

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN COUNTERING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Statement by Norway

- Norway considers it imperative that we recognize young women, as their male counterparts, as key stakeholders in countering violent extremism. Women have unique knowledge, experiences and resources that are vital to our efforts. We must understand the different roles women have in conflict - both as fighters and peacemakers. This means that women must also be included in analysis of extremism, otherwise we will lose important findings that can contribute to countering extremism and conflict resolution.
- The extremist movements tap into the identities and dreams of men and women respectively to recruit them. They understand the power of women to influence so they want women on their own side. On the other hand, they want to silence women who offer an alternative vision of society. But it is exactly these voices that must be heard! It is therefore very important that we take into account the gender dimension on how to prevent and combat violent extremism.
- For Norway, the other important element in the Security Council debate is to continue to focus on women's participation and power to influence. Neither men nor women are immune to the consequences of armed conflict, but women and men experience conflict differently. Without women's voices at the negotiation table, issues of gender based violence and issues connected to livelihoods will get less attention. In addition, peace is seldom sustainable and always fragile.
- We are supporting a range of gender equality organizations and in conflict and post conflict situations. We are welcoming the new alliance of women's organizations against violent extremism. We support these organizations because they must be heard and influence decisions.