

Update on Women, Peace and Security in Iraq 8 April 2024

The Informal Expert Group (IEG) of the Security Council on Women and Peace and Security discussed the situation in Iraq in April 2016 ([S/2016/683](#)), October 2016 ([S/2016/1104](#)), June 2017 ([S/2017/624](#)), March 2018 ([S/2018/475](#)), March 2020 ([S/2020/282](#)) and October 2022 ([S/2022/815](#)). This update summarizes relevant developments since the most recent meeting of the IEG.

Developments in the Security Council

Since the last IEG meeting, the Security Council adopted two resolutions on Iraq and both included gender-related language. On 30 May 2023, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2682 (2023) extending the **mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)** for a year until 31 May 2024 and requested the Secretary-General to provide the Security Council with an independent strategic review of UNAMI, in consultation with the Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders, by 31 March 2024. Notably, the resolution requests UNAMI to assist the Government of Iraq in ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in advancing political dialogue and reconciliation, as well as in efforts to strengthen gender-responsive reintegration programmes for former members of armed groups. The resolution also requests to mainstream gender as a crosscutting issue throughout the Mission's mandate, including assistance to elections and government formation, women's economic empowerment, implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and the Joint Communique on Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence. On 15 September 2023, the Security Council adopted resolution 2697 (2023) extending the **mandate of the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD)** for one year, until 17 September 2024 only. The resolution condemned ISIL's violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights, including "sale into or otherwise forced marriage, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual slavery, and other forms of sexual violence."

Three Iraqi women from civil society briefed the Security Council in its country-specific meetings and thematic briefings since the last meeting of the Informal Expert Group. In May 2023, **Ms. Khanim Latif**, founder and director of Asuda for Combatting Violence Against Women, expressed deep concern over the "widespread violence against women in all fields, including the targeting of women human rights defenders," for instance for using the term "gender.". She called on the Security Council to call for the adoption of the draft Anti-Domestic Violence Law, amend the Penal Code and prevent the interpretation of the Personal Status Law on sectarian grounds, and to provide survivors with access to shelters and to psychosocial support, justice and legal services, and livelihood activities. She also urged the Council to encourage the Government to establish a national mechanism for women (a council or a ministry) with competent human resources. Finally, she called for UNAMI's mandate to be renewed with strong provisions on WPS and women's participation in all political and decision-making processes.

Ms. Farida Khalaf, a Yazidi survivor and president of the Farida Global Organization, briefed the Council in August 2023. She noted that approximately 2,700 Yazidis remain missing, and 70 percent of Yazidis are displaced in camps because their home areas are not ready yet for their return. She called for greater accountability for the sexual violence perpetrated by Da'esh and more support for women survivors and victims' families, and for the Security Council to work with the Iraqi Government to ensure

that the Da'esh elements are not included in the Iraqi Parliament's potential decision of granting general amnesty for prisoners and thousands of Da'esh elements and their affiliates.

In October 2023, **Ms. Dhefah Al-Jarahi** from the Iraq Foundation noted that the “past two decades have witnessed remarkable progress in the political participation of women in Iraq, and the number of women's organizations, networks and movements has increased, as reflected in the strength of their influence in local, national and international policies. A number of women have been able to hold important political positions, and there has been an increase in women's political participation in terms of the percentage of women in the House of Representatives and their membership in political parties, as well as their participation in decision-making positions and in the protest movements that Iraq has witnessed in recent years.”

Women's participation in politics and public life

Iraq continues to make progress in advancing women's representation in politics. On 27 October 2022, the Council of Representatives confirmed **the appointment of 21 ministerial candidates, including three women**, put forward by Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani. The government programme also highlights a number of priorities, including women's empowerment. In March 2023, the federal Government launched the **National Strategy for Iraqi Women 2023-2030**, with special focus on the importance of women's political participation, protection of women and girls, women's economic empowerment, and the impact of climate change.

The first Governorate Council elections in ten years were held in December 2023 in 15 federal provinces. **Women won 76 seats of the 285 seats** across the 15 governorates holding elections, which **exceeded the constitutional quota of 25 percent**, a minimum of 75 seats. With 1,662 candidates, women accounted for 28 percent of the electoral candidates. 33 percent of the more than 200,000 polling and counting staff recruited and trained were women. Meanwhile, the long-delayed parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which were originally scheduled to take place in November 2023, are currently slated for 10 June. The Kurdistan Region's election law requires that political parties' lists include a minimum of 30 percent women.

Prior to the holding of the Governorate Council elections, the Government established the **High Committee to Support Women's Participation**, which comprises of government, civil society, and United Nations representatives. Upon advice and assistance from UNAMI, the High Committee took measures to **address security concerns for women candidates during the campaign period**, including the establishment of four hotlines by the Ministry of the Interior to address complaints from women candidates. Its workplan also included measures designed to support women's political participation, such as addressing hate speech against women candidates, and advocacy for an electoral code of conduct among political parties. UNAMI provided technical assistance to develop resolutions and procedures for the Governorate Council elections, including on the allocation of seats reserved for women, supported the Independent High Electoral Commission in launching an outreach campaign right to vote, and held consultations throughout the country to promote women's participation in political and electoral processes.

Despite the Government's efforts to promote women's political participation, there has been no Ministry dedicated to women since the abolition of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in 2015. Women's affairs are covered under the **National Directorate for Iraqi Women**, which operates under the General Secretariat of the Iraqi Council of Ministers. Findings from **UNAMI's gender audit of political parties** also indicate the lack of women in senior positions among the ranks of the mainstream political parties and coalitions, which continues impeding women's participation in elections and public office.

While Article 49 of the Constitution includes a minimum of 25 percent quota for women in the federal parliament, socio-cultural barriers such as traditional views that do not support women's role as leaders, insecurity, and lack of access to economic resources to finance the cost of running a campaign hinder women's full and equal participation in political processes, including electoral processes. **Women's participation is also often symbolic and limited to the parliamentary seats allocated to women's quotas**, which does not extend to the Iraq Federal Government's nor the Kurdistan Regional Government's leadership roles. Often their influence is limited to women's issues, such as participating in Women, Family and Child Committee, which has the least members of all committees. It is rare to find women in leadership or agenda setting roles of political parties, and during the election campaigns and in politics, women are subjected to hate speech and other forms of harassment. Iraqi women have raised that without government support through training, addressing socioeconomic barriers to participation, and promoting security for women candidates, the quota system does not meaningfully expand women's participation and freedoms.

According to a recent publication by Women for Women International and Baghdad Women Association, **80 percent of women experience obstacles hindering their participation in political processes, 73 percent in economic activities, and 62 percent in decision-making at home**. The most significant barrier to women's participation in Iraq was reported to be lack of government support (75 percent of women), followed by resource instability (62 percent of women) and women's lack of understanding their own right to participate (59 percent of women).

Only eight percent of the country's judges are women. The United Nations continues to support women's access to justice, including through workshops for prosecutors and women judges on strategies to strengthen the judicial system to prevent violence against women and to promote women's participation at all levels of the judiciary.

The UN has also supported national efforts in enhancing **women's participation in the prevention of violent extremism** (PVE). For example, following advocacy led by IOM, women's representation in PVE committees at national and district levels increased by 25 percent in the past year. The Office of the National Security Advisory, in their capacity as chair of the National Committee for the Implementation of the National PVE Strategy, recently took steps to strengthen women's leadership and inclusion in PVE efforts by establishing the Iraqi Women in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Working Group, which was launched in January 2024 with support from IOM. The seven local action plans on PVE launched in 2023 include a pillar on gender mainstreaming. To support their implementation, IOM established a fund in 2022 that has since supported 50 projects led by civil society, one third of which specifically dedicated to initiatives led by or focused on women, with the majority of remaining projects ensuring that 35 to 50 percent of beneficiaries were women.

Iraq is implementing its **second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security from 2020 to 2024**. UN Women has supported local authorities to adopt local action plans in several governorates. In October 2023, the Government held a conference in Baghdad to mark the anniversary of the Security Council Resolution 1325 and reviewed the progress made in the National Action Plan. Women civil society representatives have called for the government to allocate sufficient budget for the implementation of these action plans.

Human rights issues, including conflict-related sexual violence and pushback against the term "gender"

According to the Directorate of Yazidi Affairs of the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs of the Kurdistan Regional Government, of the estimated 6,417 Yazidis who were abducted, 3,561 have been rescued, including 1,207 women and 1,059 girls. These figures do not include other affected groups, such

as the Turkmen or Shabak. Among the female Yazidi survivors who returned from Da'esh captivity, more than 430 remain in displacement sites grappling with significant mental health and socioeconomic challenges. **Survivors and their children, including children born of rape, are often unable to obtain birth registration and identity documents as Iraqi law requires proof of paternity.**

In 2022, the Government of Iraq allocated 19 million USD to finance reparations pursuant to the Law on Support to Female Yazidi Survivors. Each survivor will receive 780,000 Iraqi dinars (approximately USD 600) per month. In June 2023, the Government approved the release of 12 million USD for the implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law. More than 1,600 applications for compensation were approved for Yazidi women and children, as well as Turkmen, Shabak and Christian women, who were held in captivity by Da'esh, the majority of whom have begun receiving monthly payments.¹ It is estimated that some 1,200 survivors began receiving monthly payments. With the support of the United Nations, the Directorate for Survivors Affairs developed a cooperation agreement with Iraqi non-governmental organizations to set up a referral system for survivors, as part of which more than 60 survivors have accessed mental health and psychological support. The Committee requires survivors to submit a criminal complaint before a local court in order for the application to be approved. This requirement is not in line with the Yazidi Female Survivors Law and related by-laws, which stipulate that court case files are a type of evidence but are not mandatory.

The United Nations continues to provide services in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to survivors of sexual violence committed during the 2014 conflict. Survivors from a range of minority groups have begun to disclose their experiences, **with 25 cases affecting Turkmen and Shabak women documented in 2023.** There is also emerging evidence that Da'esh committed sexual violence against men. Moreover, UNITAD has compiled evidence indicating that a number of individuals were raped and killed on the basis of their actual or perceived gender identity.

On 19 November 2023, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers issued a circular, **directing the term “gender” to be replaced with the phrase “justice between women and men”** in official government documents. This updated the previous circular of 27 July 2023, in which the continued use of the term “gender” was allowed if it was followed by the phrase “men and women.” These instructions were issued in the context of some social media criticism related to the use of “gender” to “promote values conflicting with Iraq’s social and religious traditions.” In August 2023, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for UNAMI issued a statement in which she underlined that “disinformation or attempts to ban universally accepted terms are not helping Iraq to achieve stability and prosperity”. During his visit to Iraq in August 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the terms “gender” and “women’s empowerment” are not in contradiction with any culture, religion, or tradition and highlighted the need for more women in decision-making positions.

On 15 August 2023, the Council of Representatives completed the first reading of a draft amendment to the Anti-Prostitution Law (No. 8 of 1988), by which the law is renamed the Anti-Prostitution and Homosexuality Law. Under the proposed amendment, **homosexual relationships are criminalized**, and anyone convicted of this specific offence is subject to the death penalty or life imprisonment.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and human rights defenders, especially women’s rights groups, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have **expressed their concerns on the shrinking civic space** and how the NGOs advocacy and programmatic work could face impediments.

¹ Out of 1,600 approved applications, 1,156 were from inside Iraq and 444 from outside. Compensation has been approved for 827 women (797 Yazidi, 13 Turkman, 10 Shabak, 7 Christian) and for 753 Yazidi who were children at the time of kidnapping by Da'esh (334 female and 419 male).

The NGO Directorate has ordered the suspension of several civil society organizations as well as the freezing of their bank accounts.

In March 2024, UNAMI and OHCHR published a [report](#) on “Accountability for Domestic violence in Iraq: Promoting justice and non-discrimination.” The report underscores how domestic violence remains a form of discrimination that significantly hinders women's enjoyment of their rights and freedoms, and emphasizes the impact of social stigma and other barriers preventing survivors from reporting incidents and notes the absence of a legal protection framework, particularly a law on domestic violence in conformity with international standards, exacerbates the lack of awareness among the public and law enforcement agencies and poses substantial challenges in addressing criminal violence within homes. The report recommends measures within the judicial processes to enhance the reporting of domestic violence cases, ensure protection for survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable in line with international human rights standards.

ISIL (Da’esh)-related issues

As of February 2024, 43,473 individuals (61.8 percent of them children and 31.6 percent of them women) remain in al-Hol camp in northeast Syria without adequate shelter and access to food, water, and basic services. 46.2 percent of the population of al-Hol is Iraqi. As of 24 March 2024, Iraq facilitated the return of 8,183 individuals from al-Hol, including more than 4,758 women and girls. To strengthen coordination to support the return of Iraqi nationals, the United Nations and the Government of Iraq developed a plan to strengthen programme coherence and raise funding, and the United Nations established a steering committee to bolster coordination and governance among the entities in Iraq. Women returnees often face stigma due to their perceived affiliation with ISIL. The overwhelming majority of returnees lack civil documentation and thus cannot access many services. This disproportionately impacts female headed households who are at a higher risk of rejection from their family and community members.

ISIL (Da’esh) members continue to be prosecuted and convicted under counterterrorism legislation in Iraq. **Despite numerous prosecution cases, no cases have included charges of sexual violence committed by Da’esh members**, except for a handful of cases tried in Europe under universal jurisdiction, most of which have focused on women perpetrators. In 2023, the United States designated as global terrorists two Da’esh leaders who have allegedly committed sexual violence against the Yazidis and were responsible for the abduction and enslavement of women and girls, and this was the first time that a dedicated focus on conflict-related sexual violence led to the imposition of US sanctions.

In December 2023, UNITAD published a [report](#) **presenting legal findings on sexual violence against women and girls committed by Da’esh in Iraq** paving the way for the accountability processes to take place on the bases of international crimes. In recent months, UNITAD held interviews with Shabak female survivors of sexual violence for the first time, establishing that Shabak women and girls were raped in detention when they attempted to flee Da’esh/ISIL-controlled territory in 2015 and 2016. The team also collected additional evidence on sexual enslavement of Yazidi women and girls to identify perpetrators, and advanced investigations of sexual violence against Christian women including the collection of first-hand accounts of the crimes and the perpetrators. In parallel, UNITAD continued its investigations into forced marriages of Shia Turkmen girls to Da’esh/ISIL fighters, the majority of whom were captured in Sinjar after having fled their homes in Tal Afar in an attempt to escape Da’esh/ISIL. In addition, the Team completed a report on the role of Da’esh/ISIL women involved in the sexual enslavement of women and girls, which contributes to investigations of female perpetrators. Women account for 50 percent of substantive and support staff of UNITAD, including gender balance in senior management positions in the team.

In December 2023, the then Special Adviser and the Head of UNITAD, Mr. Christian Ritscher, warned the Security Council about the consequences of not extending UNITAD's mandate beyond September 2024, noting that this could negatively impact survivors and victims of those crimes as "it will be likely the case (...) that the Team will not be able to deliver final outputs on all lines of inquiry it has initiated." On 2 April 2024, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Ms. Ana Peyró Llopis as Acting Special Adviser and Head of UNITAD until its closure in September 2024. In January 2024, Coalition for Just Reparation (C4JR) and four civil society networks from Iraq, including survivors of CRSV, submitted to the UN their concerns and recommendations related to the end of mandate of UNITAD and its negative impact on the accountability prospects for ISIS crimes.²

The United Nations supports a victim-centered approach to victims of terrorism, in particular Yazidi survivors who have experienced widespread violations, including conflict-related sexual violence, at the hands of Da'esh fighters. UNAMI and OHCHR have worked closely with Iraqi ministries and judicial institutions to ensure that evidentiary requirements for compensation are applied in a manner that ensures that survivors of conflict-related sexual violence are not faced with excessive challenges when lodging their claims. UNITAD also continued supporting the joint investigation team in investigating atrocity crimes committed against Yazidis, including conducting interviews with key witnesses. Furthermore, OHCHR and IOM continue to **support the Government in implementing the Law on Support to Female Yazidi Survivors**. In October 2023, IOM in collaboration with Nadia's Initiative inaugurated a memorial at a site in northern Iraq where Da'esh murdered more than 100 women and children in 2014.

Humanitarian issues and women's socio-economic situation

The humanitarian situation in Iraq has improved considerably. The number of people in humanitarian assistance has declined from 11 million people in 2017 to 2.5 million in 2023. However, **1.12 million Iraqis remain internally displaced with 125,800 of them living in 25 camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.** The Government of Iraq has announced that it will close all internally displaced people's (IDP) camps in Iraq by July 2024. If the camps are closed, women, including Yazidis, will require urgent support to finding dignified solutions based on their informed and voluntary decision.

Female-headed households continue to represent one of the most vulnerable segments of the population and are more exposed to poverty and food insecurity. Among other interventions, WFP and UN Women continued collaborating in 2023 to provide cash transfers to 1,860 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-23 months vulnerable to food insecurity.

Cuts in humanitarian funding have curtailed the support provided for survivors of gender-based violence in Iraq. However, the United Nations provided **gender-based violence services to over 3,750 refugees and 4,000 displaced persons in 2022**. The General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs has supported the delivery of psychosocial assistance for survivors experiencing severe trauma. In 2022 and 2023, UNAMI convened a series of focus groups and individual interviews with women, mainly sexual violence survivors, from Yazidi, Turkmen, and Shabaki communities, who consistently highlighted the need for income generating opportunities. Despite years of advocacy, the **draft law against domestic violence has stalled since being introduced to parliament in 2014**.

Due to pervasive and discriminatory gender norms, women and girls are tasked with domestic and care responsibilities. As a result, women are **vastly underrepresented in the labour force** and have limited

² Iraqi Civil Society and Survivor Networks Position on the Request of Iraq to Terminate UNITAD's Mandate in September 2024, available at: <https://c4jr.org/1203202428508>

income opportunities, impacting negatively on their ability to purchase food commodities and cover expenses for the most basic services.

In January 2024, the United Nations reported that **Iraq will become the first country in the region to join the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Convention on the elimination of violence and harassment at work**, which coupled with the new national social security law will provide significant protection to women workers.

According to ILO, the total labor force participation in Iraq was 39.5 percent in 2021, with men's participation at 68 percent and **women's participation at 10.6 percent**. Women-headed households in camps for internally displaced persons are three times more likely to face unemployment compared with other households. According to a recent publication by Women for Women International and Baghdad Women Association, 65 percent of women report that their lack of economic independence also limits their freedom to participate in broader decision-making and express their opinions. There is more acceptance for women to work in education, health, and some administrative roles.

The UN provides support for women's participation in the workforce in less traditional roles. 28 percent of two national non-governmental organizations working in demining in Iraq are women. Between January and May 2023, UNESCO provided vocational training to 1,568 vulnerable young people, including 275 girls and young women, as part of the project to revive the Old Cities of Mosul and Basrah. Some 122 of the women who received training found jobs in the reconstruction and rehabilitation sectors. FAO and the EU launched the "Farmer Field Day" programme in Ninawa to train women-headed households and promote sustainable land management practices.

Women's precarious socio-economic situation is likely to result in food insecurity and **harmful coping strategies, including child marriage and transactional sex**. 28 percent of girls in Iraq are married before age of 18, and 7 percent before age of 15.

Recommendations:³

The Security Council should retain all gender-related language from resolution 2682 and **consider these additions in its next decisions on Iraq**:

- Recall the Government's international commitments and reiterate that women's rights and women's empowerment are universal values that do not conflict with culture, religion, or tradition.
- Call for continued efforts to promote women's equal and meaningful participation in all decision-making bodies and processes, including on peace and security, through targeted measures including in government institutions and political parties.
- Request UNAMI to systematically advocate for women's rights in its assistance to the Government of Iraq on legal and judicial reforms.
- Urge Iraqi institutions and authorities to ensure the protection of women's rights organizations and women peacebuilders from intimidation, threats, and reprisals, including those who promote and protect women's human rights, and enable a safe environment for members of civil society, and request UNAMI to report on incidents and trends in this regard.
- Call on the authorities to allocate adequate human and financial resources for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and the 2016 Joint Communiqué to address conflict-related sexual violence.

³ These recommendations are prepared by UN Women as the secretariat of the Informal Expert Group, in consultation with other UN entities, including the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

- Request that gender considerations be taken into account in the return and reintegration of displaced Iraqi women from Syria and ensure that decisions about children be guided by the best interests of the child and family reunification.
- Recall Member States' obligations under the the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, encourage ratification of its Optional Protocol, and call on the authorities to engage with women's groups and experts on their implementation of Treaty obligations.
- Call on the authorities to enact pending legislation on domestic violence, including legal protection for NGO-run shelters for GBV survivors, and child protection legislation rendering all children eligible for birth registration and documentation, and address harmful social norms preventing children's registration.
- Call for the Law on Support to Female Yazidi Survivors to expand its scope to include children born of conflict-related rape and lift the requirement for a criminal suit to be eligible for reparations.
- Calls upon the Government of Iraq to ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and safe access for survivors to multisectoral services, including safe shelters, in line with the 2016 joint communiqué to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence.

When renewing the sanctions regime on ISIL (Da'esh), the Security Council should consider including a listing criterion related to human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, recalling resolution 2367 on Iraq, and request the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to include the necessary gender expertise and integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across its investigations and reporting. Council Members should advocate for the listing of individuals and entities specifically for crimes of sexual violence or to include a specific mention of sexual violence in the cases of those already designated for United Nations sanctions on other grounds, given the abundant evidence of its use by ISIL (Da'esh) members.

ANNEX: Relevant excerpts in decision of the Security Council on Iraq:

Resolution 2682 (May 2023)

Supporting Iraq in addressing the challenges it faces as it continues its stabilization efforts (...) including the requirement to meet the needs of all Iraqis, including women (...).

Recognizing the Government of Iraq's efforts to (...) pursue accountability for those responsible for human rights violations and abuses including the killing, serious injury, abduction or disappearance of demonstrators and journalists, including women (...),

Recognizing the progress the Government of Iraq has made in implementing the Yazidi Survivors Law, establishing the General Directorate for Survivors Affairs and disbursing the first payments to survivors and victims, noting that the lack of inclusion of children born of conflict-related sexual violence needs to be addressed, including all administrative obstacles to obtain registration and documentation for these children, acknowledging the need to ensure a survivor-centered approach in which reparations and redress measures are continued, and evidentiary standards and requirements are not overly burdensome, discriminatory, or risk re-traumatizing and calling on the Government of Iraq to hold perpetrators of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence accountable and provide mental health and psychosocial support to all survivors and victims,

2. Requests that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNAMI, at the request of the Government of Iraq, shall:

- prioritize the provision of advice, support, and assistance to the Government and people of Iraq on advancing inclusive political dialogue and national and community-level reconciliation, with the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women,*
- further advise, support, and assist (...) the Government of Iraq with progress on security sector reform, including (...) gender-responsive reintegration programmes for former members of armed groups (...).*
- approach gender mainstreaming as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate, including by consulting with diverse women's civil society groups, and to advise and assist the Government of Iraq in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels of decision making, including in the context of elections and government formation, and the promotion of women's economic empowerment, by supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security consistent with resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions, and the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence;*

Resolution 2697 (September 2023)

Recalling that ISIL/Da'esh constitutes a global threat to international peace and security through its terrorist acts, its violent extremist ideology, its continued gross, systematic and widespread attacks directed against civilians, its violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights, particularly those committed against women and children (...),

Condemning the commission of acts by ISIL/Da'esh involving murder, kidnapping, hostage-taking, suicide bombings, enslavement, sale into or otherwise forced marriage, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence (...),