

Welcome to the fourteenth C4JR YSL NEWSLETTER

The Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) publishes regular newsletters to share accurate and up-to-date information regarding the Yazidi Survivors' Law (YSL) and share the views and experiences of all actors involved in the implementation of this seminal transitional justice framework to address atrocities committed by ISIL in Iraq.

Latest News on the YSL

Application Statistics

The Directorate of Survivors' Affairs (Directorate) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced the payment of reparations to 2,216 of ISIL covered by the YSL in February 2026. In total, out of 2,496 survivors declared eligible for reparations under the YSL, only 809 currently reside in Iraq. More details can be found on the Directorate's Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/44bxsv62>. and C4JR's latest Annual Report: <https://tinyurl.com/3mk2cevy>

Implementation of the YSL

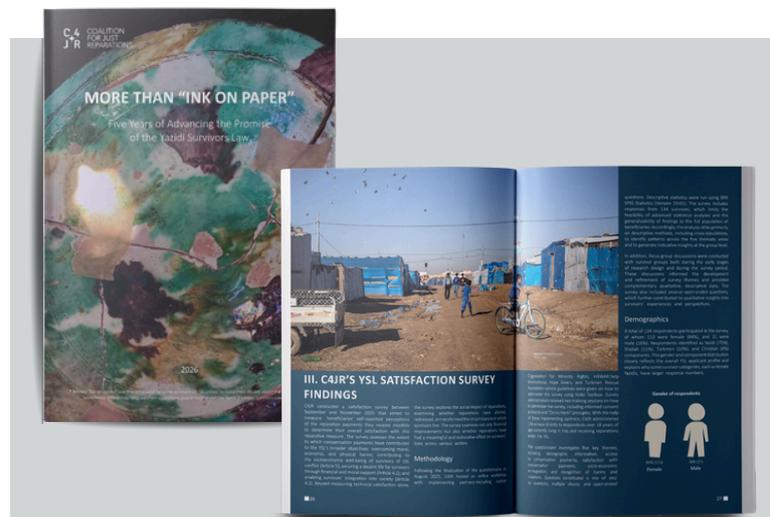
Important updates:

Progress on Accountability Efforts by the Directorate

The Directorate and the Nineveh Court of Appeal held an expanded meeting in February to discuss the handling and prosecution of ISIL members recently transferred from Syrian prisons to Iraq. The meeting, attended by judicial officials, government representatives, and families of victims and survivors, focused on trial procedures, coordination with the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation, and efforts to clarify the fate of kidnapped and missing persons. Authorities also emphasized the importance of involving victims and survivors in the process and called on individuals with information about ISIL members to share it with the relevant authorities. Read more information on this here: <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/18Sq9xuomq/>.



The Directorate and the Nineveh Court of Appeal held a meeting to discuss the prosecution of ISIL members recently transferred from Syrian prisons to Iraq, February 2026, Nineveh. Photo Credit: General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs.



Related News

■ On 1 March 2026, the C4JR released its annual report, *More Than Ink on Paper: Five Years of Advancing the Promise of the Yazidi Survivors Law*. While the report highlights progress in compensation payments and their positive impact on survivors' financial stability and social recognition, it also points to ongoing challenges, including bureaucratic barriers to accessing reparations, limited rehabilitation and education measures, and restrictions related to housing and land rights. It further notes the continued accountability gap for atrocities committed by ISIL due to the lack of progress in the adoption of legislation on core international crimes. It also analyzes the findings of the anonymous survey conducted by C4JR to assess survivors' satisfaction with the reparation benefits outlined under the YSL. Read the full report here: <https://c4jr.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/C4JR-Report-2026-%EF%BD%9C-Five-Years-After-YSL.pdf>.



Five years after the adoption of the YSL, Zozan Saeed and Bojan Gavrilovic reflect on what the YSL has achieved—and where it has fallen short. Photo credit: C4JR.

■ The C4JR has released a new podcast episode of More Than Ink on Paper, marking five years since the adoption of the YSL. In a conversation between Zozan Saeed (C4JR Human Rights Consultant) and Bojan Gavrilovic (Head of Program for Rights and Justice at the Jiyar Foundation for Human Rights), they reflect on the law's achievements and remaining gaps, discussing its origins, the role of civil society in its adoption, and the challenges of implementing reparations in practice. The discussion also explores broader issues of justice, accountability, and the law's long-term impact on survivors. Listen to the full episode here: <https://c4jr.org/2202202630753>.

■ The Office of Rescuing Yazidi Abductees released a statement reassuring that Yazidi individuals still missing in northern Syria remain a priority. It emphasized that continuous efforts are underway to locate and rescue them, with the aim of ensuring their safe return and reunification with their families. To support communication and enable rescue or assistance requests, the office shared the following contact numbers:
009647504676173,
009647504458024
009647502212982
More information on this effort can be found here: <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/185PBjbnwM/?mibextid=wwXlfr>.

Accountability Efforts

■ In January 2026, France's National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office requested that French ISIL member Lolita C. be tried before the Paris special assize court for complicity in genocide and crimes against humanity against the Yazidi community, as well as participation in a terrorist criminal association. Lolita C. traveled to Syria in 2014 and married an ISIL fighter. Prosecutors allege that in 2017, she held an enslaved eight-year-old Yazidi girl for over a month before transferring her to another ISIL member. Read more about the case here: <https://www.yazda.org/french-prosecutors-seek-genocide-trial-against-lolita-c-for-crimes-against-yazidis-on-19-january-2026-frances-national-anti-terrorism-prosecutors-office-pnat-requested-that-the-case-of-french-ji>.

■ Between 9 and 12 February 2026, the case of an ISIL member, Hasna A. was heard in the Netherlands as part of an appeal process. In December 2024, Hasna A. became the first person in the Netherlands to be convicted for crimes committed against the Yazidi community. The court found her guilty of several offenses, including slavery as a crime against humanity, related to the enslavement of a Yazidi woman. She was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The appeal hearings provided an opportunity for a higher court to review the original judgment. With the support of the Yazidi Legal Network, the court allowed several Yazidi survivors and community members to observe the hearing in person and monitor the proceedings. This opportunity enabled participants to gain a deeper understanding of the prosecution of ISIL members in the Netherlands and to engage directly with prosecutors and legal experts, enhancing their insight into international accountability efforts. Read more about the case here: <https://www.yazda.org/from-the-netherlands-to-sinjar-and-duhok-yazidi-survivors-follow-the-landmark-hasna-a-appeal-hearings>.

■ Between March 16 and 20, the in absentia trial of Sabri Essid, also known as Abou Dojanah al-Faransi, a French ISIL foreign fighter, will take place before the Paris Criminal Court. This will be the first trial in France concerning the genocide committed against the Yazidi community, and the first time a French citizen is prosecuted for this crime. Three Yazidi survivors and their children will participate in the proceedings in their capacity as victims. Read more about the case here: <https://www.yazda.org/france-french-isis-foreign-fighter-sabri-essid-to-be-tried-for-crimes-against-humanity-and-genocide-against-the-yazidis>.



Appeal Hearing of Hasna A. case. February 2026, Schiphol Judicial Complex, Netherlands. Photo credit: Coalition for Just Reparations.

Challenges

In each issue of our newsletter, we spotlight key challenges faced by survivors and stakeholders in implementing the YSL. In this issue of the newsletter, we focus on survivors' challenges in accessing rehabilitation under the YSL.

In May 2025, the Nineveh Directorate of Health instructed public health institutions to recognize health cards issued by the Directorate, intended to facilitate free access to care for survivors across Nineveh. Despite those measures, significant challenges remain in ensuring effective access to health and rehabilitation services under the YSL. These cards have limited added value, as public health services in Iraq are already free for all citizens, and the cards are not accepted at private health facilities or in the Kurdistan Region, where many survivors reside.

Gaps are also evident in the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). In a survey conducted by Yazda on the implementation of YSL, the majority of survivors surveyed were not aware that MHPSS services were an entitlement under the YSL. Moreover, nearly 67% of the survivors surveyed reported that they had received MHPSS services at some point after 2014. These services, provided primarily by international and local organizations, are often short-term and insufficient, as their availability and continuity largely depend on limited or inconsistent funding.

The need for continued MHPSS remains significant, as indicated by more than 50% of the survivors surveyed by Yazda, underscoring the long-term impact of trauma and the importance of sustained assistance. Moreover, a substantial gap was identified between the legal framework and its implementation. Nearly 80% of survivors reported that MHPSS services were not offered to them after they applied for benefits under the YSL. This finding highlights significant shortcomings in outreach, referral mechanisms, and service integration, and points to the need for improved coordination, communication, and systematic provision of rehabilitation

as part of the YSL. For more information on rehabilitation services, read Yazda's full report here: <https://tinyurl.com/pwdkz3k6>.

Although the YSL is implemented within Iraq, the majority of recognized beneficiaries seem to currently reside outside of the country. In total, 2,496 survivors have been declared eligible for reparations under the YSL, yet only 809 currently reside in Iraq. As a result, almost 70% of survivors covered under the law cannot make use of most of the vital reparative measures (rehabilitation, land, housing, education, and employment), which are, by design, meant to be provided within Iraq. Moreover, the accessibility of the most successful YSL reparative measure, namely the compensation payments, is at risk, due to prohibitively high international transaction fees as well as the potential impact that receiving such payments may have on recipients' migrant status in their countries of residence. More generally, the broader context in which the YSL operates—continued displacement, limited progress in stabilizing Sinjar, unresolved governance and security dynamics in Iraq, and escalation of regional conflicts—seems to have contributed to the emigration of many survivors.

To address these challenges, C4JR recommends that the health cards issued under the YSL should be recognized in private facilities and the Kurdistan Region. Awareness of MHPSS as a legal entitlement must be strengthened through targeted outreach, while MHPSS services should be systematically provided through YSL rehabilitation centers. Improved coordination among relevant authorities and service providers is essential to ensure consistent delivery, alongside sustainable, state-supported MHPSS services and regular monitoring to close gaps between the legal framework and its implementation. Finally, given the high proportion of YSL beneficiaries residing outside Iraq, it would be advisable for the GDSA to conduct a survey or consultations with beneficiaries to assess their current priorities and needs in order to facilitate access to the key reparative measures provided under the law.



C4JR LEGAL AID

To support survivors navigating challenges, C4JR is offering legal aid to applicants throughout the YSL application and appeals process through qualified lawyers.

If you or someone you know needs legal support, please get in touch with us.

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Survey Data

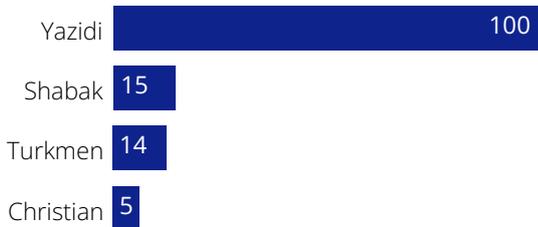
The C4JR has completed administering an anonymous survey to assess survivors' satisfaction with the reparation benefits outlined under the YSL. In this newsletter, we preview some findings from the survey, the complete analysis of which is available in C4JR's Annual Report that can be found here: <https://c4jr.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/C4JR-Report-2026-%EF%BD%9C-Five-Years-After-YSL.pdf>.

In total, C4JR surveyed 134 survivors, of whom 113 were female (84%), and 21 were male (16%). Respondents identified as Yazidi (75%), Shabak (11%), Turkmen (10%), and Christian (4%) components.

Gender of respondents



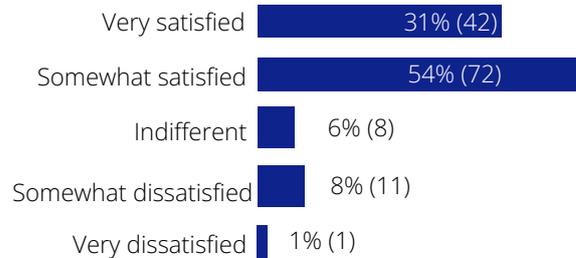
Community of respondents



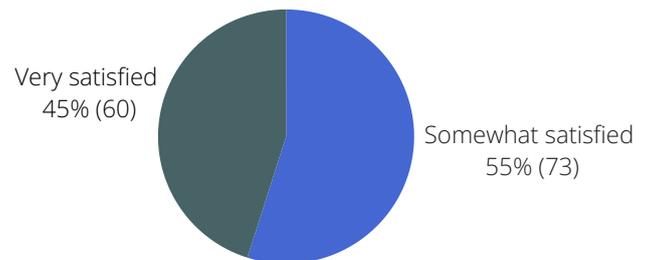
Satisfaction with Compensation Payments

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?



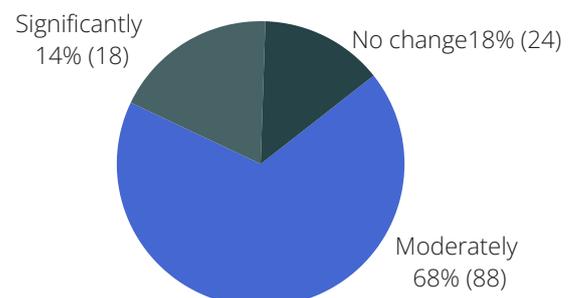
How satisfied are you with the regularity and timing of the compensation payments?



Socio-Economic Reintegration

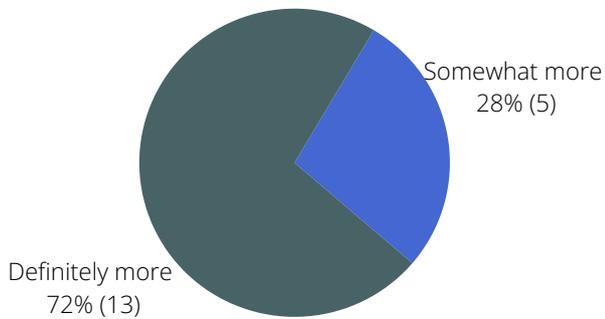
When asked whether receiving compensation had helped respondents work toward or achieve life goals they had before the violation, a majority reported some degree of progress. Specifically, 68% stated that compensation helped them moderately, while 14% said it helped significantly; 18% reported no change. 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?

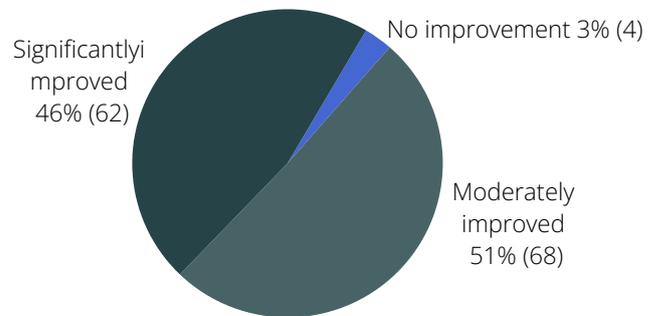


Regarding social integration, 72% of respondents stated that YSL compensation helped them feel more integrated into society, while 28% reported that it helped somewhat. Similarly, 79% indicated that compensation positively affected how they were treated by their family and wider community. One in five 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?

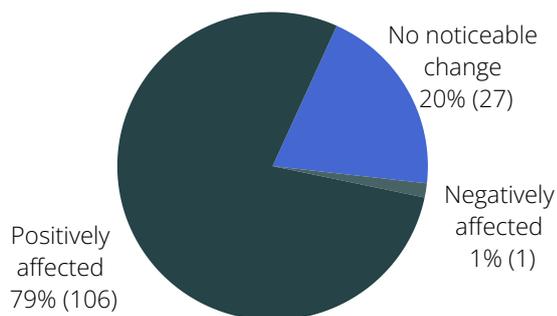


Have the compensation payments helped you improve your living conditions?

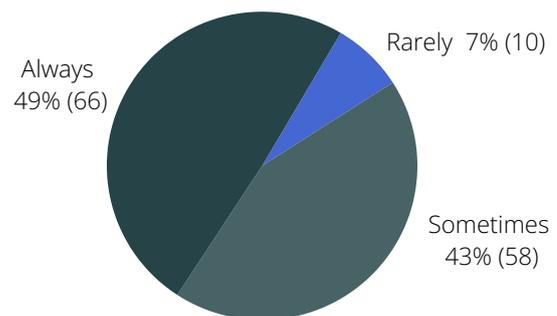


Nearly half of respondents (49%) indicated that compensation payments always enable them to meet their basic needs, while 43% reported that payments sometimes allow them to do so. Only 7% stated that compensation payments rarely cover basic needs. This suggests that, while compensation provides essential support, its adequacy may fluctuate depending on household size, health needs, and other financial pressures.

Has receiving compensation under the YSL affected how your family and wider community treat you?



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



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.

THERE IS NO DEADLINE TO APPLY TO THE YSL! HERE IS HOW YOU CAN APPLY IF YOU ARE A SURVIVOR



The YSL provides reparations if you are a member of one of the following groups:

- Women and girls who survived ISIS captivity from the Yazidi, Shabak, Christian, or Turkmen communities;
- Yazidi children survivors who were under the age of eighteen at the time of their kidnapping;
- All persons from the Yazidi, Shabak, Christian, or Turkmen communities who survived a specific incident of ISIS mass killing.*



Applications are made to the General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs. You can apply in three ways:

- Make an appointment with the Directorate in their Sinjar or Mosul offices and visit the office at the appointment time. You can make the appointment at <https://ur.gov.iq/login>. See this video on how to make an appointment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ARucl4gYU&ab_channel=IOMIRAQ
- Fill out a hard copy form and take it to the Directorate physically. You still need to register online using the link above to get your unique registration code;
- Apply online: You may submit your application, together with copies of your ID and any supporting documents you have to the link above. See this video on how to apply online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfoDfQWwErE&ab_channel=IOMIRAQ

You can apply on your own - you do not need a lawyer or NGO to apply. If you would like any support with the application, you can contact NGOs in your area. **There is no deadline to apply for the YSL. There is also no fee to apply.**

You can follow the Directorate's announcements on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076062182514>

*Please note that while these details reflect the YSL text, some provisions have been interpreted more narrowly in practice. We strongly recommend seeking professional legal support when applying for or appealing YSL decisions.

About us

The Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) is an alliance of 33 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 the reparation claims of survivors and to encourage Iraqi authorities to meet their obligation to provide reparations. C4JR also works to inform, advocate, offer viable solutions, and engage with different stakeholders to ensure survivors realize their right to reparations by providing space for deliberation, collaboration, and reflection. You can visit our website at www.c4jr.org for more information.



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