

EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

GENDER DIMENSIONS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

20, 21 & 22 September 2021, Residential training, Florence, Italy

Venue: Badia Fiesolana, Via della Badia dei Roccettini 9 – San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Room: Sala del Capitolo

TEACHING AND LEARNING TEAM

Coordinators and Lead Instructors

Sofia Coelho Candeias | Judicial Affairs Officer, United Nations Team of Experts: Rule of Law / Sexual Violence in Conflict, United States

Ulrich Garms | Programme Officer, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Austria

Ruth Rubio Marín | Coordinator of the Program on Gender and Diversity in Governance, School of Transnational Governance, EUI and Professor at the University of Seville, Italy and Spain

Instructors:

Katherine Brown | Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Fiona de Londras | Chair of Global Legal Studies, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin | Regents Professor, Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy, and Society, University of Minnesota Law School, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism

Carla Pagano | Researcher and Consultant on Gender Equality and Diversity, Peacebuilding and Islam, International Labour Organization, European Commission, and others

Gina Vale | Senior Research Fellow, International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation, King's College London, United Kingdom

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Terrorism and counter-terrorism policies both have gender-specific impacts on women and men. The role of women and men in terrorist groups and the impact terrorism has on its victims have a highly significant gender dimension. Measures to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism policies, however, tend to be traditionally based on the (unspoken) assumption that terrorist groups are made up (nearly exclusively) of men, and that those affected by terrorism and fighting terrorism in the security and justice institutions are primarily men, and that women play only subordinate and collateral roles in these conflicts.

In the aftermath of terrorism, there are significant gender implications to state responses surrounding criminal justice, rehabilitation and reintegration of people associated with terrorist groups and support to victims.

Ranging from the gender specific roles within terrorist groups to the gender implications of state response to the threat of terrorism, this training seminar will explore the gender dimensions of terrorism and counter-terrorism. Recently, great attention has been paid to this topic, in international organisations, especially the UN (including linking the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and counter terrorism), national governments and, particularly, in academia.

What you will learn

This seminar will draw on the latest research and experience from the field to train participants, focusing on the following areas:

- Understanding the gender specific motivations and roles of women and men in terrorist groups;
- Examining the gender dimensions of programmes to prevent violent extremism and understanding their women's rights implications;
- Engaging with the gender implications of post-conflict attempts to prosecute, rehabilitate and/or reintegrate women and men exiting terrorist groups”.

Programme

DAY 1 – (09.00 AM – 18.15 PM CEST)

Monday, 20 September 2021

09.00 – 09.45 CEST **Institutional Greetings and Tour de Table**

Ruth Rubio Marin

09.45 – 10.45 CEST **Opening Speech: Understanding the Gender of Counter-Terrorism: How Gender has been Hijacked by Security Rhetoric and Practice in the Global Counter-terrorism Arena**

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin

10.45 – 11.00 CEST **Coffee Break**

11.00 – 13.00 CEST **Governing Counter Terrorism and Counter Extremism**

Fiona de Londras

This session considers the governance gaps and concerns in counter-terrorism and counter-extremism with particular reference to their gendered implications. In particular, it will consider concerns about (i) processes of making law and policy, including lack of participatory and transparent processes, (ii) practices and processes of implementing inter/national law and policy on local levels, including reliance on gender stereotypes in delivery and design, and (iii) shortfalls in evaluative review including review of gendered implications of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism. It will illustrate these themes using the UK's 'Prevent' agenda as an exemplar.

13.00 – 14.00 CEST **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 16.00 CEST **Women's and Men's Roles in Terrorist Groups**

Gina Vale

This session will explore the different roles women and men play in terrorist groups. It will also examine how gender dynamics differ between groups (e.g. between ethno-nationalist, right and left extremist and jihadist), and how gender roles evolve over time within groups. It will examine the role of masculinities in terrorist recruitment and violence and the role patriarchal structures in society may have in attracting women to join terrorist groups.

16.00 – 16.15 CEST **Coffee Break**

16.15 – 18.15 CEST **Sexual and Gender-based Violence by Terrorist Groups**

Sofia Coelho Candeias

This session will examine the conditions conducive to and reasons for sexual and gender-based violence by terrorist groups; the strategic, tactical or merely incidental nature of such violence; as well as its impact on victims. The session will also inquire into the causes of near-total impunity for this dimension of terrorist violence, and discuss avenues to increase accountability for these crimes.

18.15 CEST **End of Day 1**

DAY 2 – (9.00 AM – 17.00 PM CEST)

Tuesday, 21 September 2021

09.00 – 10.30 CEST **Gender Dimensions of Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of Persons associated with Terrorist Groups**

Ulrich Garms

This session will examine how gender affects authorities' decisions to investigate and prosecute men and women exiting terrorist groups (whether voluntarily, or as a result of capture or military defeat). The session will further examine gender dimensions of the rehabilitation and reintegration of persons formerly associated with a terrorist group.

10.30 – 10.45 CEST **Coffee Break**

10.45 – 12.15 CEST **Gender Equality and Extremist Religious Fundamentalisms: Contexts Analysis and Entry Points**

Carla Pagano

This session will explore the importance of analysing the nexus between religions, culture, tradition, politics and intersectionality to contextualise extremist religious fundamentalisms and their effect on gender equality. It will focus on who the actors are and underlying characteristics of the phenomenon, also as an outcome of global interrelated crises. By way of some examples, challenges and entry points for the implementation of gender equality will also be examined.

12.15 – 13.00 CEST **Lunch Break**

13.00 – 14.30 CEST **Plenary Debate**
Gender dimensions of conflict resolution in conflicts involving terrorist groups

14.30 – 15.00 CEST **Coffee Break**

15.00 – 17.00 CEST **Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in the Counter-Terrorism Contexts, including Complex Conflicts**

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin

This session will consider the role of gender equality and women’s rights in the context of counterterrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism laws, policies and practice. The session will particularly examine the negative effects of counterterrorism and P/CVE on women and girls, drawing on the perspectives of civil society and grassroots actors and programs designed and implemented by States, UN entities and regional actors. It will explore tensions and complexities around the promotion and protection of women’s rights within the sphere of counterterrorism and discuss the importance of protecting civil society space and particularly women’s rights and women-led organizations. The session will also address the particular complexities of CT and gender interface in complex conflict settings.

17.00 CEST **End of Day 2**

DAY 3 – (9.00 AM – 16.00 PM CEST)

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

09.00 – 11.00 CEST **Gender Dimensions of Preventing Violent Extremism and recruiting for Terrorism**

Katherine Brown

This session will review research regarding the commonalities and differences between women’s and men’s push and pull factors towards violent extremism and the commission of terrorism-related offences. It will ask how messages and measures to prevent violent extremism and recruitment for terrorism can be tailored to take these differences into account. The session will also examine the impact PVE as well as the results terrorism prevention measures can have specifically on women and groups advocating for gender equality and women’s rights.

11.00 – 11.30 CEST **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 13.00 CEST **Strengthening Women’s Presence in Counter Terrorism Institutions**

Ruth Rubio Marin

With interventions from:

Sofia Coelho Candeias

Ulrich Garms

This session will draw on participants’ and lecturers’ experiences to discuss problems and lessons learned regarding recruitment, retention and advancement of women working in the security area.

13.00 – 14.00 CEST **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 15.30 CEST **Course Takeaways and Assessment**

Ruth Rubio Marin

With interventions from:

Sofia Coelho Candeias

Ulrich Garms

This final session will provide a toolbox of ideas for future action and an assessment of the course. The session goals will be: identify concrete actions that each participant can spearhead in his/her area of work and sphere of influence to foster gender equality and women’s empowerment; reflect on the learning experience and network opportunity provided by the course.

15.30 – 16.00 CEST **Awarding of Certificates, Group Picture and Farewell**

16.00 CEST **End of Course**

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