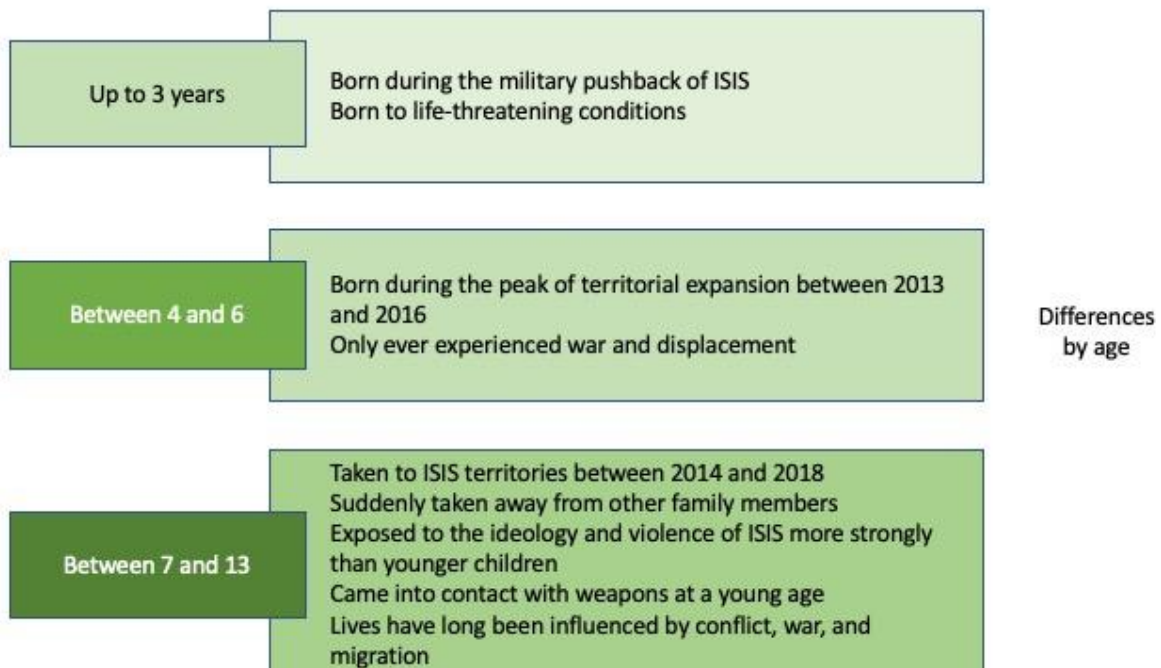
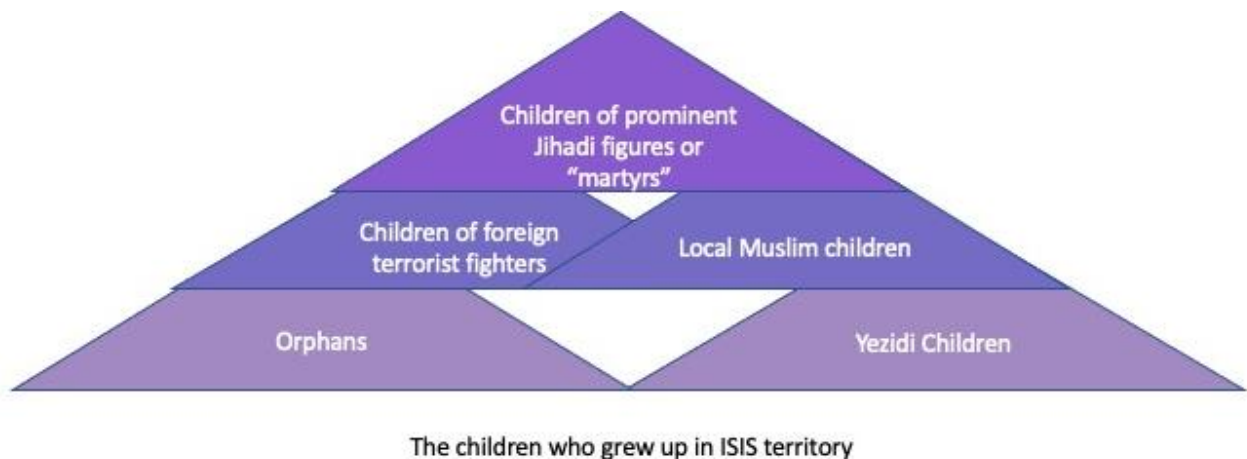


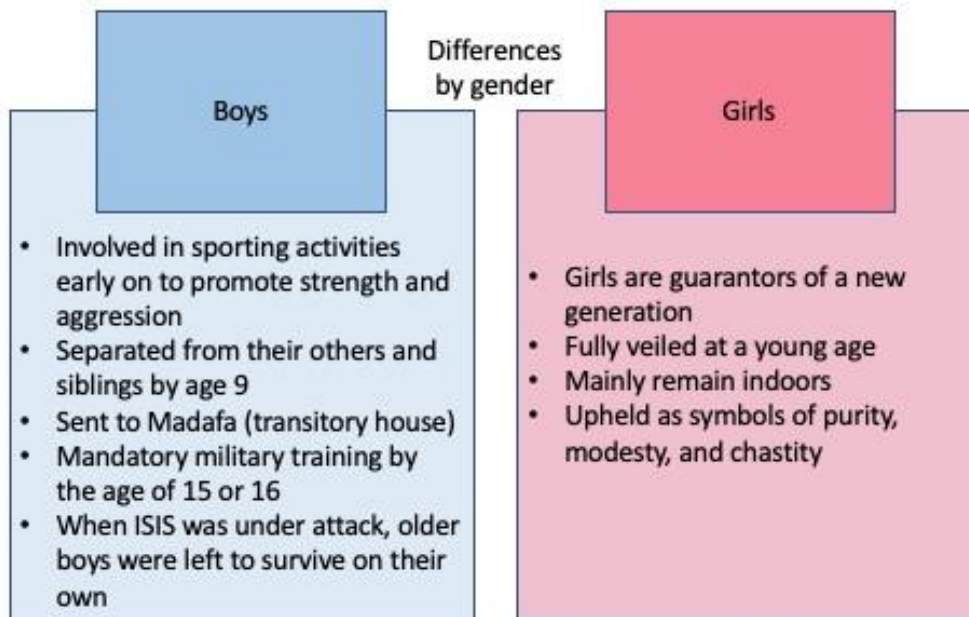
Considerations for risk assessment and management with women and children returning from Iraq and Syria

What is a Risk Assessment?

A systematic analysis to **determine the level of potential threat or harm** to society, others, or the self and **mitigation strategies required to reduce this potential threat or harm**. Risk assessments have historically focused on those who are already engaged with terrorism to inform sentencing, rehabilitation, and reintegration. However, risk assessments for those with potential for recidivism or potential for radicalizing others **could be used to prevent violent radicalization**.

A complex interplay of **multiple personal and socio-ecological push factors, pull factors, and vulnerabilities** define risk. Risk assessment and management of women and children returning from Iraq and Syria must **consider the diversity of profiles and experiences** present.





Women of ISIS

Reasons for joining:

- Prior trauma and adversity
- Following others
- Quest for significance, purpose

Factors contributing to ongoing support:

- True belief
- Loyalty through husbands
- Ongoing threats in home country
- Strategic gains

How can “Trauma-Informed” care help with risk assessment and management approaches?

A “Trauma-Informed” lens asks what has happened or is happening to an individual that might be contributing to their behavior. It acknowledges that behaviors do not always accurately communicate feelings, intentions, and threats, and seeks to understand the unmet needs that might underlie behaviors.

Trauma-Informed care posits that **protective factors can reduce adverse impacts of trauma, building resilience can help buffer adverse effects of trauma, considering context and unmet needs in interventions will effectively reduce unwanted behaviors, and comprehensively addressing hurt early on helps to reduce the likelihood of an individual hurting others.** Placing emphasis on developing an understanding of meaning and context in relation to an individual’s risk during case formulation, a critical aspect of risk assessment that “bridges” assessment and management, facilitates the process of hypothesis testing, reflection, and ongoing assessment/revision.

Taking a **comprehensive, multi-dimensional, balanced approach** to understanding risks, needs, and resilience factors across the social ecology in addition to identifying barriers to engagement in interventions is a pragmatic **framework for assessment:**

Risks	Needs	Protective factors	Barriers to Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of harm to self or others Risks to the individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Cultural Relational Psychological Practical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual strengths Social connectedness Community resilience mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical Cognitive Emotional Structural