CONCEPT NOTE

Webinar Series on Women in CT/PCVE

Dates and times for each webinar, including directions for registration, to follow.

I.   Background

This year will mark the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). Building on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the Security Council's adoption of Resolution 1325 was the first of its kind to acknowledge the differential impacts of conflict on women and girls, highlight the need for their protection from sexual and gender-based violence, and to promote their full, equal, meaningful and safe participation in peace and security efforts. Since then, the WPS agenda has evolved through subsequent Security Council resolutions and policy frameworks, reinforcing the importance of gender-responsive approaches in peace and security, including in counter-terrorism and preventing/countering violent extremism (CT/PCVE), such as through the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015). This resolution explicitly calls for the alignment of the global counter-terrorism efforts with WPS agenda, emphasizing that sustainable peace and security cannot be achieved without women's participation.

In line with the WPS Agenda, there has been a growing recognition of the critical role that women play as security practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders in CT/PCVE. Increasing the participation of women in these fields ensures for a wider array of perspectives, skills, and experiences, resulting in better decision-making and operational effectiveness. However, various factors, ranging from biases, institutional barriers, to the lack of gender-sensitive policies, continue to limit the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women in security and counter-terrorism sectors. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts to mainstream gender in CT/PCVE strategies, foster inclusive decision-making structures, and ensure that counter-terrorism policies do not inadvertently reinforce gender inequalities.

It is within this context that the Gender and Identity Factors Platform (GIFP), implemented by the Gender Unit of the Human Rights and Gender Section in the United Nation Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), with the generous support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and in partnership with UN Women Peace, Security and Resilience section will organize a series of webinars exploring the diverse experiences, barriers to, and contributions of women in CT/PCVE, with a focus on institutional transformation, leadership, and rights-based approaches.

II.   Objectives

Amidst the 25th commemorations of the anniversary of the WPS agenda, these webinars present an opportunity to acknowledge and discuss the achievements made by women in CT/PCVE to-date; the importance and modalities for women's full, equal and meaningful participation at all levels of CT/PCVE; as well as the importance of applying gender responsive approaches to CT/PCVE. Through firsthand experiences and expert perspectives, the panels will demonstrate the added value of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in CT/PCVE efforts and the necessity of gender-responsive and intersectional approaches to CT/PCVE policy and practice.

Expected learning outcomes from the panel discussion will include:
- An understanding of the challenges and successes of women CT/PCVE professionals in security institutions and their contributions to gender equality in security institutions and gender responsive approaches in CT/PCVE strategies;
- The importance and modalities for achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation at all levels of CT/PCVE decision making;
- Practical examples of gender mainstreaming in CT/PCVE policies and programs, including tools and approaches to integrate gender perspectives effectively.

III. Discussions / Events

Panel 1: Building the Pipeline: Women's Leadership and Careers in CT/PCVE

In many contexts, women remain underrepresented in CT/PCVE sectors, not due to lack of interest or qualification, but because of structural barriers to entry, retention, and promotion. This event will focus on women's experiences across CT/PCVE careers in security institutions, gathering speakers from early-stage professionals to senior-level decision-makers. Panelists will reflect on their own career trajectories and the opportunities that enabled them to advance. This session will highlight both individual strategies and systemic interventions, discussing pathways for cultivating the next generation of women leaders in CT/PCVE.

- **Objectives & Learning Outcomes:** How to build enabling environments for women's leadership in CT/PCVE; identify institutional policies and practices that support career advancement; and gain practical insights from the experiences of women leaders across CT/PCVE.

Panel 2: Bridging the Gap: Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful participation in decision making in CT/PCVE)

In this webinar, we will explore the critical role that women play in shaping effective CT and PCVE strategies. At the local level, women have long played pivotal roles in CT/PCVE, for example by addressing the root causes of violent extremism, through education, dialogue, community organizing, and support to vulnerable individuals and families. Yet, this key knowledge, as well as experience and contributions are often overlooked in national or global security frameworks. This panel discussion will center the voices of women working in CT/PCVE efforts, particularly from civil society organizations and women-led civil society organizations. Speakers will reflect on their experiences participating in decision-making processes related to CT/PCVE policies and programmes. The webinar will also examine how national governments and international partners can better support and institutionalize the work of women CT/PCVE practitioners, ensuring their insights are reflected in broader CT/PCVE policymaking. This discussion aims to connect top-down and bottom-up approaches for a more effective and inclusive CT/PCVE landscape.

- **Objectives & Learning Outcomes:** Develop insights into the contributions of women at the grassroots level in PCVE; explore how knowledge of local contexts and trust-building complement national CT/PCVE strategies; and identify ways to strengthen partnerships between state institutions and women-led organizations.

Panel 3: Putting Policy into Practice: Tools for Gender Mainstreaming in National CT/PCVE Strategies

Despite growing recognition of the need to integrate gender perspectives in CT/PCVE, many Member States continue to face challenges in translating high-level commitments into practical, operational change. This session will spotlight a panel of practitioners and policymakers who have worked to mainstream gender within national CT/PCVE strategies, focusing on the tools, mechanisms, and institutional processes that have enabled progress. Discussions will highlight examples of national action plans, coordination platforms, and other practices that facilitate gender mainstreaming, while also addressing common roadblocks such as lack of political will, or technical capacity. As Member States seek to align with international obligations, including those under the WPS agenda, particularly, UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015), understanding "what works" in different contexts is critical. This event will bridge policy and practice by identifying replicable strategies and supporting institutional learning across diverse regional settings.

- **Objectives & Learning Outcomes:** Gain an understanding of practical tools and strategies to integrate gender considerations in national CT/PCVE strategies; identify common challenges and enabling conditions for gender mainstreaming; and engage with real-world examples of effective institutional approaches to implementing gender-responsive CT/PCVE policies.

IV. Translation and Interpretation

The panel discussion will be moderated in English. Simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, French, and Russian will be provided to allow for greater access. Simultaneous interpretation and translation into other languages will not be available; however, they might be considered for future live events upon request and consultation with the GIFP project team.

V. Contact Persons

- Ms. Sara Negrao (negrao@un.org), Head Gender Unit/Gender Adviser, UNOCT/HRGS
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