***Submission to the United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, in response to call for inputs on “promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).”***

**ABOUT REPRIEVE**

Reprieve is a charitable organization registered in the United Kingdom (No. 1114900), and in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Reprieve provides free legal and investigative support to individuals who have been subjected to state-sponsored human rights abuses. Our clients belong to some of the most vulnerable populations in the world, as it is in their cases that human rights are most swiftly jettisoned, and the rule of law is cast aside. In particular, we protect the rights of those facing the death penalty and deliver justice to victims of arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial execution.

**SUMMARY**

Drawing on empirical research including field reports, interviews, and qualitative and quantitative data analysis, this submission presents evidence that many of the women and girls held in Kurdish-run detention camps in NES were targeted because of inherent vulnerabilities relating to their gender, age, religious and ethnic background, as well as for specific vulnerabilities including prior experience of gender-based or sexual violence. Living in Daesh territory, this vulnerable population was subjected to systemic and continued sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation for years. This submission examines the specific adverse gender-based impacts of the situation in the camps (including indefinite detention, poor conditions, and lack of education, proper nutrition, counselling or healthcare) on the women and girls who are held there, the majority of whom are also caring for young children. This submission also examines the effect of the punitive approach taken by many states to their nationals and how this has resulted in increased discrimination and risks of gender-based violence for the women and girls in question, including risks of re-trafficking.

1. **How does the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms mainstream gender equality and the human rights of women and girls in displacement, conflict, and post conflict situations?**

Reprieve appreciates the continuing efforts of mechanisms of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in drawing international attention to the human rights and humanitarian crisis unfolding in detention camps in North-East Syria (NES) and the gendered security harms that disproportionately impact women and girls, many of whom have already suffered gender-based violence.

In particular, we would like to highlight the work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism (SRCT) and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (SRTIP) in this context. The SRCT's report[[1]](#footnote-1) earlier this year provides the conceptual backing for civil society to challenge states' “national security” narratives that deny women and girls detained in NES access to basic rights on the basis of harmful stereotypes. Similarly, the work of the SRTIP in clarifying the scope of the non-punishment principle to fit a human rights approach will be pivotal in international advocacy against states' use of citizenship-deprivation and refusals to repatriate its citizens detained in the camps, many of whom are victims of human trafficking.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The efforts of the HRC in mainstreaming the rights of these women and girls is critical to ensuring that they have a chance of overcoming the tremendous challenges they face in detention in NES, discussed below.

1. **What are the challenges in ensuring the promotion and protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings that have been highlighted in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms?**
2. ***The systematic and targeted abuse and exploitation of women and girls by Daesh and in the context of the Syrian Civil War***

The particular targeting, grooming and trafficking of vulnerable young women and girls into Syria was core to the Daesh strategy. Women were deemed necessary to provide domestic services, sexual gratification for Daesh men, and child-rearing for the so-called Caliphate. It is well documented that as part of its ‘state-building’ strategy, Daesh created and operated structures which systematically enslaved and exploited hundreds of women and girls, as the forced labour of women and girls, through childbirth, child-rearing and domestic servitude, was viewed as necessary “*to fulfil domestic and supporting roles in the caliphate and to legitimise ISIS and their new state*”.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Daesh targeted women and girls who were particularly psychologically vulnerable and those who were marginalised within their own communities,[[4]](#footnote-4) using sophisticated grooming techniques to recruit vulnerable girls *“using fraud and abuse of a position of vulnerability, among other means”.*[[5]](#footnote-5)

Reprieve’s casework and investigations have shown that the majority of British women and girls who travelled to Syria were inherently vulnerable – at least 63% were either children when they travelled and/or had a lived experience of gender-based abuse and coercion[[6]](#footnote-6) - and in several of these cases, women and girls were taken to Syria or had their travel arranged by abusive male partners and relatives who exercised coercive control over them. In all of the cases which Reprieve has investigated, the women or girls were from minority ethnic backgrounds.

In one case that Reprieve works on, a known trafficker targeted a vulnerable young woman of South Asian origin who had joined a dating site for single Muslims looking to marry. The young woman had spent her teenage years as the main carer for her sick mother (her father died when she was very young). As a teenager, she had been forced drop out of sixth form college due to her caring duties. When she joined the dating site, she was extremely isolated, and hoped to find someone to marry so she could start a family of her own.

The man she met on the dating site turned out to be part of a notorious trafficking ring, responsible for trafficking several women to Syria from various countries. He persuaded the woman to marry him within a short time of meeting her; after that, his behaviour became abusive and controlling. He criticised the way she dressed, forbade her from wearing make-up, and monitored who she met and spoke with.

When she was pregnant, he travelled to Syria. He told her she “needed” to join him, that she was a “bad” or “disobedient” mother and wife if she did not allow her daughter to meet him. He said that her family would never care about her, and that she would again be alone in the world. When she resisted, he threatened to have “*his people*” kidnap their daughter and bring her to Syria if she did not agree to visit him. After years of grooming and emotional manipulation, she believed these threats and, in desperation and fear, succumbed to her abuser’s coercion.

In another case, a woman moved to the UK as a teenager in the context of an arranged marriage. She did not speak English and was not allowed to leave the house alone. When her husband decided to move his family to Syria, this woman, after more than a decade of extreme isolation and coercive control, was given no choice in the matter. She told Reprieve, “*I did whatever my husband did; I didn’t plan anything… I just obeyed my husband*.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

On arrival in Daesh-controlled territories women and girls were locked in “*women’s houses*,” before they were forced into marriage, domestic servitude and sexually exploited.[[8]](#footnote-8) The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) has documented how many women and girls in NES detention camps were *“forced into marriage, sexual slavery and exploitation by UN-listed terrorist groups”[[9]](#footnote-9)* andReprieve’s investigations confirm that in the case of the British women in the camps, the majority (at least 63%) have been subjected to gender-based violence by Daesh, including forced marriages, sexual exploitation and forced domestic servitude.[[10]](#footnote-10)

One of Reprieve’s clients was just 12 years old when she was taken to Syria by an older male relative. In Syria, she was repeatedly raped, forced into marriage at the age 14 and had her first child conceived by rape by the age of 15.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Another girl who was transported to Syria as a child, was forced to marry or else remain trapped as a servant in a married couple’s home. Upon this forced marriage, her husband was violent and inflicted extreme sexual and psychological abuse, telling her on at least one occasion, “*I could murder you now and no one would know*.” He would also lock her in the house for long periods without food leading to bouts of starvation. [[12]](#footnote-12)

Another woman was caught trying to escape her husband and Daesh territory and was imprisoned and violently punished as a result. Upon release from prison, her daughter was taken away from her for a period “*to teach her a lesson*”. She was detained in a separate house when she gave birth to her second child.

1. ***Vulnerabilities and risks of exploitation and re-trafficking of women and girls held in NES camps***
2. **The conditions of detention in NES and the resulting gender-based harms**

As set out above, many of the women and girls currently detained in NES are exceptionally vulnerable, having been initially targeted by Daesh due their vulnerability based on their gender, age, religion, ethnicity and / or as victims of gender-based violence in their home countries, before being further abused and exploited under Daesh.

All of the women who Reprieve has interviewed in the camps have reported experiencing abuses including but not limited to enslavement, sexual abuse and exploitation, starvation, imprisonment and physical violence under Daesh. It was this vulnerability that made them more likely to remain trapped under Daesh, unable to escape for years, and therefore more likely to have been placed in Kurdish detention from 2017 onwards.

The UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UN CETD) has also confirmed that it was particularly difficult for women with young children to escape, explaining that “*Women were often unable to travel freely without a male guardian, making the opportunity to escape and return more challenging (particularly for those with children)*.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

This is reflected in the cases that Reprieve has investigated - the aforementioned woman who had her daughter taken away from her for trying to escape Daesh territory, has reported that being re-separated from her children is “*her greatest fear*” and, as a result, she was too afraid to attempt escape again.

After years of sexual exploitation and abuse at the hands of Daesh, these women and children, which includes about 25 British women and 34 British children,[[14]](#footnote-14)[[15]](#footnote-15) are primarily detained in either Al Hol or Roj Camps - detention camps which have been described by the UN as “*deplorable and inhumane.*”[[16]](#footnote-16) Reprieve has found that in the case of the British women and girls held in the camps, 92% either are children themselves or have children to care for.[[17]](#footnote-17)

Having finally made their way to Kurdish-controlled territories, many of these women and children arrived at the camps with serious physical and mental health problems, following the abuse and trauma they suffered under Daesh. For example, one woman and her infant child entered the camp starving, having been enslaved for years following a forced marriage. This woman was so frail she struggled to walk unaided and there are continuing concerns about her unmanaged post-traumatic stress disorder.[[18]](#footnote-18)

Despite the abuse and trauma they have suffered, none of the women and children have been able to access appropriate psychosocial care to address this trauma, and this is worsened by the conditions in the camps which create a particular strain on women and children. For example, one woman who was anaemic and ill upon entering the camp, was unable to secure formula for her new-born baby and therefore resorted to breastfeeding despite the serious toll this took on her own health and the lack of sufficient vitamins her milk could provide for her child. Being unable to provide for her child in this way took a significant psychological toll on her.

There have also been numerous reports of women and children dying from tuberculosis and treatable diseases.[[19]](#footnote-19) One such case in the baby of Shamima Begum, who died of a pneumonia soon after birth in Camp Roj.[[20]](#footnote-20) Shamima had just escaped after years in warzone in which she lost two other children.

This struggle to survive worsens throughout winter, when the temperature drops below freezing, and fires which have killed children are common in the camp due to kerosene heaters that are used for warmth in the highly flammable tents.[[21]](#footnote-21) In one incident, the tent next to one of Reprieve’s clients caught fire. One of her children was unable to escape and would have burned to death had it not been for the help of an onlooker.[[22]](#footnote-22)

1. **The significant risk of further exploitation and re-trafficking**

Reprieve has found that at least 63% of British women detained in NES may be victims of trafficking.[[23]](#footnote-23) Subsequent detention without access to rehabilitation and support leads to the women and girls in NES being re-traumatized and may heighten their vulnerability to re-trafficking.[[24]](#footnote-24)

The women and girls in NES are already inherently at risk of re-trafficking, due to their extreme vulnerability arising from previous experiences of human rights violations and the personal situations that made them vulnerable to such abuses in the first place. In many of these cases, individuals might not even realise they are victims of exploitation or human trafficking because they are not yet able to recognise their own exploitation by virtue of their conditioning and traumatisation.

Since many families in the UK cannot provide their loved ones in camps in NES with funds without risk of criminal prosecution, women in the camp are forced to rely on the goodwill of the camp officials and other residents for their survival, protection and basic needs. This renders women and children vulnerable to further exploitation and possible re-trafficking by Daesh factions operating outside and inside the camps, as Daesh seeks to reassert itself in the region (see for example the fall of Ain Issa[[25]](#footnote-25) and the ISIS cells re-emerging in and around that part of the country[[26]](#footnote-26)).

These women and children are also uniquely reliant on the already overstretched Kurdish authorities, creating ever more unequal power dynamics and placing them at heightened risk of exploitation.

1. ***The punitive approach of detaining women and girls in the camps indefinitely disproportionately impacts women and children and undermines the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in this conflict setting***
2. **Refusals to repatriate**

Despite being vulnerable to a range of harms due to their gender, age, lived experiences under Daesh, and precarious situation in the camps, 57 governments have refused to repatriate or to assist their nationals detained in NES. [[27]](#footnote-27) This approach ignores the findings by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (SR SUMEX) and the SRCT that repatriation from NES is a positive implementation of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017).[[28]](#footnote-28)

A blanket approach to non-repatriation has a disproportionate impact on women and children and fails to take into account the individual circumstances of women and girls. For example, the British Government has relied on harmful stereotypes that all women and girls who were “co-located” with Daesh pose a threat to national security, even where there is evidence that they were victims of trafficking and exploitation.

Reprieve has had sight of the decision letters in respect of seven women, where the UK government has refused to repatriate them.[[29]](#footnote-29) Far from considering requests for assistance on a case-by-case basis, the UK Government uses identical language in each letter, providing no evidence that the individual circumstances of each woman have been considered, and using the same stock phrase in each letter, that *“The Government assesses that [X] is a threat to national security having travelled of her own volition to join a proscribed terrorist organisation”.[[30]](#footnote-30)*

In no decision letter about repatriation that Reprieve has seen does the UK government attempt to substantiate its claim that a woman travelled of her own volition. This is despite the fact that of the adult women who Reprieve is aware have requested repatriation, at least four were under the age of 18 at the time they travelled to Syria[[31]](#footnote-31) and in spite of the clear evidence have been shared with the government that several women were trafficked or coerced into travelling.[[32]](#footnote-32) This includes one woman who was refused repatriation on the basis that she “travelled on her own volition” who in reality was taken to Syria by her abusive partner who had subjected her to coercive control for over a decade. Despite evidence of this in her medical and social services records, no such analysis was included in the decision to refuse to repatriate her and deny her all consular assistance.[[33]](#footnote-33)

This blanket stigmatisation of women and girls has recently been taken to the extreme by the current UK government. In November 2020, the Foreign Secretary denied consular assistance to a critically ill infant girl in NES who, according to a remote medical assessment, is at “*risk of pneumonia, permanent scarring of her lungs and possible respiratory failure due to her untreated respiratory issues*”.[[34]](#footnote-34) This girl, along with her grandmother who was at “*short term risk [of] death from either low blood sugar…or coma from a hyperosmolar state*” was also denied even a basic “proof of life check” on the basis that “*judgments should not made about the national security risk an individual poses based on their gender or age*”.[[35]](#footnote-35) This refusal to take into account gender and age when making decisions about consular assistance raises serious concerns that the UK government is disregarding the specific needs of women and girls in this conflict setting.

1. **Indiscriminate citizenship-stripping**

As with the refusal to repatriate, citizenships deprivations have disproportionately targeted women as individuals with the least resources and power to escape Daesh. When the UK government began its policy of citizenship-stripping in 2016,[[36]](#footnote-36) it targeted only those individuals still in Syria, and these were more likely to be the most vulnerable. The UNCTED has found that women were far less able to escape Daesh and as a result only around five per cent of women who travelled to Syria and Iraq have returned.[[37]](#footnote-37)

The UNHCHR has highlighted how citizenship stripping particularly undermines the protection of the rights of women and girls, “*arbitrary deprivation of nationality has particularly negative effects on the human rights of women…. because it heightens the risk that they may become exposed to violence or human trafficking*.”[[38]](#footnote-38) This is because citizenship is a “gateway right”[[39]](#footnote-39) and its deprivation is intrinsically linked to risks of exploitation. The right to nationality is understood as a fundamental one because it affects a range of other human rights, including, but not limited to, the right to movement, education, health, family life and an adequate standard of living.[[40]](#footnote-40)

As with the refusal to repatriate their nationals, the decisions of states to strip women and girls of their citizenship have relied on the same harmful stereotypes that all women and girls who were “co-located” with Daesh pose a threat to national security, even where there is evidence of their abuse and exploitation.

For example, Shamima Begum was groomed and recruited at the age of 15. On arrival in Syria she was forced into marriage and domestic servitude. She had multiple pregnancies in the context of forced marriages and lost two children. When she arrived in the camps in NES she was denied access to counsel and any meaningful contact with anyone outside of the camps. Shamima gave birth with journalists knocking on the door of the room where she was in labour. Shortly after giving birth, she was interviewed by a male war correspondent who asked her to recall traumatic scenes, including recounting the sight of severed heads on the streets. Throughout the interview there was an armed guard in the room and a few days later, she was given a document by another male journalist who filmed her as she was given the news that the British government had stripped her of her citizenship.

It appears that no gender analysis was done to establish Shamima Begum’s condition at the time she was stripped of her citizenship, nor consideration given to the circumstances of her trafficking into Syria aged 15, her experiences of abuse, imprisonment, rape, trauma and bereavement as a child in Syria under Daseh, and no thought to her situation in the camp as a young woman who had just escaped a warzone and given birth to and lost her third child.

Since then, Shamima’s case has been covered extensively in the press, but to date - 26 months after the first media reports - she has received no specialised treatment for the trauma she has experienced, has had no meaningful access to counsel, and has had no free contact with her family or others who might be able to support her. Instead, she has been stripped of her citizenship on the grounds that she represents a danger with no meaningful assessment done of her specific circumstances and the very particular abuses she has faced in light of her age, gender and specific vulnerabilities.

Reprieve’s investigations suggest Shamima’s case is far from unique and this indiscriminate use of citizenship deprivation has disproportionately targeted women and girls. The majority of British adults in NES who have been deprived of their citizenship (68%) are women. This has included at least four women who travelled to Syria as children.[[41]](#footnote-41)

In a number of cases, women and their families were not notified that they had been deprived of their citizenship, with the Home Office serving deprivation notices “to file”. One woman that Reprieve is assisting only began to suspect that she had been deprived of her citizenship when she was told by the Red Cross that “her passport had been cancelled”.[[42]](#footnote-42) As set out above, Shamima Begum was first told that she had been deprived of her citizenship live on ITV news.[[43]](#footnote-43)

1. **Family separations**

The refusal to repatriate mothers together with their children has been highlighted as a particularly egregious violation of the right to family life of mothers and their children by the SRCT and SR SUMEX[[44]](#footnote-44) and the Syria IICI.[[45]](#footnote-45) In the case of the UK, the British government has adopted a policy of non-repatriation of any British adult who travelled to Syria and “*co-located*” with Daesh,[[46]](#footnote-46) agreeing only to consider repatriating children, provided the children “*do not pose a security threat*”.[[47]](#footnote-47)

The suggestion of family separation is particularly traumatic and problematic from a gender and best interests of the child perspective. An expert report on this issue (included as an annex below) in the context of NES by Professor Nimisha Patel notes that the separation of a child from his/ her primary carer can have a range of emotional, physical and cognitive effects, and “*can be experienced as cruel and inhuman and can have significant, severe and long-term adverse psychological consequences; and cause severe psychological suffering of both the child and their parent*.” As a result, any decision to separate children from their primary caregiver must be made by “*an interdisciplinary team of appropriately qualified health and social care professionals*” experienced in making such assessments and should only be considered as a last resort.[[48]](#footnote-48) In the circumstances in which these women and children find themselves, it is beyond doubt that no such assessment can be meaningfully done.

**III. What measures would you recommend to help ensure sustainable, comprehensive, and consistent attention to gender equality and the human rights of women in conflict and post conflict settings in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms?**

Reprieve believes the international community is not only failing to protect and promote women and girls detained in NES, many of whom are survivors of gender-based violence, but many home states are subjecting them to further gender-based harms by refusing to repatriate them, denying them access to humanitarian assistance and depriving them of their citizenship.

Reprieve recommends that through its various mechanisms, the UN Human Rights Council:

* Continues to employ its mechanisms including the Special Procedures to advance international scrutiny on the obligations of states towards their citizens detained in NES.
* Affirms that the identification of survivors of gender-based violence cannot be meaningfully conducted whilst women and girls remain detained in NES, in inhumane and degrading conditions.
* Calls on states to provide effective consular assistance to their nationals detained in NES to ensure their safety and wellbeing, in a way that takes into account the specific needs of women and girls. This includes the provision of the necessary funds to purchase food, medicine and clothing.
* Calls on states to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of families in NES back to their home countries, to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking are identified and protected.
* Calls on states to ensure thatnational security assessments are both gender and trauma informed and take into account a child’s best interests.
* Calls on states to reinstate the citizenship of all its nationals detained in NES and to end the discriminatory policy of citizenship-stripping, a practice that has disproportionately targeted women and girls.
* Calls on states to review problematic policies that gender and age are irrelevant considerations for national security assessments, and to bring all policies in line with the gender, trauma, and vulnerability-informed approach necessitated by international standards.
* Calls on states to review all policies that promote or encourage family separation and ensure that any decision to separate children from their primary caregiver must be made by an interdisciplinary team of appropriately qualified health and social care professionals experienced in making such assessments and should only be considered as a last resort.
* Affirms that all states have a positive obligation to act with due diligence wherever they suspect their national has been a victim of gender-based violence, and to provide their nationals with the necessary protection and right to a remedy.
* Affirms that all assessments and investigations should be trauma-informed and victim-centred, to avoid re-traumatisation, and confirm that these processes should be conducted by appropriately qualified experts rather than being led or driven by law enforcement.
* Calls on states to ensure that all survivors of gender-based violence are given the right to effective and adequate remedies for the violations they have suffered, including the provision of information and assistance on available legal proceedings and the opportunity to apply for compensation, and ensure that these rights are guaranteed on an equal basis irrespective of gender or age.

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2. Call for written submissions: Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Trafficking/Pages/implement-non-punishment-principle.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Shapiro, L. R., & Maras, M. (2019). Women’s Radicalization to Religious Terrorism: An Examination of ISIS Cases in the United States. Studies in Conflict & Terrorism,42(1), 88-119, p. 6, as cited by Emma van den Aakster in “ISIS, Radicalization and the Gendered Online Jihad”, 22 May 2020, available at: <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/05/22/isis-radicalization-and-the-gendered-online-jihad/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Professor Mia Bloom, “How ISIS Uses Sexual Predators’ Techniques to Lure Western Women (Podcast),” available at: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/how-isis-uses-sexual-predators-techniques-to-lure-western-women-podcast/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Mia Bloom. Lecture. "Women, Peace and Security." INAF 587. Georgetown University. March 2, 2015, referenced by Ashley Binetti in “A New Frontier: Human Trafficking and ISIS’s Recruitment of Women from the West, Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security”, Pg. 3 available at: <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Human-Trafficking-and-ISISs-Recruitment-of-Women-from-the-West.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. At least 63% of British women were transported to Syria as children and/or were victims of domestic abuse in the UK [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Information held on file at Reprieve [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Information held on file at Reprieve [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Bachelet urges States to help their nationals stranded in Syrian camps”, 22 June 2020, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25986> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. At least 63% of adult British women detained in NES have reported that they were subjected to rape and sexual assault, forced marriage, and/or forced domestic servitude. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Information held on file at Reprieve [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Information held on file at Reprieve [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, “Gender Dimensions of the Response to Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Research Perspectives” CTED Trends Report, February 2019 (**UN CTED Trends Report 2019**), available at: <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Feb_2019_CTED_Trends_Report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. The Egmont Institute, “From Bad to Worse: The fate of European Foreign Fighters and families detained in Syria, one year after the Turkish offensive”, Thomas Renard, Rik Coolsaet, 28 October 2020, available at: <https://www.egmontinstitute.be/from-bad-to-worse-the-fate-of-european-foreign-fighters-and-families-detained-in-syria/> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. The Egmont Institute, “From Bad to Worse: The fate of European Foreign Fighters and families detained in Syria, one year after the Turkish offensive”, Thomas Renard, Rik Coolsaet, 28 October 2020, available at: <https://www.egmontinstitute.be/from-bad-to-worse-the-fate-of-european-foreign-fighters-and-families-detained-in-syria/> and additional information held on file at Reprieve. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
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17. Information held on file at Reprieve [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Information held on file at Reprieve [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. UN News, “UN report on Syria conflict highlights inhumane detention of women and children”, 11 September 2019, available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1046102>; MSF, “Women and children continue to suffer in northeast Syria’s Al Hol camp”, 16 May 2019, available at: https://www.msf.org/women-and-children-continue-suffer-northeast-syria’s-al-hol-camp-syria. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
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21. The Telegraph, “Dispatch: Inside Syria's 'Camp of Death' where British mothers and children struggle to survive in legal limbo”, 14 February 2019, available at: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/11/dispatch-inside-syrias-camp-death-british-mothers-children-struggle/. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Information held on file at Reprieve [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. At least 63% of adult British women have been subjected to sexual and other forms of exploitation and report that they were either under the age of 18 when they travelled and/or were coerced into travelling and/or were kept and moved within Syria against their will, information held on file at Reprieve. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
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