



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19-23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

Promoting the Role of Women in Security and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa

Joint UNODC-EU side event

19 June 2023, 17:15-18:30 EDT

UN Secretariat Conference Room 12 & online

In recent years, there has been a welcomed shift at the international level towards recognizing the distinct ways women, men, girls, and boys are involved in and affected by terrorism. General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), recognize the differential impact of terrorism and violent extremism on the human rights of women and girls and called for the greater integration by the Member States and the United Nations of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Building on the UN Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the EU's Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2019-2024, the joint UNODC-EU event will promote global, regional and national efforts and highlight priorities in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in efforts to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism and counter terrorism as well as the importance of ensuring women's equality and human rights in counter-terrorism responses.

The strong gender dynamics underpinning violent extremism and terrorism brings a need to promote gender equality as a countermeasure, given the effects on women and girls are unique and disproportionate, including being subjected to exclusion from decision-making processes. Gender blind security policies, including those on preventing and countering terrorism, neglect the needs and experiences of women, negatively impacting women's participation in peace and security at large.

Strengthening women's roles in criminal justice as well as law enforcement is an essential element in long-term efforts to prevent terrorism and violent extremism. Practical integration of gender into all aspects of counter-terrorism programming can only occur in the context of broader guarantees of human rights for women.

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Outcome

The event will highlight the efforts made at the international, regional and national levels to promote women as an essential actor in successfully building peace efforts, preventing violent extremism and responding to terrorism in the African context. The event will further highlight good practices implemented at the global, regional and national levels aimed at providing guidance to strengthen the role of women in national counter-terrorism institutions and regional mechanisms as well as in mainstreaming gender considerations into criminal justice responses to terrorism.

Co-organizers

- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

Supporting the empowerment of women as voices for change and taking into account the distinct ways in which men and women are affected by terrorism, UNODC promotes the inclusion of gender perspectives throughout the spectrum of State responses to terrorism, in measures to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism, and in criminal justice responses to terrorism, including accountability for sexual gender-based violence by terrorists, in line with the international framework and the mandate of the organization.

- **European Union (EU)**

The European Union promotes gender equality, human rights, peace and security within and beyond its borders. Through its Strategic Approach, the EU supports societies and governments' actions to engage, empower, protect, and support women and girls from diverse backgrounds through the promotion of concrete commitments and actions, with particular emphasis on achieving sustainable and lasting peace and security.

How to join us

The event will be accessible in-person in the UN Secretariat Conference Room 12 and online. The link to the event will be shared in due course. The event will be held in English.

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