

# Returning FTFs

Foreign terrorist fighters



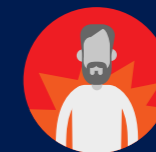
## Why are they coming back?



Disillusioned / remorseful



Still driven by ideology, want better living conditions (opportunistic)



Sent to carry out an attack (or feel they can do more for the cause in Europe than in Syria/Iraq)



Captured and returned unwillingly

## FTFs in numbers

**42 000+** Foreign terrorist fighters from **120+** countries joined terrorist organisations between **2011** and **2016**, of which **+/-5 000** came from Europe. Departures peaked in **2015** and have decreased since then.

## Who are the returnees?

Different nationalities, ethnicities, ages and genders  
 All have some level of trauma and emotional / psychological issues

## Key actions to consider

Overall approach



A tailored approach for each returnee



Establish coordination mechanisms across government agencies



Immediate risk assessment



Multi-agency case management



(Local) Communication strategy



Intervention action plan

## Scenarios



### Prosecution

- Prioritise resocialisation & reintegration during prison / probation
- Train specialised staff
- Tailored prison placement & transfer options



### Non-prosecution / resocialisation

- Build relationship & support returnee's family if possible
- Information and / or training for everyone in contact with returnees
- Holistic approach to mentoring, (mental health) treatment & practical support



### Children

- Focus on normalisation and resocialisation as soon as possible
- Develop an overview of expertise focused on child trauma & indoctrination
- Train first-line practitioners working with returnee children

Adults



### Men

- Higher risk of combat experience and skills
- Often involved in and exposed to war atrocities
- Variety of roles within the terrorist-held territories



### Women

- Family role and mother to future soldiers
- Driven by sense of empowerment and their role in building the 'caliphate'
- Involved in recruitment, indoctrination of children and others



### Children

- Intense ideological indoctrination through education and socialisation
- Recruited for combat and other violent activities from age 9
- Severely traumatised