



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**NORWAY FOR
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
2021-2022**

Advancing a Holistic and Gendered Approach to Return, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration from Violent Extremism

Technical Meeting

Thursday, February 28, 2019

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 5, UNHQ

Summary

On February 28, 2019, the governments of Norway and Jordan will convene an expert-level technical meeting exploring how to advance a holistic and gendered approach to return, rehabilitation and reintegration from violent extremism through policies and programming. This event marks the publication of the new report *Invisible Women: Gendered Dimensions of Return, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration*, jointly produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), drawing on the expertise of members of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL). Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the findings of the report and test the programming guidance therein, with the aim of providing constructive feedback on the potential for implementation of its recommendations throughout multilateral, state, and civil society efforts to address the challenge of returning women and girls. This expert-level meeting precedes the March 1, 2019 high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of PVE at the UN to review progress on the 2015 UN Secretary General's Plan of Action for Preventing Violent Extremism.

Context

As 2019 dawns, the spectre of violent extremism remains at the forefront of the global peace and security discourse and practice. There are also new dimensions arising as states and communities struggle to address the complexity of return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of fighters and those associated with them—especially women, boys and girls. Drawing on the experiences of WASL members, ICAN and UNDP have collaborated to address the complex challenge of women and girls associated with violent extremist movements returning to their communities and identify practical ways forward for policymaking and programming in the area of rehabilitation and reintegration.

Women and girls are associated with violent extremist groups in a variety of ways, including as recruiters, educators, campaigners, financiers, brides, logisticians, supporters, bystanders or a combination of these.



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**NORWAY FOR
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
2021-2022**

In some cases, they are kidnapped or forced to join violent extremist groups; in other instances, they join voluntarily to feel empowered, to escape oppression or for reasons similar to those of their male peers. Many may be victims of trafficking and sexual slavery but have given birth and are caring for children of extremists. Understanding their situation, reaching them, and providing them with pathways back into communities that may fear or spurn them, is profoundly challenging. This is made worse by the paucity of protection against sexual violence when these women and girls face rescue, arrest or imprisonment.

Reflecting the complex nature of the challenge, the report lays out a gendered analysis of disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration across the sectors that play an important role in responding to those who return: 1) the policy gaps and challenges; 2) law, redress and reconciliation, 3) security from and for women and girl returnees; 4) addressing public attitudes of stigma and fear; 5) transforming ideology and restoring identity; 6) socioeconomic empowerment and sense of purpose, and 7) coping with trauma. The report explores these themes and their intersections through seven case studies of existing good practices by women-led civil society organizations in different countries. The key findings and good practices elaborated are also distilled into programming guidance with specific recommendations and questions to ask when designing, monitoring and evaluating rehabilitation and reintegration programs for women and girls.

Agenda

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1:15-1:25 p.m. | Welcome remarks from Norway and Jordan |
| 1:25-2:00 p.m. | Facilitated dialogue between speakers addressing the questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) What is most critical to successful holistic and gendered rehabilitation and reintegration?2) What are the challenges in your experience?3) What actionable recommendations do you have for the UN and Member States? |
| 2:00-2:20 p.m. | Open discussion |
| 2:20-2:30 p.m. | Conclusions and recommendations |