

TRAFFICKING TERROR

HOW MODERN SLAVERY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE FUND TERRORISM

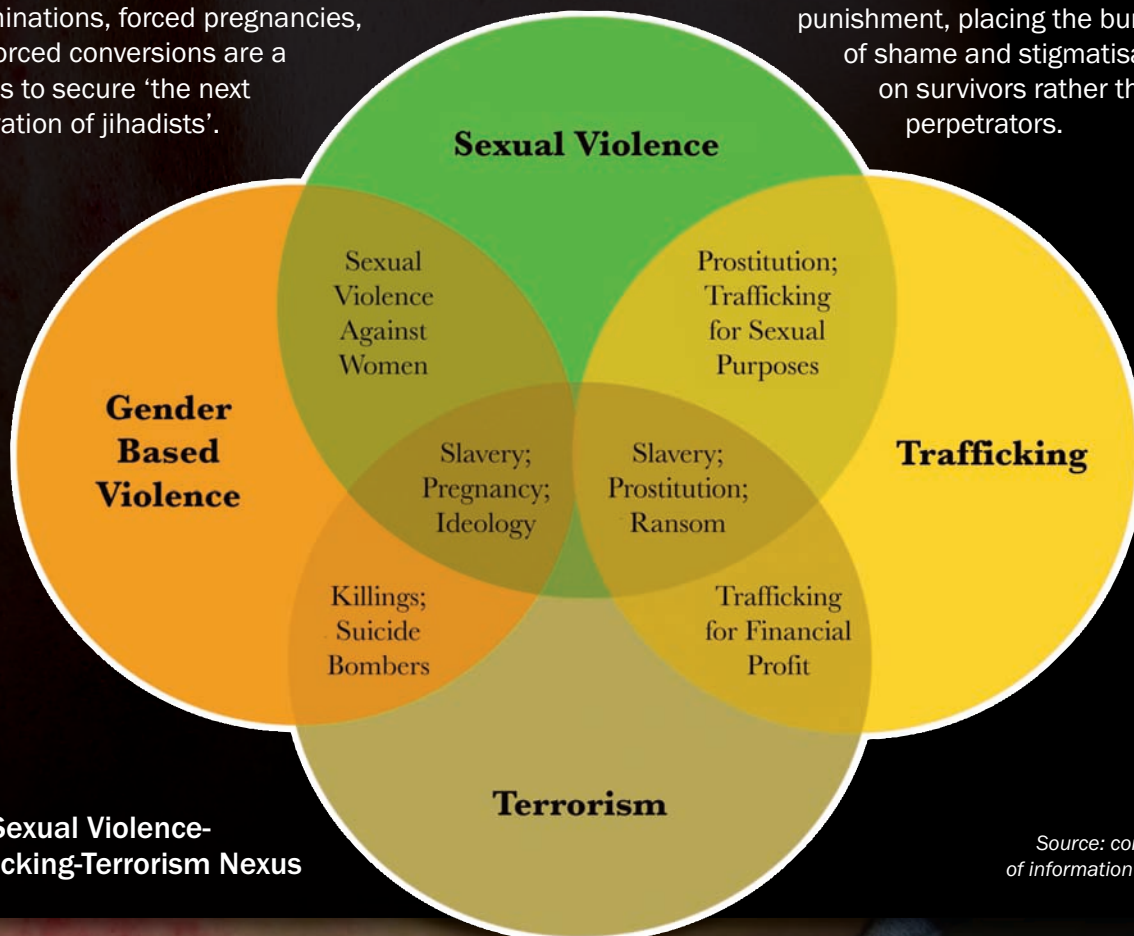
Nikita Malik

Modern day slavery presents a plethora of benefits to terrorist groups by attracting, retaining, mobilising and rewarding fighters.

- Terrorists use sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, and forced marriage, to bolster recruits, galvanize fighters, and, in the case of Islamist groups, punish *kuffar* (disbelievers). Propaganda on sexual slavery serves as an incentive for new recruits and foreign fighters, with the promise of wives and sex slaves acting as a 'pull factor'.
- There is a fixation on the part of Islamic State (IS) fighters with the concept of *kuffar* (disbelievers), used to dehumanise ethnic groups so that barbaric acts can be condoned. Religious elements are infused into sexual violence practices to skirt around the moral wrongdoing of rape. Forced inseminations, forced pregnancies, and forced conversions are a means to secure 'the next generation of jihadists'.

Boko Haram fighters have also tried to impregnate women with the purpose of creating the next generation of fighters, mirroring Islamic State practices.

- Forced marriages and conversions to Islam are more common in Boko Haram than in Islamic State. Some abducted victims have adopted Boko Haram's ideology as their own, refusing to leave the group.
- National laws on sexual violence within countries where extremist groups are present (Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Nigeria) allow rapists to marry their victims to avoid prosecution and punishment, placing the burden of shame and stigmatisation on survivors rather than perpetrators.



The Sexual Violence-Trafficking-Terrorism Nexus

Source: compilation of information in report

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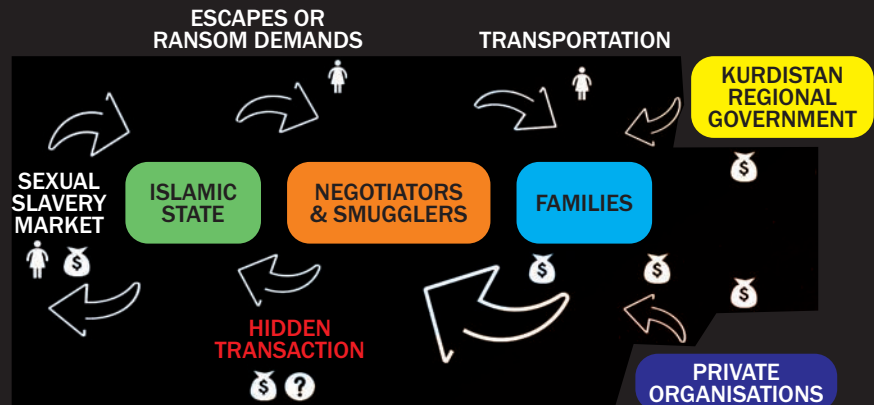
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There are clear links between terrorists, criminals, and traffickers.

- Terrorists use organised crime tactics such as money laundering, migrant smuggling, drug and firearms trafficking, and human trafficking. Sexual markets in territory controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and Syria have been common, as has the use of human trafficking marketplaces in Libya.

- A clear driver behind sexual trafficking is financial gain. The most contentious issue revolves around whether smugglers or negotiators pay IS directly. While terrorists seem to commit sexual violence for ideological reasons, ransom payments point to a new source of revenue for terrorism that is directly linked to the use of sexual violence.



Financial flows to Islamic State resulting from the sexual slavery market

Source: compilation of information in report

- Modern slavery provides monetary flows to terrorist organisations such as Islamic State and Boko Haram through the sale and re-sale of human bodies, with reports indicating that kidnapping represents \$10-30 million of revenue to IS in 2016.

Routes used by Traffickers



Source: compilation of information in report

- It is possible that as revenues from other streams such as taxation and oil sales decrease, revenue from hostage-taking and ransom, and modern day slavery may increase as IS struggles to sustain its financial reserves.

- Evidence suggests that the link between migrant smuggling and human trafficking is likely to remain in the future, and may grow as more individuals exit IS. Pieces of evidence hint at an awareness amongst terrorist groups of the potential for exploiting smuggling tactics and routes. Since mid-2015, Islamic State has reportedly captured 63 women in Libya and sexually abused them.

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Domestic abuse may overlap with terrorism, but appears to fall outside the UN definition of conflict-related sexual violence, and the use of sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism.

- Among the perpetrators of attacks inspired or connected to Islamic State in Europe and the United States, some have had a history of domestic and sexual violence, alluding to a direct connection between terrorism and domestic physical and/or sexual violence.
- In the UK, laws including the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the Terrorism Act of 2006 should be interpreted more broadly, in order to adequately reflect the spectrum of crimes committed by individuals using sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism, defined under United Nations Security Resolution 2242 (2015).
- The nexus between sexual violence, trafficking, and terrorism is underexplored. Statistical data and testimonies to understand how sexual violence and modern slavery fund terrorism are inconsistent or unavailable. In order to bolster its efforts to counter modern slavery, this report recommends that the British government lead in the creation of a

DFID and the FCO must pressure Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Nigeria to outlaw sexual violence.

An International Legal Task Force to gather evidence on sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism must be created.

The International Legal Task Force must focus evidence gathering efforts on the nexus between sexual violence, trafficking, and terrorism.

Sexual violence must be prosecuted as a tactic of terrorism.

Human trafficking connected to terrorist groups should be treated as aiding and abetting terrorism.

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner must expand its remit to examine Libya as a hub of trafficking and terrorism.

There must be more collaborative action between different agencies to tackle the nexus between sexual violence, trafficking, and terrorism.

Victims of trafficking and terrorism will require a more nuanced approach regarding rehabilitation, remittances, and care.

Children born in Islamic State must be given proper documentation.

dedicated legal unit in the form of an International Legal Task Force to work with NGOs, charities, and embassies on the ground to better track the overlap between sexual violence, trafficking groups, and terrorist organisations. Special attention must be given to information drawn from the body of evidence emerging from victims of sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism, that can hint at the level of financial revenues implicit in transactions between traffickers and terrorists.

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The report considers three cases studies in which sexual violence is prominent: Islamic State and the Yazidi community, Boko Haram, and unconnected cases of recruits to Islamic State from Europe and the United States with a background of domestic violence.

Victim 2, age not disclosed, Iraq

Victim 2 was lured by a family friend into IS. IS fighters separated men from women and later forced the girls into buses. When they arrived at their destination, IS fighters forced every girl to recite the *shahada* (Muslim profession of faith). If the girls refused to recite it, they would be beaten. Victim 2 was able to keep her phone, but when an IS member found it, they stripped her, withheld food and water from her for three days, and beat her daily. One of the friends of Victim 2 committed suicide and Victim 2 was forced to identify her. Later on, Victim 2 attempted suicide. One of the guards took her to the hospital and raped her when she was under the influence of sedatives. Victim 2 could hear her sister being raped in the next room. Victim 2 was told that she was being raped for being a Yazidi, an infidel. Victim 2 reveals that fighters waited for instructions for their actions from *emirs* (religious leaders of the group), higher up in the chain of command.

Source: Authority of the House of Lords, 'Sexual Violence in Conflict: A War Crime', *House of Lords* (2016), pp. 132-134.

Victim 6, 19 years old, Nigeria

Victim 6 was married and had children when she was abducted by Boko Haram fighters. When one of the fighters tried to rape her, Victim 6 told him that she was married. He ignored her. Victim 6 feels ashamed and cheated and does not want to tell her husband what happened. Victim 6 was abducted together with another single woman, who is afraid that having been raped will hurt her chances of finding a husband in the future.

Source: "Those Terrible Weeks in their Camp" Boko Haram Violence against Women and Girls in Northeast Nigeria', *Human Rights Watch* (2014), available at: www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/nigeria1014web.pdf, last visited: 16 June 2017, p. 34.

Mohammed Lahouiaej-Bouhel, 31, Nice attack 2016

Lahouiaej-Bouhel was married with three children. He was thrown out of his house in 2014 for beating his wife. They subsequently divorced. His psychiatrist said that he exhibited violent tendencies toward his family. Lahouiaej-Bouhel had a violent record and was sentenced to prison for assault with weapon. He also had convictions for domestic violence and threatening behaviour.

Source: 'Attack on Nice: who was Mohammed Lahouiaej-Bouhel', *BBC*, 19 August 2016, available at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-36801763, last visited: 13 July 2017; Saltman, E. M., 'Orlando and Nice attacks: Domestic violence links to radicalisation', *BBC*, 22 July 2016, www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-36861840, last visited: 13 July 2017; Samuel, H., and Morgan., T., 'Who was the Nice terror attack suspect? Everything we know so far about Mohammed Lahouiaej-Bouhel', *The Telegraph*, 18 July 2016, available at: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/15/who-is-the-nice-terror-attacker-everything-we-know-so-far/, last visited: 12 July 2017.

Rachid Redouane, 30, London Bridge attack 2017

Redouane did not have any terrorist links or a criminal record. He married an Irish national and moved to London in 2012 with her. They had a daughter in 2015. At some point in their relationship, he became more religious, violent, and controlling. They broke up in 2017 because she was fed up with his controlling behaviour and his desire to impose his beliefs on their daughter. Redouane wanted their daughter to stop eating pork and to dress in Islamic veils. His wife reportedly hated him because he beat and humiliated her. When she refused to convert to Islam, she moved to a protective unit for victims of domestic violence.

Source: Kennedy, D., et al., 'Rachid Redouane was a jokey baker who became a killer in the London Bridge terror attack', *The Times*, 8 June 2017, available at: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rachid-redouane-was-a-jokey-baker-who-became-a-killer-in-the-london-bridge-terror-attack-xslbqk6q0>, last visited: 8 June 2017; O'Driscoll, S., 'Terrorist used Irish marriage to enter the UK', *The Times*, 7 June 2017, available at: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/terrorist-used-marriage-in-ireland-to-enter-the-uk-mtt0ks2nz>, last visited: 13 July 2017.