



Women in Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism



Photo: Women and children protesting against violent extremism

Credit: United Nations/OSAA

BACKGROUND

The rise in violent extremism and terrorism in Africa has seen terrorist groups perpetrate various forms of violence and brutalities against populations across the continent. Women have not been spared from the violence. Violent extremist groups and terrorist groups use sexual violence, forced marriages, sexual slavery and other forms of Gender Based Violence as a tactic of terror to control women.

However, women are not always victims. Women also actively participate and play diverse roles such as recruiting, fighting,

performing suicide bombings among others to perpetuate the agenda of jihadist and terrorist groups.

The complex dynamics and connections between gender and violent extremism and terrorism require a more nuanced approach to understanding the underlying factors and the nature of women

to contribute to more structured interventions which take into account women change agents in preventing countering violent extremism.

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Merely essentializing women as agents of peace is not enough and effective in preventing and countering violent extremism. Rather, there is the need to assess capacities and develop gender inclusive and gender sensitive strategies in the fight against violent extremism.

Questions to Consider

- Why are women important in the P/CVE discussions?
- Why is it important to examine and address the pull-push factors for women participation in violent extremism and terrorism?
- How do we support women and leadership in P/CVE strategies?
- How can the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda be better linked with national counter terrorism and CVE strategies?

About KAIPTC

Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) is an internationally preferred centre of excellence for research into and training for conflict prevention, management and resolution, research and innovative thinking in integrated peace support operations and sustainable delivery of enhanced regional capacity building for peace support operations.

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