
Women and P/CVE (Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism)

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The Commonwealth



Introduction

- Women can play critical roles in developing responses to violence and terrorism, and challenging and delegitimizing extremist narratives.
- Women can be powerful agents of change, and can even play a crucial role both in detecting early signs of radicalization and intervening before individuals become violent.
- Understanding these varied roles of women is critical to developing more nuanced and targeted efforts to counter violent extremism and prevent terrorism
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 notes, women are disproportionately affected by violence during conflict, and have in many places played important roles in efforts to prevent and mitigate conflict and violence, and rebuild the resilience of affected communities.

Why are Women important?

Women are vital to preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE):

- Women can be powerful agents of change
- Play a crucial role both in detecting early signs of radicalization and intervening before individuals become violent.
- Women play a number of different roles in both the prevention of violent extremism and its perpetration
- Support development of family commitment in CVE
- Support/empower women, particularly mothers as prevention protagonists
 - Mothers best placed to identify, predict & respond to potential vulnerabilities to VE
 - Offer meaningful counter narratives
 - Humanize impact of terrorism

Supporting Women in P/CVE

Developing your programme



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Role of Women in P/CVE Policy & Programmes

- Women may be well placed to create networks of individuals that are resilient to violent extremism (e.g., mothers and teachers)
- A 'bottom-up' strategy is crucial to engaging with women in CVE efforts
- National Action Plans in support of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions that relate to Women, Peace & Security, should be better linked & complementary to National CT & CVE strategies
- Engaging women in CVE efforts should be done sensitively and with discretion

Points to consider

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