



COALITION
FOR JUST
REPARATIONS

Reparations Beyond Borders

Perspectives of Yazidi Survivors Law
Beneficiaries in the Diaspora



2026

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights is a charitable organization that supports survivors of human rights violations, defends fundamental freedoms, and promotes democratic values worldwide. In addition to human rights awareness-raising and advocacy, Jiyan Foundation provides mental health and medical treatment, as well as other support services, to survivors of trauma, terror, domestic violence, and other human rights violations across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Iraq, and Syria.

Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) is an alliance of Iraqi NGOs calling for comprehensive reparations for civilian victims of atrocity crimes perpetrated during the ISIL conflict in Iraq. C4JR uses Iraqi law and international human rights law to support reparation claims of survivors and encourage Iraqi authorities to meet their obligation to provide reparations.

Author: This report is authored by Mairéad Smith and reviewed by Dr. Bojan Gavrilovic.

Design: Delman Kareem

Cover Photo: Delman Kareem, Photo taken from the Siegessäule in Berlin Germany depicting Straße des 17. Juni and Tiergarten with the Reichstag, Fernsehturm and other city landmarks in the background

Date of Publication: September 30, 2026

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Acknowledgments

The author of this report would like to extend her gratitude, first and foremost, to the survivors who shared their perspectives during the focus group discussions and survey administration, as well as to Yazidi human rights activist Juwan Shro, who administered the survey to survivors in their mother tongue.

Thanks also go to Dr. Bojan Gavrilovic for his input, comments, and revisions to the initial survey concept and the first draft of the report. Special thanks go to Dr. Güneş Daşlı for questionnaire design and analysis.

All factual errors and/or omissions remain, of course, the author's sole responsibility.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the summer of 2026, C4JR surveyed 91 Yazidi survivors living in Germany, Australia, and Canada who had been approved for reparations under the Yazidi Survivors Law (YSL). The survey examined survivors' experiences of the YSL application process; access to and satisfaction with compensation payments; awareness of and satisfaction with other reparative benefits; and perceptions of recognition of harms and responsibility. This survey represents, to the best of our knowledge, the first systematic effort to examine the experiences of YSL beneficiaries living in the diaspora.

The findings demonstrate that though the General Directorate for Survivors Affairs (GDSA) has made efforts to accommodate the increasingly diasporic nature of the Yazidi survivor population, the delay in establishing mechanisms to facilitate access to the YSL application process from abroad has placed significant financial, administrative, and logistical burdens on survivors. The development of mechanisms enabling survivors in third countries to complete elements of the application process through Iraqi diplomatic missions and remote testimony represents an important adaptation of the reparations program. Nevertheless, significant practical, informational, and administrative challenges remain. While many respondents expressed satisfaction with compensation payments and reported positive experiences with aspects of the application process, access to reparations from abroad often depends on intermediaries, diplomatic missions, informal networks, and procedures that remain closely connected to institutions and services in Iraq.

Most survivors do not have direct access to their compensation payments, with 92% relying on a representative (*wakil*) in Iraq to receive payments on their behalf. At the same time, respondents reported considerable uncertainty regarding the use of mastercards (QI cards) abroad, international transfer mechanisms and associated fees, and the treatment of reparations within taxation and social welfare systems in their countries of residence. These uncertainties may contribute to survivors' continued reliance on representatives and other informal mechanisms for accessing their payments,

highlighting the need for clearer guidance and more accessible and secure options for receiving compensation directly abroad.

The survey also identified significant gaps in survivors' awareness of and engagement with reparative measures beyond compensation. Sixty percent of respondents reported that they did not feel fully informed about other benefits available under the YSL, while 98% reported that the GDSA or their local Iraqi diplomatic mission had not contacted them about symbolic benefits. This is particularly significant because respondents identified the search for missing persons, the recovery and return of remains, and justice and accountability as the symbolic measures most important to them.

The findings therefore highlight the need to adapt the implementation of the YSL to the realities of a transnational survivor population. Geographical distance changes how survivors interact with the Iraqi institutions responsible for administering reparations, but should not constitute a barrier to exercising their right to reparations. C4JR recommends strengthened diaspora outreach and communication by the GDSA, more accessible and secure mechanisms for receiving compensation abroad, improved consular services and remote administrative procedures, and stronger safeguards for representative arrangements. Host countries also have a role to play in ensuring that Iraqi reparations are not undermined by uncertainty or disadvantage within domestic taxation, social welfare, immigration, or other administrative systems. International partners and donors can support these efforts by strengthening the capacity of Iraqi institutions and supporting survivor-centered mechanisms that enable diaspora beneficiaries to access the full range of reparative measures to which they are entitled.

INTRODUCTION

Between June and July 2026, C4JR conducted a survey of 91 Yazidi survivors living in the diaspora, with respondents located primarily in Germany, Australia, and Canada. The survey examined survivors' experiences and satisfaction with the Yazidi Survivors Law (YSL), with particular attention to the application process, access to and receipt of compensation payments, and awareness of and access to other reparative benefits. It also sought to contribute to a broader understanding of how a reparations program established and administered by the Iraqi state can accommodate a survivor population that is increasingly transnational in its composition and circumstances. The analysis compares the findings with C4JR's previous YSL Compensation Satisfaction Survey, conducted in 2025 among survivors living in Iraq, and draws on relevant research conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and C4JR member organizations.¹

The growing number of YSL beneficiaries living outside Iraq makes this an increasingly important dimension of the Law's implementation. Speaking at a conference in February 2026, the General Directorate for Survivors Affairs (GDSA) reported that, of the 2,496 survivors approved for reparations under the YSL, only 809 were residing inside Iraq. As a result, more than two-thirds of approved survivors lived outside the country. This dispersal is the product of displacement, humanitarian resettlement programs, and subsequent migration, and has significant implications for the administration and accessibility of reparations. It raises questions not only about how survivors can access benefits from abroad, but also about the legal and administrative implications of receiving Iraqi reparations in countries of residence, including their potential tax treatment and interaction with social welfare and residency arrangements.

Despite the size of this population, survivors living outside Iraq have received comparatively limited attention in research on YSL implementation and have also been difficult to reach systematically. This report provides, to our knowledge, the first systematic survey specifically examining the experiences of YSL beneficiaries living in the diaspora.² The need for

such research is underscored by the broader scale of Yazidi displacement since 2014. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 Yazidis have left Iraq since the genocide, with many resettling in Western countries, particularly Germany, as well as Canada, Australia, Belgium, France, and the Netherlands.³ The YSL itself recognizes that eligible survivors may be living outside Iraq and provides for measures to facilitate their access to the reparations program.

However, practical accommodation for survivors living abroad has developed considerably more slowly than the legal recognition of their entitlement to reparations. Although the YSL was enacted in March 2021 and applications began shortly thereafter, it was not until December 2024 that a mechanism was established allowing survivors living in the diaspora to complete the investigative and testimonial components of the application process without returning to Iraq. A central barrier was the requirement that applicants submit investigative documentation generated through a criminal investigative process alongside their YSL applications. This requirement has been widely criticized by civil society organizations and human rights actors as imposing an additional evidentiary burden on survivors seeking reparations and as lacking a clear basis in the YSL itself or its implementing regulations.⁴

Following a Supreme Judicial Council decision issued in July 2023⁵ permitting witness testimony through video conferencing, the GDSA subsequently announced that survivors living in France and Germany could provide testimony remotely at Iraqi diplomatic missions in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Paris.⁶ The mechanism was developed through collaboration between the GDSA, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and relevant Iraqi diplomatic missions. The introduction of remote testimony represented an important procedural adaptation to the realities of a geographically dispersed survivor population. In May 2025, the GDSA reported that approximately 150 survivors had registered to provide testimony remotely and that 120 had already been interviewed. However, the number of survivors who have subsequently completed the full YSL application process through

this mechanism remains unclear, and no further comprehensive figures on applications facilitated from abroad have been made publicly available.

The development of these arrangements points to a broader question extending beyond the implementation of the YSL itself: how should reparations programs respond when the communities for whom they were designed become increasingly dispersed across national borders? The experience of Yazidi survivors illustrates the implications of a growing reliance on humanitarian resettlement and migration as responses to mass atrocity. Resettlement may provide survivors with greater physical security and access to new forms of social and economic support, but it can also distance survivors from key transitional justice institutions, including those through which reparations are administered. Reparative measures necessitating residence in Iraq may become difficult to access or less relevant, while reparative measures that can be transferred across borders may generate new questions concerning representation, taxation, welfare entitlements, documentation, and continued engagement with the Iraqi state.

Germany

Germany is home to the largest Yazidi population outside Iraq. Estimates of the post-2014 Yazidi population in Germany range from approximately 100,000 to 150,000,⁷ with sizable communities in cities including Bielefeld, Bremen, Celle, Cologne, Emmerich, Hannover, and Oldenburg.⁸ Germany has consequently become a particularly important site for understanding the longer-term implications of Yazidi displacement and the provision of reparations to survivors living outside Iraq.

A significant component of Germany's Yazidi survivor population arrived through the Baden-Württemberg state government's *Sonderkontingent* (Special Quota) Humanitarian Admission Program, announced in 2014.⁹ The program was established to provide humanitarian admission to particularly vulnerable women and children who had survived atrocities committed by ISIS, with a particular emphasis on those requiring specialized medical and psychosocial support that was largely unavailable in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region at the time.¹⁰

Approximately 1,100 survivors were brought to Germany through the program between 2015 and 2016 and resettled across 22 cities. Upon arrival, participants were provided with accommodation, medical and psychosocial care, financial assistance, and educational support, including German-language classes.

The gendered design of the program was significant. Admission focused on women and children who had experienced particularly severe violations and vulnerabilities, meaning that many survivors arrived in Germany without their husbands or other adult male family members. This shaped participants' subsequent experiences of family separation and reunification. IOM research on the program found that some older survivors, in particular, continued to experience difficulties where spouses remained in Iraq.

Survivors arriving through the *Sonderkontingent* were later joined by other forms of migration and family reunification. Some survivors and their relatives arrived through Germany's broader asylum system, while others joined family members already resident in Germany. These different pathways have contributed to the development of established Yazidi communities across the country and to the increasingly permanent settlement of survivors outside Iraq.

France

There have been several pathways through which Yazidi survivors have resettled in France. France admits refugees from Iraq through annual quotas established in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the number of admissions varying from year to year. France has also admitted Iraqi nationals considered to be "persecuted, threatened, or displaced due to their affiliation with a religious minority, their ties to France, or their extreme vulnerability."¹¹

Between 2014 and 2017, France implemented a distinct admissions program for Iraqi nationals that included individuals sponsored by French citizens. Through this program, approximately 500 Yazidis, primarily survivors and their family members, were resettled in France.¹² Coordinated by IOM

Iraq, the program included medical screening and cultural orientation before departure. Following their arrival in France, survivors were provided with accommodation and support from local NGOs.¹³

In October 2018, following a meeting between Nadia Murad and the French President, France launched a Humanitarian Admission Program (HAP) under which it agreed to admit 100 Yazidi survivors and their family members.¹⁴ Implemented through collaboration between the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IOM, the program was designed to facilitate the humanitarian admission of Yazidi women survivors and their children. After arriving in France, Yazidi refugees begin the process of obtaining residence permits, which provide access to state-supported services, including public housing and educational opportunities. As in Germany, the French case illustrates how multiple forms of humanitarian admission and subsequent migration have progressively relocated survivors and their families outside Iraq, creating a geographically dispersed population whose access to Iraqi reparations must increasingly be facilitated across national borders.

Australia

Australia has resettled Yazidi refugees through its Offshore Humanitarian Program since 2015, with the program particularly focused on women who survived ISIL captivity and their immediate family members. According to the Australian Parliament, more than 5,500 Yazidi refugees have been resettled through the program by 2023.¹⁵ In 2016, the Australian Government announced that Yazidis would be prioritized for resettlement through its humanitarian intake. Between 2016 and 2017, Australia granted offshore humanitarian visas to 668 Yazidis residing in Turkey and Iraq.¹⁶ Following resettlement, Yazidi refugees have received assistance to establish their lives in Australia through settlement service providers, including the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga and the Australian Red Cross.¹⁷ Support is available for up to 24 months after arrival, helping refugees settle and integrate. Yazidi refugees may also access longer-term settlement services through the Settlement Grant Program designed to support social and economic participation, personal wellbeing,

independence, and community connectedness. These services have facilitated access to education, employment, health and other forms of community support as survivors establish their lives in Australia.

The Australian government has settled Yazidis in regional areas across New South Wales, including Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour, Tamworth and Armidale, and Toowoomba in Queensland. Toowoomba, a regional city in southeast Queensland, has emerged as a particularly significant center of Yazidi settlement¹⁸ and is designated as a Refugee Welcome Zone.¹⁹ Census data illustrate the rapid growth of the Yazidi population in Australia, increasing from 63 people recorded in the 2016 Census to 4,123 in the 2021 Census.²⁰ The concentration of Yazidi survivors in regional communities is particularly relevant to understanding their experiences of accessing reparations under the YSL. While regional resettlement has provided access to local settlement and community services, survivors' geographical distance from Iraqi diplomatic missions may create additional practical considerations for accessing reparations and related services.

Canada

On October 25, 2016, the House of Commons voted unanimously to provide protection to Yazidi women and girls. Following the German model, Canada launched an initiative to resettle internally displaced Yazidis, with a particular focus on women and children. The government first committed to resettling 1,200 survivors by the end of 2017, but later extended measures to facilitate family members and extended family members to support survivors' emotional and mental well-being.²¹ Permanent resident visas are issued to successful applicants, and survivors and their families enter the country as government-assisted refugees with an income and other support available for one year.²² Although it is now closed, the program continues to facilitate relocations to Canada through 2026-2027. Once in Canada, survivors receive support from the Resettlement Assistance Program, including a one-time start-up allowance and monthly income support for up to 12 months, which can, in some circumstances, be extended by a further 12 months. Survivors also receive temporary housing and help finding permanent housing, orientation on finances

and life skills, and links to federal and provincial programs.

As permanent residents, survivors receive coverage for health care services through provincial insurance plans and are eligible for publicly funded mental health support, including licensed psychiatrists,

mental health hospitals, specialized refugee clinics, and family physicians. These settlement measures have supported the establishment of a longer-term Yazidi community in Canada, extending beyond the initial cohort of survivors admitted through the humanitarian resettlement initiative.

METHODOLOGY

Survey design began in April 2026 and was informed by focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted in May 2026 with Yazidi survivors living in Germany, Australia, and Canada. A total of eight survivors participated in the FGDs to identify topics and concerns particularly relevant to survivors living in the diaspora and to inform the survey instrument. Several themes emerged from the FGDs, including experiences with and access to Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad; questions about taxation and receiving compensation payments; and limited awareness of other reparative measures available under the YSL beyond compensation payments. These discussions also helped identify issues that may not have been sufficiently captured in C4JR's previous surveys, which have primarily focused on beneficiaries residing in Iraq. Following the FGDs, the survey instrument was revised to incorporate the themes and concerns raised by diaspora survivors and was finalized at the end of May 2026. Survey administration began in June.

The final survey comprised five principal sections: (1) demographic information; (2) experiences with and access to the YSL application process; (3) access to and satisfaction with compensation payments; (4) access to and satisfaction with other reparation measures; (5) recognition of harms and state responsibility. The questionnaire included a combination of closed-ended questions, including yes/no and multiple-choice questions, and open-ended questions that allowed respondents to provide additional information about their experience.

The eligibility criteria were respondents approved as YSL beneficiaries, located in one of the three countries in the diaspora.

Sampling and Survey Administration

Yazidi survivors living in the diaspora constitute a comparatively hard-to-reach population for survey research. Survivors are geographically dispersed across multiple countries and may have varying degrees of integration into their countries of residence, as well as differing levels of connection to Yazidi community networks, NGOs, and Iraqi diplomatic institutions. These characteristics presented challenges for identifying a comprehensive and reliable sampling frame and reaching survivors across different countries and communities. Despite these challenges, C4JR was able to reach 91 YSL beneficiaries living abroad, generating important empirical evidence on the experience of survivors accessing reparations outside Iraq.

The significance of the survey lies not only in its findings, but also in its focus on a population whose experiences of the YSL have received limited systematic attention to date. By reaching survivors across Germany, Australia, and Canada, the survey provides insight into how the YSL is experienced by beneficiaries living outside Iraq, including their access to compensation, engagement with other reparative measures, and interactions with Iraqi institutions and diplomatic missions. In doing so, it provides an important empirical basis for understanding the challenges and opportunities involved in extending access to reparations to an increasingly transnational survivor population.

To establish the target sample, C4JR drew on the only population-level estimates available from the GDSA concerning YSL survivors residing outside Iraq. These figures indicated an estimated population of 1,665 eligible survivors in the diaspora. C4JR used Cochran's sample size formula to calculate the

required sample, with the calculation conducted using SPSS. While a more conventional margin of error of approximately 7% was considered, C4JR adopted a 10% margin of error in light of the methodological and practical challenges associated with surveying this particularly narrow and geographically dispersed population. The use of a 10% margin of error was considered appropriate and sufficiently robust for the purposes of this survey as it did not seek to produce population-level estimates with the precision expected of a conventional large-scale probability survey. Rather, it aimed to generate systematic evidence concerning the experiences of a hard-to-reach population for which comprehensive sampling frames are not readily available. A 10% margin of error therefore provided a reasonable balance between statistical precision and the feasibility of reaching a sufficiently diverse group of eligible survivors across the three countries. C4JR subsequently sought to recruit respondents in accordance with this proportional distribution, and the final survey was completed by 91 Yazidi survivors.

In previous C4JR surveys, survey administration has relied substantially on C4JR member organizations to facilitate access to respondents within their respective components. For this survey, however, the geographical dispersion of diaspora survivors limited the extent to which this approach could be used. C4JR therefore adopted a respondent-driven recruitment approach. Drawing on the survey administrator's extension, long-term engagement with Yazidi survivors living in the diaspora, several initial 'seed' participants were identified in Germany, Australia, and Canada.²³ These participants assisted in identifying and reaching other eligible survivors within their respective locations.

Although the survey administrator was a Yazidi based in Europe, face-to-face recruitment and administration through fixed sites were not considered feasible for this survey. Such an approach would have substantially delayed the rollout of the survey and would have been particularly difficult to implement consistently across Australia and Canada. Instead, recruitment and survey administration were conducted primarily remotely. This approach enabled C4JR to reach respondents across multiple countries while reducing the logistical and geographical barriers associated with face-to-face administration.

The use of respondent-driven recruitment was appropriate to the practical challenges of reaching a dispersed population for which no comprehensive sampling frame was available. However, it also introduces limitations to the representativeness of the sample. Respondents recruited through existing survivor and community networks may share characteristics with the individuals through whom they were reached, and survivors who are less connected to these networks may be underrepresented. This was certainly the case when seeking respondents who had applied to the YSL at a diplomatic mission and submitted a remote testimony via video conferencing, as identifying this particular population took considerably longer. The findings should therefore be understood as providing an important account of the experiences and perceptions of surveyed diaspora survivors rather than as statistically representative of all Yazidi survivors living outside Iraq.

The successful implementation of the survey was also facilitated by the field researcher's prior experience working with Yazidi survivors and diaspora communities, established relationships within survivor networks, and familiarity with the sensitivities and practical challenges involved in conducting research with this population. This experience supported the researcher's ability to establish rapport with potential participants, navigate existing community and organisational networks, and adapt recruitment and survey administration to the different contexts in which diaspora survivors were living.

Challenges During Survey Administration

Survey administration presented a number of additional challenges. During the rollout of the survey, concerns emerged within some diaspora survivor communities regarding C4JR's intentions in relation to the disclosure of reparations payments to state authorities and the potential taxation of YSL compensation payments in countries of residence. These concerns affected the willingness of some survivors to participate and created additional difficulties for the peer-to-peer recruitment process.

Scope of the Survey

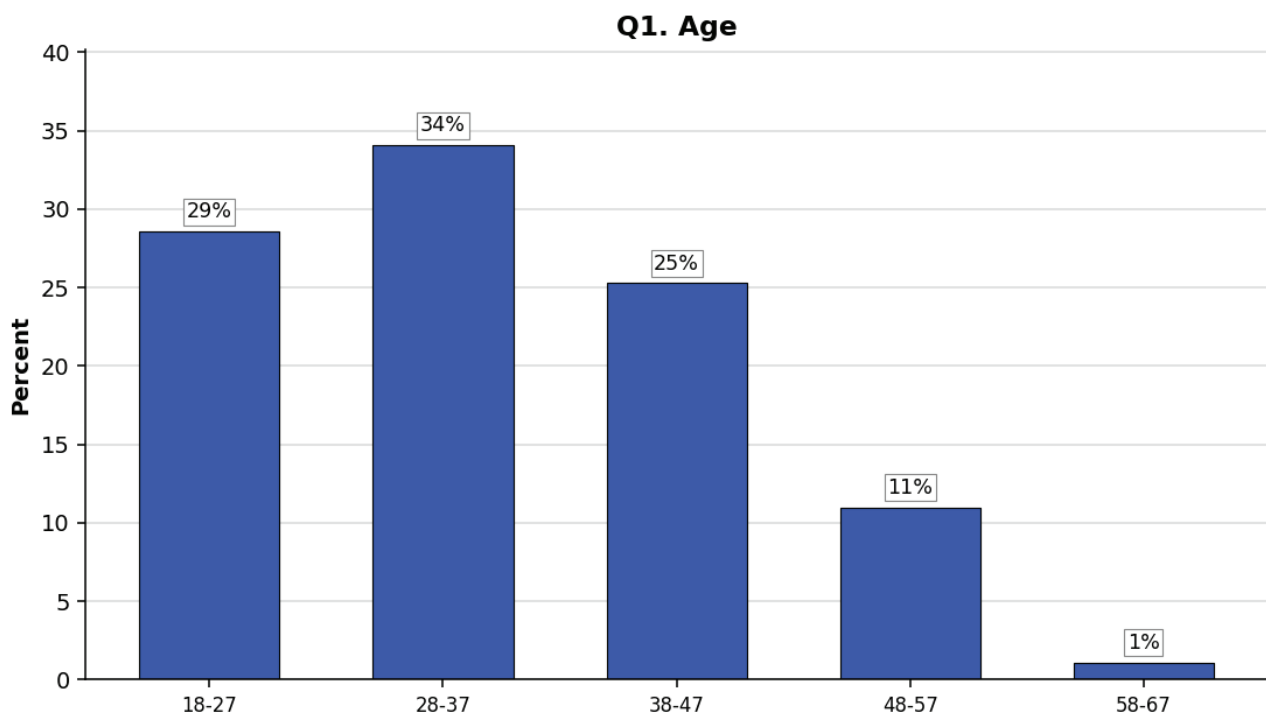
Unlike C4JR's most recent surveys of YSL beneficiaries, which sought to include beneficiaries from each component listed under the YSL, this survey focused exclusively on Yazidi survivors. C4JR was unable to identify survivors from other components covered

by the YSL who were living in the diaspora during the survey period. The findings should therefore be interpreted as reflecting the experiences of Yazidi survivors in Germany, Australia, and Canada and should not be generalized to survivors from other components that might be living outside Iraq.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

A total of 91 Yazidi survivors participated in the survey. The sample was predominantly female, with 77 women (85%) and 14 men (15%) responding. This gender distribution is broadly consistent with the population targeted by the survey, given the particular relevance of the YSL to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and captivity, and reflects the gendered nature of ISIL violence. All respondents identified Sinjar as their area of origin.

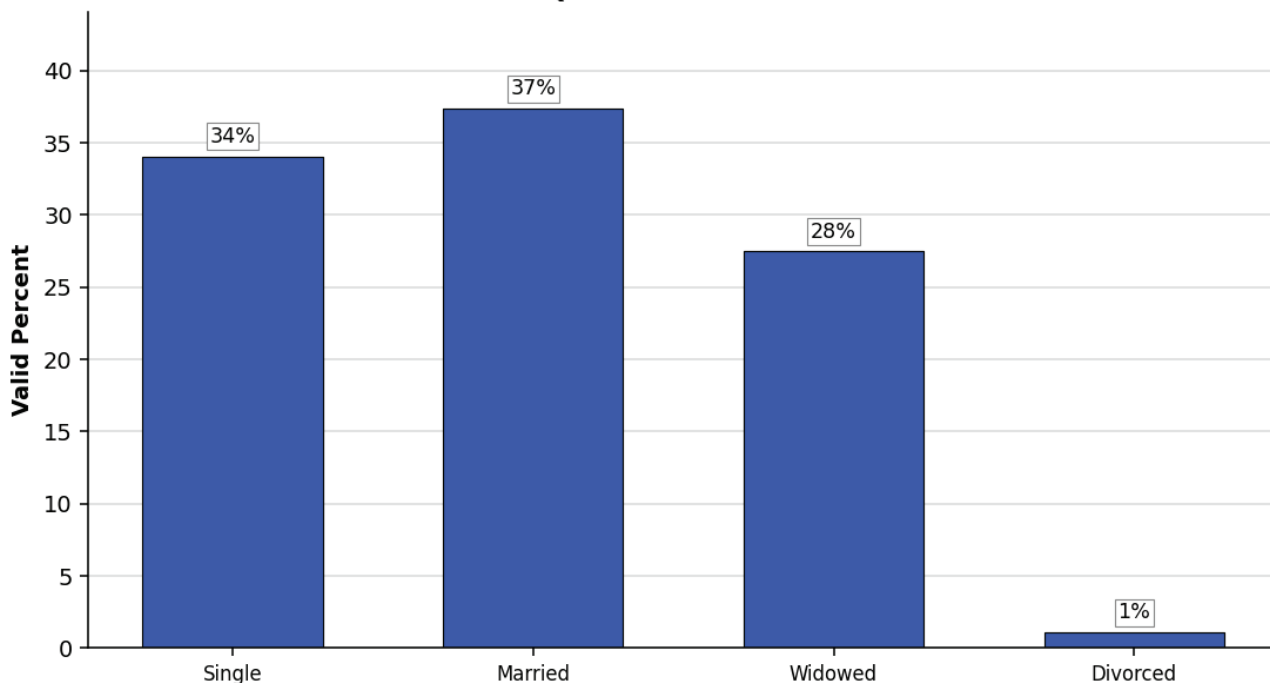
In terms of age, respondents were concentrated in the younger and middle adult age groups. Thirty-four percent were aged between 28-37, while 29% were between 18-27. A further 25% were aged 38-47, and only 11% aged between 48-57. The age distribution therefore indicated that the survey primarily captured the experiences of relatively young and middle-aged survivors living in the diaspora.



With regard to marital status, 37% of respondents were married, and 34% were single, with 28% widowed. The relatively high proportion of widowed

respondents is notable in the context of the broader experiences of gendered violence during ISIL crimes, where men were directly targeted for death.

Q4. Marital status

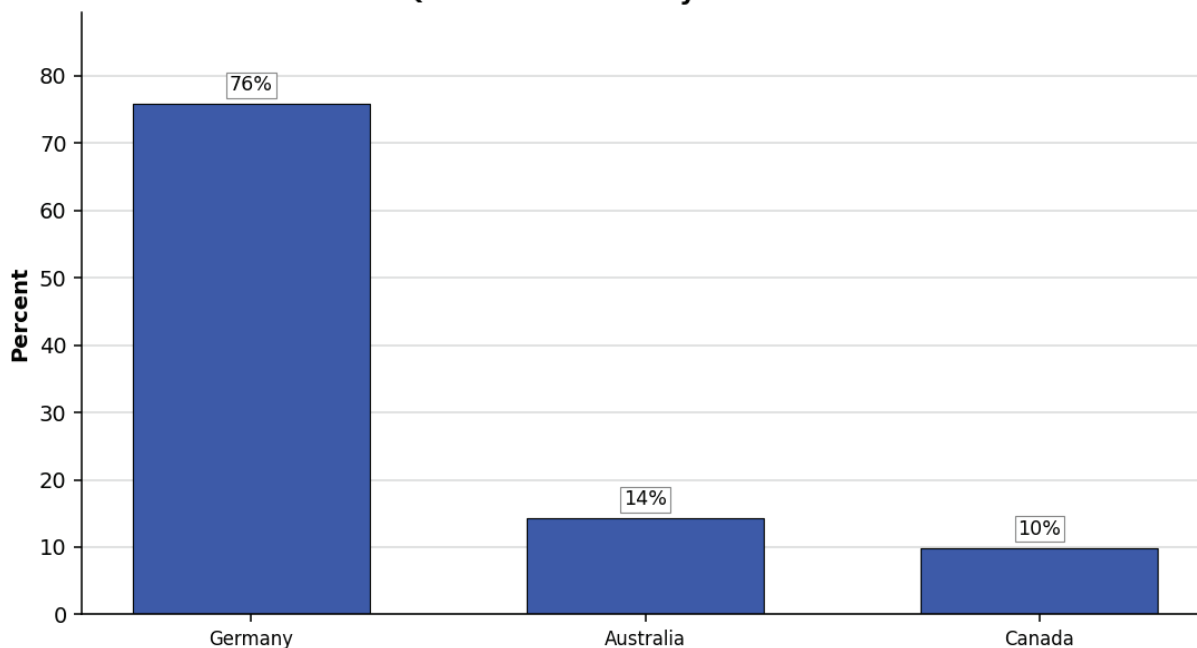


Country of Residence

The majority of respondents were residing in Germany at the time of the survey (76%), while 14% were residing in Australia and 10% in Canada. The concentration of respondents in Germany

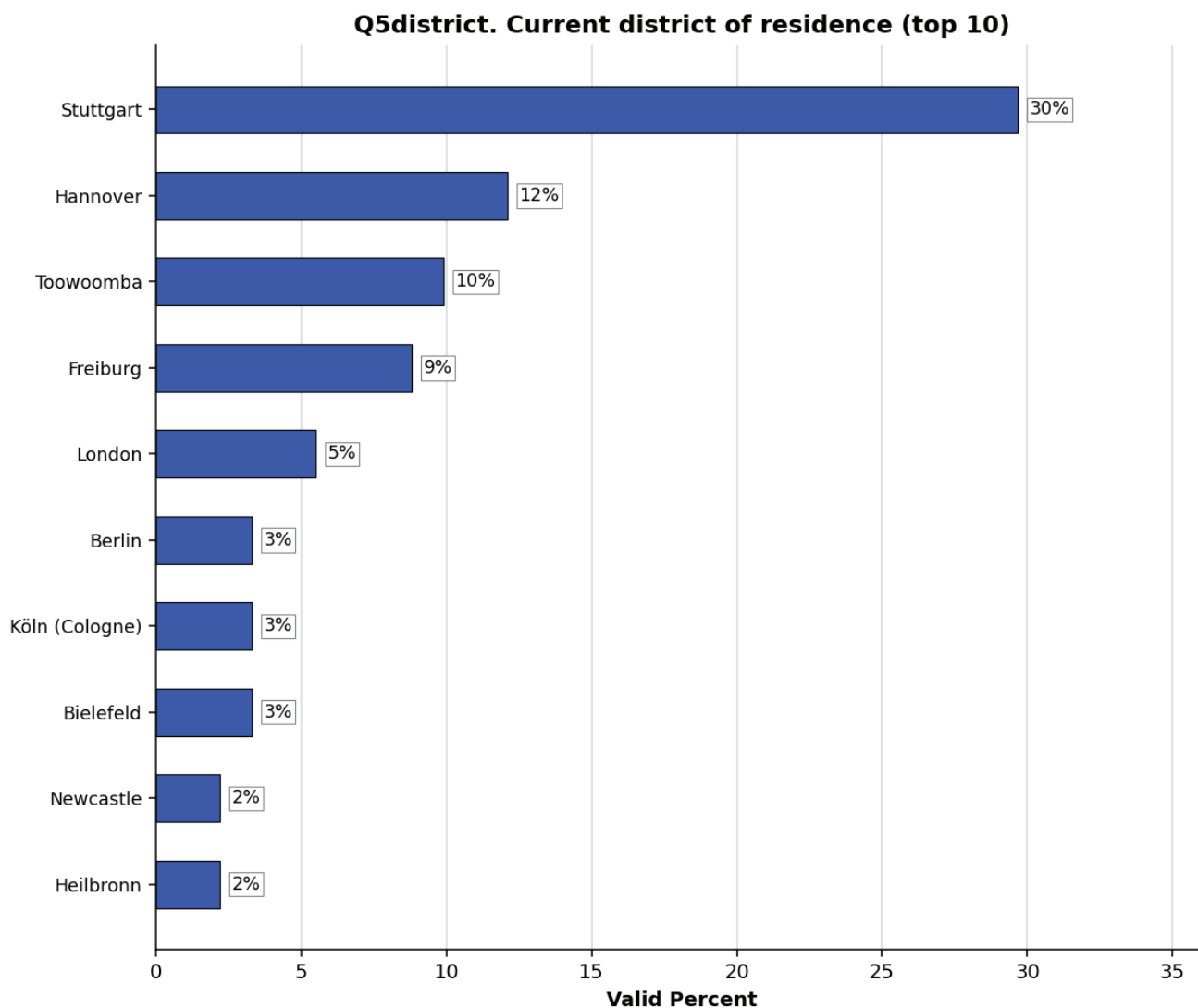
reflects both the larger estimated population of YSL beneficiaries in Europe and the humanitarian assistance programs that have been established there.

Q5. Current country of residence



Among respondents residing in Germany, 30% were living in Stuttgart and 12% in Hannover. A further 9% were living in Freiburg, while 3% were living in Berlin, 3% in Cologne, 3% in Bielefeld, and 2% in Heilbronn. Among respondents in Australia, most

were concentrated in Toowoomba (10% of the total sample), while respondents in Canada were located primarily in London, Ontario (5%) and Newcastle (2%).



The majority of respondents (84%) held permanent resident status in their country of residence, while only 12% had acquired citizenship, and a further 4% selected other. Despite the relatively secure immigration status reported by most respondents, 90% stated that they had not been able to support family members to resettle in their country of residence. This suggests that permanent residence or citizenship does not necessarily translate into the ability to support family members' reunification or broader family resettlement in their country of residence. For many survivors, migration and settlement may therefore remain an individual or partial process, with close family members continuing to reside elsewhere.

For respondents in Germany, family reunification can involve significant legal and practical requirements. Depending on the circumstances of the sponsor and the family members seeking to join them, requirements may include secure legal status and gainful employment in order to facilitate the reunion of their family members.²⁴ Family members intending to join residents in Germany must demonstrate a certain level of proficiency in the German language.²⁵ These requirements can create additional barriers and contribute to lengthy family reunification processes. The high proportion of respondents who had been unable to facilitate family resettlement is therefore relevant to understanding the broader circumstances surrounding access to and perceived satisfaction with particular reparative benefits under

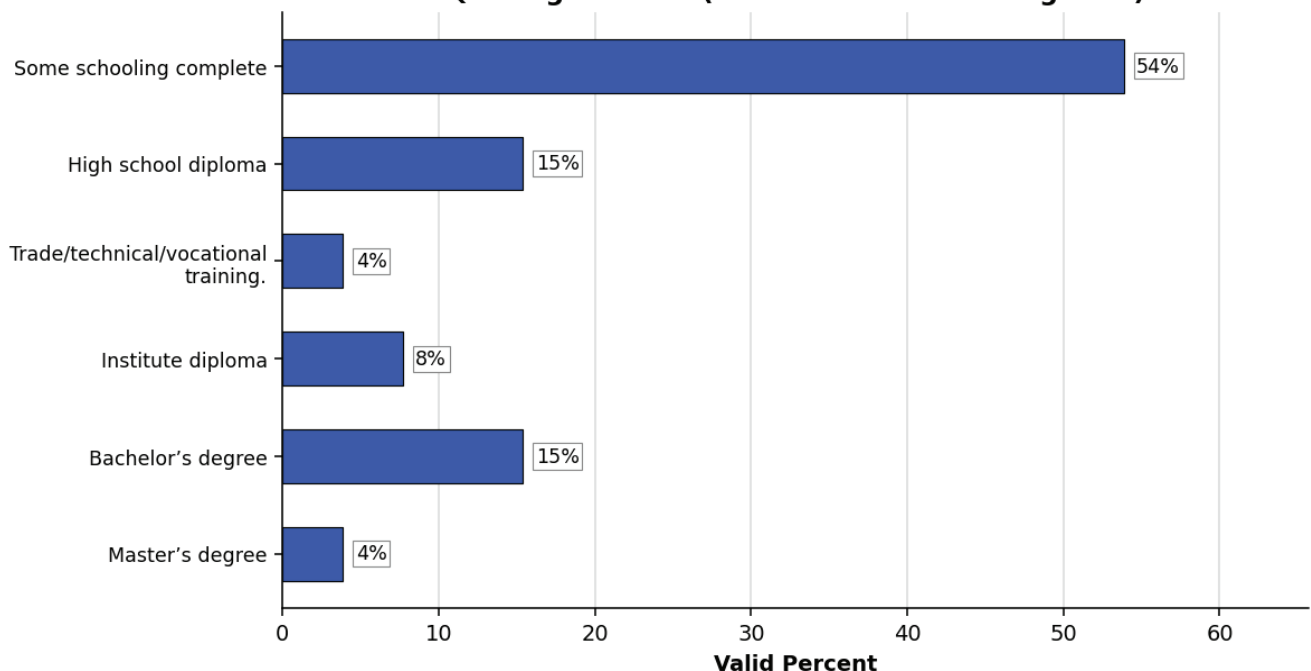
the YSL. Although most respondents had established relatively long-term legal status in their countries of residence, their continued separation from family members may shape their financial responsibilities, reliance on relatives and representatives, and priorities concerning compensation and other forms of reparation.

Education Status

Of the 91 respondents surveyed, 29% reported that they were currently in education, while 71% were not. Of the 26 respondents aged between 18-27, 42% are currently in education, while in the category 28-37, 9% are in education. Among respondents reporting their highest level of completed education, 54% had completed some schooling but had not obtained a secondary-school diploma, 15% held a high school diploma, and a further 15% held a bachelor's degree.

The proportion of respondents currently in education was more than twice as high among diaspora respondents than among survivors previously surveyed by C4JR in Iraq (29% compared with 13%). This difference may reflect, among other factors, differences in access to and engagement with education systems in countries of residence. However, the survey does not establish whether residence abroad itself is responsible for the higher rate of educational participation.

Q9. Degree level (of those with schooling data)



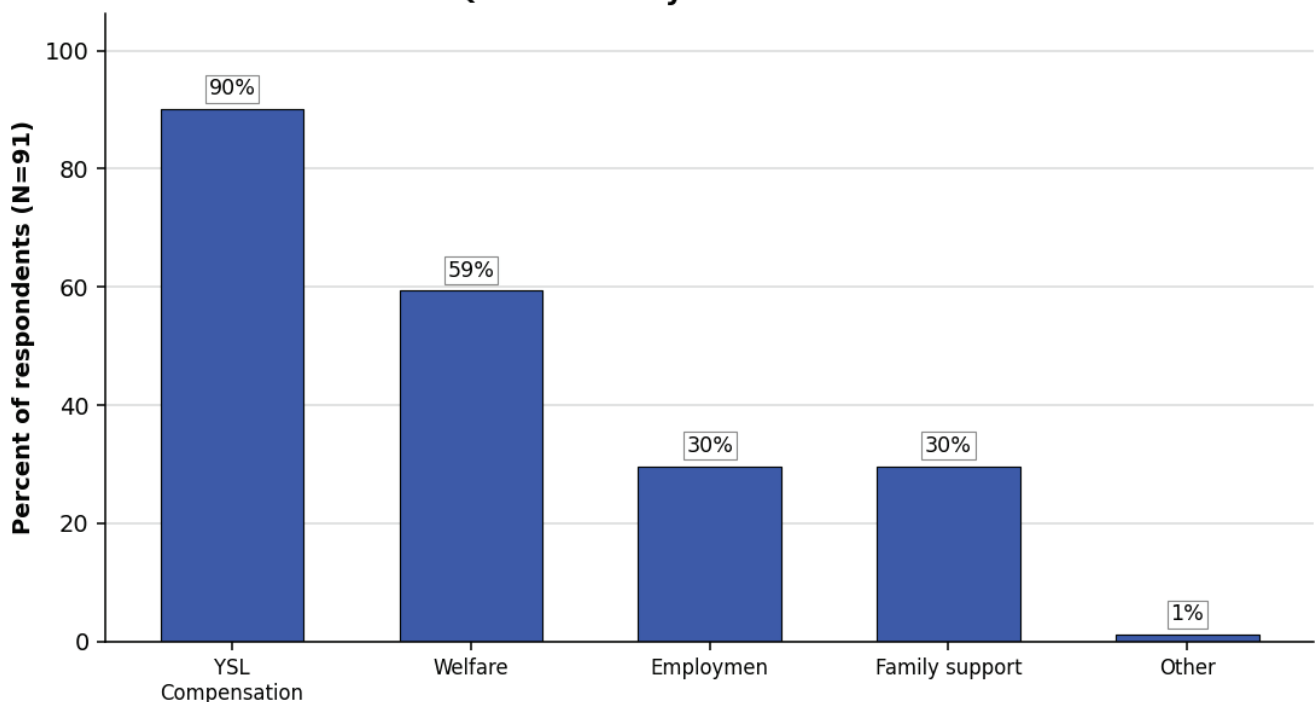
The finding is particularly relevant in light of survivors' accounts that they sometimes viewed relocation or travel abroad as an opportunity to resume their education and reflects the reality that the Iraqi education system does not meet survivors' needs.²⁶ The survey data provides some support for this perception, although the overall figure of 29% includes respondents across all age groups and therefore does not provide a direct examination of educational participation among those of conventional school or university age.

Employment Status

Among respondents, 44% identified as homemakers (all female), while 31% were in wage employment and 12% reported being unable to work. The relatively high proportion of respondents not engaged in paid employment is notable, given the financial dependence on YSL compensation reported elsewhere in the survey.

Despite living outside Iraq and facing particular challenges in accessing compensation payments, 90% of respondents selected YSL compensation payment as a primary source of income, making it the most frequently reported source among those included in the survey. This finding highlights the significant economic importance of YSL compensation for diaspora survivors and suggests that compensation is not experienced solely as a form of reparation, but also as an important component of household livelihood. Respondents also reported relying on a range of other sources of income. Welfare benefits were identified as a primary source of income by 59% of respondents, while 30% reported employment and a further 30% reported family support as primary sources. These figures indicate that respondents' economic circumstances are generally characterized by multiple and overlapping sources of support rather than reliance on a single income stream.

Q10b. Primary source of income



The combination of high reliance on YSL compensation and relatively limited participation in paid employment is particularly important in the context of diaspora survivors. While 84% of respondents reported holding permanent residence and 12% citizenship in their country of residence, legal settlement status does not necessarily correspond to economic independence. For many respondents, YSL compensation appears to form part of a broader livelihood strategy alongside welfare, employment,

and family support. This also underscores the potential consequences of administrative or practical barriers to accessing compensation payments from abroad. Where compensation constitutes a primary source of income, delays, difficulties in transferring payments, or reliance on intermediaries to receive funds may have consequences extending beyond access to a reparative benefit and may directly affect survivors' economic security.

YSL APPLICATION PROCESS

When asked where they first heard that applications for the YSL were open, 37% of respondents identified a 'family member' as their source of information, followed by 33% who heard from 'another survivor,' and 14% from an NGO. Only 3% of respondents reported this information directly from the GDSA. These findings suggest that information about access to the YSL has circulated predominantly through family and survivor networks rather than through direct communication from the institution responsible for administering the law. This reliance on interpersonal networks is particularly significant for diaspora survivors who may have limited direct contact with or knowledge of Iraqi institutions and may depend on existing family connections to gain information about YSL updates.

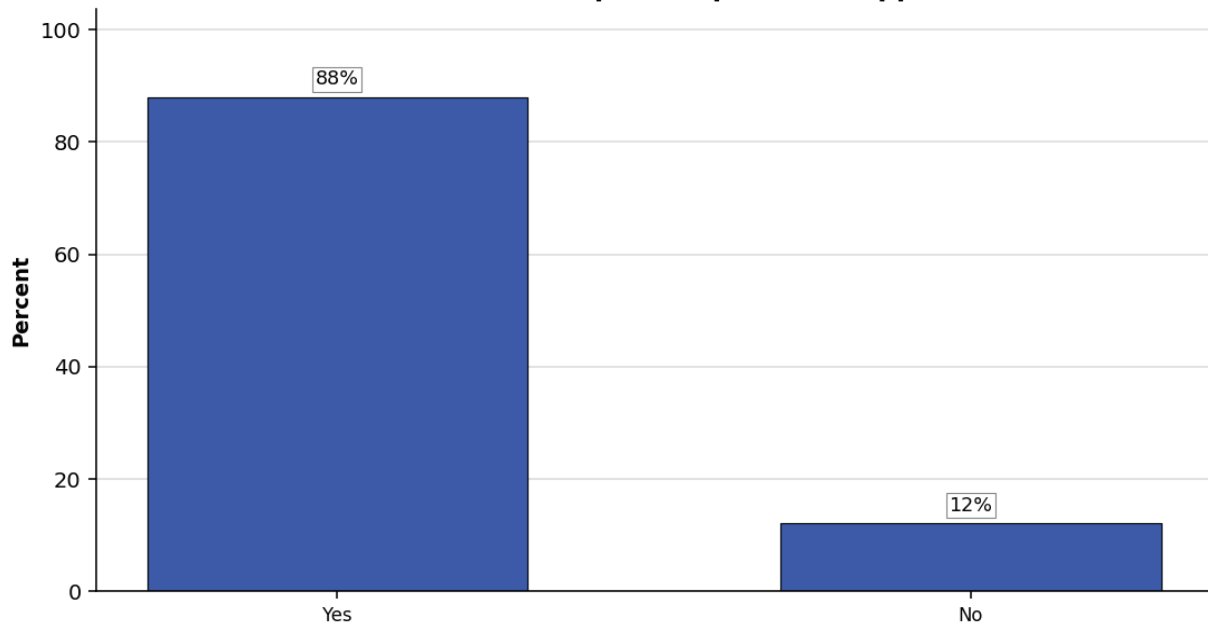
A similar pattern was evident when respondents were asked where they sought information while preparing their applications. Family members remained the most frequently reported source, with 40% of respondents requesting information from a 'family member,' followed by 25% who sought information from 'another survivor.' However, the proportion seeking information directly from the GDSA increased to 12% on this point. The findings indicate that, while formal institutional channels become more prominent as respondents progressed with their applications, family and survivor networks remained central to accessing relevant information and updates about the YSL.

is a positive indication that, for the vast majority of diaspora applicants, the availability of civil documentation did not constitute a significant barrier to initiating the application process.

The vast majority of respondents had traveled back to Iraq to complete their YSL application. This reflects, in part, the timing of the establishment of the remote testimony mechanism, which was introduced almost three and a half years after the GDSA began accepting applications. For YSL applicants who applied before remote testimony was available through Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad, completing the application required physical presence in Iraq. Respondents estimated that, on average, the cost of traveling to Iraq to complete their application was approximately \$2,000 USD, despite most reporting that only one return trip was required. For diaspora survivors, the financial and logistical costs associated with returning to Iraq represent an additional dimension of accessing reparations that is not experienced in the same way as applicants in the country. Among respondents who submitted their applications in Iraq, 59% reported giving their testimony at Sinjar Court and a further 16% at the Sinjar Court's Faida branch located near Duhok.

Preparing YSL Applications

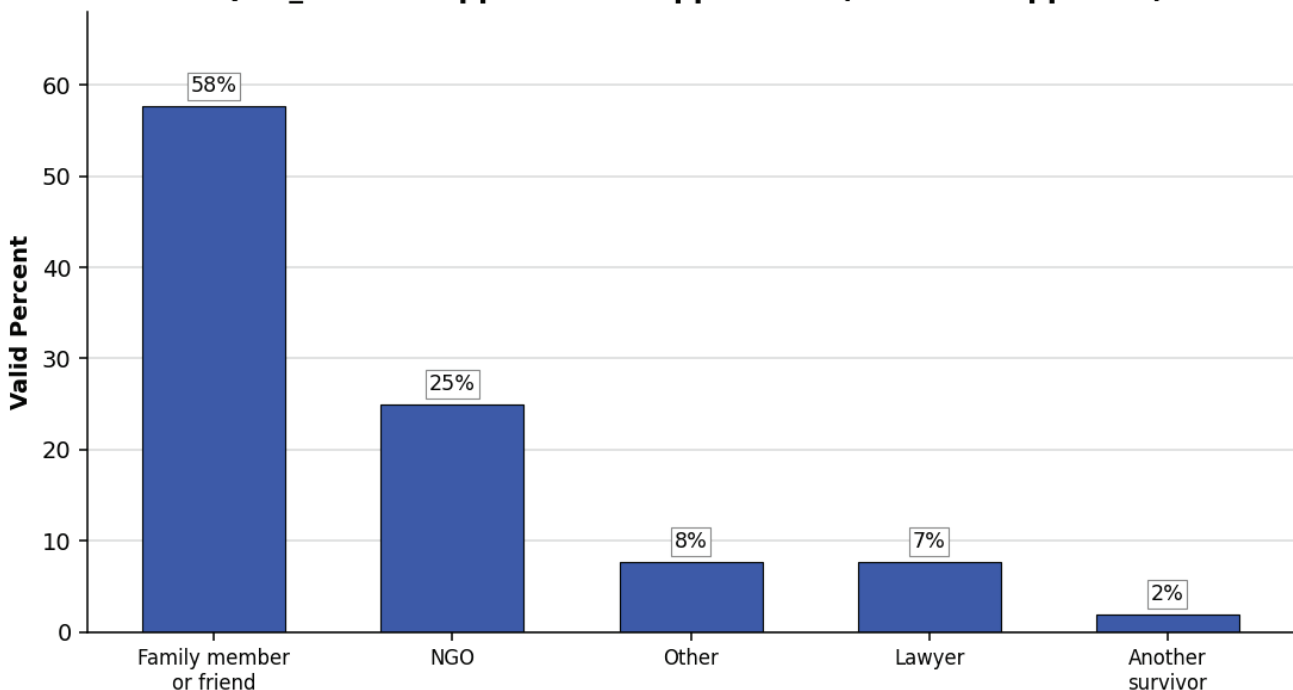
In preparing their applications, 93% of respondents reported already having the required civil documentation before applying for the YSL. This

Q13. Travelled to Iraq to complete YSL application

Of those who had given their testimony in Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad, most respondents had done so in Paris and Frankfurt. Families of applicants, and particularly those with power of attorney for applicants located in Iraq, were noted by respondents as having assisted them in acquiring other documentation needed to submit their YSL application—such as civil documentation—further emphasizing that links to family members in Iraq were still required.

Sixty-five percent of respondents stated that they received support in applying for the YSL and of those

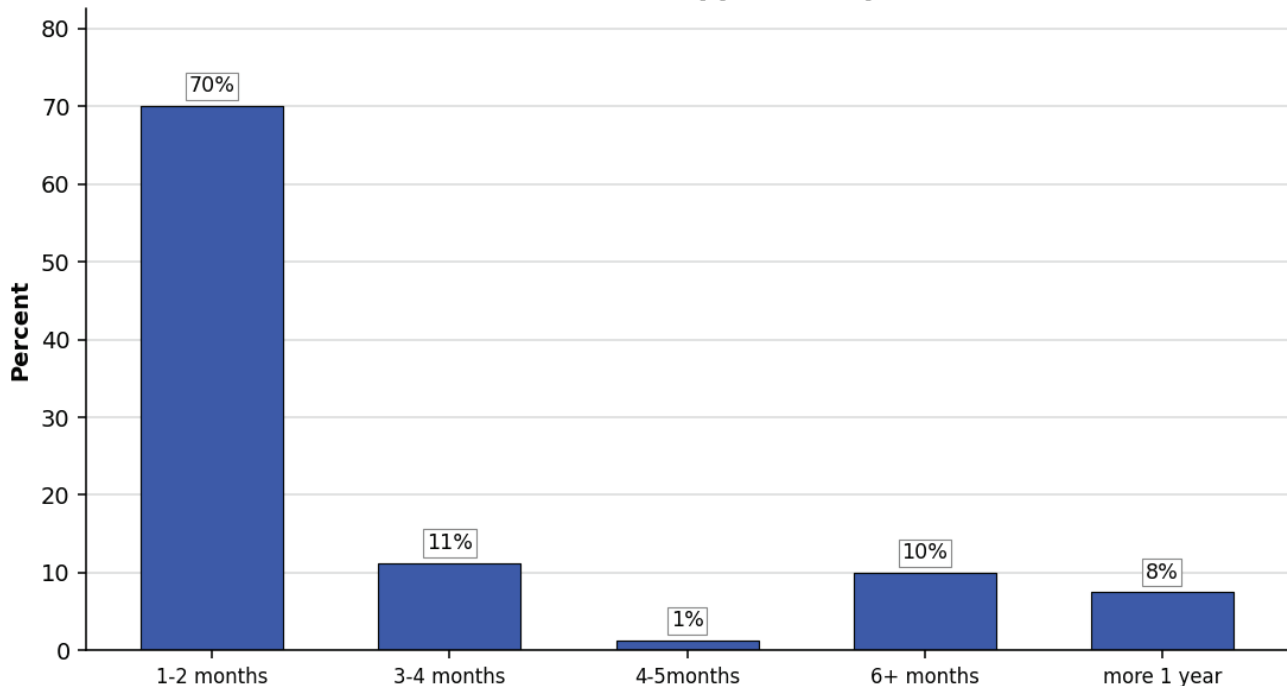
who received support, 58% did so from a 'family member or friend,' 25% from an 'NGO,' and 8% from a lawyer. When asked why they sought support with their YSL application, 54% responded that they did not know how to apply and what was involved in the process, while a further 15% noted that they were not aware of the required documents they needed to submit their application. Of those who stated where they received support, C4JR member organization Farida Global was mentioned several times as providing assistance with applications for survivors in the diaspora.

Q13i_a. Who supported the application (of those supported)

For respondents who applied both in Iraq and from abroad, the application process itself was generally completed within a relatively short period: 70% reported that their application took between one and two months to complete, while only 8% reported that the process took more than one year.

This suggests that, once initiated, the application process was completed within a relatively short timeframe for most respondents, notwithstanding the wider logistical and administrative requirements associated with accessing the YSL from abroad.

Q13h. Duration of application process



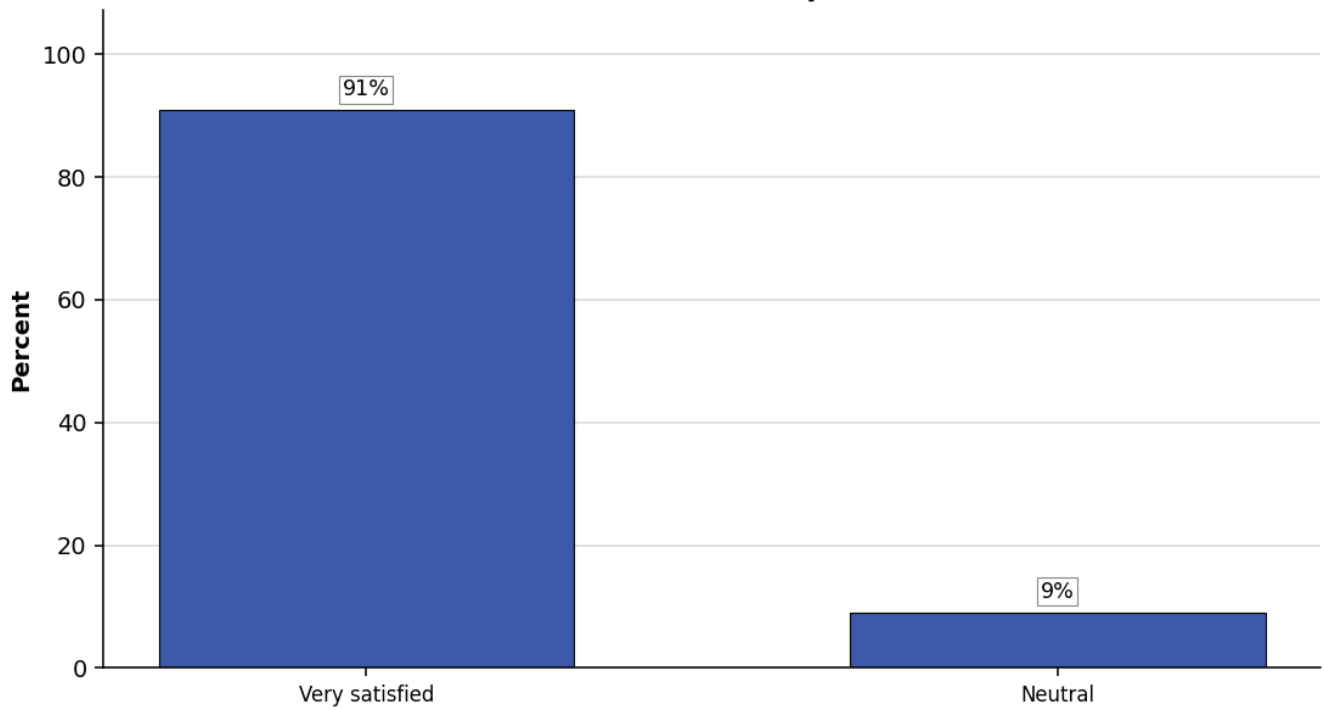
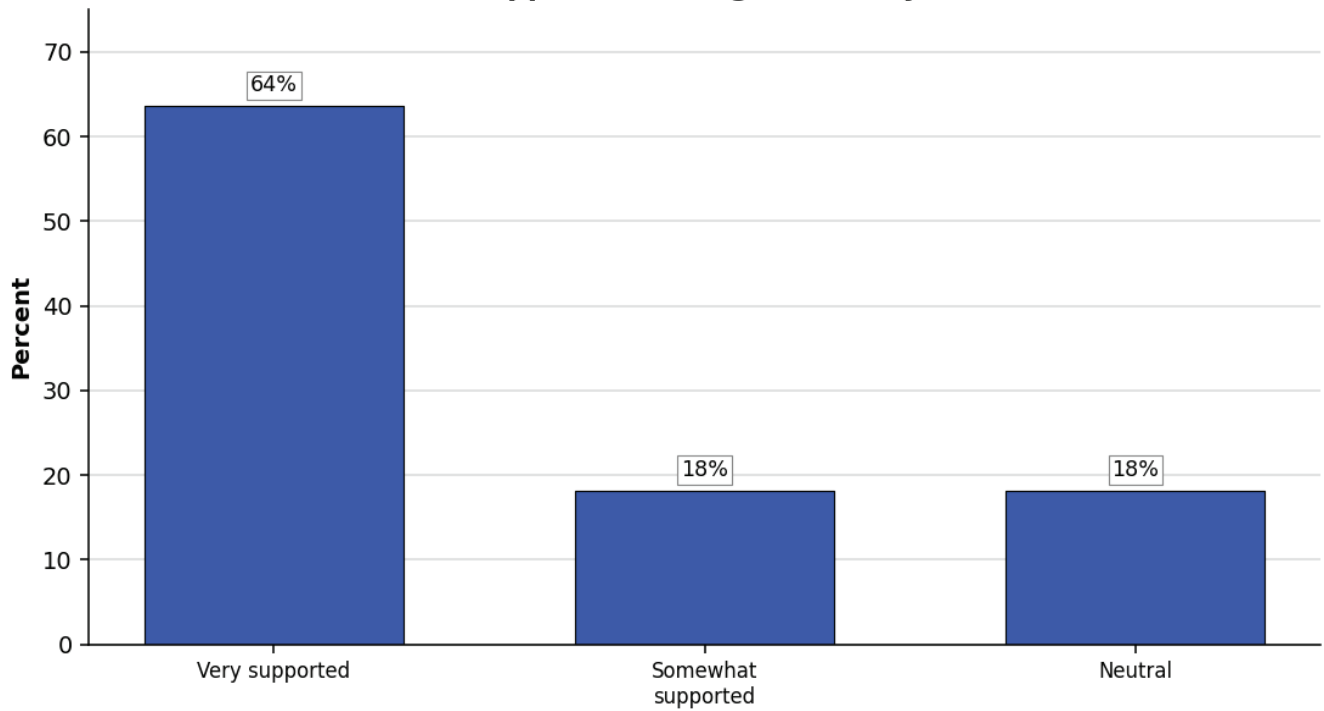
Remote Testimony Mechanism

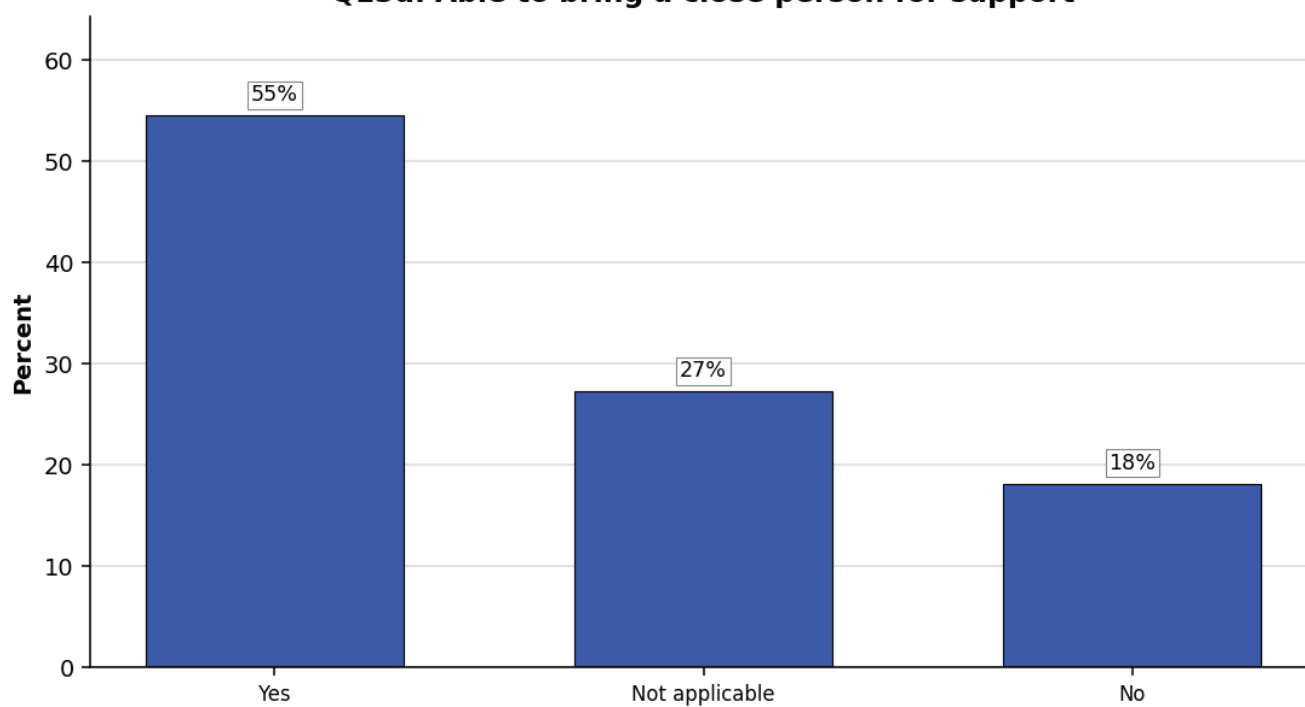
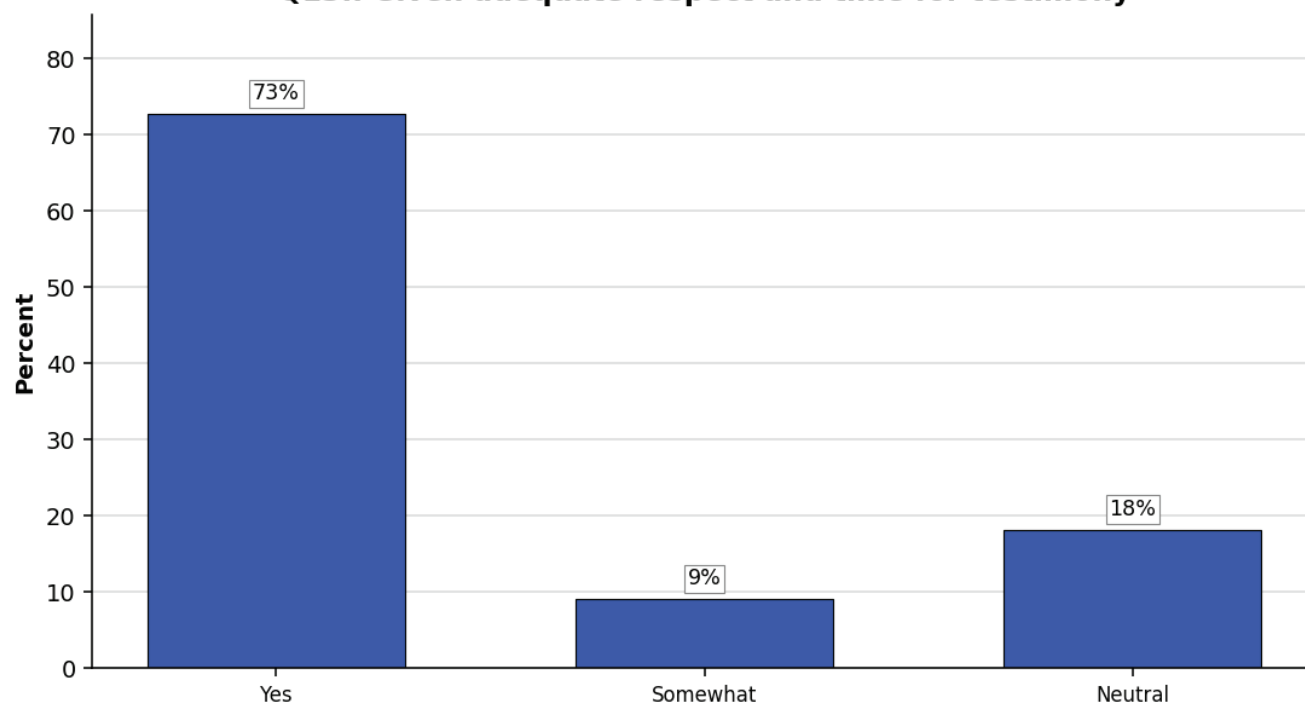
While C4JR's survey with diaspora survivors was initially designed to examine survivors' experiences of the online YSL application process and remote testimony mechanism, recruitment revealed that relatively few respondents had completed their applications through Iraqi diplomatic missions in their country of residence. Since December 2024, the GDSA has supported survivors in France and Germany to apply for the YSL through Iraqi diplomatic missions, where applicants can provide their testimony—a required component of the application process—remotely via video conferencing. The mechanism was established through collaboration between the GDSA, Al-Qosh Investigative Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and relevant Iraqi diplomatic missions.

The precise number of survivors who have applied for YSL reparations through diplomatic missions abroad is not publicly known. C4JR's survey included 11 Yazidi survivors (12% of respondents) who reported

completing their applications through an Iraqi diplomatic mission in their country of residence. The small number of respondents who had accessed the remote testimony mechanism limits the extent to which these findings can be generalised to the wider population of diaspora beneficiaries. Nevertheless, their responses provide an initial indication of survivors' experiences with the mechanism.

Among respondents who applied through Iraqi diplomatic missions, 91% reported being 'very satisfied' with the support provided by Iraqi consular staff. During the testimony process, 64% reported feeling 'very supported,' while a further 18% felt 'somewhat supported' and 18% reported feeling 'neutral.' More than half of respondents (55%) reported being able to bring a close person with them for support during the process. In addition, 73% reported that they were given adequate respect and sufficient time to provide their testimony.

Q13b. Satisfaction with Iraqi consular staff**Q13c. Felt supported during testimony submission**

Q13d. Able to bring a close person for support**Q13f. Given adequate respect and time for testimony**

Taken together, these responses indicate that respondents who accessed the remote testimony mechanism generally reported positive interactions with consular staff and a supportive environment for providing testimony. The ability to provide testimony without traveling to Iraq also represents an important practical development for diaspora survivors, potentially reducing the financial, logistical, and administrative burdens associated with returning to Iraq to complete an application.

Providing Testimony at Other Institutions

C4JR has previously raised concerns about over-documentation and the undue burden placed on survivors who are required to provide testimony

across multiple transitional justice mechanisms and judicial institutions in Iraq. From the 91 survivors in the diaspora surveyed, only 22 respondents have provided testimony in their country of residence. Among those 22 respondents who gave their testimony at institutions in their host country, 46% had done so in connection with police investigations into ISIL members. A further 14% provided testimony in support of asylum or residency applications, while 9% had testified in court in support of legal cases against ISIL members. These findings indicate a positive development in that survivors abroad are not confronted with requirements or processes where further testimony and documentation are required beyond the YSL application, with respondents only providing their testimony when it is required for criminal investigations and judicial proceedings.

ACCESSING AND SATISFACTION WITH COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

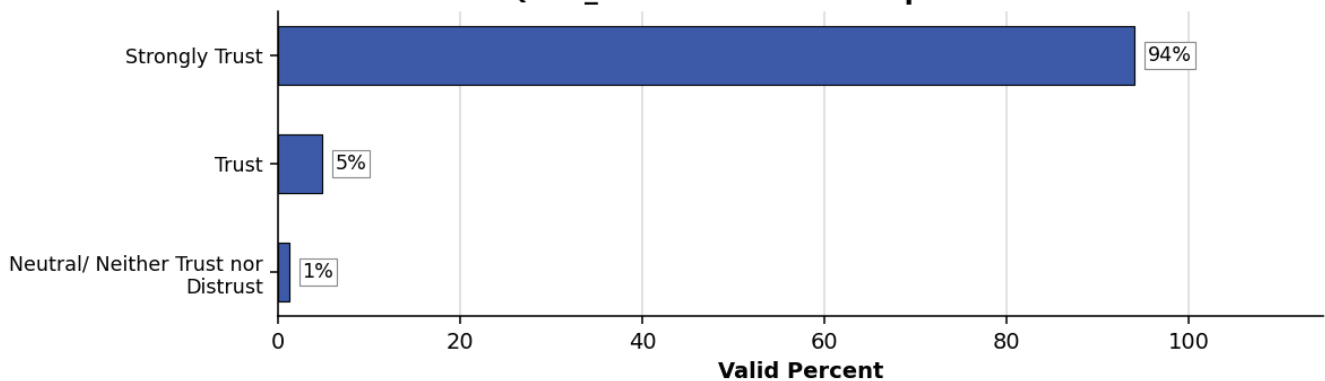
As noted above, since December 2024 the GDSA has facilitated YSL applications for survivors living in the diaspora. However, mechanisms for enabling diaspora beneficiaries to access their YSL compensation payments from abroad remain less clearly established. Once approved under the YSL, survivors are issued a QiCard (biṭāqah dhakīyah) also referred to as a Mastercard, through which their monthly payments are deposited into their account. Within Iraq, funds can be withdrawn through official QiCard branches, Rafidain Bank, and authorized QiCard outlets. For survivors living abroad, however, accessing these payments presents distinct practical and administrative challenges. The survey therefore sought to examine the specific barriers faced by diaspora survivors in accessing and maintaining access to their YSL compensation payments, as well as their experiences and satisfaction with the payment system more broadly.

Receiving Compensation Payments

Of respondents surveyed, 89% were currently receiving YSL compensation payments, while 11% had

been approved but had not yet received a payment. The vast majority of diaspora survivors (92%) relied on a representative or agent (wakīl) within Iraq, to whom they had granted power of attorney (wakāla) to receive compensation payments on their behalf. The most commonly reported relationship between respondents and their wakīl was that of a sibling, most frequently a brother, followed by in-laws, particularly brothers-in-law. Very few respondents reported appointing a non-family member, such as a lawyer, as their representative.

Trust in these representatives was reported to be high, with 94% of respondents describing themselves as having ‘strong trust’ in their chosen representative. The predominance of family members among respondents’ representatives provides important context for this high level of reported trust, although the survey does not establish the reasons underlying respondents’ assessments. At the same time, reliance on representatives to access and manage compensation payments creates an additional layer between survivors and their reparative entitlements and introduces potential risks of financial mismanagement.

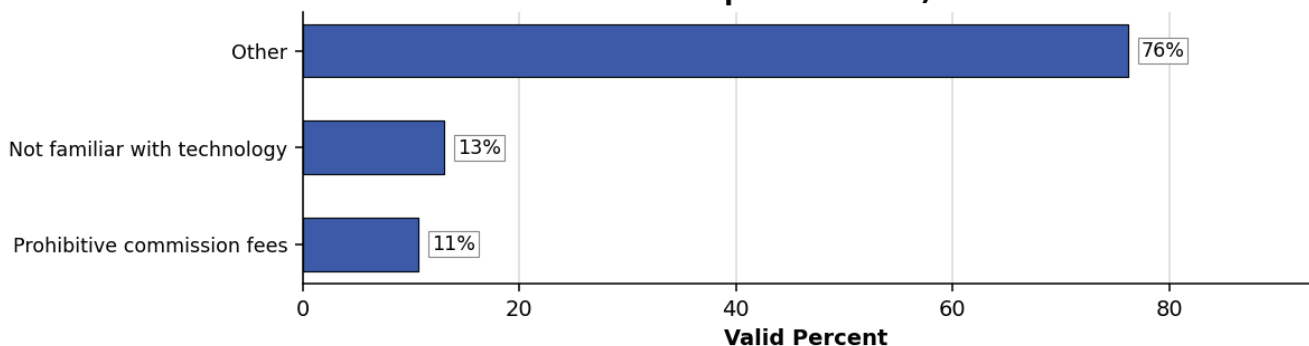
Q22b_i. Level of trust in representative

Only 8% of respondents reported using their Mastercard to withdraw compensation payments from abroad, with Germany having the lowest percentage of respondents using Mastercard, meaning people in Canada and Australia proportionally use Mastercard more. During FGDs, there was considerable uncertainty about whether Mastercards could be used to withdraw funds in particular countries. Some participants shared anecdotal accounts that the cards could be used abroad, but none of those participating had personal experience of doing so. This suggests that, even where an alternative to relying on a wakīl may potentially exist, uncertainty about the functionality and accessibility of the Mastercard may limit survivors' ability to make use of it.

person arrangements to transfer the value of their compensation from Iraq to their country of residence. Rather than transferring money internationally through a bank or registered money-transfer service, respondents explained that their wakīl may provide an equivalent amount in Iraq to someone who has a trusted connection in the survivor's country of residence, such as Germany. The contact abroad then provides the corresponding amount directly to the survivor. In this way, the transaction effectively transfers the value of the payment across borders without the compensation itself being formally transferred through an international banking or money-transfer system.

When asked why they had not used an electronic money transfer, 76% of respondents chose 'Other,' while 13% noted they were unfamiliar with the technology and process, and 11% were concerned about commission fees. Respondents who selected 'Other' described using person-to-

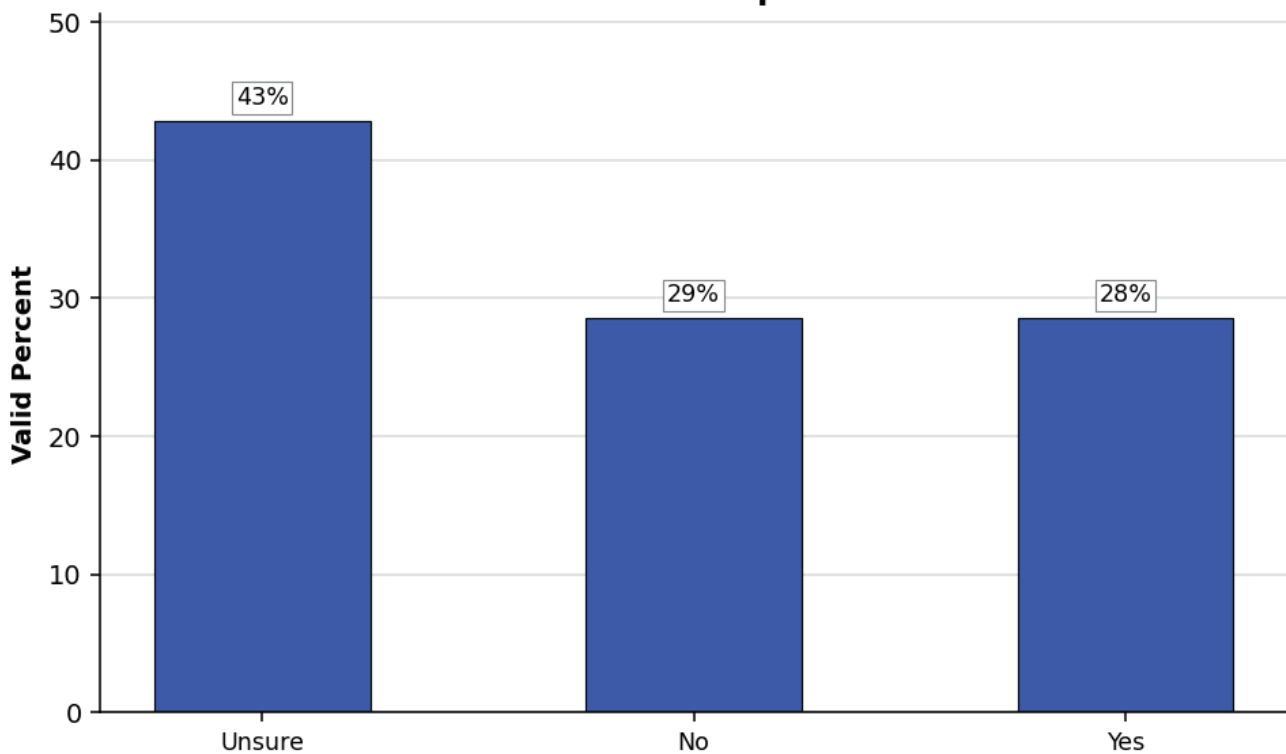
Some respondents also noted that they preferred to keep their compensation payments in Iraq to cover costs that might be incurred with burials of victim remains and to cover costs incurred when completing paperwork for civil documentation.

Q22a. Reason for not using electronic transfer (if 'Representative')

When asked whether they were aware of the fees involved in transferring money from Iraq to their country of residence, 43% of respondents reported being 'unsure', while 29% reported being aware of the fees and a further 29% reported that they were not aware of them.

about potential tax compliance requirements associated with receiving YSL compensation in their country of residence. These findings suggest that, while a substantial proportion of respondents are satisfied with the existing arrangements, concerns

Q22c. Do you know the fees involved in the transfer of money from Iraq?



respondents generally reported relatively short waiting periods between submitting their application and receiving their first YSL compensation payment. Twenty-two percent received their first payment within three months, while 36% received their first payment within three to six months. By contrast, 19% reported waiting more than 12 months for their first payment. For respondents who experienced longer waiting periods, it is unclear whether these delays were associated with their status as diaspora beneficiaries, the timing or location of their application, administrative processing, or other factors. The survey did not collect sufficient information to determine the specific causes of these delays.

When asked what, if anything, they would change about the method of receiving their compensation payments, 43% of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the current method and would not make any changes. A further 29% reported concerns

about the tax treatment of YSL compensation remain an important consideration for diaspora beneficiaries.

Recognition of Compensation Payments in Country of Residence

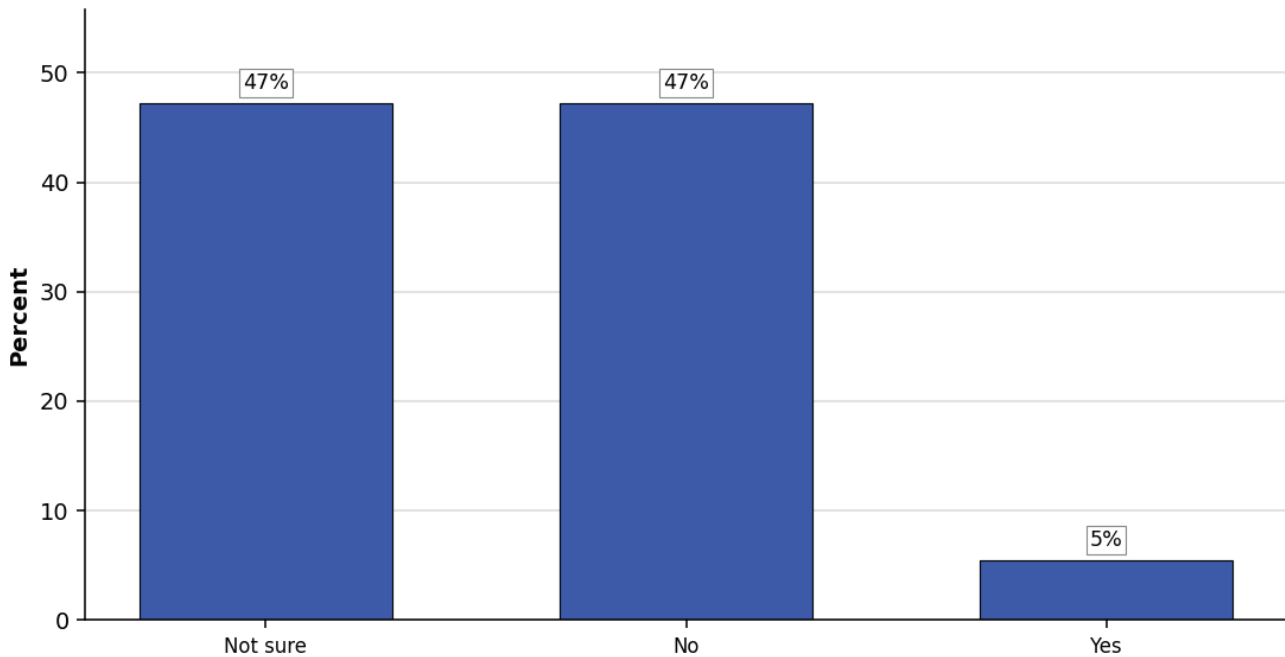
The findings indicate a considerable degree of uncertainty among diaspora survivors regarding how YSL compensation payments are treated in their country of residence. While 47% of respondents reported being 'not sure' whether their compensation was recognized as a form of reparation, an equal proportion reported that it was 'not' recognized as such. In a location breakdown, 45% of respondents in Europe said compensation payments are 'not' recognized, while 51% were 'not sure', and 4% said 'yes' they are. In Australia, 69% said compensation payments are 'not' recognized, 23% said they were 'unsure' if they are, and 8%

said ‘yes.’ Finally, in Canada, 33% of respondents said reparations are ‘not’ recognized, while 56% are ‘unsure,’ and 11% said ‘yes.’ These responses point to a significant lack of clarity among beneficiaries regarding the legal and administrative status of YSL compensation outside Iraq.

survey suggest that uncertainty surrounding the tax treatment of compensation continues to influence how some survivors manage and disclose their payments.

There is precedent in several jurisdictions for

Q25. Compensation payments recognized as reparation in country of residence



The vast majority of respondents (88%) reported that they had not informed local authorities in their country of residence that they were receiving YSL compensation. At the same time, almost half (48%) indicated that they would prefer to receive their payments directly in their country of residence. When asked why they had not disclosed their compensation payments to local authorities, 31% reported that they did not consider it fair for reparations to be subject to taxation, while 22% stated that they had not disclosed the payments in order to avoid taxation. A further 20% indicated that they preferred to keep their reparations within Iraq. Other respondents explained that they had not disclosed their compensation because local authorities had not asked them about it.

Concerns about the potential taxation of YSL compensation are consistent with concerns previously identified in research involving diaspora survivors in Germany, which recommended that the German government exempt reparations payments from taxation.²⁷ The findings from the present

providing tax exemptions or other favorable treatment for compensation and reparations paid to Holocaust survivors, including in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada.²⁸ At the same time, C4JR member organizations have highlighted the potential implications that YSL compensation may have for survivors receiving social services or welfare payments in their countries of residence. For example, a report by Farida Global Organization identified potential barriers that diaspora survivors could encounter in relation to social welfare and the receipt of YSL compensation.²⁹ Despite these concerns, there remains limited publicly available guidance from authorities in countries hosting Yazidi survivors regarding the taxation and wider administrative treatment of YSL compensation.

As Farida Global Organization has noted, “[a]s a matter of justice, reparations should not be taxed, but this has yet to be legislated by host governments in Germany and elsewhere.”³⁰ The findings of this survey underscore the practical consequences of this lack of clarity. For diaspora survivors, uncertainty

over whether compensation constitutes taxable income, how it should be disclosed, and whether it may affect eligibility for social benefits can create additional concerns around accessing and retaining their reparative entitlements. Clear guidance from relevant authorities in countries of residence would help survivors understand their obligations and rights while reducing uncertainty surrounding the receipt of YSL compensation.

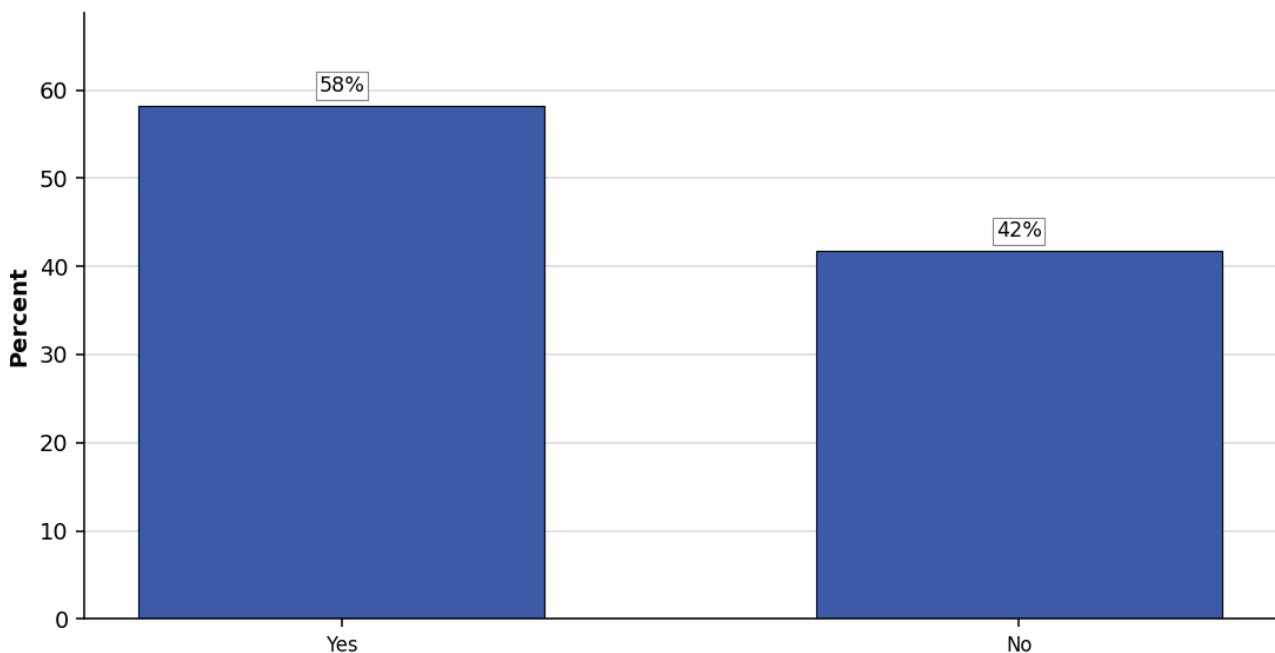
Satisfaction with Compensation Payments

Survivors approved for reparations under the YSL received 800,000IQD (or \$600) every month. Overall, respondents reported high levels of satisfaction

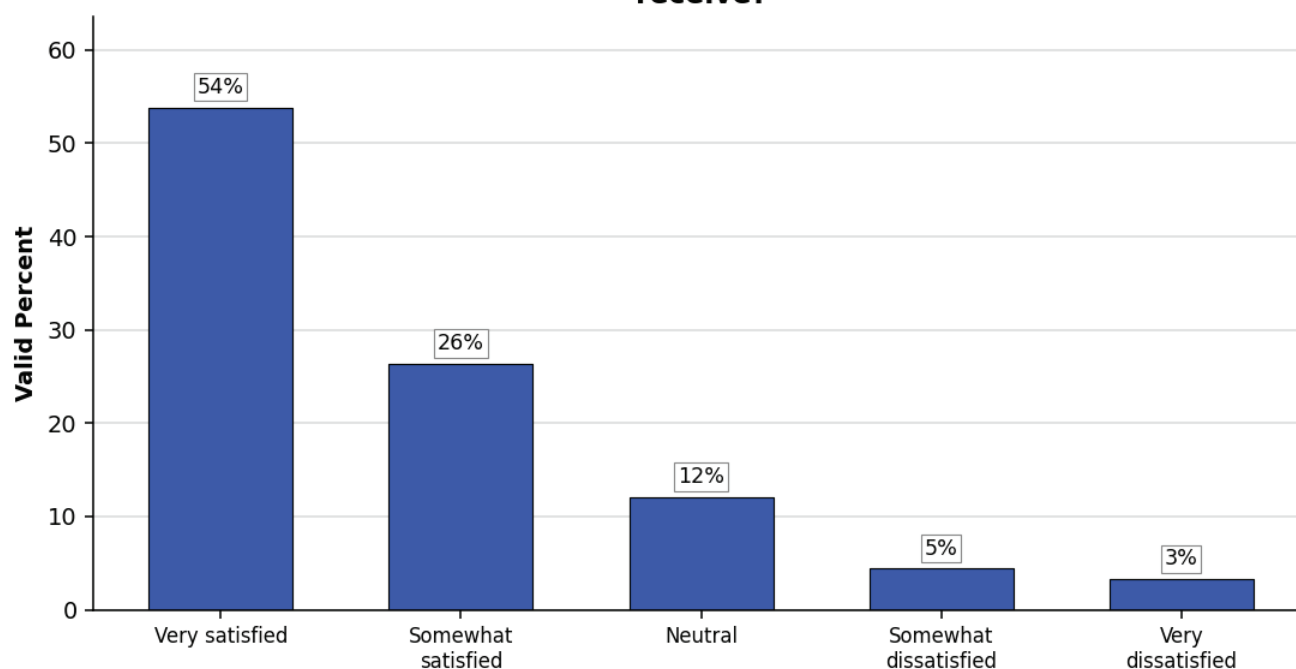
with the amount of compensation received, with 54% describing themselves as 'very satisfied'. When asked whether the current compensation amount was appropriate for survivors living abroad, 58% responded 'yes', while 42% responded 'no'.

Given the higher cost of living in many countries of residence, it might have been expected that a greater proportion of diaspora survivors would consider the current payment insufficient. Instead, the findings indicate that a majority of respondents considered the existing compensation amount appropriate, although a substantial minority of 42% did not.

Q27. Reparation amount considered appropriate for survivors abroad



Q28. How satisfied are you with the amount of compensation you receive?

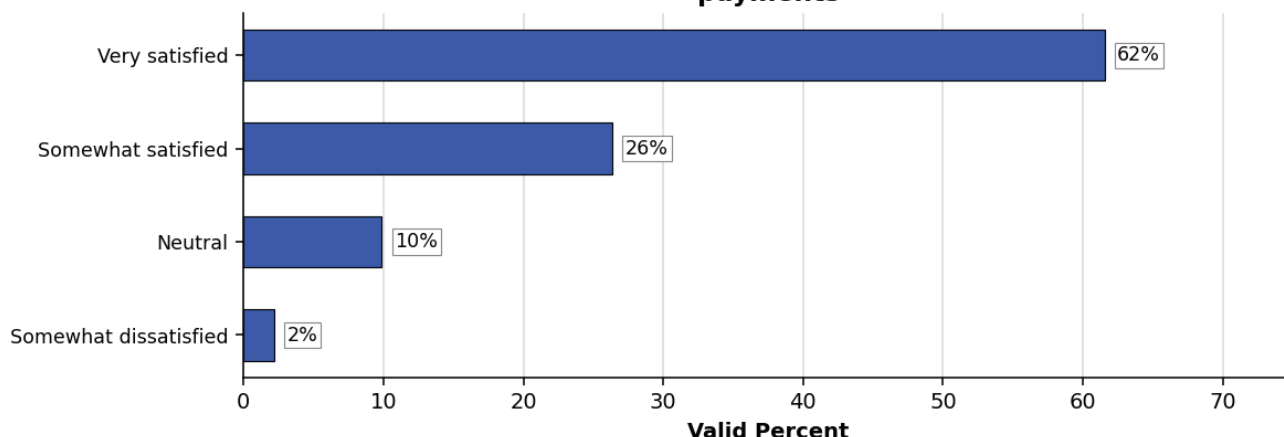


Compared with C4JR's previous survey of YSL beneficiaries living in Iraq, overall satisfaction with the amount of compensation was broadly similar across the two groups. However, the distribution of responses differed. Diaspora respondents were more likely to select the most positive or most negative response categories ('very satisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'), whereas respondents living in Iraq were more likely to describe themselves as 'somewhat satisfied'. One factor that provides context for these findings is the different economic circumstances of the two populations. Among diaspora respondents, 59% identified welfare as one of their primary sources of income, while 30% identified employment. By contrast, 87% of respondents in Iraq were unemployed, and 81% identified YSL compensation as one of their primary sources of income.³¹ The relatively high levels of satisfaction among diaspora respondents should therefore be understood in the context of the different income and social protection systems available to survivors in their countries of residence. Compensation may constitute an important source of household income without necessarily being the sole source of financial support.

Respondents were also asked about their satisfaction with the regularity and timing of compensation payments. Sixty-two percent reported being 'very satisfied', 26% 'somewhat satisfied', and only 2%

'somewhat dissatisfied'. Compared with respondents living in Iraq, diaspora survivors were more likely to report being 'very satisfied' with the regularity and timing of payments (62%, compared with 45%). At the same time, diaspora respondents were also more likely to report dissatisfaction or neutrality, with 12% selecting one of these responses compared with 0.7% of respondents living in Iraq. This combination of responses may reflect the different practical arrangements through which diaspora survivors access their compensation. Unlike beneficiaries living in Iraq, most diaspora respondents do not have direct physical access to their monthly payments and instead rely on a representative or wakīl in Iraq, or other mechanisms for accessing funds from abroad. Satisfaction with the regularity of payments therefore needs to be considered alongside the question of whether survivors can exercise direct and reliable control over their compensation once it has been deposited.

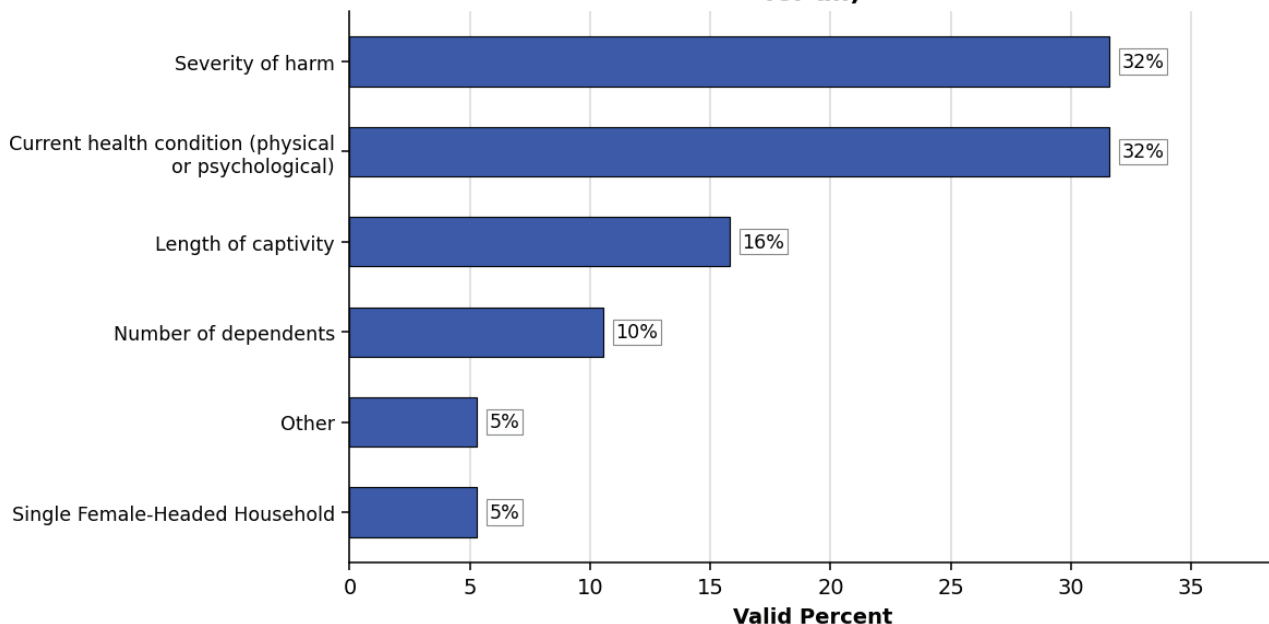
Q29. Satisfaction with regularity/timing of compensation payments



The majority of respondents (74%) also considered it fair that all survivors receive the same compensation amount, while 14% disagreed. Among the 19 respondents who did not consider a uniform payment amount fair, respondents were asked what factors should instead determine the amount of compensation received. The most frequently selected factors were the 'severity of harm' and

'current health condition', each selected by 32% of respondents. A further 16% identified 'length of time in captivity' as a factor that should determine compensation. These responses indicate that, among the minority who favored differentiated compensation, respondents primarily identified the severity and continuing consequences of harm as relevant criteria.

Q30b. What should determine compensation amount (if not equal for all)

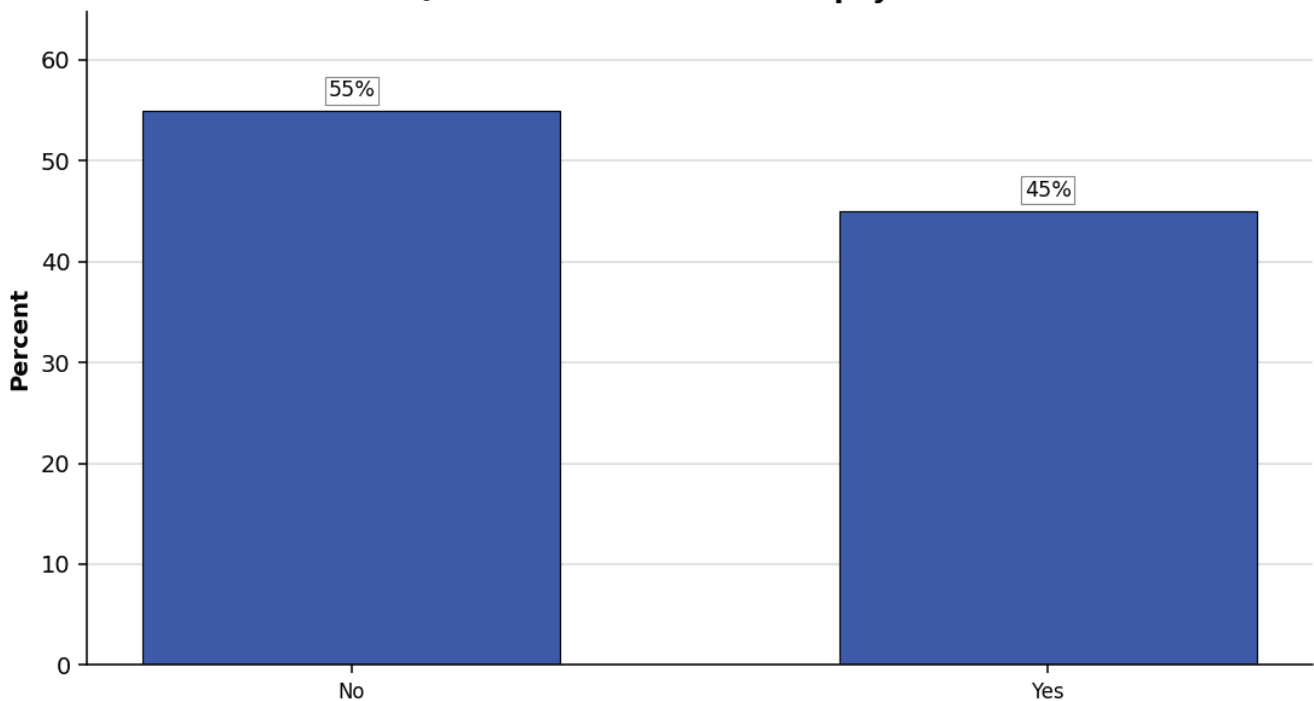


Retroactive Payments

Retroactive payments were more frequently reported among diaspora respondents than among respondents to C4JR's previous survey of YSL beneficiaries living in Iraq. In the current survey, 45% of diaspora respondents reported receiving retroactive payments—payments covering months prior to the date on which the payment was received—compared with 19% of respondents in Iraq. The reasons for this difference are unclear. One possible explanation is that the timing and administrative processing of applications for diaspora beneficiaries

may have resulted in payments accumulating before beneficiaries were able to access them, particularly given the additional administrative arrangements required to facilitate payments to survivors living outside Iraq. However, the survey did not collect sufficient information to determine whether the higher incidence of retroactive payments was attributable to differences in application dates, approval and payment processing, administrative delays, or other factors. The finding nevertheless warrants further monitoring, particularly as the mechanisms through which diaspora beneficiaries access their payments continue to develop.

Q24. Received retroactive payments



Maintaining Access to Reparation Benefits

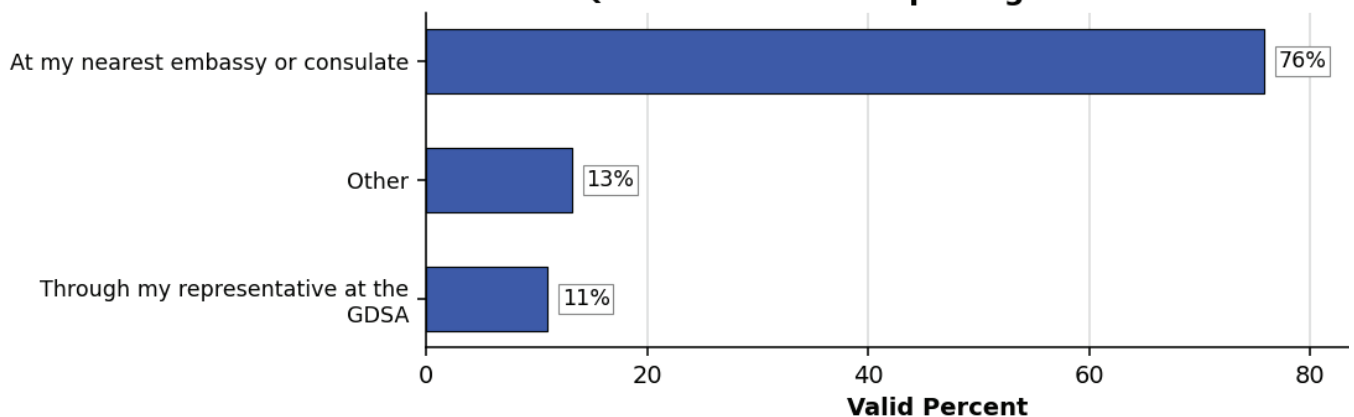
In order to continue receiving YSL benefits, survivors are required to submit a life certificate (*bayan sanawi*), an annual verification of their life status submitted to the GDSA to maintain their entitlement to YSL benefits. The document is not specific to the YSL but is used across Iraqi government institutions to verify that beneficiaries of state welfare or other forms of government support remain alive. While survivors residing in Iraq can complete their annual life certification by visiting the GDSA with their personal identification documents and Mastercard to update their records, C4JR's survey sought to better understand how this requirement is fulfilled by survivors living in the diaspora.

Among respondents surveyed, 76% completed their life certification at their nearest Iraqi embassy or consulate, while 11% completed the process through a remote video call facilitated by their representative visiting a GDSA office in Iraq. Of the 13% who selected 'Other', five respondents reported completing their life certification during a return visit to Iraq, while the remaining respondents had not yet been required to provide a life certificate because they had only recently been approved for YSL reparations.

During the FGDs, participants highlighted several practical challenges associated with completing the annual requirement from abroad, including the distance they needed to travel to reach Iraqi diplomatic missions, the financial costs of travel, and the limited availability or accessibility of consular services depending on their location. These challenges are particularly significant given that life certification is a recurring requirement rather than a one-time component of the YSL application process. For survivors living in countries where Iraqi diplomatic services are geographically distant, fulfilling the requirement may therefore require repeated travel, time away from work or family responsibilities, and associated financial costs. The requirement may be particularly burdensome for survivors living in regional or remote areas, where access to Iraqi consular services is more limited.

The findings highlight an important distinction between the formal availability of mechanisms for diaspora beneficiaries and their practical accessibility. Although most respondents were able to complete their life certification through an Iraqi diplomatic mission, access to these services remains dependent on the geographical distribution and capacity of Iraq's diplomatic network. Ensuring that diaspora survivors can complete life certification through accessible and predictable procedures is therefore important to maintaining uninterrupted access to YSL benefits.

Q26. Method of completing life certification



Spending and Decision-Making

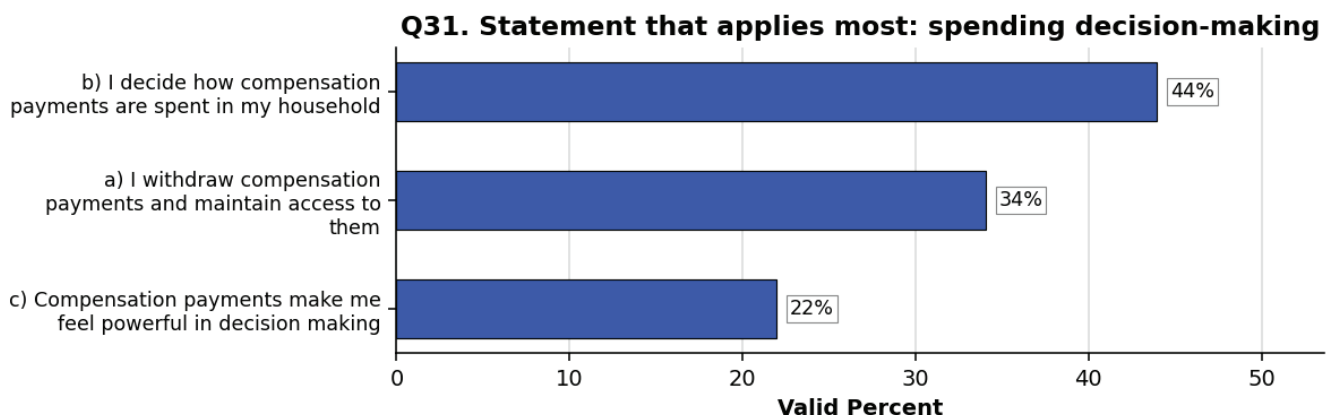
In C4JR's previous survey examining satisfaction with YSL compensation payments among survivors living in Iraq, we explored in considerable detail how compensation was spent, including the different ways beneficiaries used their payments. For the present survey, however, the circumstances of diaspora beneficiaries required a different approach. As most survivors living outside Iraq do not directly access their compensation payments and instead rely on a representative or wakīl in Iraq to receive them on their behalf, the survey did not ask respondents to provide detailed information about how individual payments were spent. Instead, respondents were asked to select the statement that most accurately described their role in decision-making around compensation payments.

Forty-four percent of respondents selected 'I decide how compensation payments are spent in my household', indicating that they retained primary decision-making authority over the use of their compensation. A further 34% selected 'I withdraw compensation payments and maintain access to them'. These findings provide an indication of the different ways in which diaspora survivors exercise control over their compensation, while also highlighting the distinction between having decision-making authority over the use of

reparations and having direct physical access to the funds themselves.

Respondents were also asked to select the statement about financial stability that most accurately described their experience. Two-thirds (67%) reported that 'reparation payments have improved my financial situation', making this the most frequently selected response by a substantial margin. A further 16% indicated that 'reparation payments help me plan for the future', while 2% reported that 'reparation payments are helping me achieve a long-term goal'.

Findings suggest that respondents primarily experience YSL compensation as contributing to their immediate or ongoing financial stability, rather than as a resource directed towards longer-term financial planning or specific future goals. This may reflect the broader economic circumstances of diaspora survivors, many of whom reported relying on YSL compensation alongside welfare, employment, and family support. The relatively small proportion of respondents identifying future planning or long-term goals as the primary effect of compensation may also indicate that, for many survivors, payments are first and foremost addressing existing household financial needs rather than providing sufficient financial security to enable longer-term investment or planning.



OTHER REPARATIVE BENEFITS

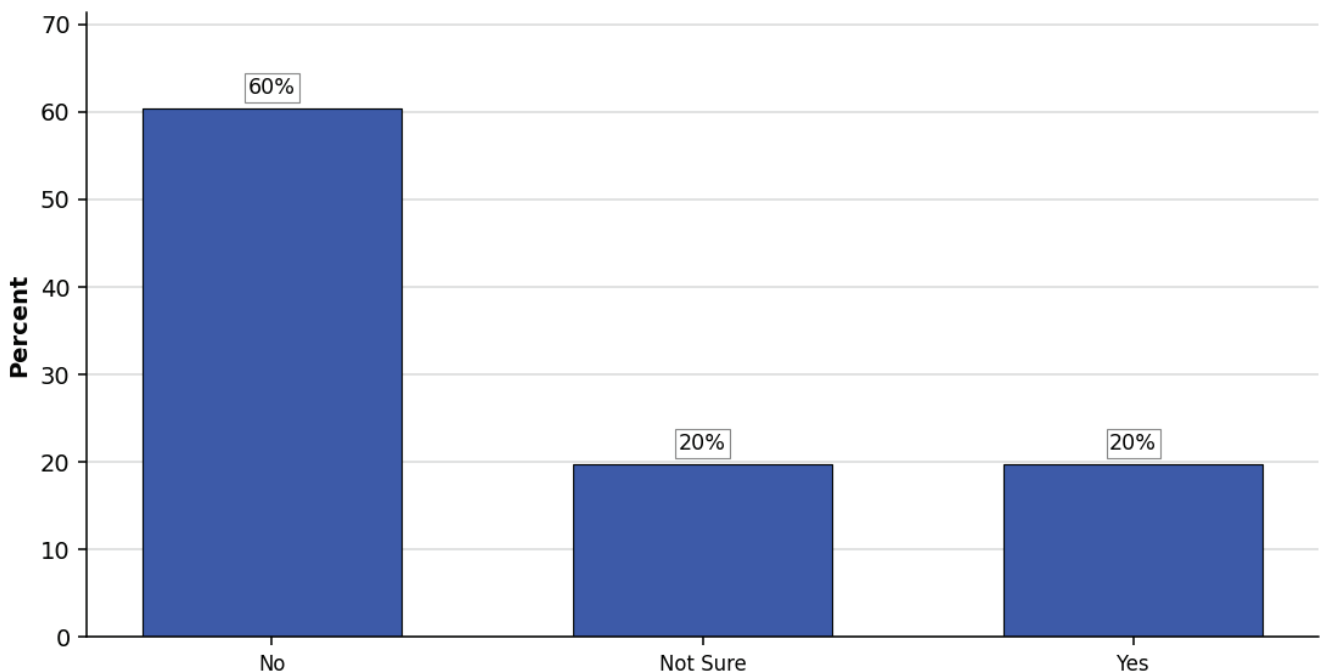
Alongside monthly compensation payments, the YSL provides for a range of other reparative benefits, including access to land accompanied by a government loan or a free housing unit, medical care and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, and opportunities to resume education and employment. These individual reparative measures are complemented by broader symbolic measures intended to acknowledge ISIL atrocities and contribute to preventing their recurrence. Taken together, these provisions reflect a comprehensive approach to reparations that extends beyond financial compensation to address survivors' material needs, recovery, and longer-term reintegration.

Since the YSL's enactment, the GDSA has made progress in operationalizing several components of this reparative framework, including measures relating to land and housing, education, and the search for missing persons. However, C4JR's survey

findings indicate that significant gaps remain in survivors' awareness of these entitlements. Sixty percent of diaspora survivors reported that they do not feel fully informed about reparative benefits available under the YSL. This suggests an information gap between survivors and the institutions responsible for communicating and facilitating access to their reparative rights.

For survivors living outside Iraq, this gap may be particularly consequential, as distance from Iraq and limited direct engagement with relevant institutions can make it more difficult to obtain information about benefits beyond compensation payments. Moreover, some reparative measures are inherently tied to beneficiaries' location in Iraq, meaning that diaspora survivors may perceive or experience these benefits as inaccessible or less relevant to their circumstances.

Q33. Feels fully informed about reparative benefits provided under the YSL



Individual Benefits

Monthly compensation payments remain both the most consistently implemented component of the YSL and, according to the survey findings, were also identified as the most important individual benefit provided under the law. Respondents most frequently identified monthly compensation as important (94.5%), followed by a free housing unit (62.6%), and a plot of land with a loan (53.8%). The prioritisation of these material benefits over measures such as rehabilitation, education, and public service employment may reflect the immediate and tangible needs of survivors living in the diaspora, for whom financial security, housing, and access to material resources may take precedence over benefits that are less directly applicable to their circumstances or more difficult to access from outside Iraq. At the same time, the finding should be understood in the context of the geographical and institutional barriers that shape access to other reparative measures.

The survey findings also showed limited engagement by the GDSA with diaspora beneficiaries regarding individual benefits. Eighty-nine percent of respondents reported that the GDSA had not contacted them about the allocation of individual benefits. Among the 11% who were contacted, 9% reported being contacted about land distribution, while a further 3% were contacted about their return to education. These findings suggest that, beyond monthly compensation, direct communication with diaspora survivors about the availability and allocation of individual reparative benefits has been limited.

Although respondents ranked rehabilitation services as the fourth most important individual benefit, 62% reported needing access to specialized rehabilitation services in their country of residence. Refugees and humanitarian migrants often experience health disadvantages that stem from disrupted access to healthcare and barriers to integration as a result of their resettlement, often facing language barriers, limited knowledge of health care systems, and difficulties in social integration.³² For survivors in the Yazidi community, trauma and limited support systems can compound these broader challenges of resettlement. In research conducted in Toowoomba, Queensland, with the Yazidi community to explore the lived experiences and health needs of this

refugee community, findings underscored the importance of trauma-informed care and culturally tailored health education, and gender-sensitive psychosocial support.³³ Participants in the study reported “widespread mental health concerns, alongside diabetes, hypertension, chronic pain, and additional challenges about limited formal education experience, dental health, domestic violence support, and transportation access.”³⁴ These intercorrelated factors were found to affect the wellbeing and health management behaviors of the Yazidi community.

A study conducted among Yazidi women in New South Wales found high levels of psychological distress and trauma-related conditions.³⁵ Among participants, 45.8% met the criteria for complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD), while a further 16.7% met the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In addition, 83.3% met the criteria for a moderate-to-severe depressive episode, 47.8% for an anxiety disorder, and 33.3% for prolonged grief disorder. As in the findings from Queensland, the study identified barriers to accessing healthcare, including language barriers and limited availability of culturally responsive services.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the YSL stipulates that rehabilitation of survivors is to be achieved through establishing “health and psychological rehabilitation centers...inside and outside Iraq.”³⁶ Although no state-sponsored rehabilitation centers have yet been established in Iraq or elsewhere, the increasing emigration of YSL beneficiaries underscores the need to make rehabilitation services accessible to eligible survivors living abroad, whether through dedicated centers or alternative arrangements.

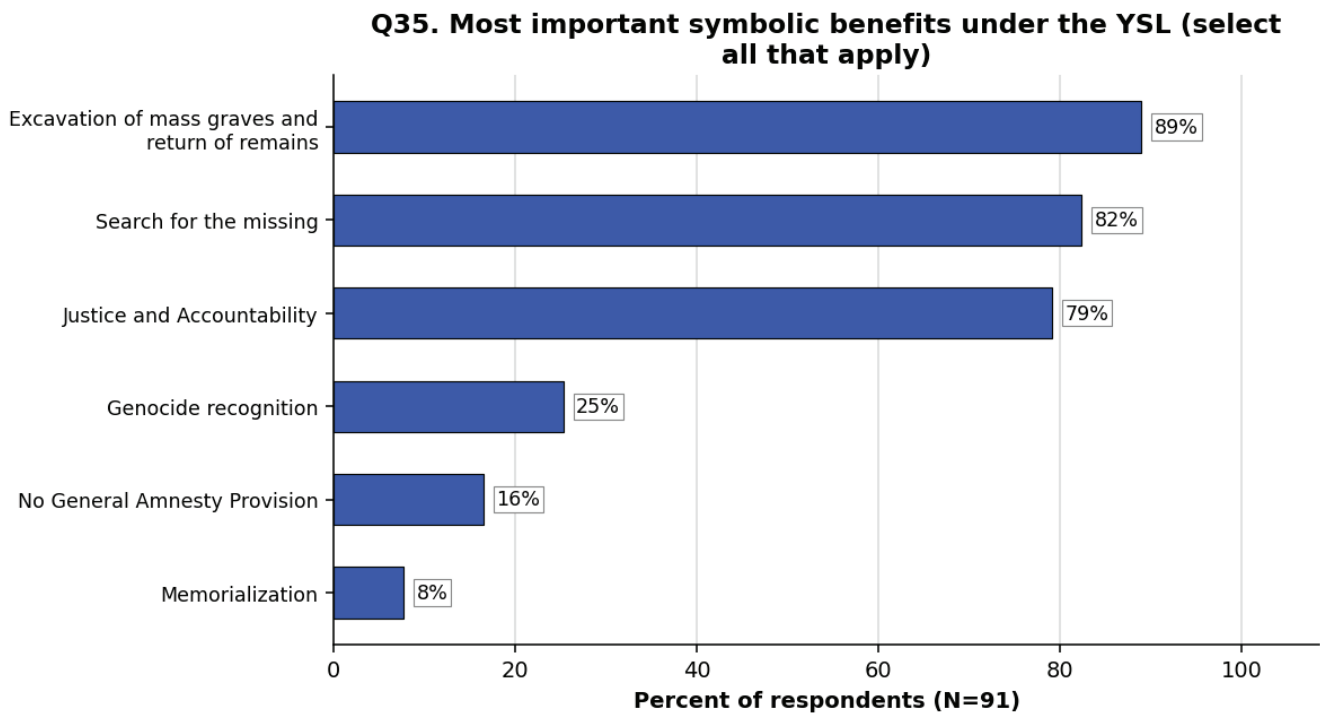
Symbolic Benefits

When asked which of the symbolic benefits outlined under the YSL were most important to them, respondents identified the ‘excavation of mass graves and return of remains’, ‘search for the missing’, and ‘justice and accountability’ as their highest priorities.

When asked whether they had been contacted by the GDSA or their local Iraqi diplomatic mission regarding any of the symbolic benefits provided for under the YSL, 98% of respondents reported that they had not been contacted by either institution. This finding is notable given that, in recent years, the GDSA has made progress in implementing provisions of the YSL relating to the search for missing persons and the recovery of victims. These efforts have included the establishment of the Committee for the Search for the Kidnapped in 2024, the creation of a database of missing persons, and large-scale search campaigns in Türkiye and Syria.³⁷ Among the small number of respondents who had been contacted by the GDSA, one reported being contacted in relation to the search for a missing person, while another was contacted regarding memorialization.

The limited communication with diaspora survivors suggests a potential gap between the implementation of symbolic and collective reparative measures and survivors’ access to information about these processes. This is particularly significant given that the search for missing persons, recovery and return of remains, and other forms of memorialization were among the symbolic benefits respondents identified as most important to them.

Communication through Iraqi diplomatic missions also appears to have been limited. Among respondents who reported being contacted by their local diplomatic mission regarding the implementation of the YSL’s symbolic measures, one respondent reported being contacted in relation to commemorative activities marking 3 August. While such engagement provides an important connection between survivors and Iraqi institutions abroad, the findings suggest that diplomatic missions could play a broader role in communicating information about the implementation of symbolic benefits to survivors living in their countries of residence.



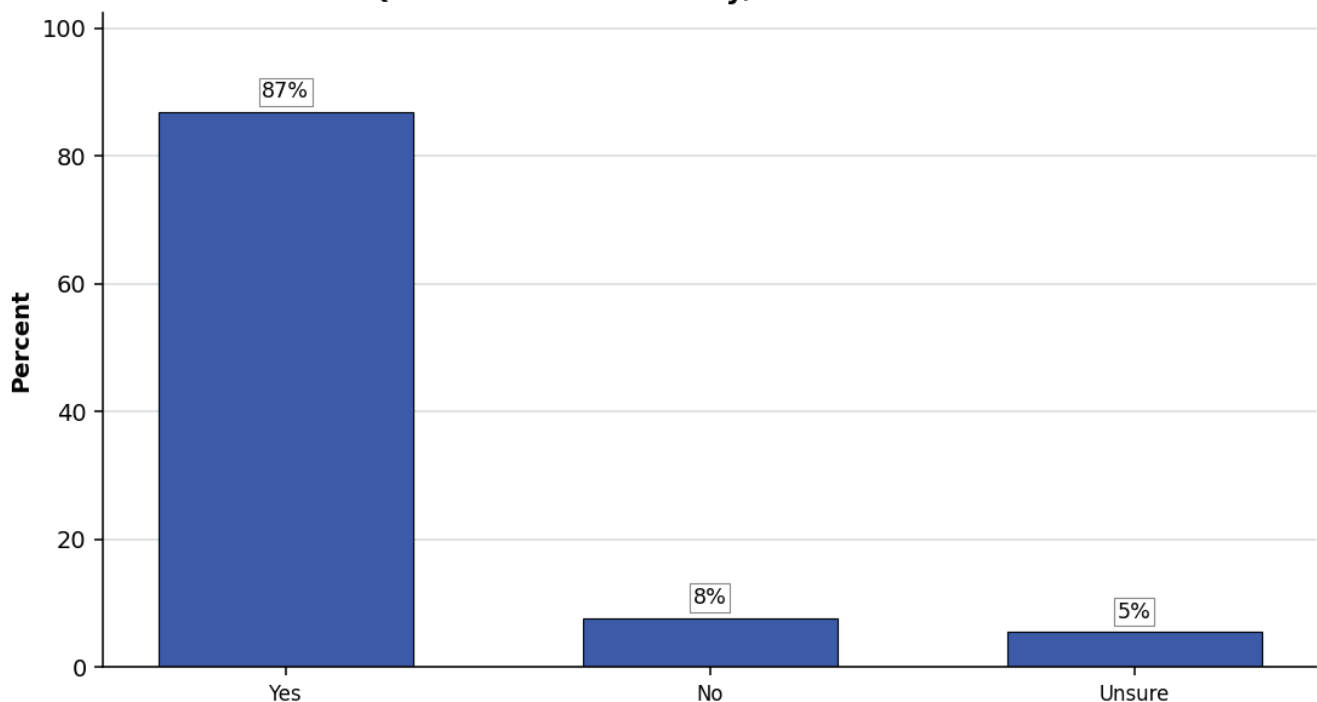
SUPPORT FROM DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

The survey also examined respondents' awareness of and experiences with the services provided by their nearest Iraqi embassy or consulate. Eighty-seven percent of respondents reported that they were aware of the services available through their local diplomatic mission. Among respondents who had received support, 42% reported being satisfied with the assistance they had received. These findings suggest that Iraqi diplomatic missions constitute an important point of contact for diaspora survivors, although the lower level of reported satisfaction indicates that awareness of available services does not necessarily translate into uniformly positive experiences of accessing or receiving support.

Few respondents reported currently lacking essential civil documentation. Among those who

did, 14% reported missing the new Iraqi national unified identity card (*al-biṭāqah al-waṭaniyyah al-muwaḥḥadah*), 11% were missing a life certificate, and 5% were missing a passport. At the same time, 88% of respondents reported that they were aware of which documents they could obtain through their local embassy or consulate. This relatively high level of awareness indicates that most respondents understood the role that diplomatic missions could play in facilitating access to civil documentation from abroad. The findings nevertheless suggest that a small proportion of survivors continue to face documentation gaps, underscoring the importance of accessible and consistent consular services for maintaining access to Iraqi state documentation while living outside the country.

Q20. Aware of embassy/consulate services



RECOGNITION OF HARMS AND STATE RESPONSIBILITY

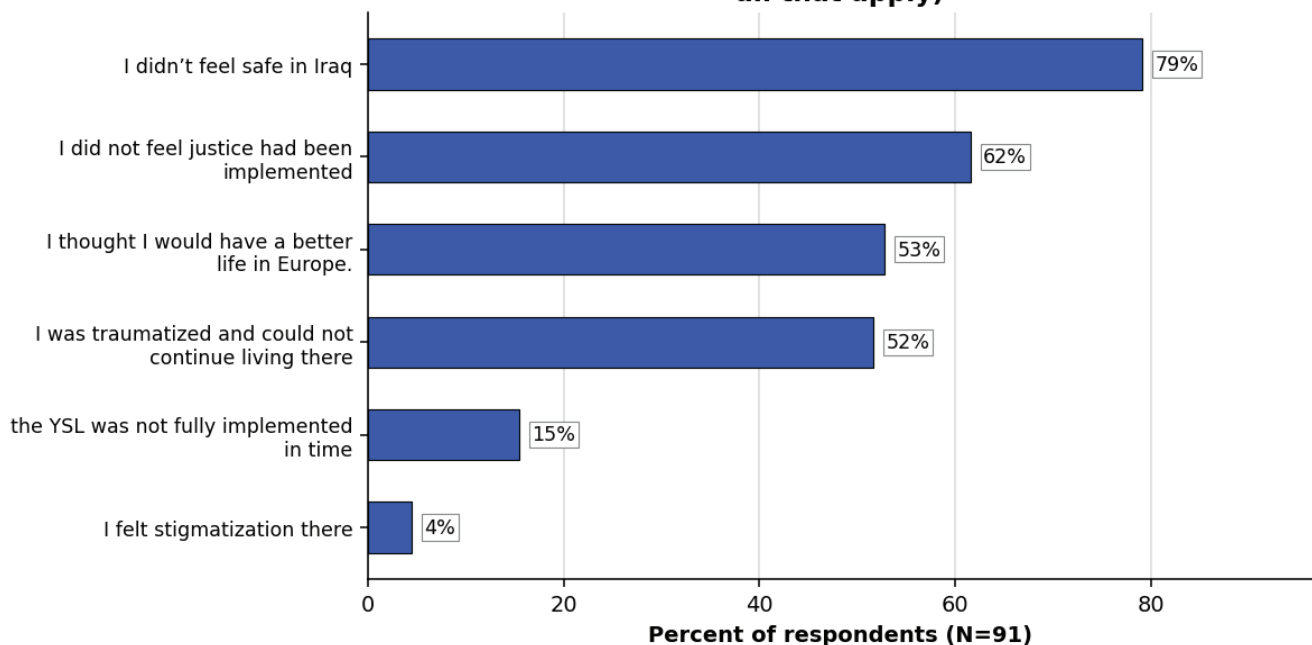
C4JR sought to assess the extent to which survivors living in the diaspora feel that the harms they experienced have been acknowledged as serious violations of their rights, and to understand what survivors consider necessary for the Iraqi state to more fully recognize its responsibility towards them and the Yazidi community.

When asked what more the Iraqi state could do to fully acknowledge responsibility for the harms they had endured, the most frequently identified priority was the protection of the rights and general wellbeing of the Yazidi community. Respondents also identified a range of measures that correspond closely with rights and provisions recognized under the YSL, including continued efforts to locate missing persons, exhume mass graves, and recover and return the remains of those killed. Others called for greater financial, material, and psychological support for survivors. These responses indicate that respondents understand acknowledgment of harm not solely in symbolic terms, but also through concrete measures of recognition, recovery, support, and accountability. Closely related to these concerns were calls for the reconstruction of Sinjar

and greater support for the Yazidi community to return to their area of origin.

The survey also asked respondents to identify the factors that had contributed to their decision to leave Iraq, allowing them to select multiple responses. The most frequently reported reason was that respondents “didn’t feel safe in Iraq” (79%). This was followed by “I did not feel justice had been implemented” (62%), “I thought I would have a better life in Europe” (53%), and “I was traumatized and could not continue living there” (52%). The findings therefore point to a combination of security concerns, perceptions of justice, aspirations for improved living conditions, and the enduring effects of trauma as factors shaping survivors’ decisions to leave Iraq. The prominence of safety and justice concerns is particularly significant in considering survivors’ expectations of state responsibility, as many respondents continue to identify conditions within Iraq—including physical security, justice, and the reconstruction of Sinjar—as central to the question of whether the harms they experienced have been adequately addressed.

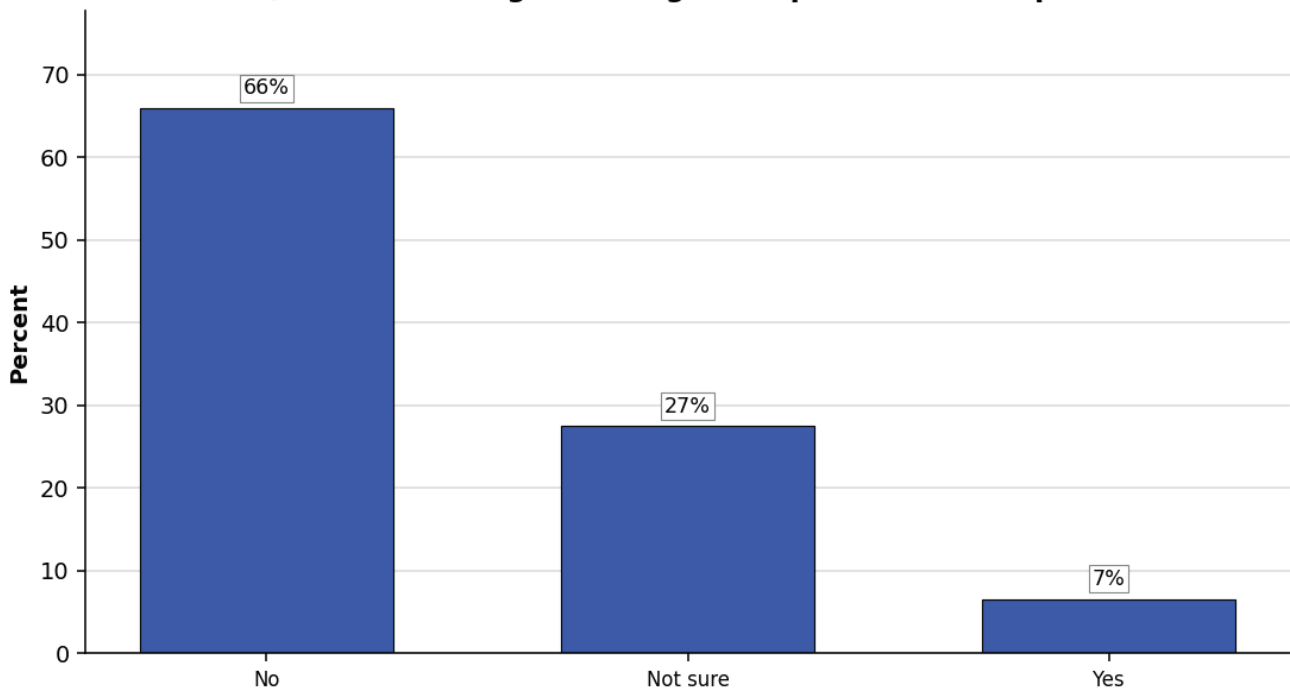
Q39. What contributed to the decision to leave Iraq (select all that apply)



When asked whether returning to Iraq formed part of their current life plans, 66% of respondents reported that it did not, while 27% were unsure and only 7% reported having plans to return. Among those considering a return, only 15% anticipated doing so within the next five years, while 83%

envisioned returning in 15 years or more. These findings suggest that, for most respondents, return to Iraq is not currently part of their foreseeable plans. Where a return is contemplated, it is generally understood as a longer-term possibility rather than an imminent prospect.

Q40. Considering returning to Iraq in current life plans



FINAL REMARKS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this survey demonstrate that, while the development of mechanisms for remote testimony and access to the YSL application from abroad represents an important expansion of the reparations program for survivors living in the diaspora, significant practical, informational, and administrative barriers remain. These challenges are particularly evident in relation to maintaining access to compensation payments, completing recurring administrative requirements, obtaining information about other reparative benefits, and engaging with symbolic and collective measures.

Living outside Iraq changes how survivors can interact with the institutions through which the YSL is administered. Geographical distance can make access to services more costly, time-consuming, and administratively complex, while also limiting survivors' direct engagement with Iraqi institutions and processes. However, residence outside Iraq should not itself constitute a barrier to the exercise of survivors' rights to reparation. As the population of YSL beneficiaries living abroad continues to grow, ensuring equitable access to reparations will require the Iraqi state, the GDSA, and its partners to adapt the administration of the YSL to the realities of a geographically dispersed survivor population.

Host countries also have a role to play in ensuring that Yazidi survivors can exercise their rights equitably while living abroad. In particular, clear and accessible guidance regarding the recognition and treatment of reparations, including their interaction with taxation, social welfare, immigration, and other administrative systems, is important to ensuring that survivors are not disadvantaged as a consequence of receiving reparations from the Iraqi state.

The recommendations below seek to strengthen the accessibility of the YSL for survivors living outside Iraq and to ensure that geographical distance does not limit their ability to access, participate in, and benefit from the full range of reparative measures to which they are entitled. They also recognize that equitable access to reparations requires coordination not only between Iraqi institutions, but also with the governments and institutions of the countries in which survivors now live.

To the General Directorate of Survivor Affairs:

Provide clear and accessible information on the YSL and the benefits it provides targeted at diaspora survivors, including how to apply, information on next steps after approval, and when and how to obtain benefits in accessible and easily disseminated modalities and in languages used by survivor communities abroad;

Develop a dedicated diaspora outreach and information strategy within the GDSA that can maintain an up-to-date database of diaspora survivors, establish regular multilingual communication with diplomatic missions abroad that can provide information and updates on benefits under the YSL;

Develop a dedicated point of contact for diaspora survivors or a dedicated communication channel for survivors living outside Iraq that can provide YSL applicants and beneficiaries with information on the application process as well as updates regarding the roll-out of reparative benefits and access to life certification processes;

Take steps to give effect to the YSL Article 5(6) by coordinating the provision of rehabilitation services to beneficiaries residing outside Iraq;

Monitor the experiences of survivors using the remote testimony mechanism and the services provided at diplomatic missions to ensure a survivor-centered application process and service provision;

To the YSL Committee:

Apply reasonable assumptions of eligibility and drop the extra-legal investigation papers requirement as a mandatory supporting document for YSL applicants, by instead, as outlined in the by-laws, taking into consideration the other supporting documents available, or inviting applicants to be interviewed by the Committee;

To the Government of Iraq:

Ensure the remote testimony mechanism is available in all countries where survivors reside, including Australia, the United States, and Canada, as well as other European countries, to ensure all survivors in the diaspora can access reparations without arduous journeys back to Iraq;

Coordinate with relevant authorities in countries where significant numbers of Yazidi survivors reside to develop clear written guidance explaining the nature and purpose of YSL payments and why they should be subject to tax exemption;

Develop secure mechanisms through which diaspora survivors can receive payments directly in their country of residence, including accessible electronic or bank-transfer options where feasible;

To Diplomatic Missions Abroad:

Share relevant information and updates about the YSL with diaspora communities of survivors, particularly surrounding commemorative or memorialization initiatives and the search for missing persons, and strengthen the role of embassies and consultancies as points of contact for survivors in the diaspora;

Make life certification accessible for survivors in the diaspora by expanding remote or decentralized options and ensure that procedures, timelines, and required documentation are communicated to beneficiaries;

Ensure, where possible, that all procedures and services available in diplomatic missions remain consistent across countries, particularly concerning civil documentation, life certification, and remote testimony;

To Governments of Countries with Yazidi Survivors:

Exempt compensation payments made to survivors of ISIL's atrocity crimes under the YSL, who legally reside in the country, from taxation;

To Civil Society Organizations, International Community, and Donors:

Continue to closely monitor and report on the implementation of the YSL by coordinating and engaging with governmental and non-governmental actors and survivors, conducting awareness-raising sessions on YSL, and providing assistance to survivors in submitting applications;

Support the implementation of the YSL and broader transitional justice efforts by providing technical assistance and sustained financial support to partners in Iraq;

Continue to promote accountability through universal jurisdiction and provide support to ensure accessibility for the participation of diaspora survivors in legal processes abroad, such as livestreaming or remote participation in trials;

Facilitate coordination between Iraqi institutions and authorities in countries of residence by clarifying the administrative treatment of reparations, including taxation and interaction with social welfare systems, so that survivors do not have to navigate these questions individually.

ENDNOTES

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- 8 Kreyenbroek, Philip G. 2009. Yezidism in Europe: Different generations speak about their religion. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 42.
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