

15-20 November 2021

“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”

Workshop Programme

Alternative pathways to violent extremism: Supporting the reintegration and mental health of children accused and convicted of terrorism-related offences in Iraq

Date	Thursday, 18th November 2021	
Timing	13:00 - 14:30 Geneva	14:00-15:30 Cairo, Amman, Beirut
Organiser(s)	Simone Cicolin	
Institution	Terre des hommes	
Type of Workshop	Panel discussion	
Topics	Systemic racism and the disproportionate criminalization of children from indigenous, ethnic and other minority groups in justice systems across the globe. Tackling violence within child justice systems and ensuring child friendly approaches for child victims, offenders, and witnesses.	
Region	MENA	
Language	Arabic	

Abstract

The panel will address the support that children and youth accused of terrorism related offences need in Iraq once they enter in contact with the justice system and they are deprived of their liberty, the challenges and success experienced in supporting their reintegration back in the community and the provision of MHPSS services. The presentations will provide an overview on this issue in Iraq and then focus on the services and methodologies developed by Tdh in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice in the current access to justice program. The interventions highlight in particular the strategies to overcome some of the challenges met at the field level and entry points to strengthen the current child justice system. The structure of the discussion will be the following:

- Introduction
- Hopes and challenges for children and youth deprived of liberty in Iraq: an overview on the future perspectives and new challenges for the reformatory schools in the rehabilitation and reintegration for children convicted for terrorism related offences
- Children’s rights at risk: the protection of the child offender and the challenges posed by the Anti-terrorism law in Iraq

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- Towards a sustainable reintegration of the children and youth convicted for terrorism related offences: the support provided by the aftercare department of the Ministry of Justice in Iraq.
- Strengthening the resilience and mental health of children and youth convicted for terrorism related offences while in detention. Fundamental steps to prepare a sustainable reintegration.
- Protecting the children’s right during reintegration: Legal aid after release for children and youth convicted of terrorism related offences.

Three key take-aways and one output of the session

- Exchange of practices on the collaboration between government and NGOs for the reintegration of children accused and convicted of terrorism-related offences.
- Challenges and entry points in the provision of mental health and reintegration services for children accused and convicted of terrorism-related offences in Iraq.
- Recommendations and strategies on how to support the reintegration of this group of children accused and convicted of terrorism-related offences.

Output: Raise awareness and identify better ways to integrate child protection services for children in contact with the law because of terrorism related offences.

Objectives

- Highlight the challenges faced by juvenile institutions and justice stakeholders and propose practical strategies to support the reintegration of children and youth in the counter terrorism context.
- Raise awareness on the issues related to the protection of children in contact with the law because of terrorism related offences in post conflict contexts.

Expected outcomes

- Provide recommendations and exchange ideas on strategies to support reintegration of children convicted of terrorism related offences in Iraq.

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- Identify better ways to integrate services for children deprived of liberty and provide a comprehensive response to their needs during reintegration.

Speakers

- **Moderator**

- **Simone Cicolin**

- She is Access to Justice Technical Coordinator in Iraq. Engaged and dedicated professional working in international development and humanitarian contexts since 2013, she has significant experience in child protection, juvenile justice and migration. Her areas of expertise include but are not limited to program management and coordination, capacity building, case management for access to justice, partnership building, project development. In her career she has worked with donor agencies, local and international NGOs and the UN covering different positions in the delivery of services to vulnerable groups in her home country and then in the management of programs, provision of technical support in her international experiences.

- **Panelists**

- 1. **Mr. Kamel Ameen Hashim**

- General Manager of Juveniles reformatory Department at Ministry of Justice, Iraq.

- 1. **Mr. Aqeel Muhsin Khamees**

- Aftercare Department Manager at the Ministry of Justice, Iraq.

- 2. **Ms. Suad Abdulwahab Mohammed Al dabagh**

- Juvenile Judge, Iraq.

- 3. **Ms. Rand Hadit Hamid**

- Clinical psychologist with experience in the humanitarian and development sector within the juvenile justice system. She contributed to and led large scale projects working in hospitals, juvenile facilities and in the communities with IDPs, children in conflict and contact with the law.

- Her areas expertise include management, capacity building and technical support to staff and partners. As a deputy project manager and MHPSS

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technical referent for Terre des Hommes (Tdh) Foundation in Iraq, she is responsible for the implementation and technical steering a programme supporting the mental health and reintegration of children and youth in contact with the law, deprived of liberty and accused of terrorism related offences.

4. Ms. Hasnaa Hasan Faraj

She is the access to justice Project manager at Tdh in Baghdad managing one of the largest projects that provides different services to children and youth in contact with the law. She was born, lives, graduated and works in Baghdad-Iraq. She completed her studies at the college of law, Baghdad University 2006, and started working in the humanitarian aid sector in 2008. So far she has worked in international and national NGO to assist the beneficiaries and children to access their basic rights like (health, education, legal and protection). She has extensive and comprehensive experience in legal aid, general protection and child protection. Her main life goal is to ensure the respect of the law and equal access to justice to all beneficiaries.