

The Role and Empowerment of Women in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism

Joint OSCE Secretariat – OSCE ODIHR Expert Roundtable
12 and 13 March 2012
Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna

Day 1

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Welcoming remarks

- Patrick O'Reilly, Head of Section, Security Committee and CSBMs, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE
- Assia Ivantcheva, Deputy Head, Human Rights Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
- Thomas Wuchte, Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues, Transnational Threats Department, Action against Terrorism Unit (TNT/ATU), OSCE Secretariat
- Amb. Miroslava Beham, Senior Gender Adviser, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat

09:30-10:30 Introductory keynote presentation: Understanding women's roles in effectively countering VERLT

The introductory keynote presentation will identify key concepts and address how "women's roles" and "empowerment" can be understood in the context of effectively countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). The presentation and the ensuing discussion will highlight the specificities of women's engagement in countering VERLT and discuss possible parallels with women's participation in combating others forms of violence. Particular attention will be paid to identifying gender and human rights considerations that may arise in this context.

- **Keynote Speaker:** Khizra Dhindsa, Detective Inspector, Association of Chief Police Officers, United Kingdom
- **Introducer:** Maj Britt Theorin, Chairperson, Operation 1325, Sweden

10:30-11:00 Coffee break (outside the meeting room)

11:00-13:00 Panel discussion: Women as counter-radicalization forces: good practices and lessons learnt

The panel will discuss what is known about women's engagements in countering VERLT, present an overview of available research in the area and provide examples of women as forces of empowerment to effectively countering VERLT. The discussion aims at identifying good practices

and lessons learnt from different contexts, providing participants with a better understanding of what motivates women to stand up against VERLT. Furthermore, possible key concerns from a gender and human rights perspective will be addressed, as well as the obstacles women face in countering VERLT. Issues to be addressed include: women's special potential to counter VERLT (women as policy makers, activists, human rights defenders, educators, advocates, conflict mediators); examples of good practices and lessons learnt: (when, where and how have women played a role in countering VERLT); what conditions have been necessary for such initiatives to be effective?

- Elaine Hargrove, Program Director, Sisters Against Violent Extremism (SAVE) / Women without Borders
- Jane Mosbacher, Counter-Terrorism Advisor, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State, United States of America
- Catherine Cooke, Foyle Women's Information Network, United Kingdom
- Jayne Huckerby, Consultant, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU School of Law, United States of America
- **Moderator:** Anne-Marie Faradji, Gender Equality Officer, Council of Europe
- **Rapporteur:** Timothy Jones, Principal Adviser to the European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator

13:00-14:00 Lunch break (outside the meeting room)

14:00-17:00 Working group sessions: Empowering women to counter VERLT
(with coffee break from 15:30 to 16:00)

Building on the morning panel discussion, the working group sessions will seek to identify gender and human rights compliant measures to strengthen the role of women and facilitate their empowerment in effectively countering VERLT. Each working group will formulate recommendations for concrete, practical and human rights compliant actions by governments, civil society and international organizations on how to move forward, drawing on inputs from diverse perspectives, experiences and practices.

Working group 1 – Reaching out to target audiences to counter VERLT

Questions to address include: How to empower women to play a preventive role and reach out to target audiences? How to raise women's awareness and understanding of the early signs of terrorist radicalization in order to address them effectively? How can women reach out to target audiences? Which target audiences are women better placed to influence?

- **Introducer:** Elin Wedebrand, EXIT, Sweden
- **Moderator:** Caron Gentry, Lecturer, School of International Relations, University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom
- **Rapporteur:** Shaista Gohir, Women's rights activist, United Kingdom

Working group 2 – Shaping the normative message to counter VERLT

Questions to address include: How to empower women to develop counter-narratives to VERLT? What is specific about women's contribution to the development of counter-narratives – their content, packaging and dissemination? How specifically can women communicate on themes such as tolerance, peace, dialogue, human rights and non-violence? How can women effectively interact with other stakeholders in this process, including governments, the media and religious organizations?

- **Introducer:** María Lozano, Director, European Network of Association of Victims
- **Moderator:** Vidhya Ramalingam, Coordinator, European Muslim Women of Influence initiative, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, United Kingdom

- **Rapporteur:** Vlasta Jalušič, Researcher, Peace Institute, Slovenia

Working group 3 – Conveying the message through actions to counter VERLT

Questions to address include: How to empower women to undertake counter-VERLT initiatives? What are the practical tools and skills needed to strengthen women's roles in successfully countering VERLT? How can women specifically take action to influence and empower target audiences? What are the good practices and lessons learnt transferable from the roles of women in tackling other forms of violence?

- **Introducer:** Tahmina Saleem, Executive Manager, Inspire, United Kingdom
- **Moderator:** Miriam Estrada-Castillo, Legal Officer and Gender Focal Point, United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED)
- **Rapporteur:** Julia Pfinder, Project Manager and Facilitator, Cultures Interactive, Germany

Day 2

09:00 – 10:30 Concluding session: ways forward

The rapporteurs will summarize, analyse and wrap up the discussions and recommendations from the panel and the working groups as well as suggest the way forward in strengthening and facilitating women's engagement as forces countering VERLT. The session also provides a forum for all participants of the roundtable to react to the recommendations formulated by each working group and to raise questions and concerns.

Moderator: TNT/ATU, ODIHR, Gender Section

- Rapporteur from the panel discussion: Timothy Jones, Principal Adviser to the European Union Counter-Terrorism Co-ordinator
- Rapporteur working group 1: Shaista Gohir, Women's rights activist, United Kingdom

10:30-11:00 Coffee break (outside the meeting room)

- Rapporteur from working group 2: Vlasta Jalušič, Researcher, Peace Institute, Slovenia
- Rapporteur from working group 3: Julia Pfinder, Project Manager and Facilitator, Cultures Interactive, Germany

12:30-13:00 Closing remarks

- OSCE Secretariat, Transnational Threats Department, Action against Terrorism Unit (TNT/ATU)
- OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
- OSCE Secretariat, Gender Section