

LIBERTY

RETURNEES FROM IRAQ AND SYRIA: A RIGHTS BASED RESPONSE.

MARCH 2020

A Policy and Campaigns Officer presented a paper on people who have travelled to Iraq and Syria (PTIS), the Government's current approach to them and the significant risks it presents to their human rights. The paper invited Council to endorse the position that the Government should allow – and in as many cases as possible, actively facilitate – the return of UK nationals who have left the UK to join the so-called Islamic State.

The paper recommended that Liberty should retain existing policy positions on the issues of citizenship stripping and the use of administrative orders (such as control orders and Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIMs)) while developing a new position on the return and/or repatriation of PTIS.

Council endorsed the principle. Members raised issues around the policy position potentially being too narrow in just referring to Islamic State and the potential problems of bringing forward trials in the UK. It was agreed to broaden the position to all those who had left the UK to travel to Iraq and Syria. It was also noted that this is a controversial issue even among those present, and one that brings a potential reputational risk. However, the issue is important and worthwhile, and Liberty could handle the risk.