**How social responses impact the reintegration and identity formation of Yezidi children and adolescents following genocide, sexual enslavement, and militarization under ISIS?**

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**Background**: The Yezidi community, traditionally endogamous, has adapted cultural norms to support returnees after the 2014 genocide, which resulted in high PTSD rates among the formerly captured but and the broader community.

**Objective**: To explore the reintegration experiences of Yezidi youth (children and adolescents) after 4-5 years of captivity.

**Method:** Qualitative data were gathered through ethnographic observation in IDP camps and homes, focus groups, and several in-depth interviews with eight adolescents, all captured at around age 11.

**Results:** Community adaptations, such as welcoming ceremonies and new identities as symbols of hope, facilitate resilience after trauma. Adolescents face significant challenges in identity formation, navigating their sense of self amidst their traumatic experiences and community expectations. Humour serves as an aid in reconnecting, re-establishing trust, and reuniting relationships that have been separated by years of traumatic experiences.

**Conclusion:** The Yezidi community's adaptive strategies foster resilience and provide valuable insights into how social responses can promote healing for survivors of continuous severe trauma. These strategies facilitate re-attachment and the re-establishment of relationships while acknowledging traumas and restoring self-worth, hopes, and dreams to aid in integration. Further research is needed to explore the long-term effects of these adaptive strategies on community resilience, as well as implications for policymakers working with trauma-affected populations.