in question remain in negotiations with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).
- x One Western European State has issued arrest warrants for its four female nationals remaining in the conflict zone and is reportedly in related negotiations with the SDF.



The situation in the camps in northern Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq is increasingly untenable, from a humanitarian, human rights and security standpoint. There is an urgent need to identify and implement solutions, which must acknowledge the distinct profiles of the individuals concerned, comply with international law, including international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and be specific to the immediate, medium- and longer-term challenges facing the States and communities involved.

An important difficulty faced by Member States in this regard is that the roles and motivations of women associated with ISIL remain poorly understood. Women joined ISIL for a range of different

The development of more effective and nuanced gender-sensitive solutions to screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration is a matter of priority, given the magnitude of the humanitarian, human rights, and security challenges relating to women associated with ISIL. The Security Council has issued resolutions and guidance to Member States on this issue, most notably:

x Security Council resolution 2396 (2017):

- o 5HFRJQLJHV WKH 3PDQ\ GLIIHUHQW UROHV LQFOX SHUSHWUDWRUV RI WHUURULVW DFWV' WKDW ZRPH developing tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, and stresses the importance of assisting women and children associated with foreign terrorist fighters who may have been victims of terrorism, and to do so taking into DFFRXQW JHQGHU DQG DJH VHQVLWLYLWLHV
- o Calls on Member States to develop risk assessment tools for individuals who show signs of radicalization to violence, including with a gender perspective.<sup>7</sup>
- o Encourages Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional entities, to ensure participation and leadership of women in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies for returning and relocating FTFs and their families.<sup>8</sup>
- o Encourages Member States to develop gender-sensitive counternarrative strategies in the prison system.<sup>9</sup>

x The Counter-7HUURULVP & ARDILWNLWH Guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (2018)<sup>10</sup> provides detailed 700571-TQ 0 612 7 (r)-229 (S)-6 (t)7 (a)7 (t)-13 (e)7 (

- Guiding Principle 43, which calls on Member States to put in place, where needed, special investigation and prosecution approaches that are gender-sensitive and, for cases involving children, take into account their rights;
- Guiding Principle 46 (c), which asks Member States to ensure that prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies are timely, appropriate, comprehensive and tailored, taking into account gender and age sensitivities and related factors.

Other relevant United Nations guidance includes:

- x The United Nations Nelson Mandela Rules and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the 'Bangkok Rules'), which set out the international standards, in accordance with international human rights law, for the treatment and conditions of women in detention.
  
- x In April 2019, the United Nations system developed