



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**NORWAY FOR
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
2021-2022**

Global Leadership, Local Partnerships

Women's Leadership and Gender Perspectives on Preventing Violent Extremism

Friday, March 1, 2019

8:45 – 10:30 a.m.

Delegates Dining Room, UN Headquarters, New York

Concept Note

Summary

On March 1, 2019 as co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, the governments of Norway and Jordan will convene the next high level meeting of the Group of Friends at the UN. The 2019 event will focus on the progress made and continued obstacles pertaining to gender responsiveness and the inclusion of women's organizations in prevention and response efforts.

Speakers at the event will include civil society representatives from the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and its network of locally rooted women-led organizations that form the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) spanning 38 countries worldwide. They will share their strategies, impact, lessons learnt and recommendations for action by the UN and Member States.

Context

As 2019 dawns, the spectre of violent extremism remains at the forefront of the global peace and security discourse and practice. There are also new dimensions arising. In many contexts states and communities struggle to address the complexity of return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and those associated with them. In every context, gender as a form of identity and women in particular continue to play a central role in the ideologies, recruitment and preventive responses to violent extremism.

The control, co-option, coercion and subjugation of women are central features of the ideology of violent extremist groups today. Long before violent extremism became a concern for the international peace and security community, women and particularly women's human rights defenders, were warning about its escalation and impact. The ideology also taps into different norms of masculinity. On the one hand, it elevates

the notion of patriarchy such that men are dominant and women subservient to them. On the other hand, this entitlement is fused with notions of men as warriors and protectors of a “cause”.

Yet despite the growing evidence of women’s centrality to violent extremist groups, the PVE community has been slow to acknowledge the complexity and importance of their experiences. Women are still viewed in three simplistic categories: passive victims, perpetrators of violence or as mothers that can be recruited to fight radicalization in their homes. In reality, women’s experiences are more complex. In some cases, they are kidnapped or forced to join violent extremist groups; in other instances, they join voluntarily. Whatever the motivations, women are rarely passive; many are striving to fulfill their aspirations to be empowered.

Because so often the first targets of violent extremism are women and minorities, women-led organizations from Pakistan to Nigeria, have long been the first to raise the alarm about violent extremism and developing responses, ranging from alternative narratives to building community resilience, and engaging with all actors including security forces. Their rootedness in communities means they have knowledge, trust, access and long-term commitment to initiate and sustain sensitive prevention, rehabilitation and peacebuilding efforts. Given their expertise in this realm and their commitment to solutions, the exclusion of women peacebuilders is detrimental to the promotion of effective and sustainable strategies for peace and social cohesion.

Discussions at the event will center on how best to ensure more inclusive practices to prevent violent extremism that draw on the comparative strengths of each sector.

Agenda

8:45-9:00 *Arrival and breakfast*

9:00-9:20 **Opening Remarks**

- Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Ine Marie Eriksen Sørreide
- Permanent Representative of Jordan, Ms. Sima Sami I. Bahous
- United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres

9:20-9:30 **Keynote Address:** Ms. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, Founder & Executive Director of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

9:30-9:40 **Presentation:** Halima Mohamed, Co-founder & Executive Director of Coast Education Centre (COEC) in Kenya, a member of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)

9:40-10:20 **Tour de table:** Short statements by Permanent Representatives, USG Voronkov (OCT), ASG Coninx (CTED), ASG Okai (UNDP) and others present

10.25-10.30 **Closing Remarks**

Speaker Biographies

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini is Founder and Executive Director of ICAN. For over two decades, she has been a leading international advocate, researcher, trainer and writer on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In 2000, she was among the civil society drafters of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Since 2005, she has provided strategic guidance and training to key UN agencies, the UK government and NGOs worldwide. In 2011, she was the first Senior Expert on Gender and Inclusion on the UN's Mediation Standby Team. In 2018, she was invited to join the Commonwealth's Panel of Experts on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). She is also a member of UNDP's Civil Society Advisory Council. Ms. Naraghi Anderlini has published extensively on gender, peace and security issues, including *Women building peace: What they do, why it matters* (Lynne Rienner, 2007). She holds an M.Phil in Social Anthropology from Cambridge University.

Halima Mohamed is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Coast Education Centre (COEC). For the last 13 years, Ms. Mohamed has been on the forefront of agitating for the rights of women and girls at the grassroots level in Kenya and East African Region. Currently she represents the civil society organizations of Coast Region at the National Council for NGO's of Kenya as the Director. Ms. Mohamed has been involved in various National and County processes to promote and protect women's rights and girl-child rights. In 2015 Ms. Mohamed led a team of Land Experts in developing Mombasa County Land Policy that was adopted in 2016 at the Mombasa County Assembly. She has championed for inclusion of women in the acquisition and administration of land. As the Chairperson of Mombasa County Urban Forum, she guided and facilitated the Mombasa County Integrated Development Plan. Ms. Mohamed's work with women and girls on peace building can be traced through the support groups she has formed for affected/traumatized women in VE across the Coastal Counties namely Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties. Her contribution towards the PVE work is seeing the Women's CVE Charter as an annex to the National Strategy to CVE in Kenya. Ms. Mohamed has led a team of researchers in conducting a comparative study to understand why young women are joining Al-Shabaab in the Coastal Region.