



**SENTENCING TREATING AND REINTEGRATING.**  
**HOW TO MANAGE THE RETURN OF MINORS FROM IRAQ AND SYRIA?**

Closed seminar  
Paris, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**BRIEF ACTIVITY REPORT**

This half-day closed seminar brought together different actors and stakeholders involved in helping reintegrate children returning from zones of conflict, in this particular case from Iraq and Syria.

The sessions were split into four topics;

- Inventory: Who are the European minor returnees?
- Judicial Process,
- Psychological Care,
- and Educational Assistance

More often than not this concerned children who were taken with their parents from where they live in Europe to Iraq and Syria where their parents were involved in fighting with groups recognised as terrorists. Various experts; legal, medical and educational as well as policy and technical were gathered to present and exchange on this issue.

The situation is very traumatic and difficult for these children. Most of them are under five years old and have lost members of their family, often both their parents. They do not always have the ability to communicate yet, as they are so young and in addition to that they are usually suffering from deep psychological stress.

In this case the numbers are very small however, in the whole of France currently about 35 children are in this situation, yet the issue raises more in-depth questions about psychological traumas and how our authorities are set up to deal with them. This includes children that have perhaps had traumatic experiences or who have lost a family member, what kind of help they receive and for how long and how our societies are adapted to integrate these people into the wider society. So one side of this debate is about the social welfare state.

There is also further questions about international security and rising terrorist attacks and threats in recent years, in Europe and on an international scale.

These questions aim to be addressed further in a follow-up activity with the two organisations.