



## Provisional programme

### **Gender dynamics in violent extremism**

Sunday 25 – Wednesday 28 November 2018 | WP1630

**Understanding how a gender perspective can be integrated into, and strengthen efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism**

Violent extremist groups, armed with modern technologies, have changed the face of global conflicts. They are exploiting today's global connectedness to move information, money, fighters and weapons across states, and into conflict areas. Their growth in influence has been marked by mass displacement, the destruction of health and education systems, gross human rights violations and fractured communities and represent a major threat to global security.

Further, extremist groups mobilise gendered norms and narratives in their governance, control and recruitment. Men and boys face specific risks such as forcible recruitment as combatants or are attacked for not conforming to restrictive notions of masculinity. Women and girls are uniquely and disproportionately affected; extremist groups, for example, have recently targeted girls and women for sexual and gender-based violence including sexual slavery and forced marriage.

In fragile and conflict affected states, attacks on the rights of women and girls, and their access to education, public life and control over their bodies is often an early warning indicator of the spread of radicalization to violence. Moreover, there is a risk that when countries mobilise to confront a terrorist threat, methods may be chosen which limit women's rights and curtail defenders of women's and human rights.

The linkages between gender equality sustainable peace, security and human rights are clear. UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015), for example, calls on states and UN bodies to integrate a gender dimension into all counterterrorism efforts; particularly to conduct gender sensitive research into radicalization to violence and the impact of counterterrorism efforts on women and women's rights in order to develop targeted and evidence-based policies and programmes.

The UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review<sup>1</sup> also notes the important contribution of women to the successful implementation of this strategy and encourages the participation and leadership of women in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism

<sup>1</sup> UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/291

**In association with**



and counter terrorism. Equally, there has been an increased focus by many governmental and non-governmental actors on preventing and countering violent extremism through a range of programmes going beyond the law enforcement and criminal justice processes associated with traditional counterterrorism efforts; this includes work in education, development, conflict prevention, mediation, strategic communications and human rights – women’s rights in particular – and gender equality.

This conference will bring together counter-terrorism and Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism experts (CVE/PVE) alongside Women, Peace and Security (WPS) experts and practitioners as well as policy makers, strategic communications and development practitioners. It will explore the importance of focusing on women’s rights and gender equality in building societies that are conflict resilient and which value positive attributes including fairness, equality, pluralism and the rule of law. It will discuss how understandings of restrictive concepts of masculinity and femininity are being reinforced and utilised in driving violent extremism and CVE/PVE, potentially putting the gender equality agenda at risk. It will also share good practice and innovative approaches in shifting norms and attitudes to promoting gender equality, women’s participation, leadership and empowerment - lessons that can inform national and international responses to preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism, both in the short and long term.

**In partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UN Women**

## Sunday 25 November

1700	Participants arrive
1830	Reception followed by dinner

## Monday 26 November

0800-0845	Breakfast
0900-0930	<b>1. Welcome and introduction</b> <b>Alison Hilliard</b> Programme Director, Wilton Park <b>Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon (video message)</b> Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict; Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London <b>Joanna Roper</b> Special Envoy for Gender Equality, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London <b>Mohammad Naciri</b> UN Women Regional Director for Arab States, Cairo

0930-1045

## 2. Gender equality and violent extremism

A gender lens is important in understanding and addressing violent extremism. Gender norms and identities, specifically masculinities and femininities, are exploited and manipulated by violent extremist and terrorist organizations. This manipulation and use of gendered language reasserting male dominance is a potent driver used by violent extremism groups in their social media and recruitment strategies. At the same time, there is a common narrative that promoting gender equality and women's rights may exacerbate recruitment into violent extremism groups in the short term.

So how critical and challenging is working on CVE/PVE responses from a gender equality and women's rights perspective? Can the promotion of gender equality and women's rights generate short-term spikes in recruitment? Under which conditions may this happen? And, how can a strong focus on human rights – which includes women's rights - be ensured and shape CVE/PVE approaches without generating this backlash?

### **Amel Grami**

Professor, Gender Studies and Islamic Studies, Manouba University, Manouba

### **Jayne Huckerby**

Professor of Law and Inaugural Director of the Duke International Human Rights Clinic, Duke University, Durham

1045-1130

Group photograph followed by tea/coffee

1130-1300

## 3. Empowerment and instrumentalisation: two sides of the same coin?

This session will discuss the use of empowerment narratives to shape the varied and changing roles of women and girls in violent extremism. Some women may be drawn to violent extremism and participate as fighters, plotters, enablers, recruiters, or be willing or unwilling supporters. Others play a role in preventing and countering violent extremism with women often the first to notice changes and shifts in their environment that may be indicative of the rise of violent extremist ideology. Other women and women-led organisations play an increasingly recognised role in preventing and resolving violence as mothers, activists and mediators.

To what extent then are empowerment narratives shaping the engagement of women and girls in violent extremism? Is instrumentalisation at the core of these narratives? Is there a tension between programming for peace and programming to address violent extremism? And, how can CVE and CT efforts avoid securitizing and instrumentalising women and women's groups?

### **Laila Bokhari**

Fellow, John F Kennedy School of Government, Boston; Former Deputy Minister, Oslo

### **Nelly Lahoud**

Senior International Security Fellow, New America, Washington, DC

1300-1400

Lunch

1400

Briefing for session 5 facilitators in the library

1430-1600

## 4. Examining the evidence base: lessons learnt and good practice

Much of the gender responsive PVE solutions offered to governments centre around utilising traditional peacebuilding tools such as dialogue and good governance. While this works in some contexts, other countries may not see peacebuilding approaches as useful to tackle violent extremism and terrorism problems.

This session will aim to present case studies and experiences to identify lessons learned including in challenging contexts. It aims at building an evidence base that can inform national and international responses in preventing and countering violent extremism, as well as advocacy strategies for gender integration into PVE/CVE/CT initiatives.

**Graeme Simpson**

Director, Interpeace USA; Lead Author, Youth, Peace and Security Progress Study, United Nations, New York

**Sanam Anderlini**

Co-founder and Executive Director of the International Civil Society Action Network, Washington, DC

**Emman El-Badawy**

Head of Research, Co-Existence Team, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, London

**Dalia Ghanem Yazbeck**

Resident Scholar, Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1800

## 5. Breakout groups

In parallel breakout groups participants will examine specific case studies, distilling best practices and lessons learnt. The case studies will explore the roles of different stakeholders in identifying effective prevention tools and measures to strengthen community resilience, shift attitudes and norms through greater gender equality, including via traditional, cultural and educational leaders, young people, religious leaders, the family, policy offices and civil society. They will explore how local people, particularly women, at the community level, can be best supported to tackle drivers of violent extremism while shifting damaging gender attitudes and norms.

### 1. The gender dimension of young people and extremist groups in the global north

**Facilitator: Fatima Zaman**

Advocate, Kofi Annan Foundation Extremely Together Initiative

### 2. The gender dimension of young people and extremist groups in the global south

**Facilitator:** tbc

### 3. CVE National Action Plans and the gender dimension

**Facilitator: Alison Davidian**

Programme Management Specialist, UN Women, Bangkok

### 4. Why young women join extremist groups

**Facilitator: Halima Mohamed**

Executive Director, Coast Education Centre, Kenya

1800-1845

## 6. Feedback from breakout groups

Brief reports from breakout groups.

1900

Reception followed by dinner

## Tuesday 27 November

0700-0745

Optional yoga session

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1030

## 7. Developed countries approaches

Extremism is a global phenomenon affecting both developed and developing countries. The UK, for example, has just seen the conviction of its first all-female terror cell. So, do gender responsive solutions to PVE/CVE differ in developed and developing countries? Do women play a different role in developed countries in violent extremism and are women's rights here impacted in strategies to combat such extremism?

### **Jamie Bell**

Executive Director, International Crime and Terrorism Division, Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa

### **Ritu Banerjee**

Senior Director, Canada Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence, Public Safety Canada, Ottawa

### **Philippa Thomas**

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

## 8. The Strategic use of communications: beyond alternative and counter narratives

Globalization and social media has played a key role in the spread of violent extremist groups and their messages. Conversely, a strategic use of communications should be an important approach to counteract the impact of violent extremist narratives. Case studies on the use of various communication tools will be presented and discussed, analysing the extent to which they can have a short and/or long-term impact both on gender social norms and the spread of violent extremism.

### **Fatima Akilu**

Executive Director, Neem Foundation, Abuja

### **Priyank Mathur**

Chief Executive Officer, Mythos Lab, Boston

1230-1330

Lunch

1330

Briefing for session 9 facilitators in the library

1400-1445

Tour of Wiston House or garden tour

1445-1545

## 9. Breakout groups on strategic communications

Two, one hour breakout groups will focus on different innovative examples of how strategic communication is being used to build resilience within the community for countering and preventing violent extremism while promoting greater gender equality and women's rights and challenging the gendered norms and narratives mobilised by violent extremist groups.

### **1. Mythos Lab's comedy work**

#### **Facilitator: Priyank Mathur**

Chief Executive Officer, Mythos Lab

### **2. Youth engagement on violent extremism and gender**

#### **Facilitator: Samuel Gathii Gathitu**

Director, Youth, Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network

### **3. Using theatre & arts to promote gender equality and preventing violent extremism**

**Facilitator: Lina Attel**

Director General, National Centre for Culture and Arts of King Hussein Foundation, Jordan

1545-1615

Tea/coffee

1615-1715

## 10. Breakout groups

Continued

1715-1830

## 11. Looking forward: preparing for change and policy impact - recommendations for action

### Steven Siqueira

Deputy Director, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, New York

### Naureen Fink

Senior Policy Adviser, UK Mission to the United Nations, New York

### Marc Sommers

International Consultant, Washington DC

1830

Briefing for session 13 facilitators in the library

1900

Reception followed by dinner

## Wednesday 28 November

0700-0745

Optional yoga session

0800-0845

Breakfast and checkout

0900-0915

## 12. Orientation in plenary

0915-1015

## 13. Break out groups: preparing for change: recommendations for action

In parallel breakout groups participants will focus on drawing up a set of recommendations for policy and for programming and priority action that needs to be taken by different actors on the local, governmental and international stage.

### Facilitators:

#### Hanny Cueva Beteta,

Regional Adviser on Governance, Peace and Security, UN Women, Bangkok

#### Annie McGee

Women Peace and Security Team Leader, Gender Equality Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

#### Rachel Winny

Conflict Adviser, Department for International Development (DFID), London

#### Rachel Dore-Weeks

Deputy Regional Director, Arab States Regional Office, UN Women, Cairo

1015-1045

Tea/coffee

1045-1100

## 14. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1100-1230

## 15. Feedback from breakout groups: conclusions, commitments and next steps

### **Mohammad Naciri**

UN Women Regional Director for Arab States, Cairo

### **Rosy Cave**

Head, Gender Equality Unit; Head, Office of the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1230

Lunch

1330

Participants depart

**This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.**

**This is an invitation only conference.**

Enquiries about participation to: Sarah Gee, Senior Project Manager

T: +44 (0)1903 817727 | F: +44 (0)1903 816373 | E: [sarah.gee@wiltonpark.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gee@wiltonpark.org.uk)

Enquiries about the programme to: Alison Hilliard, Programme Director

T: +44 (0) 1903 817722 | F: +44 (0)1903 816373 | E: [alison.hilliard@wiltonpark.org.uk](mailto:alison.hilliard@wiltonpark.org.uk)