



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19–23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

Canada



Misión Permanente de México
ante las Naciones Unidas



United Nations Security Council
Counter-Terrorism Committee
Executive Directorate (CTED)

OSCE

Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Bridging the gap: connecting research, policy and practice on masculinities to more effectively prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism

(21 June 2023, 13:00 – 14:30, UNHQ Conference room 12, hybrid)

Concept Note

1. Background

The term “masculinities” refers to the “socially constructed ideas of what it means to be a man”, including such aspects as “norms, practices, social expectations, and power dynamics associated with being a man, though people of any gender can perform masculinities”.¹ Masculinities are therefore intrinsically linked to the concept of gender, which “encompasses social, cultural and economic power dynamics between and among people of all genders” and “therefore [is] an essential part of gender mainstreaming.”²

A growing body of research shows that male gender roles and the exploitation of masculinities are significant in driving recruitment to violent extremist or terrorist groups across the ideological spectrum. The UN Secretary General’s report to the General Assembly on Terrorist Attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, released in August 2022, noted that misogyny is often present in the narratives of terrorist and violent extremist groups, often co-existing with xenophobia and hatred towards minorities.

In his report on Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/77/718), the UN Secretary-General notes “It is imperative that measures to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism fully integrate specific and contextualized gender

¹ “Masculinities and Violent Extremism”. Aleksandra Dier and Gretchen Baldwin. United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and International Peace Institute (IPI). June 2022. Page 2

² Ibid.

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analysis, including on the roles of men, masculinities and structural gender inequality and stereotypes in radicalization, mobilization and recruitment processes.”

2. Introduction

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has been raising the need to integrate a focus on masculinities as part of a meaningful approach to gender mainstreaming in CT/PCVE and, jointly with the International Peace Institute, published a policy brief on “Masculinities and Violent Extremism”³ which includes recommendations for further research, policy and programming, and M&E in this area.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) also promotes a comprehensive gender perspective in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism in its policy brief on “The Linkages Between Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism”⁴ and its good practices guide on “Understanding the role of Gender in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism.”⁵

However, while research and policy are advancing, there is still a knowledge gap on how to link policy to operationalize interventions aimed at preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

As an important step towards bridging the gap between policy and practice, UN Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT) is putting in place a Gender and Identity Factors Platform⁶, funded by and co-led with Canada. The platform will enable policymakers and practitioners to increase their awareness of gender and intersectionality in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism efforts through its library of resources⁷ and to connect them in online spaces called ‘communities of practice’. The event will promote the use of these communities of practice as an opportunity for exchange between experts, trainers, practitioners and institutions specialized in gender, intersectionality and preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

3. Objectives

This side event aims to:

1. Raise awareness on how violent extremist and terrorist groups across the ideological spectrum use and exploit masculinities, including for recruitment and retention of its members.
2. Identify research gaps relating to masculinities in terrorism and violent extremism.

³ [Masculinities and Violent Extremism | Security Council - Counter-Terrorism Committee \(CTC\)](#)

⁴ [525297.pdf \(osce.org\)](#)

⁵ [Understanding the Role of Gender in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization That Lead to Terrorism - Good Practices for Law Enforcement | OSCE](#)

⁶ <https://connect.unoct-connectandlearn.org/gender-and-identity>

⁷ <https://connect.unoct-connectandlearn.org/gifp-resources-library>

3. Identify recommendations on how to integrate gender perspectives – including the consideration of masculinities – in CT and P/CVE policies and programmes.
4. Launch the Gender and Identity Factors Platform.

The side event will include a panel and a subsequent discussion.

4. Relevance of the Topic to the HLC theme

This side event is fully aligned with the Conference Theme, particularly “Towards more effective and resilient Member States’ institutions in the evolving global terrorism landscape”. Violent extremists and terrorist groups exploit and manipulate gender norms, stereotypes and power dynamics in their recruitment, ideologies and operations. Therefore, to devise effective programmes to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, it is critical to incorporate gender perspectives. To date, gender mainstreaming in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism programming has mainly focused on women, while meaningful examination of the full spectrum of gender inequalities, power dynamics, gender roles, in particular the role of masculinities, have been overlooked.

5. Co-organizers or partners hosting the Side Event

This side event is co-organized by Canada, Mexico, OSCE, CTED, and UNOCT.

6. Expected participants/ expected no of participants

This side event will bring together policymakers and practitioners, international organizations, academia and civil society organizations (including women’s organizations) to address ways to bridge the gap between policy and practice to address masculinities in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Conference room 12 can accommodate 134 participants. The event will also be broadcasted live on UN WebTV, as well as Webex. Details for joining online will follow.

7. Contact/Focal Persons

Sara Negrão, Gender Adviser, UNOCT; negrao@un.org , +1 917 367-2208

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8. Programme/Agenda

Time	Agenda item
Event moderator: Cecilia Naddeo , Human Rights and Gender Section Chief, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism	
13:00 – 13:15	High-Level Opening Remarks H.E. Ambassador Robert Rae , Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. H.E. Ambassador Alena Kupchyna , Co-ordinator to address Transnational Threats, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Raffi Gregorian , Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). David Scharia , Director and Chief of Branch, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).
13:15 – 13:30	Launch of the Gender and Identity Factors Platform Jennifer Loten , Director General, International Crime and Terrorism Bureau, Canada Raffi Gregorian , Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).
13:30 – 14:05	Panel Discussion Presentation and discussion of the existing research on masculinities, misogyny and violent extremism and terrorism. The panel will unpack how violent extremist and terrorist groups across the ideological spectrum use and exploit masculinities, including for recruitment and retention of its members. The experts will identify research gaps relating to masculinities in terrorism and violent extremism and propose recommendations on how to integrate gender perspectives – including the consideration of masculinities – in CT/PCVE policies and programmes. Moderator: Sara Negrão , Gender Adviser, UNOCT Speakers: Pablo A. Arrocha Olabuenaga , Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations Aleksandra Dier , Gender Coordinator, CTED Camilla Bognoe , Senior Adviser on anti-Terrorism Issues, OSCE Transnational Threats Department Melinda Holmes , Program Director at the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) of the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL).
14:05 – 14:30	Questions and Answers Session

9. RSVP link

<https://forms.office.com/e/9RLhp0LKjj>

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