



COALITION
FOR JUST
REPARATIONS

MORE THAN “INK ON PAPER”

Five Years of Advancing the Promise
of the Yazidi Survivors Law

2026

* Merely “ink on paper” was the term used by some survivors of ISIL crimes to voice their doubts about the government’s commitment to deliver long-awaited reparations guaranteed under the Yazidi [Female] Survivors Law (YSL).



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.

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Polychrome plate, cracked and reassembled with tape, discovered during preventive excavations at the Chaldean Al-Tahira Church in Mosul, which was heavily damaged during the Battle of Mosul.

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Mam Rashaan Shrine
The restoration of Mam Rashaan Shrine serves as a powerful symbol of Yazidi resilience in the face of violence and hate.
Mount Sinjar, Iraq

PHOTO © Ayman Al-Ameri / The National

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ACRONYMS

C4JR	Coalition for Just Reparations
CIGE	Commission of Investigation and Evidence Collection
CRSV	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
CSL	Camp Speicher Law
CSO(s)	Civil Society Organizations
FGO	Farida Global Organization
GDSA	General Directorate for Survivors’ Affairs
Gol	Government of Iraq
GSF	Global Survivors Fund
ICMP	International Commission on Missing Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRCT	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
ISIL	The self-declared Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
KCIL	Kurdistan Center for International Law
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support
MLD	Medico-Legal Directorate
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
NCIJC	National Center for International Judicial Cooperation
PHR	Physicians for Human Rights
PPO	Peace Paradigms Organisation
TdH	Terre des Hommes
UN	United Nations
UNITAD	United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/ISIL
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
SDF	Syrian Democratic Forces
SEZ	Stiftung Entwicklungs-Zusammenarbeit
SR	Special Rapporteur
SVN	Survivors’ Voices Network
YSL	Yazidi [Female] Survivors’ Law
YSN	Yazidi Survivors’ Network

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year marks five years since the passing of the Yazidi [Female] Survivors' Law (YSL), which established an administrative reparation program in response to crimes committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Over the past five years, Iraq has taken notable steps toward implementing the law, particularly with respect to compensation payments. As of January 2026, 2,216 survivors, both men and women, are receiving compensation. Findings from the survey presented in this report indicate that these reparation payments have had a meaningful impact on survivors' lives, including enhanced financial stability, increased decision-making power within households, and a strengthened sense of social recognition and dignity.

Notwithstanding these advances, significant structural barriers continue to impede survivors' full access to reparative measures, justice, and accountability under the YSL. Extra-legal requirements to initiate criminal investigations, rigid evidentiary standards, and the absence of reasoned, dated written decisions persistently obstruct application, review, and appeal procedures, undermining due process and survivors' trust in the system.

Five years after its enactment, Iraq has yet to establish a comprehensive, state-sponsored, and survivor-centered rehabilitation system capable of addressing the long-term psychological and

psychiatric needs of ISIL survivors. Education measures remain largely general in nature and insufficiently tailored to survivors' specific circumstances and disrupted educational trajectories. In practice, the exercise of land and housing rights under the YSL has been confined to survivors' areas of origin, despite ongoing security concerns, inadequate access to services, and limited livelihood opportunities in those locations. Consequently, return often remains neither safe nor viable for survivors seeking a dignified and sustainable life.

At the same time, Iraq has yet to adopt domestic legislation criminalizing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, perpetuating a critical accountability gap for ISIL-era atrocities. Although the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation—established following the closure of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by ISIL (UNITAD)—is mandated to continue evidence collection and documentation in line with international standards, meaningful progress toward accountability and justice remains limited. Against this backdrop, it is essential to take stock of both achievements and persistent shortcomings in YSL implementation, while reaffirming the indispensable role of civil society organizations in monitoring state compliance and advocating for the full realization of survivors' rights and entitlements under the law.

Historic al Nuri mosque reopens eight years after it was destroyed by ISIS. The mosque was destroyed in 2017 after the IS militant group detonated explosives at the site as it faced defeat in a battle with Iraqi military forces.

PHOTO © UNESCO



The eleventh commemoration ceremony of the Yazidi genocide, Baghdad, Iraq. PHOTO © PM Office

I. AN OVERVIEW OF YSL IMPLEMENTATION DEVELOPMENTS

This report examines the advancements made by Iraqi authorities over the past year and presents the current status of implementation for each benefit outlined in the Yazidi [Female] Survivors’ Law (YSL). It builds upon the relevant work of a range of civil society actors, international organizations, experts, activists, and state officials, who play key roles in supporting the YSL’s implementation. It complements C4JR’s previous three More than “Ink on Paper” annual reports, published yearly on March 1, since 2023, to mark the passing of the YSL. It also draws on the published work of local and international civil society organizations (CSOs) such as Yazda’s July 2025 report, *Implementing the Yazidi Survivors Law: A Review by and for Yazidi Survivors* that examines the impact of the YSL on Yazidi survivors and the Global Survivors Fund’s (GSF) April 2025 report written in collaboration with C4JR member organizations, Farida Global Organization (FGO), Yazda, and members of the

Survivors’ Voices Network (SVN) and Yazidi Survivors Network (YSN), entitled *Access to education as a form of reparation for survivors of ISIS captivity in Iraq*, which evaluates in the implementation of education as a form of reparation as per the YSL in the Iraqi context.

Since July 2023, C4JR has been producing, publishing, and disseminating a bi-monthly YSL Newsletter in four languages. The newsletter aims to provide reliable, up-to-date information on the YSL application and implementation process. To date, C4JR has published 13 newsletters. Such monitoring and reporting efforts aim to highlight the positive developments made in reparation efforts while also drawing attention to prevailing challenges that hinder the full delivery of benefits in a trauma-informed and survivor-centered manner.

This report, in addition to focus group discussions conducted with different YSL eligible survivor groups, also draws on data obtained from C4JR’s YSL Satisfaction Survey conducted between September and November 2025. Documenting both progress and obstacles and building on empirical research, this report seeks to provide a comprehensive assessment of the General Directorate for Survivors’ Affairs (GDSA) efforts in implementing the YSL, give insight into the impact of reparation payments on survivors’ lives, and offer actionable recommendations for improving the reparations process. It underscores the importance of sustained collaboration among government institutions, CSOs, and international partners to ensure that survivors receive the justice and support they are entitled to, and support the transformative potential of reparations in survivors’ lives.

GDSA Outreach, Awareness Raising, and Capacity Building

Over the past year, GDSA undertook a range of outreach and awareness-raising initiatives aimed at improving public and institutional understanding of the YSL. Through ongoing information-sharing via its official Facebook page and participation in

national initiatives, the GDSA provided updates on procedural developments and informed survivors of YSL implementation updates. As explained in further detail below, a key focus of efforts was aimed at addressing long-standing barriers faced by survivors living abroad in accessing the YSL application process.

Awareness-raising efforts also extended to high-level engagement with judicial and governmental stakeholders. In August 2025, GDSA Director General Sarab Elias participated in a national conference held under the patronage of the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, Faiq Zaidan, organized by the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation (NCIJC) in partnership with the American University in Baghdad to commemorate the Yazidi genocide. In her remarks, she highlighted Iraq’s efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence, shared developments in YSL implementation, and emphasized the need for sustained cooperation with the judiciary to strengthen accountability and survivors’ access to justice. She also noted ongoing collaboration between the GDSA and NCIJC on data exchange and capacity support to promote victim-centered, trauma-informed approaches.¹

As part of its ongoing outreach and communication efforts, GDSA disseminated information through

its official Facebook page to inform survivors about important procedural updates specifically targeting survivors abroad, from video conferencing to verification of life status, both of which are discussed in more detail below.

Capacity building within the GDSA continued throughout the year. In August 2025, staff at the GDSA headquarters in Mosul participated in a training delivered by the Nineveh Civil Defense Department. The session aimed to strengthen staff preparedness in emergency response, workplace safety, and the management of emergencies, contributing to safer and more resilient institutional operations.²

In September 2025, the GDSA and NCIJC, under the leadership of GDSA Director General and Judge Ali Hussein Jafat, Head of NCIJC, and with the support of IOM, convened a joint workshop focused on survivor-centered accountability practices for international crimes committed by the ISIL.³ The workshop entitled *Ways to implement female survivor-centered practices as models for accountability for international crimes committed by the terrorist entity ISIS against the Yazidi community and other minorities in Iraq*, facilitated the exchange of experiences between institutions and emphasized the psychological and social impacts of violations, legal frameworks protecting survivors’ rights, and the importance of transparency in justice processes. Participants also examined ethical approaches to documenting crimes and using survivor testimony in ways that respect dignity, consent, and safety. Both institutions reaffirmed the importance of sustained cooperation between national and international actors to ensure accountability while upholding survivors’ rights.

In May 2025, the GDSA coordinated with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and Nineweh Court of Appeals a workshop on survivor-centered justice and techniques to reduce retraumatization in judicial processes.⁴ To support the GDSA’s efforts to facilitate survivors residing abroad to apply to the YSL via video conferencing, PHR dedicated a session to best practices for conducting remote interviews. Further accommodating the GDSA’s requests, PHR’s training also covered informed consent definitions and practical application when taking testimonies, techniques for interviewing survivors, including appropriate questioning, and the importance of ensuring a safe and supportive environment in which to conduct sessions.⁵ PHR’s efforts are expected to be further advanced in their upcoming conference in Baghdad in mid-February 2026, convened with the Supreme Judicial Council, the Directorate of Forensic Medicine, and GDSA, which will serve to align stakeholders’ goals and determine next steps for training.

YSL Eligibility

Five years into the implementation of the YSL, significant challenges persist regarding transparency, communication, and the interpretation of eligibility criteria by the YSL Committee. Survivors continue to report confusion and inconsistent information about who qualifies for benefits under the law and on what basis.

In a focus group discussion conducted by C4JR with Turkmen survivors on their experiences with the YSL application process and monthly compensation, participants emphasized that they had not received sufficient information about the YSL from either the GDSA or CSOs, with few focused on supporting survivors’ access to the YSL benefits. Turkmen survivors reported that IOM and the GDSA conducted several awareness sessions on the YSL encouraging women to apply, during which they did not make clear the eligibility parameters surrounding the age of female survivors, resulting in survivors continuing with the application process, only to have their applications rejected after undergoing lengthy and intrusive procedures. As one survivor explained, this caused her retraumatization: “The recurrence of the trauma wasn’t just because I was not eligible due to

my age, but also because those implementing this law weren’t clear with us from the beginning and left us to go through all the difficult application stages, only to tell us, simply and verbally, that we were not eligible.” Turkmen survivors stressed that eligibility under the YSL should be determined solely by the experience of abduction and captivity by ISIL, rather than by a rigid timeframe or age criteria.⁶ They called for the expansion of the law to include all survivors of ISIL captivity, underscoring the importance of ensuring that no survivor is excluded from reparative measures on arbitrary or unclear grounds.

The lack of clarity surrounding eligibility criteria continues to have particularly harmful consequences for survivors. As the C4JR documented cases above reveal, girls who experienced sexual violence completed the full YSL application process and were subjected to invasive investigative procedures, only to be ultimately denied eligibility. These experiences highlight the urgent need for clear eligibility guidelines, improved communication with survivor communities, and safeguards to prevent retraumatization during application and review processes.

YSL Application Process

Since December 2024, the GDSA has facilitated applications for survivors living abroad to improve their access to the YSL application process. Beginning in France and Germany, YSL applicants are able to submit their testimony remotely via video conferencing hosted at Iraqi diplomatic missions in the country of their residence. This initiative was enabled through GDSA’s collaboration with the Al-Qosh Investigation Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and extensive engagement with relevant embassies. It constitutes an important procedural development in that survivors no longer need to return to Iraq to complete their applications.⁷ While the GDSA announced that the recording of testimonies in Iraqi embassies and consulates had been adopted as an official procedure applicable in all countries with Iraqi missions, no detailed guidance has yet been provided on how survivors residing in countries other than Germany and France can access or initiate these services through Iraqi diplomatic missions.⁸ In May 2025, the Director General of GDSA

reported that out of approximately 150 survivors who registered with GDSA to benefit from the remote testimony submission mechanism, 120 individuals had already been interviewed. This high completion rate demonstrates both the demand for and the effectiveness of remote testimony procedures in addressing long-standing access barriers faced by survivors residing outside Iraq.⁹

Throughout the implementation of the YSL, CSOs have remained closely connected to survivors’ daily realities and have played an essential role in ensuring that the law translates into support. For many survivors, navigating the application process is overwhelming, time-consuming, and difficult to understand. In response, CSO actors have stepped in to explain procedures in accessible ways, share information that is otherwise unavailable, and accompany survivors through each step of the process—from gathering documents to following up with authorities. C4JR member organizations, namely, Yazda and FGO, have supported YSL application efforts by providing free legal services to Yazidi survivors living in Iraq and abroad who wish to apply to the YSL.¹⁰ C4JR also offers support to survivors navigating legal challenges via legal aid throughout the YSL application and appeals process.

In addition, a report released by Taboo LLC, the Free Yazidi Foundation, and the FGO titled *A Guide for NGOs Assisting Individuals to Apply for Reparations Under the Iraqi Yazidi Survivors’ Law No. 8 of 2021*, designed to support NGOs and legal practitioners assisting survivors in navigating the reparations process under the YSL, was published in 2025. It equips lawyers and practitioners with practical guidance on survivor-centered and trauma-informed lawyering, alongside clear explanations of the law, evidentiary requirements, and procedural steps. In addition, the Guide offers strategies for effective advocacy to ensure survivors are supported and represented throughout the application process.¹¹

By listening to survivors, amplifying their voices, and walking them through complex administrative systems, CSOs have helped turn legal entitlements into practical access, offering continuity, trust, and reassurance where institutional communication remains limited.



PHR workshop on survivor-centered justice for judges from towns directly affected by ISIS crimes, Mosul, May 2025. PHOTO © PHR

Speaking at a PHR conference in February 2026, the GDSA Director General announced that 2,496 survivors have been approved to receive reparations under the YSL, of whom 809 are currently residing in Iraq. The significant number of survivors living abroad raises questions regarding the legal implications of receiving reparations in host countries, including the tax status of compensation payments and their potential impact on survivors’ access to social services benefits and residency protections.¹² More importantly, if we disregard symbolic reparations, compensation becomes the only available reparative measures for the bulk of the YSL beneficiaries. Put differently, as things stand, almost 70% of them cannot benefit from vital reparative measures — rehabilitation, education, land, housing and employment— that makes the YSL such an advanced administrative reparation program. While the YSL does mandate GDSA to work on “opening health and psychological rehabilitation centers to treat [female] survivors inside and outside Iraq,”¹³ under current circumstances such a development seems anything but realistic. The Director General further stated that the GDSA is close to completing the inclusion of all eligible survivors under the YSL. While this signals progress in processing applications, the law envisions no deadline for applications and such claims warrant careful scrutiny in light of ongoing barriers related to eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements.

YSL Application Verification

Some YSL applicants continue to face issues surrounding the verification of their YSL applications, largely the result of requirements that are not grounded in the YSL or its bylaws, making variation in interpretation an ongoing issue. One notable development in application verification has been the introduction of video conferencing to enable survivors living abroad to complete the criminal investigation requirement remotely. This measure represents a meaningful step toward reducing access barriers for survivors abroad and reflects improved coordination among relevant authorities. However, survivors residing abroad who wish to provide testimony via video conference may still be required to present two witnesses residing inside Iraq and covered by YSL, a condition that continues to limit accessibility and places additional burdens on applicants, both those applying in and outside Iraq.

The demand, as part of a criminal investigative process,¹⁴ for survivors to bring two witnesses—who must either have been present when the survivor was abducted or seen the survivor in ISIL captivity—who can testify to their captivity may reopen unresolved trauma for the witnesses, trigger psychological distress, and expose them to renewed stigma or social harm within their communities.¹⁵ The cumulative impact of repeated questioning, formal interviews, and security-driven procedures—often conducted without adequate psychosocial safeguards—risks undermining survivors’ dignity and transforming a reparative process into one that inadvertently reproduces harm.

Following application submission, the YSL Committee requires intelligence clearance and biometric verification, a process that involves security services (istikhbārāt) conducting field verification (mash maydānī) with local authorities and community representatives, such as local mukhtars. Female survivors frequently refrain from disclosing their experiences of violence due to stigma, shame, and fear of social repercussions, rendering mukhtars unable to provide official confirmation. This type of community verification procedure, thereby, potentially marginalizes survivors who may already be burdened by trauma and social exclusion and may

expose women to secondary victimization or social harm.

Although some flexibility exists, the lack of clear, standardized evidentiary guidance continues to affect the consistency and predictability of application verification. Overall, aside from the introduction of remote investigation mechanisms for survivors abroad, limited progress has been made in simplifying, clarifying, or harmonizing verification requirements under the YSL.

Though some organizations, including Yazda and Kurdistan Region of Iraq’s Commission for Investigation and Gathering Evidence (CIGE), both of which have documented crimes ISIL committed in an orderly and international criminal law-compliant manner, issue certificates buttressing survivors’ claims, the evidentiary weight accorded to such certificates by the YSL Committee remains unclear.¹⁶

Maintaining Access to Reparative Benefits under the YSL

In order to continue receiving YSL benefits, survivors are required to submit a life certificate (bayan sanawi), which is an annual verification of life status submitted to the GDSA each year to maintain a survivor’s entitlement to all YSL benefits.¹⁷ This official administrative document is used across government institutions to verify that a beneficiary is still alive. Survivors residing inside Iraq can visit the GDSA once a year to complete their verification of life status with their personal identification documents and Mastercard and update their data, along with giving fingerprints. Submitting the life certificate has been particularly challenging, however, for survivors residing outside Iraq, who often face difficulties related to distance, travel costs, limited access to Iraqi consular services, and administrative delays, all of which can hinder their ability to complete required steps and may place their entitlements at risk.

To address challenges surrounding completing life certificate requirements and ensure the continued access to compensation payments to survivors abroad, specific procedural accommodations were introduced by the GDSA in Australia only, for a



Remote video testimony session for YSL applicants abroad, coordinated by the Directorate with the Nineveh Court of Appeals – Al-Qosh Investigation Court and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. PHOTO © GDSA

limited period, between November 3 and 15, 2025. Survivors living in Australia were able to complete the verification of life status remotely via WhatsApp, with a legal representative physically present at the GDSA’s headquarters in Mosul to oversee the process, eliminating the need to travel to Iraq or travel long distances within Australia to the nearest consulate or embassy for in-person interviews.¹⁸ In an information request to the GDSA, C4JR was informed that online verification of life was available to survivors in both Canada and Australia, while a Facebook post on their official page mentions only Australia, making it currently unclear whether the system is available beyond Australia due to conflicting information.

YSL Appeals Process

Applications for reparations under YSL are reviewed by the YSL Committee established under Article 10, with rejected applicants entitled to appeal within the prescribed timeframe. In 2025, CSOs continued to play a critical role in supporting survivors, providing legal guidance and facilitating timely submissions. These initiatives strengthened legal representation for survivors and improved awareness of available remedies under the YSL.

SEED, in collaboration with C4JR and Sherizaan Minwalla, released a practical guide to support lawyers working on appeals cases under the YSL: *Appeals Under the Yazidi Survivors’ Law: Guidance for Legal Practitioners*.¹⁹ This publication provides detailed guidance on how to file appeals, outlines common grounds for application denial, and clarifies key eligibility and evidentiary requirements under



PHR-convened roundtable in Baghdad on strengthening survivor-centered forensic documentation in Iraq, February 2026. Photo © PHR

the law. The guide aims to strengthen the capacity of legal practitioners to effectively advocate on behalf of survivors whose applications for reparations have been rejected, thereby helping to ensure that all eligible survivors are able to access the benefits guaranteed under the YSL.

As outlined in the guidance, lawyers are advised to request a written copy of the decision when an application is denied, in order to verify the date of notification and, where possible, to identify the reasons for the denial. Practitioners are further encouraged to clearly document the procedural history of the case, articulate the specific grounds for appeal and the reasons the survivor is challenging the decision, and provide a concise statement of facts summarizing the survivor's experience. However, to the best of C4JR's knowledge, there is no verified case where a survivor or her legal representative was successful in obtaining a written decision from the Committee before lodging a first or second instance appeal.

In addition, the guide emphasizes the importance of clearly setting out the eligibility criteria for reparations under the YSL, detailing the applicable evidentiary requirements, and constructing a coherent legal argument.²⁰ Such arguments should begin with a clear assertion that the individual qualifies for recognition as a survivor under the YSL and is therefore entitled to the associated benefits.²¹ Finally, the publication provides an overview of the appeals process and potential legal strategies for appealing to the YSL Committee or Court of First Instance. It is intended as a practical reference tool and should not be relied upon as legal advice for any specific case or individual situation.²²



Appeals Under the Yazidi Survivors' Law: Guidance for Legal Practitioners
Available online in Arabic, English and Kurdish
www.seedkurdistan.org/yslguidance



Remedial classes for survivor students and school dropouts, provided by the General Directorate in cooperation with IOM and Terre des Hommes Italy (TDH) under the Return to Education program. Photo © GDSA

Education

In 2025, the GDSA undertook several initiatives aimed at supporting survivors' return to education as part of the reparation measures envisioned under the YSL. In August, the GDSA Director General, accompanied by a number of survivors, visited the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Baghdad to coordinate efforts to facilitate survivors' re-entry into the education system. The meeting reportedly resulted in the formation of an administrative unit tasked with following up on survivors' educational needs and integrating information on the suffering of survivors and the genocidal crimes they were subjected to into the national educational curricula.²⁷ However, the establishment, mandate, and activities of this team have not been publicly announced or clarified, limiting transparency and accountability.

In September, the GDSA Director General, together with IOM, Terre des Hommes Italy (TdH), and the directors of the Educational Planning and Yazidi Studies departments, held a coordination meeting focused on facilitating survivors' return to school at Nineweh Education Directorate.²⁸ Furthermore, the GDSA, in collaboration with IOM and TdH, launched an educational support program offering academic remedial classes across grade levels and literacy courses aimed at survivors, school dropouts, and individuals whose education was interrupted.²⁹ These remedial and literacy classes began implementation in October 2025 and are currently available in Sinjar, Duhok, and Mosul.

Despite these initiatives, there remains a significant lack of comprehensive data on survivors' educational status, needs, and aspirations. More detailed and disaggregated information is required to assess who is accessing education, at what levels, and what forms of support are necessary to enable survivors to succeed, given the harms they have endured. According to information provided by the GDSA, approximately 58 survivors have submitted applications for educational support, with seven enrolling in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) education system, and the remainder enrolled in the federal education system.³⁰ However, there are no reliable estimates of the total number of survivors who wish to resume their education, highlighting a critical gap in outreach, data collection, and planning.

II. GDSA'S DELIVERY OF YSL BENEFITS, SERVICES, AND OTHER ENTITLEMENTS

Since the YSL's enactment, the GDSA has made progress in operationalizing some components of the reparations framework, particularly in areas where administrative procedures have been clarified and inter-ministerial coordination strengthened. This year, some advances have been made across multiple pillars, including land and housing, education, and the search for the missing. Updates on reparations rollouts and the latest statistics on YSL applications are published via the GDSA's Facebook page.

Monthly Compensation

Monthly compensation payments remain the most consistently implemented and effective component of the YSL. The GDSA throughout the year has ensured the disbursing of compensation to approved beneficiaries in a timely manner. According to the GDSA, as of the beginning of January 2026, 2,216 survivors of ISIL are receiving reparation payments

of IQD 800,000 (or approximately US \$600),²³ while 2,496 YSL applicants have been approved.²⁴

During focus group discussions conducted by C4JR with Yazidi survivors in late 2025, several participants reported that although their YSL applications had been approved months earlier, they had yet to begin receiving monthly compensation payments. Survivors attributed these delays to broader national financial constraints. However, in the absence of official data or timelines from GDSA, it remains unclear how many approved survivors are affected, the duration of these delays, or when payments are expected to commence. This information gap continues to generate uncertainty and distress among survivors who are relying on compensation as their primary source of income.

Findings from a separate survey conducted by the Yazda organization further underscore the importance of monthly compensation to survivors' livelihoods.

Of the 601 survivors surveyed, 87% reported that financial compensation had contributed meaningfully to improving their living conditions, while 10% disagreed and 3% were unsure. In the same survey, 98% of respondents stated that payments are delivered on time, and 95% reported having easy access to receiving them.²⁵

However, access challenges persist for survivors residing outside Iraq. Approximately 80% of survivors surveyed by Yazda living abroad reported that they do not withdraw compensation using Mastercards due to prohibitively high international transaction fees.²⁶ Instead, the majority rely on family members or other trusted individuals in Iraq to withdraw payments on their behalf, often through formal powers of attorney. While this arrangement enables continued access to compensation, it can place survivors in a vulnerable position, as reliance on intermediaries may expose them to manipulation, financial exploitation, or loss of autonomy, and means that survivors do not always maintain full, independent access to their reparation payments.



Baghdad: Representatives of the Ministry of Education and the General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs meet to agree on new measures to support survivors' return to education. Photo © GDSA

The Global Survivors Fund (GSF) released a report in 2025, specifically addressing education as a form of reparation under the YSL.³¹ The report, written in collaboration with FGO, Yazda, SVN, and YSN, found that survivors continue to face barriers to returning to education. Many missed several schooling years during their captivity, and after their return, found that re-enrolment was not possible because of the age limits under the Iraqi law. Even when allowed to re-enrol, survivors hesitated to attend classes with much younger classmates. Furthermore, survivors face issues in accessing education due to poor communication from relevant institutions, leaving many of them unaware of their educational rights and opportunities guaranteed under the YSL.

The report also found that psychological issues like PTSD, flashbacks, and self-soothing can be triggers that result in barriers for survivors to active participation and focus in spaces of learning. Furthermore, survivors who return to school feel isolated and stigmatized for being reduced only to their survivor identity by teachers and peers. The report suggests prioritizing independent exam taking, accompanied by a comprehensive informal support, a preferred pathway for survivors to resume their education, and advises the GoI to support educational initiatives developed by CSOs and other stakeholders that incorporate specialized curricula designed to address

the unique needs of survivors and reflect both their past experiences and current circumstances.³²

In parallel with YSL-related initiatives, several education-related incentives that may benefit survivor communities were announced in 2025. The Prime Minister directed the MoE to develop a comprehensive plan to construct new schools in Sinjar and al-Qahtaniyah to alleviate pressure on existing facilities and support the return of displaced populations.³³ Examination centers were also reopened in the Sinuni and Bashiqa sub-districts, enabling students to sit for exams locally.³⁴ Additionally, the Prime Minister announced the approval of 100 scholarships for Yazidi students to pursue studies abroad.³⁵ However, as Iraq already operates a nationwide scholarship program, it remains unclear whether these scholarships are specifically reserved for Yazidi students or are part of the existing national framework. This lack of clarity has raised questions regarding the scope and targeted nature of the initiative. Similarly, while support for Yazidi students to pursue postgraduate education abroad (Master's and Doctorate levels) was announced, no further details have been provided regarding implementation timelines, eligibility criteria, or application procedures.³⁶

Employment

The GDSA is mandated to secure employment and job opportunities to enable survivors achieve their economic and social well-being, including by giving them priority in public employment.³⁷ Despite these provisions, significant confusion remains regarding the compatibility of monthly YSL compensation payments with public-sector employment. In practice, survivors are currently required to choose between continuing to receive monthly reparation payments or accepting public-sector employment, as concurrent receipt of both is not permitted. This forced choice places survivors in an untenable position that undermines their dignity and autonomy, disrupts long-term reintegration, and generates significant anxiety—particularly given fears of legal repercussions for inadvertently receiving dual state salaries.

According to a survey conducted by Yazda on YSL implementation, 53% of the 601 survivors surveyed were unaware that access to public-sector employment constitutes a YSL reparative measure. Correspondingly, uptake remains extremely limited: only around 2% of respondents reported having applied for public-sector employment, and just five survivors indicated that they had been offered a position. Notwithstanding these low figures, interest in public-sector employment is substantial, with 309 out of 583 respondents expressing a desire to obtain such employment.³⁸

Requiring survivors to forgo either reparations or employment ultimately impedes their ability to pursue sustainable, long-term livelihoods that public-sector employment guarantees. To address this structural barrier, the GoI should establish a clear exception for YSL beneficiaries, allowing them to receive both reparations payments and public-sector salaries concurrently. A legal precedent already exists under the Martyrs Foundation Law No. 2 of 2016, which explicitly permits the receipt of dual state salaries under Article 11(2). Extending a similar provision to YSL beneficiaries would better uphold survivors' rights and align with survivor-centered and reparative justice principles.³⁹

Land & Housing

In April 2025, the GDSA Director General announced the completion of procedures for transferring ownership of residential land plots to survivors of ISIL covered by YSL from the Yazidi and Turkmen communities in Nineveh Governorate.⁴⁰ This process began in May 2024, when a lottery was held at Nineweh Municipalities Directorate to distribute 262 plots of land: 250 in Sinjar and 12 in Tel Afar. In December 2025, during the Cabinet's 49th session, the allocation and transfer of ownership of a plot of land measuring 2,481 square meters in southern Nineveh to the GDSA was approved, as requested by MoLSA.⁴¹ In January 2026, the Governor of Nineveh Abdul Qadir al-Dakhil announced that he had obtained the approval of the Prime Minister to grant and distribute 820 residential plots of land in Sinjar under YSL. The land plots will be distributed in two batches, the first will comprise 350 plots and the second 500 plots.⁴² According to GDSA, these land plots will continue to be distributed to survivors in their area of origin. As of writing, survivors in Sahel Nineweh, where the majority of Shabak survivors reside, have not yet received land plots under the YSL. As highlighted in C4JR's previous Annual Report, the Directorate's current approach to land distribution limits survivors' ability to choose alternate locations for resettlement, even though the YSL does not explicitly restrict land and housing benefits to specific governorates, thereby contravening a human rights-based approach which would enable survivors to choose where land and housing benefits are located.⁴³

With regard to the granting of real estate loans or free housing units, a number of recent announcements reveal encouraging developments. In January 2026, the MoLSA and the Central Bank announced they had been in discussions regarding granting housing loans to survivors. The GDSA Director General, Sarab Elias, alongside Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) Undersecretary, Huda Sajjad, met with the Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq, Ali Al-Alaq, to discuss ways to support survivors by granting financial loans as per Article 6.2 of the YSL, which would contribute to building housing on the plots of land previously distributed.⁴⁴ If granted, these loans could further

support survivors to meet their housing needs and improve living conditions.

In a significant step toward addressing historic land and property rights for Yazidis in Sinjar, the Gol approved the transfer of ownership of residential land plots in Sinjar, Qahtaniyah, and al-Ba'aj districts, where Yazidi residential housing complexes were built in the 1970's.⁴⁵ This decision was part of the Cabinet's broader effort to expedite the granting of ownership and title deeds to Yazidis in the north and south of Mount Sinjar, where they resettled following the forced dispossession under Saddam Hussein's regime in 1975. During that period, more than 146 Yazidi villages were destroyed, farms and orchards bulldozed, and hundreds of wells and springs demolished, denying generations of Yazidis the right to own property in the region.⁴⁶

To redress over 50 years of discrimination, the Gol, in coordination with UN-Habitat Iraq, decreed that one hundred percent of ownership fees would be waived in the reissuance of property deeds.⁴⁷ In April 2025, approximately 1,200 residents of Hatin and Qahtaniya housing complexes received ownership deeds as part of this initiative.⁴⁸ Speaking at the UN Security Council (UNSC) briefing in June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Dr. Mohamed al-Hassan, underscored the Gol's recognition of Yazidis' land ownership rights, noting that more than 1,300 title deeds had been distributed to date in 2025.⁴⁹

Dr. al-Hassan also highlighted broader government efforts to create sustainable conditions for return. These efforts include the work of the Sinjar and Nineveh Plain Reconstruction Fund, which recently announced the launch of its first phase of infrastructure and rehabilitation projects in Sinjar District. This initial phase comprises 14 projects out of a planned total of 89, focusing on reconstruction, rehabilitation, and the development of main roads linking sub-districts and villages.⁵⁰ The government presented these initiatives as part of a broader development plan targeting areas most affected by ISIL attacks, with the stated aim of supporting durable solutions to displacement and enabling the safe and dignified return of displaced populations.

Developments in land and housing policy, and specifically the implementation of land and housing as reparations under the YSL, represent important foundations for advancing durable solutions for those displaced due to war and conflict, particularly historically marginalized minority communities. Measures aimed at restoring ownership rights, issuing title deeds, and investing in reconstruction signal growing recognition of the central role that housing, land, and property rights play in facilitating the right of return. Eleven years after the genocide, these actions are long overdue.

However, for these initiatives to translate into genuinely durable solutions, they must be accompanied by guarantees of security, access to livelihoods, basic services, and freedom of choice to return, locally integrate, or resettle elsewhere. At present, the Directorate falls short of delivering land and housing benefits under the YSL in a rights-based manner in two key respects. First, it fails to meaningfully consult survivors on where land should be allocated in light of their current circumstances and future needs. Second, according to the Directorate's YSL Brochure, survivors from families with multiple eligible beneficiaries are entitled to only one land plot and either a real estate loan or a housing unit per family—a restriction that is not grounded in the YSL or its bylaws.⁵¹ Without addressing these broader shortcomings, land and housing measures risk enabling only partial or premature returns, rather than supporting displaced survivors' right to return voluntarily, safely, and with dignity, in line with international standards.

Rehabilitation

This year, the GDSA strengthened its cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH), the Women's Affairs and Human Rights Division, and the Citizens' Affairs Division in the Nineveh Health Department, and in coordination with the Center for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, facilitated the provision of health services to survivors of ISIL captivity. These services included access to basic medical care, surgical interventions, and prosthetic support, delivered through public health facilities in Nineveh Governorate and Baghdad's Medical City.

Since September 2025, a total of 34 survivors have reportedly benefited from these health services under the YSL.⁵²

In May 2025, the Director General of Health in Nineveh issued an official directive instructing all public health institutions in the governorate to recognize and accept health cards previously issued by the GDSA to YSL beneficiaries.⁵³ These health cards are intended to enable survivors to access free treatment in public hospitals and health centers across Nineveh Governorate. However, their practical added value remains limited. Public health services in Iraq are free of charge to all Iraqi citizens, and the health cards are not recognized in the KRI or by private health facilities. As a result, the cards do not meaningfully expand survivors' access to care and fall short of addressing the specialized and long-term rehabilitation needs arising from conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).

Significant structural gaps persist within the public health system, particularly in relation to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Government hospitals suffer from a critical shortage of psychiatrists and psychotherapists with specialized expertise in treating the psychological consequences of sexual violence and other grave human rights violations, such as torture, severely limiting the system's capacity to adequately meet survivors' MHPSS needs. Survivors require comprehensive, continuous, survivor-

centered medical and psychological care rather than short-term or episodic interventions.⁵⁴ While it was confirmed in 2024 that dedicated rehabilitation centers would be established in Mosul and Sinjar, no further updates have materialized regarding these centers, including timelines for their opening or clarity on their scope and services. The absence of progress on these facilities further constrains the state's capacity to provide specialized and sustained rehabilitation.

Survey findings further underscore gaps in awareness and implementation. According to a survey conducted by Yazda on YSL implementation, the majority of survivors were not aware that MHPSS services constitute an entitlement under the YSL's rehabilitation measures.⁵⁵ At the same time, nearly 67% of surveyed survivors reported having received MHPSS services at some point since 2014, primarily through international and local organizations.

In 2023, the GDSA and several local NGOs began coordinating via a referral mechanism to bridge the institutional gap in MHPSS service provision. At the time of writing, it is not clear if the referral mechanism is still functioning and, if so, if coordinating organizations have the capacity to provide the standard of MHPSS care needed by YSL beneficiaries. This being said, the need for continued MHPSS remains significant. More than half of the survivors surveyed indicated that they



Jiyān Foundation psychotherapist welcoming an internally displaced woman at the treatment center, Shariya IDP Camp, Duhok
PHOTO © Jiyān Foundation

continue to require MHPSS assistance, underscoring the long-term impact of trauma and the importance of sustained assistance. In contrast, approximately 40% of respondents stated that they do not currently require such support.⁵⁶

A significant implementation gap remains between the YSL's legal guarantees and survivors' lived experiences. Nearly 80% of survivors surveyed reported that MHPSS services were not offered to them after they applied for benefits under the YSL.⁵⁷ This finding points to significant shortcomings in outreach, referral mechanisms, and service integration, and highlights the absence of a systematic, proactive approach to rehabilitation under the law. Strengthening coordination between GDSA, the MoH, and service providers, alongside improved communication with survivors and the development of sustainable, specialized rehabilitation services, is essential to realizing rehabilitation as a meaningful reparative measure under the YSL.

Memorialization

Memorialization is a core pillar of the YSL and an integral part of reparative justice and societal recognition of the crimes committed against Yazidis and other affected communities. The YSL mandates the establishment of a National Day of Remembrance on August 3 each year to publicly acknowledge the atrocities committed by ISIL, and to honor victims and survivors. It also obligates relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and other institutions, to take measures to immortalize Yazidi victims and other components through monuments, statues, exhibitions, and other initiatives that preserve memory, educate future generations, and prevent denial or recurrence of these crimes.⁵⁸ However, implementation of memorialization measures has been slow and limited, with few tangible initiatives realized to date, undermining the law's intended role in acknowledging survivors' suffering and preserving collective memory.

On August 3, 2025, the GoI commemorated the eleventh anniversary of the Yazidi genocide in Baghdad. The event, sponsored by the Prime Minister and held under the title Memorializing the Victims

of Genocide: A Consolidation of Human Values, was attended by GDSA Director General alongside a number of survivors.⁵⁹ While such national-level commemorations are symbolically important, they remain largely ceremonial and have not yet been accompanied by sustained or survivor-led memorialization initiatives on the ground.

In a C4JR consultation with Turkmen survivors, they expressed a lack of representation in local and international events, explaining that each year, only one Turkmen survivor is invited to participate in GDSA genocide commemoration events, though they are not asked to speak or actively participate. Turkmen survivors expressed a willingness to participate in such events, even if they take place outside Tel Afar, reflecting their desire for meaningful participation in memorialization efforts.

In June 2025, a consultative meeting was held between GDSA, survivors, families of victims, artists, and sculptors to discuss plans for the establishment of memorials and the preservation of mass grave sites.⁶⁰ This initiative, implemented by the GDSA in partnership with the IOM, aims to commemorate victims and safeguard collective memory at a number of excavated mass grave sites in the Sinjar and Tel Afar districts. The inclusion of survivors and families in these consultations represents a positive step toward more participatory and survivor-centered memorialization. However, these efforts remain at an early stage and require clearer timelines, sustained funding, and institutional commitment to ensure that memorialization under the YSL moves beyond consultation toward tangible, permanent outcomes.

Search for the Missing & Excavations of Mass Graves

Some progress has also been made in implementing the YSL's provisions related to the search for missing persons and the recovery of victims of ISIL crimes, including the formation of a Committee for the Search of the Kidnapped in 2024, the formation of a database of missing persons, the allocation of substantial rewards to those who provide information on abductees, and large scale search campaigns in Türkiye, Syria and Kurdistan.⁶¹

In April 2025, the GDSA supervised the return of two Yazidi male survivors from Syria, with the support of the Prime Minister's Office, the National Intelligence Service, and relevant authorities.⁶² Further operations



A Yazidi woman holds photographs of family members lost during the Sinjar genocide committed by ISIS.
Photo © Kurdistan24



Ceremony for the reception and handover of the eighth batch of remains of 22 Yazidi victims at the Sinjar Genocide Memorial. Photo © GDSA

followed in July 2025 with the return of a Yazidi female survivor⁶³ and in December 2025 with the rescue of a Turkmen male survivor from Turkey.⁶⁴ These operations, carried out under the direction of the Prime Minister and in coordination with the MoFA, demonstrate the role of inter-agency and diplomatic cooperation in addressing cases of missing survivors.

At a regional level, the GDSA participated in the Regional Expert Meeting on Missing Persons held in Baghdad in May 2025, organized under the auspices of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fuad Hussein, and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP).⁶⁵ In his opening remarks, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasized that the meeting marked a critical step in addressing one of the region's most complex humanitarian challenges. Discussions focused on best practices, legal frameworks, persistent challenges, and future priorities in responding to missing persons resulting from decades of conflict, displacement, and violence across the region. The meeting provided a platform for neighboring countries to exchange experiences, technical expertise, and best practices related to the search for missing persons.

Progress has also been made in the identification and dignified burial of victims recovered from mass graves. In August 2025, the Medico-Legal Directorate (MLD) of the MoH identified the remains of 22 Yazidi victims killed by ISIL in 2014.⁶⁶ A burial ceremony was held at the Yazidi Genocide Memorial in Sinjar, attended by government officials, including the GDSA Director General, as well as local and international CSOs, and community members. In December 2025, eight additional mass graves were exhumed in Siba Sheikh Khider, Tel-Yousifka, Sinjar District Center, Tel-Banat, Um-Shababit, Hardan, and Sheikh Khenes village. To date, 82 mass graves have been exhumed out of 93 known mass graves documented in the area.⁶⁷ These efforts have resulted in the recovery of approximately 770 sets of human remains. As of the end of 2025, 297 victims have been successfully identified through DNA analysis and other forensic methods and returned to their families for dignified burial.⁶⁸

Despite these advances, substantial challenges remain. A total of 473 exhumed Yazidi victims have yet to be identified and are currently being stored in Baghdad morgues while awaiting DNA matching and the tracing of relatives⁶⁹. In addition, hundreds of victims are believed to remain in mass graves that have not yet been excavated. These gaps underscore the continued need for sustained forensic capacity, technical resources, and institutional coordination to fulfill the YSL's mandate on missing persons and mass graves.

In January 2026, following an escalation of tensions between the government and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Syria, the administration of al-Hol camp was handed over to the Syrian army. This began the transfer of up to 7,000 ISIL suspects to secure facilities within Iraq, including Syrian, Iraqis, and Europeans among other nationalities.⁷⁰ In response to this development, the Kidnapped Yazidi Rescue Office renewed efforts to locate and rescue Yazidis potentially located in al-Hol. In a statement, the office sought to reassure Yazidi captives that they will not be harmed if they return and that their families are waiting for them.⁷¹ The office also published several contact numbers to facilitate communication between the office and rescue attempts.

Other Compensation Pathways under Iraqi Law

Despite years of delay in implementation, Iraq's Law No. 20 of 2009 on *Compensating Victims of Military Operations, Military Mistakes and Terrorist Operations*—as amended by Law No. 57 of 2017, and Law No. 2 of 2020—has facilitated compensation for more than 19,836 claims submitted by residents of Sinjar, Qahtaniyah, and western Nineweh since 2024.⁷² While this legal framework provides financial compensation for individuals who have suffered material and moral harm as a result of terrorism and security-related actions, it has been criticized for its complex administrative and legal procedures, which pose significant barriers to access.

According to C4JR member organization Yazda, which has provided individualized legal assistance to 19 survivors seeking compensation under Law No. 20, applicants continue to face substantial challenges in navigating this compensation framework. These challenges include financial hardship, limited mobility, and onerous administrative requirements, all of which hinder applicants' ability to pursue claims independently. Through Yazda's support—which included gathering documents, preparing formal files, accompanying applicants to compensation offices, and covering transportation and document issuance costs—seven compensation claims were formally submitted to the relevant authorities, while eight additional cases reached the final documentation stage and were prepared for submission.⁷³

Families of martyrs and missing persons who receive compensation under the YSL can also receive compensation under the *Martyrs' Foundation Law* of 2016. In December 2025, outstanding transactions related to Yazidi martyrs and missing persons under the Martyrs Foundation Law were processed, facilitating the disbursement of compensation to affected families.⁷⁴

During 2025, Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights commissioned a report comparing Iraq's compensation frameworks developed in response to ISIL violence, namely the YSL and laws passed in response to the Speicher Massacre: *Law on the Rights*



A mother's worst nightmare: Nidhal from Baghdad has been grieving the loss of her son, Hussein, for over ten years. Photo: ©IOM 2024/Rafal Abdulateef

of the Martyrs of the Majid al-Tamimi Air Base Crime, commonly referred to as Camp Speicher Law (CSL). Conducted by Peace Paradigms Organization (PPO), the report analyzes the text of the two laws (YSL and CSL) and related legal frameworks, as well as explores the implementation of both laws based on secondary literature, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions conducted across multiple governorates of Iraq. The report finds that a lack of survivor and CSO participation in the drafting of both laws occurred within a context of political pressure rather than participatory design. The result is a feeling of exclusion on the part of survivors and victims' families that they can shape the provisions that directly affect them, with consultations in the case of the CSL only occurring regarding the verification of names, memorialization ceremonies, or administrative processing.⁷⁵

The report also finds that both laws introduced eligibility criteria that can be considered restrictive or subject to varying interpretations⁷⁶ and the gap between legislative ambition and operational reality hinders the realization of rights under both legal frameworks.⁷⁷ Yazidi survivors in the FGDs and Yazidi activists interviewed for the report described the GDSA as accessible and empathetic, noting cultural/linguistic proximity, community-embedded staff, and the directorate's Yazidi leadership, which they felt enhanced trust and responsiveness.⁷⁸ However, Christian and Shabak survivors reported less targeted outreach/liaison to their communities compared with their Yazidi counterparts, and weaker representation among GDSA's employees, affecting perception of the GDSA as less oriented to their communities, even while they recognized GDSA's formal mandate as cross-community.⁷⁹

While both the YSL and CSL are framed as victim and survivor-centered legal instruments legal instruments, in practice, implementation reflects that survivor-centered practice remains uneven.⁸⁰ While the recognition of CRSV in the YSL marked a significant advance, in practice, evidentiary burdens and inconsistent reparative benefit implementation restrict survivor-centered access, while the CSL, though administered largely through an administrative compensation framework, has limited attention to survivor agency beyond the Martyrs Foundation framework. The report concludes with an overview of lessons learned and recommendations targeted at various actors from the GoI to CSOs and international organizations.



Displaced Yazidis in a camp.
PHOTO ©AP

questions. Descriptive statistics were run using IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 29.01). The survey includes responses from 134 survivors, which limits the feasibility of advanced statistical analyses and the generalizability of findings to the full population of beneficiaries. Accordingly, the analysis relies primarily on descriptive methods, including cross-tabulations, to identify patterns across the five thematic areas and to generate indicative insights at the group level.

In addition, focus group discussions were conducted with survivor groups both during the early stages of research design and during the survey period. These discussions informed the development and refinement of survey themes and provided complementary qualitative, descriptive data. The survey also included several open-ended questions, which further contributed to qualitative insights into survivors' experiences and perspectives.

Demographics

A total of 134 respondents participated in the survey, of whom 113 were female (84%), and 21 were male (16%). Respondents identified as Yazidi (75%), Shabak (11%), Turkmen (10%), and Christian (4%) components. This gender and component distribution closely reflects the overall YSL applicant profile and explains why some survivor categories, such as female Yazidis, have larger response numbers.

III. C4JR'S YSL SATISFACTION SURVEY FINDINGS

C4JR conducted a satisfaction survey between September and November 2025 that aimed to measure beneficiaries' self-reported perceptions of the reparation payments they receive monthly to determine their overall satisfaction with this reparative measure. The survey assesses the extent to which compensation payments have contributed to the YSL's broader objectives: overcoming moral, economic, and physical harms; contributing to the socioeconomic well-being of survivors of ISIL conflict (Article 5); securing a decent life for survivors through financial and moral support (Article 4.1); and enabling survivors' integration into society (Article 4.2). Beyond measuring technical satisfaction alone,

the survey explores the social impact of reparations, examining whether reparations have altered, redressed, or transformed the circumstances in which survivors live. The survey examines not only financial improvements but also whether reparations have had a meaningful and restorative effect on survivors' lives across various sectors.

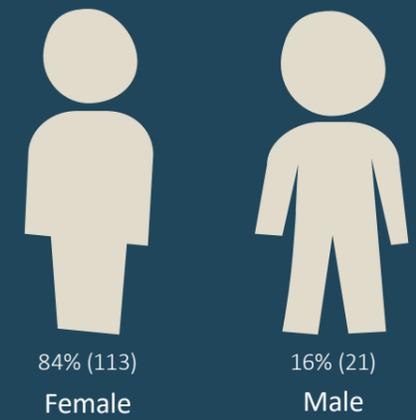
Methodology

Following the finalization of the questionnaire in August 2025, C4JR hosted an online workshop with implementing partners—including Justice

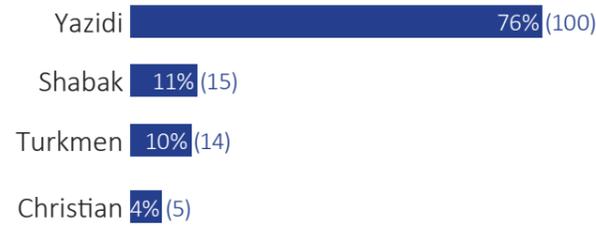
Organization for Minority Rights, HÁWAR.help International, Hope Givers, and Turkmen Rescue Foundation—where guidelines were given on how to administer the survey using KoBo Toolbox. Survey administrators received two training sessions on how to administer the survey, including informed consent protocols and “Do no Harm” principles. With the help of these implementing partners, C4JR administered 134 surveys directly to respondents over 18 years of age currently living in Iraq and receiving reparations under the YSL.

The questionnaire investigates five key themes, including demographic information, access to compensation payments, satisfaction with compensation payments, socio-economic reintegration, and recognition of harms and violations. Questions constituted a mix of yes/no questions, multiple choice, and open-ended

Gender of respondents



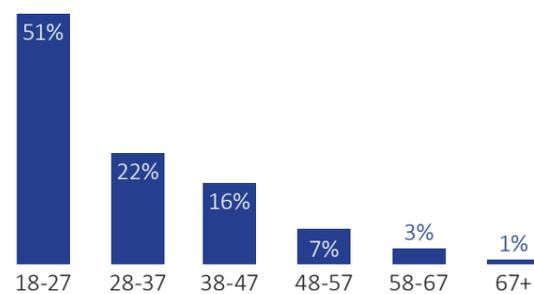
Community of respondents



Nearly all respondents (98%) are originally from Nineweh governorate. At the time of the survey, 63% were residing in Nineweh and 37% in Duhok. Housing conditions varied: 45% reported living in their own homes, 21% in rented accommodation, and 25% in displacement settings, including tents (15%) and caravans (10%). Despite the passage of more than a decade after the beginning of the violence, a significant proportion of survivors remain displaced or living in unstable housing conditions.

The sample was predominantly composed of young adults, with 51% aged 18-27, 22% aged 28-37, and 16% aged 38-47.

Age of respondents



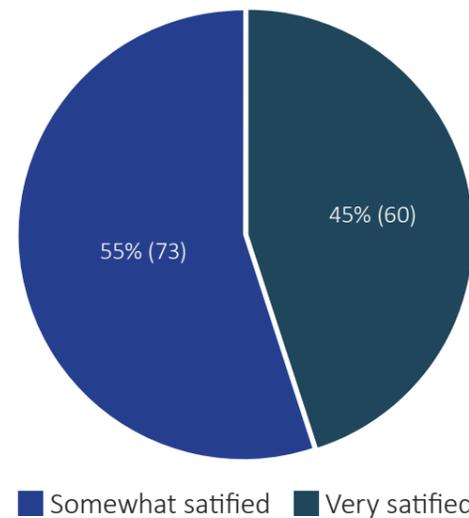
With 87% of respondents unemployed and compensation constituting the main source of income for most respondents (81%), reparation payments function not only as symbolic redress but as a critical livelihood mechanism. This level of dependency raises concerns about the sustainability of survivors' well-being if payments are delayed, reduced, or discontinued. On average, 2.46 household members contribute to family income, supplemented by small businesses (15%), humanitarian assistance (11%), and other forms of welfare support, including pensions and the Kurdistan Region survivor stipend. The average number of household members supported

by reparation payments was 4.75, indicating that compensation has broader household-level effects rather than benefiting only individual survivors.

Access to Compensation Payments

Overall, respondents expressed high levels of satisfaction with the timeliness of receiving monthly reparation payments, with 45% reporting being very satisfied and 55% somewhat satisfied. This indicates that, once payments begin, the regularity and speed of disbursement are generally perceived positively.

How satisfied are you with the regularity and timing of the compensation payments?



However, experiences differed significantly with regard to the time between application and receipt of the first compensation payment. While 24% of respondents received payments within three months of submitting their YSL application, 22% waited more than 12 months, reflecting substantial variation in processing times and access to entitlements. This inconsistency points to differing experiences in applying to the YSL, with some applicants facing initial rejections and appeals processes.

Most respondents (81%) reported not receiving retroactive payments, with only 19% having received backdated compensation. This suggests limited implementation of retroactive payment provisions and raises concerns about whether survivors are being fully compensated for prolonged waiting periods.

In relation to the YSL application process, respondents reported mixed levels of support: half received assistance when submitting their YSL application, while half did not. This number is a slight improvement in comparison to C4JR's previous survey on accessibility and survivor-centeredness of the YSL application mechanism, which found that 80% of YSL applicants required support in submitting their YSL application.⁸¹ However, this indicates persistent disparities in access to guidance and institutional support. Information access remains a critical issue: 51% stated that although they had access to some information about the YSL process, it was unclear; 28% reported having clear information; and 20% indicated that they had very little or unclear information. This reflects ongoing deficits in accessible, transparent, and survivor-centered communication.

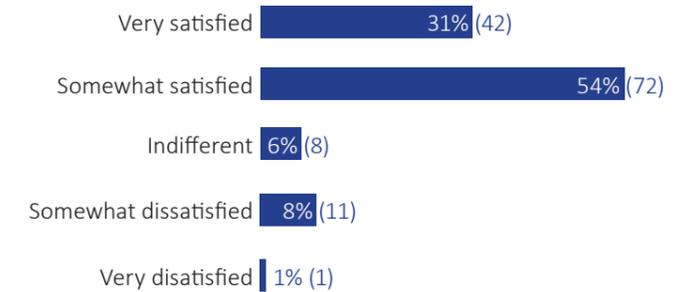
The open-ended responses reveal that access to compensation is shaped by multiple, intersecting barriers, rather than a single procedural obstacle, with 86% of respondents facing at least one barrier. Many respondents (13%) reported losing identity and legal documents due to displacement and captivity, constituting an initial obstacle in the application process. Financial barriers (13%) related to the costs of lawyers, transportation, and general poverty hinder access, revealing how compensation processes can reproduce exclusion through economic barriers. Respondents face difficulties locating witnesses (12%), particularly if those witnesses reside outside of Iraq, highlighting structural problems in evidentiary requirements. Respondents reported bullying or poor treatment by officials (8%), which reflects concerns about institutional culture, dignity, and respect in survivor-state interactions. Finally, physical disabilities and psychological trauma (7%) limit survivors' ability to navigate complex bureaucratic processes.

Satisfaction with Compensation Payments

Overall, respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with both the amount and regularity of compensation payments. Over half (54%) indicated that they were somewhat satisfied with the compensation payment amount, with 31% were very satisfied; only 8% reported being somewhat

dissatisfied. Similarly, satisfaction with the regularity and timing of payments was high, with 54% somewhat satisfied and 45% very satisfied. This suggests that while survivors generally view compensation payments as predictable and reliable, the adequacy of the amount remains a more contested issue.

How satisfied are you with the amount of compensation you received?



When asked in an open-ended question what they would change about compensation payments, 40% stated that they would like the monthly amount to be increased, with several respondents suggesting a payment of 1 million IQD. Many explained that, given the number of dependents they support, the current compensation amount is insufficient to meet household needs. A smaller proportion of respondents (5%) expressed a desire for additional family members to receive reparations, including calls for full payments for minors and, in one case, an extension of YSL eligibility to include children born during captivity.

At the same time, 41% of respondents stated that they would not change anything about compensation payments, emphasizing instead the importance of payments continuing regularly and without delay. Notably, some respondents who began receiving compensation while they were minors reported that, after turning 18, they had not received retroactive payments for the period during which payments were withheld due to their age.

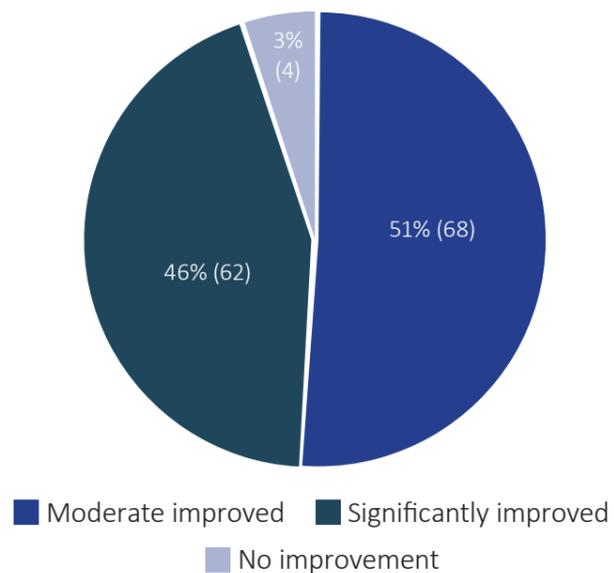
Under the YSL, individual compensation payments are set at no less than twice the minimum pension salary stipulated in the Unified Pension Law No. 34 (currently approximately 800,000 IQD, or around USD 600). This provision establishes a guaranteed minimum amount, while allowing for the possibility of higher payments.⁸² In practice, however, all surveyed survivors reported receiving this minimum amount.

When asked whether they considered it fair that all survivors receive the same compensation amount, 64% responded yes, while 36% responded no. Among those who felt it was unfair, the most commonly cited criteria for differentiating compensation levels were the severity of harm suffered (27%), current health condition (20%), number of dependents (19%), and length of time in captivity (19%). In open-ended responses, some respondents also suggested that the number of missing family members and the gender of the survivor should be taken into account, with one respondent noting that "women were subjected to greater harm."

Immediate Use and Basic Needs

Findings indicate that compensation payments under the YSL play a significant role in improving survivors' day-to-day living conditions. An overwhelming majority of respondents reported positive changes, with 45% stating that their living conditions have significantly improved and a further 51% reporting moderate improvements as a result of receiving reparation payments.

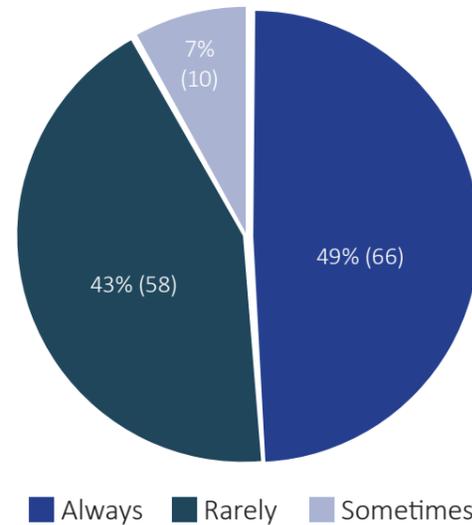
Have the compensation payments helped you improve your living conditions?



Nearly half of respondents (49%) indicated that compensation payments always enable them to meet their basic needs, while 43% reported that payments sometimes allow them to do so. Only 7% stated that compensation payments rarely cover basic needs.

This suggests that, while compensation provides essential support, its adequacy may fluctuate depending on household size, health needs, and other financial pressures.

Have the compensation payments allowed you to meet your basic needs?



In terms of expenditure, respondents most frequently reported using compensation payments to cover daily living expenses (26%), health-related costs (25%), housing needs (16%), and psychosocial well-being (14%). In open-ended responses, several respondents emphasized that compensation payments are particularly important for meeting children's expenses, including childcare, education, and health-related costs.

When asked directly whether they had used compensation payments to support their physical or mental well-being, 79% answered yes, while only 18% answered no. This finding is notable given that such expenses—especially healthcare and psychosocial support—are envisaged as part of the broader reparative package under the YSL, raising questions about the extent to which compensation payments are substituting for other forms of rehabilitation.

Finally, 82% of respondents reported having been issued a health card by the GDSA, suggesting relatively high formal access to health entitlements, though earlier findings indicate that survivors may still rely on compensation payments to address unmet health and psychosocial needs in practice.

Gender Sensitive Spending Decision Making

C4JR examined the extent to which access to and control over compensation payments under the YSL are gender-sensitive, with particular attention to whether female survivors are able to directly receive, manage, and decide how reparation payments are used. Among the 113 female survivors surveyed, the majority (77%) reported that they personally withdraw and maintain access to their compensation payments. A further 15% indicated that the payments are withdrawn by the survivor, but someone else has access, while only 7% stated that their compensation is received entirely by another person.

Decision-making over the use of compensation payments similarly reflects relatively high levels of autonomy among female survivors. When asked who decides how payments are spent, 58% reported deciding independently, 29% reported joint decision-making with a spouse, and only 5% stated that another family member makes these decisions. Correspondingly, nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) indicated that receiving compensation has increased their role in household financial decision-making, while 37% reported that their role has remained unchanged.

Despite these generally positive trends, barriers persist. While 58% of respondents reported facing no barriers from family members in how compensation payments are used, more than one-third (36%) stated that they sometimes face such barriers, and 8% reported facing them often, suggesting that gendered power dynamics within households continue to shape survivors' economic agency.

Open-ended responses provide further insight into measures that could strengthen survivors' control over compensation payments. When asked what would help YSL beneficiaries better manage and control compensation, 15% of respondents (both male and female) emphasized the need for financial literacy or money-management training, while 11% highlighted investment support, including assistance to open small businesses, undertake income-generating projects, or invest in assets such as gold. A further 7% stressed the importance of ensuring

exclusive access to compensation payments. At the same time, 13% stated that no additional measures are necessary because they already have full control over their payments, indicating that challenges are not universal. Notably, among respondents who reported having full control, four out of five were female survivors.

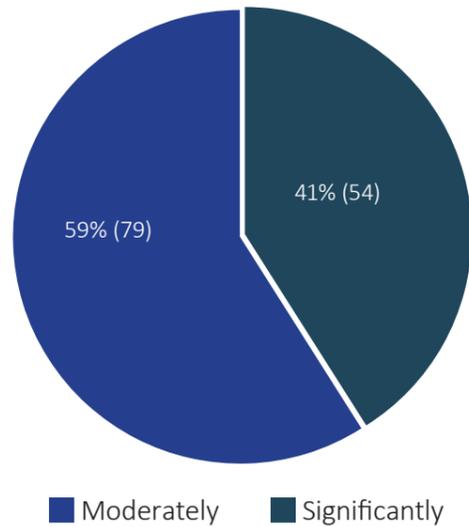
Family dynamics also emerged as a key theme. Nine percent of respondents identified intra-family coordination and support as central to maintaining control over compensation payments; all respondents offering this perspective were female, underscoring women's awareness of the relational dimensions of financial autonomy. Finally, 27% of respondents indicated that they did not know what would help improve control over compensation payments, suggesting either uncertainty about systemic solutions or limited space to reflect on broader structural changes.

Overall, these findings suggest that while compensation payments have contributed to increased financial agency for many female survivors, gender-sensitive barriers persist within household and family contexts. Strengthening women's control over reparations may therefore require not only direct payment mechanisms but also complementary measures, such as financial literacy support and gender-responsive programming, that address the social conditions shaping how compensation is used in practice.

Financial Stability and Investments in the Future

In terms of respondents' overall financial situation, a majority reported improvements following the receipt of reparation payments: 59% indicated a moderate improvement, while 41% reported a significant improvement. Despite these gains, the capacity to save remains limited. When asked whether they are able to set aside part of their compensation payments for future use, 44% responded that they are not able to save, 28% reported that they are able to save, and a further 28% stated that they are only rarely able to do so.

Has your financial situation improved after receiving the compensation (salary) payments?

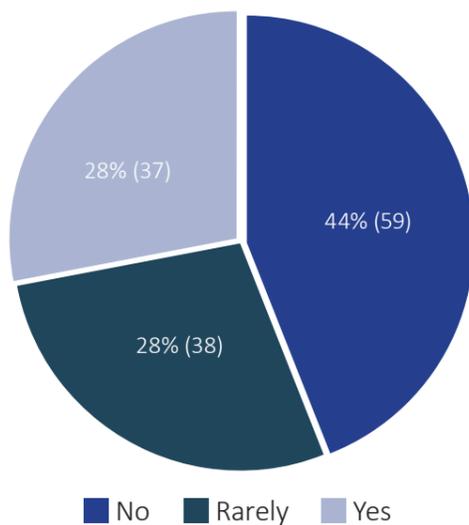


Open-ended responses further illuminate how compensation payments are used in practice. When asked, “What are you able to do today that you were unable to do before receiving YSL compensation payments?”, the most frequently cited uses were healthcare, daily needs, and supporting family members, underscoring that compensation is primarily directed toward meeting essential needs. Over one-third of responses (36%) referenced improved access to healthcare, including medical treatment, medications, and related expenses. This finding is particularly concerning given that the YSL mandates the establishment of rehabilitation centers intended to provide physical, psychological, and psychiatric care to survivors free of charge. Delays in the establishment and accessibility of these services appear to be shifting the financial burden onto survivors themselves, resulting in compensation payments being used to cover services that should constitute reparative entitlements under the law.

A significant proportion of respondents (26%) emphasized their ability to support family members financially. These responses often reflected survivors’ responsibilities within their households and the central role compensation plays in sustaining family well-being. As one respondent explained: “Helping my husband with expenses, buying all the household necessities, and sometimes going on outings outside the camp with family.” Such responses further illustrate how compensation payments frequently function as household income rather than as individualized reparative support.

At the same time, a notable subset of responses (13%) highlighted a sense of increased autonomy, dignity, and self-reliance. Survivors described being able to make decisions independently and provide for themselves and their families without reliance on humanitarian aid or extended family support. One respondent noted: “I can live without asking anyone for help or waiting for assistance from anyone; I can simply provide for myself and my children very well.” Another explained: “Previously, we had no income, and we relied on humanitarian aid in the camp, which was not enough to cover daily needs, doctor visits, and occasional shopping trips. I feel freer now in matters of life.” For another respondent, the reparation payment facilitates “complete self-reliance, without

Are you able to save part of the compensation for future use?



Similarly, responses regarding future-oriented investments reflect constrained financial security. When asked whether reparation payments help them invest in education, employment, or longer-term plans, nearly half of respondents (46%) answered no, while 32% answered yes, and 22% stated not yet, but expressed a desire to allocate compensation payments toward future investments when possible. These findings suggest that while compensation payments have improved immediate financial stability, they are often insufficient to support sustained long-term planning.

asking for help from anyone.” These narratives reflect a broader theme in which compensation payments contribute to restoring a sense of agency and independence, even in the absence of broader structural support.

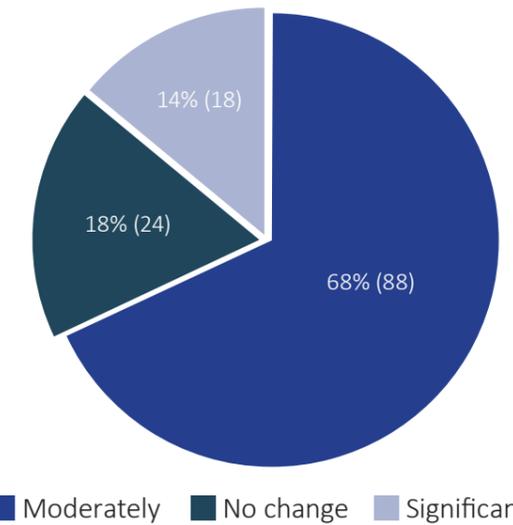
Other respondents reported using compensation payments for housing-related investments, including home repairs, renovations, renting or purchasing housing, and rebuilding homes damaged during the conflict (13%). Additional expenditures included the purchase of essential household items such as furniture and appliances (10%). Education also emerged as an important priority, both as a personal aspiration and as an investment in children’s futures (9%), though such uses were less frequently reported than expenditures tied to immediate survival and care.

Taken together, these findings suggest that while reparation payments under the YSL have contributed to improved financial stability and enhanced autonomy for many survivors, they are largely absorbed by basic needs and substitute for delayed or unavailable rehabilitation benefits. This limits survivors’ ability to use compensation in forward-looking, transformative ways, underscoring the importance of complementary measures, such as timely rehabilitation services, livelihood support, and housing solutions, to enable compensation payments to fulfill their intended reparative and transformative function.

Socio-Economic Reintegration

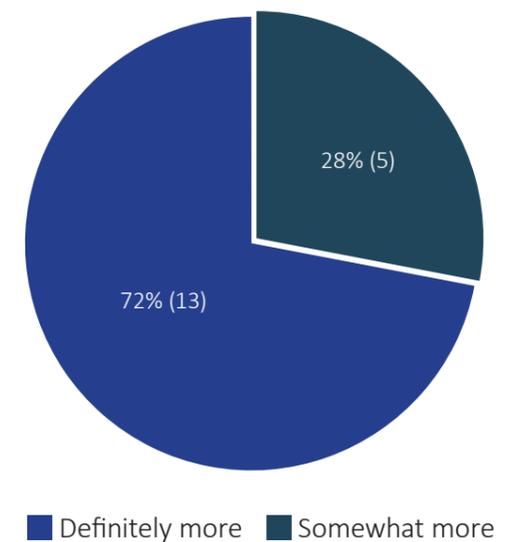
When asked whether receiving compensation had helped respondents work toward or achieve life goals they had prior to the violation, a majority reported some degree of progress. Specifically, 68% stated that compensation helped them moderately, while 14% said it helped significantly; 18% reported no change. Among those who elaborated, commonly cited goals included getting married, starting a family, returning to education, and completing studies, highlighting the role of reparations in supporting survivors’ efforts to re-establish life trajectories disrupted by violence.

Has receiving compensation helped you work towards or achieve life goals you had before the violation?



Regarding social integration, 72% of respondents stated that YSL compensation helped them feel more integrated into society, while 28% reported that it helped somewhat. Similarly, 79% indicated that compensation positively affected how they were treated by their family and wider community. One in five respondents (20%) reported no noticeable change, and only 1% experienced negative effects, suggesting that compensation often carries both material and symbolic value within social and familial contexts.

Since receiving YSL compensation, do you feel more integrated into society?

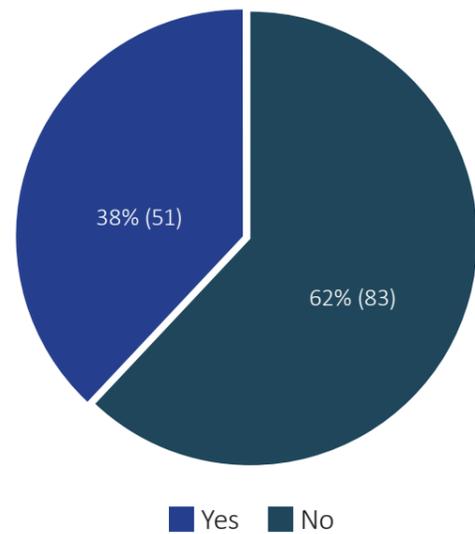


However, when directly asked if respondents had particular experiences following compensation, results were mixed. Over half of respondents (52%) reported receiving greater support or encouragement from their families or communities. However, 30% experienced increased interest or questioning, and smaller but significant proportions reported being treated differently (7%), experiencing negative comments or rumors (7%), or feeling judged or blamed (6%). These findings point to the continued sensitivity surrounding survivor status and the uneven nature of social acceptance.

This is further reflected in respondents' comfort levels in discussing their status as YSL beneficiaries. A majority (63%) reported that they do not feel comfortable speaking openly about this within their community or outside their family, while 29% said it depends on the situation. Only 8% stated that they feel comfortable doing so, suggesting some continued concerns related to stigma, privacy, or social repercussions.

Despite the law's broad reparative framework, access to non-monetary forms of reparation remains limited. Only 38% of respondents reported accessing additional reparative measures such as land, education, rehabilitation, or employment support, while 62% stated that they had not. When asked what further support they needed to feel fully reintegrated, respondents most frequently identified psychological or mental health support (24%), followed by land (15%), education or vocational training (11%), and physical health support (9%). These needs correspond directly to benefits mandated under the YSL, underscoring significant gaps between YSL legal entitlements and their implementation.

Have you been able to access other forms of reparation available under the YSL, such as land, education, medical support?



Notably, 16% of respondents expressed a desire to leave Iraq and resettle abroad, suggesting that a considerable number of survivors continue to face insecurity, limited opportunities, or a lack of future prospects despite compensation. At the same time, 13% reported that they do not require additional support or already feel fully integrated, reflecting the diversity of survivor experiences and needs.

Finally, a small number of respondents (5%) highlighted the importance of formal recognition of the genocide, indicating that symbolic reparations remain meaningful for some survivors. However, this relatively low proportion suggests limited awareness of the YSL's recognition mandate, pointing to the need for improved communication and outreach to ensure survivors fully understand the scope and significance of the law.

Return, Resettlement, and Durable Solutions

Of respondents surveyed, 47% have returned to their area of origin, 38% remain displaced, and 15% have resettled in another location. Among respondents who have not returned to their area of origin, the primary reasons cited were lack of basic services (32%) and insecurity (31%), followed by insufficient

housing or land (20%). Other reasons included psychological distress (9%) and the perception of better opportunities elsewhere (7%). The findings indicate that return to areas of origin remains structurally constrained rather than a matter of personal preference. The fact that lack of services, insecurity, and housing/land shortages account for over 80% of reasons for non-return underscores that displacement persists due to unresolved material and protection conditions, not a failure of survivors' willingness to return. Psychological distress appearing as a secondary factor suggests that trauma compounds, rather than replaces, these structural barriers.

Regarding land allocation under the YSL, only 22% of the 134 respondents had received a plot of land as part of YSL reparations. A majority, 62%, had not yet received land, while 16% had been contacted but had not yet received land. Among those who had received land, just over half (53%) indicated that the location of the land did not align with their plans for permanent residence, while 47% reported that it did. Low land allocation rates under the YSL (only 22%) point to significant implementation gaps in one of the law's core reparative measures. Moreover, among those who have received land, over half report that it is not located where they intend to live permanently. In a focus group discussion with Turkmen survivors in Tel Afar, one survivor explained that though they had received a land plot, they do not wish to build homes on these plots, as the location is unsuitable for living and lacks the basic services necessary for daily life. These findings highlight a disconnect between reparations design and survivors' lived realities, particularly in relation to social ties, access to services, livelihoods, and safety.

When asked whether survivors should be given the choice of where to receive land or housing, an overwhelming 93% responded affirmatively, emphasizing the importance of agency and autonomy in decisions about resettlement. In terms of satisfaction with land allocation as a component of achieving a safe and dignified life, 58% of respondents stated that it meets their needs, 40% said it somewhat meets their needs, and only 2% indicated that it does not meet their needs. This suggests that while land allocation is an important component of reparations,

its impact is limited if survivors are unable to choose locations that align with their security, livelihood, or social preferences.

Employment and Economic Activities

The survey results indicate that economic participation among survivors remains extremely limited. An overwhelming 87% of respondents reported having no income-generating work or activities. Among the small proportion who do engage in work (5%), reported activities include agricultural work, volunteer roles with small stipends in humanitarian organizations, and small home-based businesses, such as woodwork or online sales. These findings suggest that for most survivors, compensation payments constitute the primary source of household income. The extremely high rate of economic inactivity (87%) indicates that compensation alone has not translated into sustainable livelihoods. The limited forms of income-generating activity reported—largely informal, small-scale, or precarious—suggest that structural barriers, such as limited capital, market access, and ongoing caregiving responsibilities, rather than a lack of motivation, are at play.

Despite these low employment rates, respondents generally reported increased confidence in shaping their occupational paths. When asked whether respondents felt more confident in choosing their occupation or job path since receiving compensation, 61% responded yes, 31% somewhat, and only 7% no. This indicates that while compensation may not directly increase employment opportunities, it appears to enhance survivors' perceived agency and self-efficacy regarding economic choices.

Do you feel more confident to choose your occupation or job path now than before receiving compensation?



Regarding barriers to social and economic participation, a notable 61% of respondents did not identify any barriers, suggesting that a majority either do not perceive impediments or may not prioritize economic engagement. Among those who did report barriers, the most frequently cited were financial or economic constraints (29%), childcare and family responsibilities (25%), physical health challenges (17%), psychological or mental health issues (15%), stigma or negative community attitudes (12%), and cultural norms or traditions (10%). The prominence of childcare and family responsibilities reflects the gendered burden of care that female survivors disproportionately face, limiting their ability to pursue paid work or social participation.

Some respondents explicitly stated that they do not desire social or economic participation, which may reflect trauma, distrust, or personal choice. These findings underscore that barriers to economic participation are not solely structural but are also shaped by social, psychological, and cultural factors.

Overall, the data suggest that while compensation payments improve financial stability and confidence, structural, gendered, and psychosocial barriers continue to limit survivors’ engagement in formal or informal economic activities. Targeted interventions, including skills training, psychosocial support, and gender-sensitive programming, may be necessary to enable meaningful economic participation.

Education Activities

When asked whether compensation payments had helped respondents access formal education, an overwhelming majority (77%) stated that they had not, while only 16% reported that compensation payments had supported their educational pursuits. At the time of the survey, only 13% of respondents were actively engaged in any form of education, with 84% not participating and just 3% indicating they were planning to start. Given that over half of the sample (51%) is between the ages of 18 and 27, these findings reflect a strikingly low level of educational engagement among respondents who are otherwise of typically post-secondary age.

Similarly, when asked whether receiving reparations had increased their ability to choose their own

educational pathway, 63% responded no, compared to 25% who responded yes, suggesting that compensation payments have had a limited impact on expanding education choice or opportunity.

Respondents identified multiple and intersectional barriers to education. A lack of desire to pursue education was the most frequently cited barrier (28%), with many survivors explicitly stating that they simply do not want to return to education, often without elaborating further. Several respondents (7%) expressed a sense that they had already completed “enough” education, indicating that finishing primary or middle school was sufficient in their view.

Age-related barriers were also prominent, with 27% of respondents stating that they felt too old to return to education. Some respondents elaborated that being significantly older than other students discouraged them from re-enrolling, with a smaller group (4%) explicitly stating discomfort at the prospect of studying alongside much younger students. Responses suggest that age-related stigma remains an issue despite the YSL entitling survivors to resume their studies, making an exception to the legal age limit outlined by the MoE.⁸³

As one respondent explains: “I missed many years, and also heard that I will not be able to be employed by the government.” Worryingly, this response suggests that the prohibition of dual-salary (that public employment cannot be realized with monthly compensation payments) may be disincentivizing survivors from completing their education and seeking public sector employment.

Gendered barriers further shape access to education. Children and family responsibilities were cited by 21% of respondents, reflecting the disproportionate burden borne by women for caregiving, household labor, and child-rearing. In addition, 6% of women explicitly stated that their husbands or families prevent them from continuing their education, pointing to restrictive social norms and intra-household decision-making dynamics as additional obstacles.

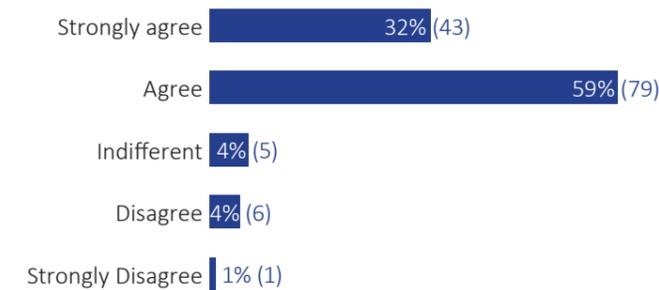
On a more positive note, 16% of respondents reported no barriers to education or indicated that they are currently studying. These respondents were predominantly younger survivors, both male

and female, suggesting that where age, family responsibilities, and social constraints are less pronounced, educational opportunities may be more accessible.

Recognition of Harms and State Responsibility

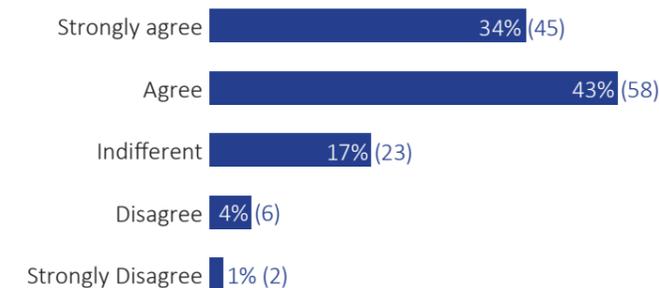
C4JR wanted to assess and measure the extent to which survivors feel their experiences of harm are acknowledged as a serious rights violation. The overwhelming majority of respondents (59%) agreed that receiving compensation recognizes the harm they suffered, and 61% feel respected as a person whose rights were violated.

Do you feel that receiving compensation recognizes the harm you suffered?



When asked whether the compensation they receive demonstrated that the State accepts responsibility for the harm they suffered, a substantial majority of respondents expressed agreement: 43% agreed, and a further 34% strongly agreed. These findings suggest that, for many survivors, compensation payments function as a tangible acknowledgment of state responsibility. However, they also indicate that compensation alone is insufficient to fully satisfy survivors’ expectations of accountability.

Do you feel the compensation you received shows that the State accepts responsibility for the harm you suffered?



When respondents were asked what more the state could do to fully acknowledge responsibility for the harms they endured, justice and legal accountability emerged as the most frequently cited priority (15%). Many respondents emphasized the need for perpetrators to be identified, prosecuted, and brought to justice, underscoring the continued importance of retributive justice alongside reparative measures. This reflects survivors’ understanding of reparations not as a substitute for criminal justice, but as one component of a broader, holistic understanding of justice.

Notably, many of the additional measures requested by respondents are already mandated under the YSL, including housing (14%), the search for missing persons (11%), land allocation (10%), psychological support and rehabilitation (2%), and genocide commemoration (1%). The recurrence of these demands highlights significant gaps in implementation rather than a lack of legal recognition. Survivors’ responses suggest that the uneven and delayed delivery of reparative benefits undermines the transformative potential of the YSL and weakens perceptions of state responsibility.

A significant proportion of respondents (12%) identified resettlement and the desire to leave Iraq as a key unmet need, indicating that for some survivors, meaningful repair and safety are no longer associated with remaining in their place of origin or within the country. Additionally, international recognition of the genocide was cited by 5% of respondents as an important form of symbolic acknowledgment, demonstrating that recognition beyond the national level continues to deeply matter for survivors.

Finally, a smaller but important group of respondents (5%) expressed scepticism regarding the state’s capacity to adequately address the harms they suffered. These responses may reflect persistent trauma, distrust, and feelings of abandonment, underscoring the long-term relationship damage between survivors and state institutions.

Overall, these findings suggest that while compensation payments contribute to perceptions of state responsibility, survivors’ expectations of accountability extend far beyond financial compensation. Criminal justice, full implementation of existing reparative entitlements, and meaningful symbolic recognition remain central to restoring trust and affirming survivors’ rights as citizens.



IV. DEVELOPMENTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

Accountability for ISIL atrocities has continued to advance most significantly through prosecutions in third states, while progress within Iraq has remained limited. Recent domestic efforts have focused primarily on strengthening institutional capacity and coordination, particularly through the establishment and activities of the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation. This section examines key developments in criminal justice efforts related to ISIL crimes, while highlighting the persistent accountability gap, updates surrounding the implementation of the General Amnesty Law, and the urgent need for comprehensive domestic legal reform and sustainable, survivor-centered mechanisms to address international crimes committed in Iraq.

The National Center for International Judicial Cooperation

The establishment of the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation (NCIJC) constitutes a notable institutional development within Iraq's justice architecture, particularly in the context of international cooperation related to ISIL crimes. The

NCIJC was created in part to assume responsibilities following the closure of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes (UNITAD), including the continuation of evidence-related work concerning ISIL-era violations. While UNITAD reportedly transferred portions of its evidentiary archive to Iraqi authorities—primarily in digitized form—the scope, accessibility, and legal usability of this material remain unclear. It is not publicly known how much of UNITAD's approximately 52 terabytes of digitized documentation is available to Iraqi prosecutors or has been operationalized in judicial proceedings.

Despite its stated mandate to advance accountability for ISIL's international crimes, the NCIJC has, to date, played a minimal role in initiating or supporting prosecutions for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes. No prosecutions have been brought before Iraqi courts under international crimes charges, due to the absence of a pertinent legal framework recognizing core international crimes, and there is no evidence that the NCIJC has facilitated cases that move beyond Iraq's counter-terrorism framework toward accountability aligned with national criminal

law. As a result, ISIL crimes continue to be prosecuted, where at all, primarily under the Anti-Terrorism Law, which fails to reflect the gravity, context, and collective harm of mass atrocity crimes.

The Center's activities since its establishment in December 2024 have focused predominantly on institutional coordination and engagement with international partners, rather than on concrete accountability outcomes. While the NCIJC has reported involvement in select high-profile cases, these interventions have not translated into meaningful progress toward prosecuting ISIL members for international crimes. In June 2025, the NCIJC indicated that ISIL member Ali Mohammed Abdul Rahman Mohammed al-Kilani appeared before the Karkh Investigation Court in relation to the Speicher Massacre.⁸⁴ However, proceedings remained grounded in domestic law, with no indication that charges reflected crimes against humanity or war crimes. Similarly, the NCIJC documented testimony from the wife of senior ISIL member Abdullah Makki Musleh al-Rifai (Abu Khadija), who was killed in March 2025.⁸⁵ While the precise legal use of this testimony remains unclear, its documentation reflects the Center's growing role in evidence collection and coordination in cases involving mass atrocity crimes. These developments illustrate the NCIJC's potential to support accountability processes, even as questions remain regarding how such evidence will be integrated into prosecutions in the absence of a comprehensive domestic legal framework for international crimes.

The NCIJC's contribution to accountability remains limited by the domestic legal framework, which constrains meaningful accountability. In this context, the NCIJC has demonstrated efforts to bridge the gap between evidence collection and survivor-centered justice outcomes. The NCIJC's participation in the Kurdistan Center for International Law (KCIL) third annual conference represents a positive step toward advancing discussions on domestic legislating for international crimes.⁸⁶ In November 2025, an NCIJC delegation took part in the conference hosted in Erbil, where discussions focused on challenges related to ISIL crimes and the role of the Iraqi judiciary in engaging with survivors.⁸⁷ The conference reviewed the operational mandates of both the Commission

of Investigation and Evidence Collection (CIGE) and the NCIJC, with particular attention to investigation and documentation practices. Additional discussions addressed strengthening cooperation between judicial institutions in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region and developing shared national strategies to advance accountability for international crimes.

During a meeting in August 2025 between the GDSA Director General and Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, Ms. Elias emphasized the urgent need to enact legislation on international crimes to enable accountability for genocide and crimes against humanity.⁸⁸ In the presence of a survivor delegation, the Speaker expressed political support for survivors, including commitments related to YSL compensation and entitlements. However, as of the reporting period, no legislative steps had been taken to criminalize international crimes under Iraqi law, leaving the Iraqi judicial system without the legal tools necessary to fulfill survivors' demands for justice.

In early February 2026, following the transfer of suspected ISIL-members from al-Hol Camp to Iraq, the judiciary announced it had begun investigations into more than 1,387 detainees who had been transferred from Syria in the weeks previous.⁸⁹ As of mid-February 2026, the number of transfers rose to 5,704 individuals from 61 countries (467 Iraqis, 4,253 other Arab country nationals, among whom 3,453 were Syrians, and 983 non-Arab country nationals).⁹⁰ Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council explained that investigations had begun in First Karkh Investigative Court under Iraq's anti-terrorism law, and if convicted, the charged would face execution or life imprisonment.⁹¹ As reported by the Council, suspects are being interrogated under the direct supervision of the head of the Supreme Judicial Council, in compliance with national laws and international standards.⁹² According to the Iraqi PM's advisor, Mr. Hussein Allawi, Baghdad is coordinating with the international coalition against ISIL to share relevant information and urging home countries to repatriate their nationals when judicial procedures are complete, and that Iraq will seek international technical and financial support to facilitate the process.⁹³ C4JR Criminal Justice Working Group and its partners issued a public statement arguing that the reported transfer of thousands of alleged ISIS affiliates

from Syria to Iraq offers Iraq a key opportunity, as a UN Human Rights Council member, to demonstrate leadership by codifying international crimes, conducting fair and orderly prosecutions, protecting the rights of both survivors and the accused, and upholding international justice standards.⁹⁴

Third States’ Justice Efforts

In 2025, several prosecutions outside Iraq advanced accountability for ISIL crimes, underscoring both the potential and limits of third-state justice mechanisms. In France, the Cour de cassation ordered the reconsideration of genocide charges against French ISIL member Sonia Mejri, overturning a prior decision that had annulled the charge.⁹⁵ The case was returned to a newly constituted investigative chamber to examine her alleged role in the enslavement of a 15-year-old Yazidi girl in Syria. France also held proceedings against corporate actors: in November 2025, the trial of Lafarge and its executives opened on charges of financing terrorism and violating international sanctions for payments made to ISIL and other armed groups in Syria. Yazda participated as a civil party, ensuring victim representation.⁹⁶ Sentencing submissions were made in December 2025, with judgment expected in April 2026.⁹⁷ The case highlights the role of multinational corporations in enabling atrocities and demonstrates that they can be held accountable for links to terrorism and related human rights violations.

In Germany, the Higher Regional Court of Munich opened a trial against Asia R. A. and Twana S., accused of ISIL membership and of crimes including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and human trafficking related to the enslavement and abuse of two Yazidi girls.⁹⁸ This marked Germany’s tenth ISIL-related prosecution under universal jurisdiction.

In Belgium, ISIL member Sammy Djedou was convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity committed against the Yazidi community.⁹⁹ Presumed killed by an airstrike in 2016, Djedou was tried in absentia in the first trial in Belgium related to mass crimes against Yazidis. He was also found guilty of crimes against humanity for the rape and sexual enslavement of Yazidi women.

In the United Kingdom, the Joint Committee on Human Rights published a critical report on accountability for ISIL crimes, finding that despite the UK’s recognition of genocide, prosecutions have been limited to terrorism offenses and fail to reflect the gravity of international crimes.¹⁰⁰ The report finds that the UK has fallen short of its international obligations to punish genocide, protect children from trafficking, and support British nationals detained in camps in Syria. It called for legal reforms to enable domestic prosecutions for genocide and crimes against humanity.

Taken together, these cases demonstrate that third states can play a meaningful role in advancing accountability for ISIL atrocities. At the same time, the continued reliance on foreign jurisdictions highlights persistent gaps in domestic accountability in Iraq and reinforces the urgent need for a comprehensive national legal framework on international crimes, grounded in survivor-centered and trauma-informed justice processes.

General Amnesty Law

In November 2025, C4JR became aware of the potential inclusion of individuals convicted for their involvement in the Speicher Massacre under Iraq’s General Amnesty Law. While the General Amnesty Law (No. 27 of 2016) formally excludes individuals convicted of terrorism and other serious crimes—a position reiterated by the NCIJC—¹⁰¹major concerns arose following the leak of a Ministry of Justice (MoJ) document listing ten prisoners held in Nasiriyah Central Prison for transfer to Salah ad-Din Governorate Police Department pursuant to the amnesty framework. This development caused significant alarm among victim and survivor groups, particularly the Organization of the Victims of Iraq in Spyker 1700.

In response, C4JR issued a public statement expressing solidarity with the victims of the Speicher Massacre and other affected communities.¹⁰² The statement underscored a persistent structural challenge in Iraq’s criminal justice system: the lack of differentiation in the prosecution of ISIL affiliates. In practice, alleged perpetrators are overwhelmingly tried under counterterrorism legislation, often on the sole basis of ISIL affiliation, without distinction based on individual



C4JR criminal justice working group meeting, June 17, 2025, Erbil. PHOTO ©Jiyan Foundation

criminal responsibility, the gravity of acts committed, or prioritization of international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. This prosecutorial approach has made it difficult to identify and hold accountable those responsible for the most serious atrocities and creates pathways for impunity, including through the application of broad amnesty measures.

While amnesty mechanisms may, in certain contexts, contribute to reconciliation, C4JR continues to stress that accountability for mass atrocity crimes must remain a priority. Extending amnesty to perpetrators of grave international crimes risks undermining Iraq’s international legal obligations, eroding public trust in state institutions, and negating years of progress toward recognition of survivors’ suffering and victims’ rights to justice.

During the reporting period, Iraqi authorities announced the release of a significant number of detainees under the General Amnesty Law. In November 2025, the MoJ reported the release of 761 inmates, including 438 individuals covered by the amnesty and 323 released after completing their sentences.¹⁰³ In January 2026, the Supreme Judicial Council published new statistics regarding the implementation of the General Amnesty Law. The total number of those released from prisons and detention centers under the law reached 41, 364.¹⁰⁴ Additionally, in January 2026, the Ministry of Justice

announced that 325 juveniles were released from detention facilities under the General Amnesty Law during 2025.¹⁰⁵

These developments further underscore the urgent need for Iraq to enact comprehensive domestic legislation on genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and to embed survivor-centered justice principles into criminal proceedings, as the continued reliance on counterterrorism prosecutions and expansive amnesty measures risks entrenching impunity for the gravest international crimes.



V. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS & COLLABORATION

“Letters from Genocide Survivors to the World” – a photo exhibition that expands themes that were first presented in „The Woman Who Beat ISIS“ exhibition curated by Farida Global Organization. This features letters from Yazidi genocide survivors and families of missing persons, articulating their experiences and their appeals to the global community PHOTO © ICMP

The eleventh anniversary of the Yazidi genocide was marked on August 3, 2025, by several events and statements. C4JR issued a joint statement reaffirming the ongoing need to address survivors’ rights, needs, and aspirations in shaping the path forward.¹⁰⁶ It highlighted our *10 Demands, 10 Years After the Genocide by ISIL report* as a survivor-led roadmap to the most urgent challenges still facing affected communities. Nadia’s Initiative’s statement underscored that the genocide remains a “living crisis” reflected in unexhumed mass graves, destroyed homes, persistent displacement, and the long-term effects of CRSV.¹⁰⁷ It called on the international community to maintain support for Yazidi survivors by urging the Iraqi government to invest in the

reconstruction of Sinjar, remove barriers to safe and voluntary return, and fully implement the YSL with transparency and urgency. The statement also advocated for a viable legal accountability mechanism following the end of UNITAD’s mandate, intensified efforts to bring the missing home, and an end to the deportation of Yazidi asylum seekers, stressing that sustained, survivor-centered action is essential to honor survivors’ resilience and achieve justice and lasting peace.

The International Bar Association issued a statement calling for justice and support for the Yazidi community as part of their commitment to raising awareness of the situation and advocating for legal reforms to support the community’s pursuit of justice.¹⁰⁸ The

statement highlights legal failures surrounding legal justice, with a particular focus on a report by the UK’s Joint Committee on Human Rights that recognized the UK’s failure in addressing British ISIL fighters returning to the UK and escaping justice. The report uncovers that only 32 ISIL members out of 400 returnees were convicted upon their return to the UK.

C4JR member organization FGO brought their traveling exhibition, *The Women Who Beat ISIS*, to Stuttgart, Germany, in November 2025, in collaboration with Stiftung Entwicklungs-Zusammenarbeit (SEZ) Baden-Württemberg.¹⁰⁹ The exhibition documents the stories of Yazidi women and girls who survived ISIS captivity, rebuilt their lives, and continue to fight for justice. A conference was also held at the New Palace (Neues

Schloss) in Stuttgart, hosting contributions from H.E. Mr. Florian Hassler, State Secretary, Philip Keil, Director of SEZ, Dr. Jan Kizilhan, and Dr. Ali Tatar, Governor of Duhok. The event was attended by a number of survivors, including Farida Khalaf, President of FGO.

Farida Khalaf also addressed the UNSC earlier in the year during their briefing on “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,” focusing on the seventeenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL to international peace and security. Ms. Khalaf underscored the Yazidi community’s right to seek asylum in States of their choosing, where their religious and racial identities would be respected and safeguarded. She urged strengthened efforts to prevent sexual violence and

ensure accountability for crimes committed against women. She further called for enhanced support for female survivors and the families of victims. In this context, she urged the Council to engage with the Government of Iraq to ensure that Da’esh members and their affiliates were excluded from any general amnesty for prisoners currently under consideration by the country’s Parliament.¹¹⁰

At the opening of the UN General Assembly in September 2025, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, 2018 Nobel Laureate Nadia Murad called on the international community to fund women’s organizations working on the frontlines of gender violence, to guarantee women’s full participation in peace and security, and to hold perpetrators and oppressive systems accountable.¹¹¹ Speaking specifically on crisis and conflict-affected areas, Ms. Murad spoke of the targeting of women and girls with sexual violence and the ramifications of such violence on the lives of women and their families, and the need for an end to impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence and to addressing the structures that perpetuate injustices and discriminatory laws, including child marriage. Ms. Murad ended her speech by saying, “The next generation of women and girls deserve to inherit no more promises but the reality of justice, equality, and dignity.”

During the 34th Arab League Summit in Baghdad in May 2025, meetings were held with a focus on supporting survivors and victims of terrorism. A Yazidi male survivor participated in one such meeting, conveying the message of victims to the Arab States and General Secretariat, demanding support for survivors and victims of terrorism, the search for the abducted, and raising awareness of the crimes of the ISIL terrorist organization, including genocide, and highlighting the experience of beneficiaries of the YSL.¹¹²

In May 2025, C4JR provided input to inform the country visit of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Minority Issues. Drawing on evidence gathered through sustained engagement with minority ISIL survivors, community leaders, CSOs, and state actors, the report focused on challenges surrounding the implementation of the YSL, as well as other structural legal barriers that

impact broader transitional justice processes for minorities in Iraq. As a result of events in the region, however, the SR mission was postponed.

As part of the SR on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Dr. Alice Jill Edwards’ efforts to ensuring the rights of victims and survivors—as well as their families—to speak, be heard, and participate in decisions that affect them as pertains to rehabilitation and remedy, the SR collaborated with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) to host a series of regional survivor hearings under the title “Hearings for Healing.” Between November 2023 and May 2025, three hearings were conducted, with 42 survivors from 36 countries meeting in Bogota, Colombia, Nairobi, Kenya, and Nepal, to share their experiences. In Nepal, two Yazidi survivors attended the hearing and were involved in the adoption of a policy statement on experiences and perspectives to ensure the meaningful participation and collaboration of survivors of torture is secured.¹¹³ In September 2025, the C4JR also contributed to the SR on Torture’s annual report to the UN Human Rights Council on survivors’ perspectives on the impact of torture and experiences in seeking justice and reparations.

In January 2026, C4JR submitted a report in anticipation of Iraq’s review at the 92nd session of the CEDAW Committee in February. The report provided an overview of the implementation of the YSL, with a particular focus on the continued gender-specific barriers for women survivors. The submission recommended the broadening of YSL eligibility parameters to include all female survivors of CRSV, the implementation of effective criminal accountability mechanisms, and the removal of all discriminatory barriers to women realizing their rights to justice as required by CEDAW. Moreover, the C4JR human rights reporting officer briefed CEDAW members directly in Geneva, conveying current, evidence-based information on YSL implementation.



The Broken Chair at Place des Nations in Geneva, symbolizing the global call to ban landmines and cluster munitions and reflecting both the fragility and resilience of human life.
Photo © Travel Realizations

VI. FINAL REMARKS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Five years after the enactment of the YSL, the implementation record reflects both meaningful progress and persistent structural shortcomings. The establishment of an administrative reparations framework and the regular delivery of monthly compensation represent important acknowledgements of harm and have had tangible effects on survivors' daily lives. Advances in land and housing restitution, education initiatives, search and identification of the missing, and limited rehabilitation measures further demonstrate that implementation of the YSL can be transformative when political will, institutional coordination, and resources align.

At the same time, the YSL has yet to be truly realized as a comprehensive, survivor-centered reparations system. Access to many core entitlements remains uneven, poorly communicated, or dependent on ad hoc arrangements rather than clear, rights-based procedures. Survivors continue to face legal and administrative barriers that undermine dignity, autonomy, and trust in state institutions, particularly in relation to eligibility determinations, rehabilitation services, education pathways, employment, and access to land and housing outside areas of origin. The absence of a domestic legal framework criminalizing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes further entrenches an accountability gap, limiting survivors' access to justice and truth.

This report underscores the urgent need to move beyond partial implementation of the YSL toward a holistic, coordinated, and legally grounded approach to reparations. The YSL must be implemented in a manner that fully reflects its reparative intent—one that recognizes survivors as rights-holders, ensures transparency and equality in access to benefits, and integrates reparations with broader efforts toward accountability, non-recurrence, and social reintegration.

As Iraq marks this five-year milestone, C4JR urges the development of a comprehensive transitional justice roadmap for the next five to ten years to ensure that truth, criminal accountability, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence are meaningfully advanced. Such a roadmap should be grounded in survivor-centered principles and developed, implemented, and monitored through sustained consultation with survivors and CSOs, with the aim of establishing a credible model for transitional justice both regionally and internationally.

The following recommendations are grounded in survivors' experiences and aim to support the GDSA and GoI in fulfilling their legal and moral obligations under the YSL:

Al-Tahera Church after restoration. Image Courtesy of UNESCO / Abdullah Rashid

To the General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs:

Provide effective and timely communication of YSL application decisions to applicants, containing information on next steps, including when and how to obtain benefits in accessible and easily disseminated modalities;

Create, publish, and widely disseminate an appeals process information leaflet that clearly outlines the steps available to those facing rejected applications in an easy-to-understand format, available in the languages most commonly used and understood by survivors, and provided along with the YSL application's written decision;

Specify and clearly communicate in an accessible format the applicable deadline for submitting the second appeal to the Court of First Instance following a first appeal rejection;

Intensify efforts to set up a viable system for providing quality medical and MHPSS services in line with best practices and in a location within reach of survivors and their families;

Establish a specialized state-sponsored, survivor-centered education model catering to survivors' unique needs by embedding education support within a broader holistic rehabilitation model;

Establish an independent, impartial, accountable, and confidential mechanism to register and respond to complaints about the implementation of the YSL and engagement with GDSA and the YSL Committee;

Guarantee full and timely reimbursement of compensation payments that were withheld from minor beneficiaries until they reached the age of majority;

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;

Clarify eligibility criteria around applicants' age by defining the meaning of "girl" and resolve the eligibility challenges for survivors of CRSV who suffered the violation while in detention;

Revise current evidentiary practices to ensure that the burden of proof placed on applicants is proportionate, survivor-centered, and consistent with the reparative intent of the law, with the requirements for multiple witnesses, corroborating testimonies from other beneficiaries, or additional documentation—particularly in cases where survivors have already initiated criminal complaints—minimized or removed;

Remove community verification procedures within the YSL biometric verification process, given their limited reliability and the risk of secondary victimization, social harm, and retraumatization of survivors, especially women;

Issue dated rejection letters to YSL applicants, either as a standardized practice or upon request, detailing the grounds on which the application was rejected and information on next steps in the appeals process;

To the Government of Iraq:

Incorporate genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes into national law, establishing a survivor-friendly criminal accountability mechanism consistent with international standards of human rights, with jurisdiction at least over international crimes committed by ISIL in or outside of Iraq against Iraqi nationals or non-Iraqi nationals residing in Iraq;

Enact domestic legislation and/or implement measures necessary to guarantee fair and independent criminal proceedings for ISIL crimes, conducted in a survivor-centered manner and in accordance with international law, including adequate witness protection, victim participation, and public trials;

Ensure that application and review pathways under the YSL remain open and accessible, in line with the law's lack of a statutory deadline, and adopt a stigma-sensitive approach that recognizes the persistent barriers and delayed reporting associated with conflict-related sexual violence;

Consider conducting consultations with survivors,

CSOs, community leaders, and other relevant stakeholders with a view to designing a transitional justice roadmap to define roles, reach, and safeguards for deploying particular transitional justice tools, especially those that might be contested such as amnesty;

Make an exception to the constraint on receiving a dual salary for beneficiaries of the YSL to ensure that monthly compensation can be enjoyed with public employment;

Foster durable solutions for IDPs by ensuring that land allocation and housing reparative measures recognized under the YSL are made available throughout Iraq and in consultation with survivors;

Tackle the root causes of violence by addressing the discriminations faced by minority and marginalized communities, countering hate speech, promoting awareness and education, notably on the ethnic and religious groups in Iraq and on genocide and other crimes committed by ISIL against minority groups;

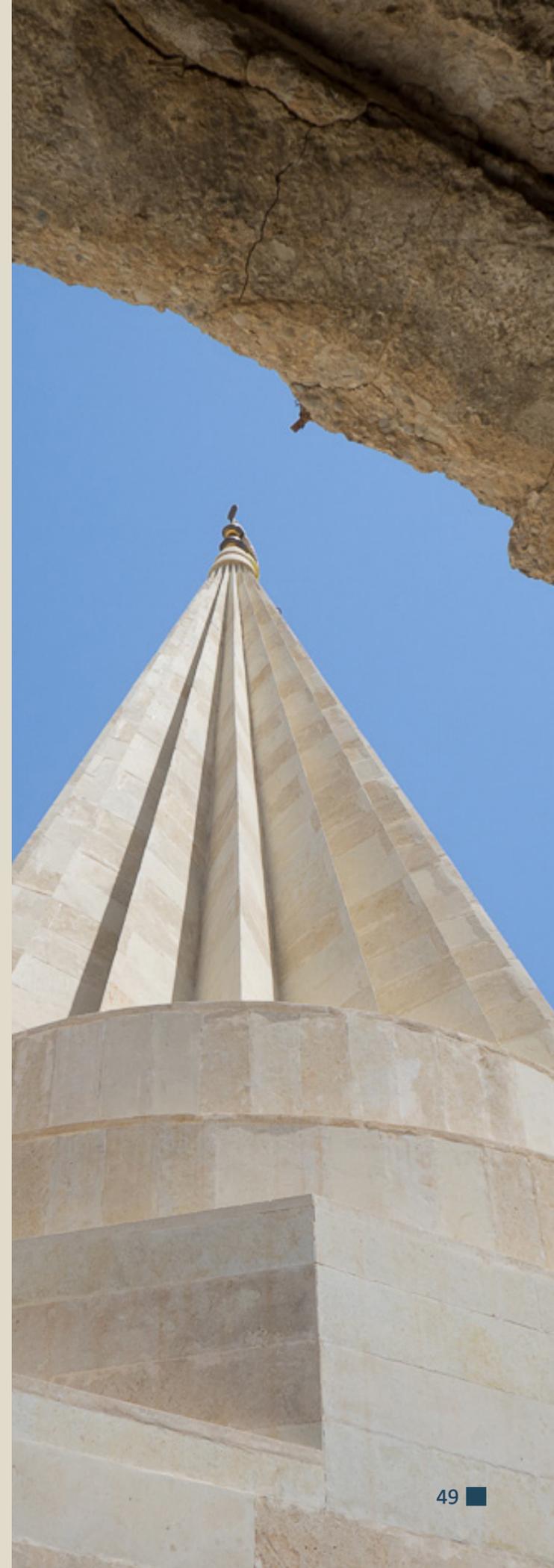
Continue the sharing of evidence via the NCIJC with third states or with international courts and other bodies, and cooperation between Iraq and others to achieve accountability for ISIL crimes;

To the Ministry of Health:

Intensify efforts to set up a viable system for providing quality medical and MHPSS services in line with best practices and in a location within reach of survivors and their families;

Enhance collaboration between the GoI and KRI to ensure that rehabilitation centers are strategically located in areas that are accessible to survivors, while also minimizing the risk of their further retraumatization;

Ensure that comprehensive medical care, surgical interventions, including gynecological repair surgery, specialized reproductive health services, and prosthetic support are accessible to all survivors who require them through clear, transparent, survivor-centered application processes;



To Ministry of Education:

Establish a survivor-centered education model catering to survivors' unique needs by embedding education support within a broader holistic rehabilitation model;

Develop specialised curricula on the ISIL conflict designed to promote peaceful coexistence and the renunciation of violence, as envisaged in the YSL Bylaws;

To the Kurdistan Regional Government:

Enhance coordination with the GoI to fully implement the YSL, harmonize reparation measures, ensuring that survivors are not burdened with navigating multiple, separate programs to access the support and benefits they are entitled to;

Enter into dialogue with the GoI with a view of facilitating access to durable solutions for at least displaced eligible YSL beneficiaries by allocating land and housing in the KRI;

To International Organizations and Third States:

Continue to support the capacity of the GDSA and the YSL Committee to fulfill their mandates, including through capacity building, technical guidance, and material assistance;

Ensure regular funding opportunities for CSOs, including survivors' associations, working to support YSL implementation through monitoring, reporting, legal assistance, and other meaningful activities;

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;

Activate the enhanced archiving system for evidence collected by UNITAD, as recommended by the UN Secretary-General, so that the integral evidentiary holdings may be put to their intended use;

To Civil Society Organizations:

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;

Engage in joint advocacy with fellow CSOs, but also other institutional actors, to address the pressing issues surrounding YSL implementation

To Survivor Associations:

Build permanent internal structures and skills, working with civil society organizations, to advocate effectively at the national and international levels;

Learn and understand your rights under national and international law, promote nonviolence and inter-community solidarity and cooperation;

Develop realistic strategies and context-specific tactics in realizing your advocacy goals;

Formulate your demands as clearly and concretely as possible, and carefully select the institution, public official, or stakeholder best placed to make the change;

Always follow up after a specific advocacy event by creating minutes or a road map, and ask the stakeholder to commit publicly;

Address and seek media coverage under your own terms;

Be mindful of the grievances and wrongs committed against other Iraqi communities and seek to include their perspectives rather than exclude or alienate them.



An Iraqi Yazidi woman visits her relatives in the cemetery during a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Yazidi genocide in Sinjar. PHOTO ©AP

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ANNEX I. LIST OF C4JR MEMBERS

ASUDA	Iraqi Institution for Development (IID)	TAJDID Iraq
Better World Organization for Community Development (BWO)	Jinda Organization	The Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF)
Civil Development Organization (CDO)	Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights	The Lotus Flower
Dak Organization	Justice Organization for Minority Rights (JOMR)	The Observer Human Rights Center (OHRC)
Emma	Minorities Women Forum in Iraq	To Reconcile Organization (TRO)
Eyzidi Organization for Documentation	Nadia's Initiative (NI)	Turkmen Rescue Foundation (TRF)
Farida Global Organization	National Centre for Human Rights (NHCR)	Women Leadership Institute (WLI)
Ghasin Alzaiton	Nisha Organization	Women Legal Assistance Organization (WOLA)
Hammurabi Human Rights Organization (HHRO)	Organization of the Victims of Iraq in Spyker 1700	Yazda
Harikar	Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO)	
HÁWAR. Help	People's Development Organization (PDO)	
Iraqi Educational Association AL Basra	Sustainable Peace Foundation (SPF)	



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