



Coast Education Center
Empowerment is Key to Success

COAST WOMEN CVE CHARTER

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Objective

As a result of structural inequality based on sex and gender, women and girls in Kenya do not have the same access to resources, political rights, or authority to control their environment as men do. As a result, Kenyan women are uniquely vulnerable to violent extremism (VE), which impacts them socially, economically and psychologically. In Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties - hotspots for radicalization due to their proximity to Somalia and Al-Shabaab - women are particularly traumatized and affected as their husbands, children or they they are recruited to work for extremist groups.

Kenya's National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism, launched in September 2016, aims to rally all sectors of Kenyan social, religious, and economic life to reject violent extremist ideologies and minimize recruitment. However, the strategy does not have a component addressing the needs of women traumatized and affected by extremism, or the complex range of roles women play as perpetrators and victims of VE, nor does it discuss women's engagement in CVE work.

We believe that successfully countering violent extremism necessitates strategically supporting affected and vulnerable women, as well as engaging them as active participants in prevention and security work. Women, girls, PWDs and women's organizations have immense potential to act as peace builders and implement peace processes in their communities. To unlock this potential, the Government of Kenya should ensure gender is mainstreamed throughout Kenya's CVE strategy, and that women are engaged as peace actors at all stages of the strategy implementation process.

In pursuit of this, the Kenya Women's CVE Charter seeks to:-

- a) Issues recommendations to the Kenyan government on how to mainstream the needs of women traumatized and affected by extremist violence, and engage women and women's groups as actors in the nine pillars that underpin the National Strategy;
- b) Issues recommendations to the Kenyan government, specifically the NCTC, on how each stakeholder identified in the National Strategy shall respond to the needs of traumatized and affected women, and how to engage women and women's groups as stakeholders in the implementation of CVE actions;
- c) Provides an action plan for all stakeholders, with proposed actions that aim to address unique issues faced by traumatized and affected women and engage women in CVE work.

Context

Kenya has been a frequent target of extremist violence and recently several high publicized reports have drawn attention to the involvement of women in violent extremist organizations (capital campus,2015). The reported incidents have involved women travelling to join al-shabaab (Gibendi,2015), recruiting for al-shabaab (Mukinda,2015), masterminding terrorist attacks in Mombasa, forming terror cells and channeling information and finances for terrorist organizations (Ocharo,2016). The findings show that women are far more actively involved in violent extremism in non-combative or indirect roles; they provide an 'invisible infrastructure' for al-Shabaab by enabling, supporting and facilitating violent extremism (sageman,2005)

Police recorded 312 people killed and 779 wounded in extremist attacks between 2012 and 2014. In 2014, Kenyan police began categorizing extremist attacks in their annual crime report for the first time. Police recorded 312 people killed and 779 wounded in extremist attacks between 2012 and 2014. Police blame al-Shabaab for 173 deaths in 2014 alone (annual crime report, 2014)

Radicalization of youth in Kenya is at the epicenter of terrorism and terrorist activities. In the Kenyan context, radicalization has evolved over time as a process by which a section of Kenyans, usually young people, are introduced to an overtly ideological message and belief system that encourages them to move from beliefs that are generally moderate and mainstream, towards very extreme views, which are violent in nature. This has been manifested in the committing of violent terrorist acts, burning of churches, targeting of religious leaders, security agencies and security installations. Attacks in Nairobi, Mpeketoni, Lamu among others have nurtured fear and suspicion among Muslims and Christians and could tilt the balance of inter-religious harmony and threaten to trigger religious violence. Kenya's social fabric has also been threatened by pitting communities against communities and religious groups against one another as exemplified by attacks on mosques, churches and clergy

The women's CVE charter takes the view that it is essential to include the voices of women, including women civil society groups and activists, in CVE work. In the Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties, women are both directly and indirectly affected by the extremism in Kenya: they have been trafficked and recruited by Al-Shabaab to become Jihadi brides, or have seen their husbands and children leave to join extremist groups. Women's contributions to building resilience in communities vulnerable to radicalization are paramount, as women form the backbone of families and communities. Societies that empower their women are less likely to end up with large numbers of rootless young men, with a proclivity for making trouble.

Already, Kenyan women's organizations are heavily involved in the prevention of violent extremism: they have put in place initiatives including trauma counseling sessions, exchange programmes, radio and media programmes, and conferences, CVE clinics for parents and mothers, communication platforms. Leveraging the unique

contributions and solutions put forth by women and women's civil society organizations is crucial for the success of Kenya's national CVE strategy, and for bringing about lasting peace.

I. Gender and the Nine Work Pillars

Globally, the main drivers of women's involvement in violent extremism and terrorism are strong relationship ties (family, kinship and romantic), grievances regarding their economic and social- political circumstances, and a commitment to and or the oppression of certain religious or ideological beliefs. The interplay between these drivers and factors, which creates the dynamics for women's involvement in violent extremism.

Kenya's National CVE strategy proposes **nine work pillars** offering opportunities for multiple stakeholders to engage in the CVE process. In connection to each work pillar, we recommend how it should take into consideration the needs and roles of women in Kenya, both as a group vulnerable to VE and as active participants in CVE work.

1. **Psychosocial Pillar**– It is critical to address the diverse psychosocial needs of women and girls, including women whose husbands or children have been radicalized, women who have been radicalized themselves and women who have been recruited and/or trafficked by extremist groups.

CVE programming in this area should ensure the availability of psychosocial support for women who have lost their husbands or children to extremist groups. In reintegration, rehabilitation, reintegration efforts, programming should account for the unique psychosocial needs of women returnees and of women who are part of the families and social networks of male returnees. Early warning and early intervention efforts should include a women's rights and gender perspective, giving both men and women the opportunity to report on their situation.

2. **Education Pillar** – While addressing radicalization in learning institutions, it is essential to consider the needs of young women vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization. Changes in education curricula that encourage positive acceptance of ethnic, racial and religious diversity should also promote gender awareness and allow for the critical examination of gender stereotypes.

CVE programming in this area should ensure the availability of education and skill-based training for young women and girls in learning institutions, particularly those vulnerable to radicalization and/or recruitment. We recommend educational curricula tie in with a broader plan for the economic empowerment and autonomy of women and girls, including by offering vocational and skill-based training tailored to women's needs. Programming should support the teaching of arts, culture, philosophy and civil and religious literacy, through a gender-sensitive lens. Early warning and intervention efforts to detect

radicalization in schools should include a women's rights and gender perspective.

3. **Political Pillar** – In engaging political leaders at the local, county, and national levels, the participation of women as politicians, civil society advocates and community representatives is required to call attention to the unique needs of traumatized and affected women, and to facilitate gender mainstreaming in CVE work.

CVE programming should ensure female parliamentarians, political candidates, ministers and political leaders are engaged in CVE advocacy and monitoring efforts. Programming should encourage collaboration between political leaders and women civil society organizations and activists, as well as consultations between political leaders and community representatives who can speak to the needs of traumatized and affected women. In establishing an advocacy agenda for increased cohesion, patriotism and the rejection of extremist ideologies, the perspectives of both women's civil society and traumatized and affected women should be considered and represented.

4. **Security Pillar**– Meeting extremism with the full force of the law carries the risk of alienating women and girls, as they fear mistreatment from law enforcement during investigations, and/or repercussions from their family or community when reporting instances of extremism. Therefore, it is crucial to encourage trust and collaboration between women and police in security work.

CVE programming shall include the creation of transparent, effective internal accountability and justice mechanisms, promoting a zero-tolerance policy for mistreatment or harassment by law enforcement during investigations into violent extremism. Programming should promote community policing strategies and mechanisms for regular consultation with women in prevention strategies. Increased recruitment and participation of women in the police and military, and gender sensitivity training for all forces, are also necessary steps.

5. **Faith Based and Ideological Pillar** – Women are key partners in the dissemination of counter-narratives to violent extremist ideologies, including through the spread of religious and family values. With necessary support and guidance, women are well-positioned to talk about extremist ideology with their family, detect and report on warning signs of extremism, and promote religious tolerance to their children.

CVE programming shall recognize and support the unique ability of mothers and women in the society to disseminate messages of interfaith tolerance and democracy via their local networks and families. In partnering with Faith Based Organizations to counter extremist ideology, vulnerable and affected women should be engaged both as the target audience for counter-narratives, and as actors for disseminating them.

6. **Training and Capacity Building Pillar** – Institutions, political and religious leaders, and all actors with a mandate to undertake CVE should possess awareness of the unique needs of affected and traumatized women, and the skills to effectively respond to them. Training and capacity-building around CVE should be sensitive to gender-related differences and concerns.

CVE programming that aims to build skills and awareness should ensure women are well-represented in all capacity-building, training and training of trainers (ToT) efforts, both as participants and trainers. Developing workshops, dialogue sessions and training materials in partnership with women activists and women's civil society will aid in ensuring the gender sensitivity of training efforts.

7. **Arts and Culture Pillar**– Women play an essential part in preserving and promoting Kenyan heritage, and are ideally situated to counter extremism via storytelling, arts, and cultural activities. It is important that these activities showcase the unique lived experiences, views, and histories of women, in particular women affected and traumatized by violent extremism.

CVE programming in this area shall guarantee the participation and involvement of local women in activities that protect and promote Kenyan culture and heritage, as both actors and audience. It shall also ensure that arts and culture activities reflect the experiences of women, by providing platforms for women to share their stories and have their voices heard.

8. **Legal and Policy Pillar**– In supporting CVE, laws and policy frameworks shall address the situation faced by affected and traumatized women, including their pressing (psycho-) social and economic needs. The annual review of the efficacy of laws and policies shall be carried out in partnership with women's civil society organizations, ensure gender-sensitivity of legislation and their relevance to women's needs, and eliminate gender-discriminatory laws.

CVE programming in this area shall guarantee the involvement of women, as politicians, civil society members, and activists, in the drafting, revision and monitoring of CVE laws and policy frameworks.

9. **Media and Online Pillar**– Media is an essential tool for elevating lesser-known and underrepresented narratives and stories, including those of women and girls affected by violence or women and women's organizations working to counter extremism in their communities. These stories serve both as counter-narratives, and as "lessons learned" in promoting peace and tolerance.

CVE programming related to media should involve training media organizations in gender- and conflict- sensitive reporting that incorporates underrepresented voices. Women and girls should be engaged in the development and transmission of counter-narratives in traditional and social media, including within

their own communities. Media should call attention to the CVE efforts led by national, regional and local women leaders.

II. Key Stakeholders

A. National Leadership

The institutions advising on the strategy's resourcing and implementation, namely the Executive Office of the President and the National Security Advisory Committee, should ensure that:

- Adequate resources are dedicated to the needs of and issues pertinent to affected and traumatized women, and to the mainstreaming of gender analysis and concerns;
- Kenyan women's civil society organizations and activists are engaged at each stage of the implementation of the National Strategy and receive resources and funding for their work;
- Progress updates by the NCTC to advisory institutions include briefings on the status of CVE work related to affected and traumatized women, and on the mainstreaming of gender in the implementation of the National Strategy.

B. Communities, Citizens and Elected Leaders

The NCTC, in its work to ensure citizen ownership of CVE efforts by the government and the NGO sector, should ensure that:

- "Communities" and "citizens" are not taken to mean a heterogeneous group, but reflect the diversity in perspectives of women and girls, particularly those affected and traumatized by extremist violence;
- Elected officials engaged in CVE at the Ward, Constituency, County and National levels include a representative number of women, and are sensitized to the gender dimensions of CVE work;
- Community forums reflect a representative number of women, including affected and traumatized women themselves, and touch on gender issues.

C. Kenya Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Kenyan government ministries, departments and agencies, in their work to protect Kenyans from violent extremists, increase positive citizen-government linkages, and guarantee law and order, should ensure that:

- All efforts by government bodies provide for the participation of women's civil society, women's activists and women community leaders;
- The composition of de- and counter-radicalization bodies at county level achieves a balance of women and men among all its members, and includes representatives from women civil society organizations, female youth representatives, and researchers with insight into the needs of traumatized and affected women;
- Regional Coordinators, County Commissioners, Country Security and Intelligence Committees systematically integrate gender concerns, including in particular the situation of women traumatized and affected by extremism, in their implementation of CVE work;
- The NCTC, in its coordination role, monitors the responsiveness of CVE work to the needs of women traumatized and affected by extremism, the participation of women civil society as partners in implementation, and the strategic mainstreaming of gender concerns throughout the CVE portfolio;
- Special measures are taken to ensure CVE – in particular the law enforcement response - is protective of the dignity, human rights and civil liberties of women and girls.

D. The Private Sector

Private sector organizations, in their capacity to offer opportunities to strengthen CVE via marketing expertise, training, media and entrepreneurship, should ensure that:

- Private sector groupings at the structural level achieve a balance of women and men among their members, and pursue CVE opportunities to respond to the needs of traumatized and affected women;
- Corporate Social Responsibility programmes respond to the needs of traumatized and affected women and strategically mainstream gendered CVE concerns;
- The private education industry supports the education, skill-building and literacy of women and girls, including female educators, and the teaching of arts, culture, philosophy, tolerance, and civil and religious literacy through a gender-sensitive lens;

- The media elevates underrepresented narratives and voices, including those of women and girls affected by violence or women and calls attention to the work of women's organizations engaged in CVE in their communities;
- The public relations and marketing industry engages women as key actors in crafting and disseminating messages to delegitimize violent extremists and promote tolerance and pluralism;
- The IT industry promotes participation by women and girls both as actors to counter extremism on-line, and by administering IT skills and vocational training to support women's economic empowerment.

E. Civil Society, NGOs and CBOs

Civil society, NGOs and CBOs, in seeking to build community resilience against radicalization in partnership with the Government of Kenya, should ensure that:

- All CVE programming, including development, livelihood, community policing and governance programming, is gender-sensitive, developed in a participatory manner, and responds to the needs of women traumatized and affected by violent extremism;
- Program risk analysis includes the analysis of unique security and social risks faced by women in the context of conflict and violent extremism;
- Information on women, in particular on the status of traumatized and affected women, is systematically included in reporting to the NCTC, including via the provision of gender-disaggregated data;
- Participatory research is conducted on women's involvement in extremism as perpetrators, victims, family members, returnees and peace builders;
- The Government of Kenya and the NCTC are held accountable for their capacity to deliver gender-sensitive programming and address the issues faced by traumatized and affected women, including by conducting empirical research on the impact of their work.

F. Bilateral and Multilateral Partners

Bilateral and multilateral partners, while retaining their commitment to the principles outlined in the UN Counter Terrorism Architecture, the SG's Plan of Action, the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, should ensure that:

- Sufficient information is made available to Kenyan actors (government, civil society, private sector) on the intersection between the women, peace and security agenda and the P/CVE agenda;
- Donor funding prioritizes local CVE projects, programmes and initiatives that are gender-sensitive, and sufficient funds are made available for initiatives and programming that respond to the needs of women traumatized and affected by violent extremism;
- CVE reporting processes require the provision of information on women and gender-sensitivity, particular on the status of traumatized and affected women, including through gender-disaggregated data;
- NGO and CBOs selected for partnership in the implementation of CVE programming include women's civil society organizations, organizations working on women's issues, and/or organizations with demonstrated gender expertise.

III. Plan of Action

Partnership and harmonization of efforts by the Government of Kenya, relevant government entities at regional and country level, CBOs, NGOs and all other non-state actors is essential for implementing the above recommendations and initiating sustainable action.

Because a coordinated effort on the part of the government, NGOs, and donor and community based organizations is imperative, it is proposed that a committee representing all these groups be appointed to work on the issues. A comprehensive action plan needs to be developed that, in the first instance, articulates policies and programs to improve the situation.

The action plan shall include the creation of a working network and mechanism for regular consultation between government and civil society, particularly women's civil society, to ensure that the implementation on National CVE Strategy also addresses women issues, following the recommendations put forth in this charter.

Below, please find a division of the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, and suggested action steps.

Actors/ PILLARS	PSYCHOSOCIAL	EDUCATION	POLITICAL	SECURITY	FAITH-BASED/ IDEOLOGICAL
National Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure reporting to national leadership including research on the psychosocial needs of women • Establish funding mechanisms for civil society organizations engaged in P/CVE work, including for local women's charters to be able to impact on women. • Framework on psychosocial support needs to be developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure reporting to national leadership on education curricula and early warning systems in school includes information on gender-sensitivity and the needs of girls/young women affected by VE • Ensure civil society, NGOs, private sector are engaged as partners in curriculum development processes, and that it is reflected in reporting • Integrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure reporting on engagement with political leaders includes gender-disaggregated data on the number of male/female leaders engaged • Ensure civil society, NGOs, private sector are engaged as partners in advocacy agenda development processes, and that it is reflected in reporting • Engage at regional and international bodies. • Political good will to support CVE issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a transparent and effective internal accountability and justice mechanism for security forces and police, promoting a zero-tolerance policy • Ensure communities and civil society are engaged as partners in security and CVE work, via community policing • Support and enforcement of the 'Nyumba Kumi' initiative • A clear policy on dealing with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for inter-denominational dialogue, religious inclusivity • Recognize and appreciate the different religious faiths • Vetting and licensing of religious leaders and institutions

		<p>system of education should be introduced in schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum to including criteria for vetting of madras teachers and preachers. • Training of teachers on P/CVE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalization of the gender policy 	<p>returnees and how to reintegrate them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of security officers on VE • Reviewing the security training curriculum 	
Communities, Citizens and Elected Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage communities to establish psychological, social and economic support groups for widows and single mothers who lost their husbands as a result of VE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage communities and elected leaders on curricula reform, reviewing and consult them on how education can meet their family's needs • Role of mentors/models from the communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with political leaders at all levels around the needs of women traumatized/affected by VE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with communities and elected leaders to identify issues between community/police and strategies for addressing them • Structure community policing to be inclusive of women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerance of various religious faiths • Respect of various religious ideologies
Kenya Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop centers for psycho- 	(In particular the Ministry of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically consult women's 	(In partnership with the National Police	

Ministries, Departments and Agencies	<p>social support at county levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an enabling environment to mitigate their social and economic losses 	<p>Education):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure education curricula support the teaching of arts, culture, philosophy and civil and religious literacy, through a gender-sensitive lens • Strengthen the counseling and guidance departments of schools to better support youth whose parents have joined extremist groups; • Celebrate key international days such as women's day, youth day, human rights day to foster a sense of global citizenship and local relevance 	<p>civil society organizations and community representatives in the establishment of an advocacy agenda, via community dialogues, workshops, consultation fora, and joint action committees</p>	<p>Authority and Independent Police Oversight Authority):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes mechanisms for regular partnership and consultation with women and women civil society leaders in prevention efforts; i.e. Police Cafes, where women and police women at the police stations hold meetings in cafes to discuss CVE related concerns, solutions and strategies 	
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<p>The Private Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops CSR programs and initiatives that grow the economic empowerment of women affected by VE • Funding on P/CVE issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Educational Institutions on skill-building and vocational training programmes, particularly for young women/girls affected by VE • Funding on P/CVE issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and stakeholders collaborate on community projects at the county and sub-county levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains private security forces in preventing violent extremism, working with radicalized youth, sensitivity to gender considerations, and community policing • Ensure strong accountability mechanisms are in place/developed for private security forces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting involved in the curriculum development • Development of schools, mosques and churches
<p>Civil Society, NGOs and CBOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate development of local women's charters (at province + village level) designing activities and programmes to support economic empowerment, meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the government and educational institutions on the content + nature of curricula reform; • Participate in the organization of extra-curricular and/or after- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise political leaders on the establishment of an advocacy agenda via community dialogues, workshops, consultation fora, and joint action committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as a bridge between police, the military and the populations they serve • Supporting community policing initiatives, community trust-building 	

	<p>psychosocial needs, and gender-sensitive reintegration, to be implemented in the communities they serve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take lead in sensitization on P/CVE • Conduct an oversight role. 	<p>school activities that promote diversity and pluralism, i.e. theatre, exchange visits, field trips.</p>		<p>dialogues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting in investigations, designing prevention activities. 	
Bilateral and Multilateral Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available funding for locally-led activities on economic empowerment, meeting psychosocial needs, gender-sensitive reintegration • Offer best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to guidance and tools, such as the UNESCO Teacher's Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism, for the integration of P/CVE in education curricula 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce benchmarking and exchange programmes locally and international and create global network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available funding for locally-led activities that build relationships between police, communities, civil society 	

Actors/ PILLARS	TRAINING AND CAPACITY- BUILDING	ARTS AND CULTURE	LEGAL AND POLICY	MEDIA AND ONLINE
National Leadership	<p>National leadership will ensure full involvement and participation of women in all efforts made towards addressing the push and pull factors of violent extremism. This includes but is not limited to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dialogue and decision making forums -Community activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Department of gender, Arts, sports and culture at the county level by preserving cultures at county levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact laws intended at detection, prevention, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, rehabilitation, integration and support of people affected by violent extremism at the same time respecting the fundamental rights and freedom under the constitution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on CVE should be access through media and online. • Avoid negative reporting that may cause conflicts • Stop profiling individuals based on certain aspects such as religion.
Communities, Citizens and Elected Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women politicians ensure that the one third gender rule is implemented in all the governmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in either Political, corporate leadership positions should be role models in the implementation of this charter especially 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female politicians support all legislative measures to ensure the objectives of this charter are realized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media to promote women programmes and highlight any problem faced by women.

	programmes, representations and recruitment.	promoting Arts and culture		
Kenya Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a centre under NCTC at the Coast that will be the training facility of CVE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce Women programs and trainings on countering violent Extremism (CVE) in Kenya, preferably in the 6 Coastal counties with emphasis on peace building and conflict resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The laws should provide for plea bargaining for suspects to enable obtain assistance and or information from them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging women's training, adopting professional guidelines to reduce discrimination and establishing media watch groups for monitoring were among measures to move forward.
The Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders should partner to building support and care networks that enhances the likelihood of having a positive impact that develops the wellbeing of the community, without focusing on surveillance alone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders in the prevention of violent extremism shall through Embracing Arts and modern culture as part of a broader prevention effort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Counties that do not have a CVE region Plan should Endeavour to contextualize one. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A broader prevention effort of CVE in which the family, community and media shall be involved.

<p>Civil Society, NGOs and CBOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce awareness plans through media, CSOs, Community Based and Faith Based Organizations on Countering violent Extremism (CVE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO's, Faith based organization should establish a framework for implementing this charter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There shall be an annual review of the efficacy of laws and policies for CVE carried out through the coordination by the NCTC, where relevant stakeholders such as political leaders at the local and national levels, communities, civil society and researchers shall also be consulted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media to sensitize the public on the importance of preventing and countering violent extremism and also media should highlights women programme which are implemented by women led organizations and other CSO's.
<p>Bilateral and Multilateral Partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilateral and multilateral partners to fund all the programmes that deals with countering violent extremism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding that will promote arts and culture in preventing and countering violent extremism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set aside funds for the research and policy formulation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government through department of information to create a Media and online platform for dialogue among all stakeholders on violent extremism.

Annex I: Relevant Policies and Legislation

In 2015, the Secretary General released the Action Plan on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in response to the fourth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/68/276) and Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). The Action Plan specifically highlights women's empowerment as a critical force for sustainable peace, noting that societies for which gender equality indicators are higher are less vulnerable to violent extremism.¹ The Plan recommends that countries mainstream gender perspectives in P/CVE work, include women in national law enforcement and security agencies, and build the capacity of women and civil society groups to engage in prevention and response efforts. The recommendations contained in this Charter are informed by the SG's Action Plan on PVE.

Within Kenya, several national and county-level efforts exist to counter violent extremism, mentioning women and gender to various extents:

- **National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism** - The National Strategy details the drivers of radicalization in Kenya and structures CVE efforts around nine pillars: psychosocial, education, political, security, faith-based/ideological, arts and culture, training and capacity-building, legal and policy, media and online. It does not specifically identify women as beneficiaries or participants in CVE programming, nor does it mention gender mainstreaming considerations.
- **Mombasa County: Action Plan for Countering Violent Extremism** – The Mombasa County Action Plan highlights women as “key protagonists in the CVE agenda,” both as perpetrators and victims of violent extremism. The Plan calls for continuous engagement of women, a greater body of research on how women are affected by VE, and the inclusion of women in decision-making processes.
- **Lamu County Plan for Countering Violent Extremism** – The Lamu County Action Plan notes the complex roles women assume in the face of extremist violence: as mothers, sisters, daughters and wives who are left destitute due to the loss of their spouse, child or parent; wives as quiet, willing accomplices to their husbands; and young girls as members of jihadist groups. The Plan proposes the development of a support program for families of victims of violent extremism. It mentions women's groups as part of civil society but does not expand further on their role in CVE.

¹ United Nations, *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism*, Agenda for Action, available at: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

- **Kwale County Plan for Countering Violent Extremism** – The Kwale plan takes a robust approach to women's inclusion and gender mainstreaming. Like the Lamu Plan, it also discusses the complexity of women's roles during conflict, as both encouraging (silent observers, spies, recruiters) and discouraging (promoters of peaceful society) of extremist violence.

The plan calls for the inclusion of women as key stakeholders in the development and implementation of CVE approaches, the recognition of the broad range of roles women play, and the need to create a network for women civil society.

- **Kilifi County Action Plan for Countering Violent Extremism** – The Kilifi plan does not comprehensively discuss women, and only mentions them as beneficiaries of economic empowerment and livelihood programmes.

PREAMBLE

We Women of Kenya, comprised of the political leadership, members of non-Governmental organizations, business fraternity, local women community leaders, and young women,

AWARE of the fundamental human rights and freedoms and the responsibilities bestowed upon us by the constitution of Kenya 2010 and particularly,

The right to life, equality and freedom from discrimination, human dignity, security of the person, freedom of association, freedom of movement and residence, right to property, economic and social rights, family rights, access to justice, rights of children, youth and minorities,

AND RECOGNIZING the challenges to the aforesaid rights caused by the reality of violent extremism which has affected our lives,

AND CONSIDERING the economic and social development, psychosocial support required in preventing/countering violent extremism,

AND REALIZING that in order to empower ourselves to be able to address violent extremism we do hereby adopt this charter as an instrument of achieving our objectives herein below stated.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of the present charter, unless the context requires otherwise:

Charter	shall mean the women CVE charter
Countering violent Extremism	shall mean the use of non-coercive means to dissuade women or group of women from mobilizing towards violence and to mitigate recruitment, support, facilitation or engagement in ideologically motivated terrorism by non-state actors in furtherance of political goals.
Community resilience	shall mean the ability of communities to minimize any act of violent extremism, making the return to normal life as effortless as possible, while rebuilding itself physically and economically.
Global citizenship	for the purpose of this charter shall mean empowering women and young people to develop the knowledge, skills and values they need to create a better and fairer world.
Governments	shall mean the role and responsibility of governments at the County and National level and their accountability to this <i>charter</i> for effective cooperation and coordination on Preventing and countering violent extremism with emphasis on women.
Mini buzz	shall mean part of the activity undertaken by COEC through Public means which used to enrich women

with the clear message of preventing violent extremism.

National counter terrorism centre shall mean a multi-agency instrument primarily of security agencies built to strengthen coordination in counter terrorism.

National CVE strategy shall mean the strategy developed by NCTC and adopted by the Nation as an articulation of the country's prevention efforts against terrorism and violent extremism.

Women Darsas shall mean women foras which women meet and deliberate issues pertaining to the effects of violent extremism and find concrete solutions.

Push factors shall mean what compels or motivates individuals (women) to violent extremism e.g. marginalization, inequality, discrimination, persecution or perception of thereof; limited access to quality and relevant education, the denial of rights and other environmental, historical and socio-economic grievances.

Pull factors shall mean factors that nurture the appeal of violent extremism to an individual (they work at an individual level), e.g. existence of well organised violent extremist groups with compelling discourses and effective programmes that are providing services, revenue or employment in exchange of membership or lure members by providing outlets for grievances and promise of freedom.

Radicalization

shall mean the process through which an individual or a group considers violence as a legitimate and desirable means of action.

Violent extremism

shall mean the beliefs and actions of people who support or use ideologically – motivated violence to achieve radical ideological, religious or political views.

ARTICLES

By this Charter, we Women of the Coast Region do hereby promise, undertake and or commit ourselves as here below stated.

ARTICLE 1: EDUCATION PILLAR

To influence the state to:-

1. To develop a curriculum that promotes values such as patriotism, tolerance, and unity in a bid to counter violent extremism which shall be taught in institutions of learning right from the ECD to tertiary education centres.
2. Commit itself to modify social and cultural gender perceptions of men and women through public and formal education institutions with a view of eliminating discriminations of persons on the basis of gender, race, marital status, colour, ethnic, culture, belief, religion, dress, language or birth in their role of countering violent extremism.
3. Ensure affirmative action is implemented in the education of all girls and women in Kenya and specifically coast region to the highest level of education which will empower them with knowledge and skills that will be useful in increasing their critical thinking abilities and thereby more resilient to radicalization.
4. Ensure that education plays a crucial role in preventing violent extremism and de-radicalization of young people by recognizing that Education:
 - a) Helps young people develop the communication and inter personal skills they need to dialogue, face disagreement and learn peaceful approaches to change.
 - b) Helps learners develop their critical thinking to investigate claims, verify rumours and question the legitimacy and appeal of extremist beliefs.
 - c) Helps learners develop the resilience to resist extremist narratives and acquire the social- emotional skills they need to overcome their doubts and engage constructively in society without having to resort to violence.

- d) Nurtures critically informed citizens able to constructively engage in peaceful collective action.
5. Adopt globally accepted education curriculum that seeks to develop the learners' knowledge, skills, values and attitudes in view of their active participation in the peaceful and sustainable development of their societies consequently this nurtures a sense of belonging to a common humanity as well as genuine respect for all and instil respect for human rights, social justice, gender equality and environmental sustainability, which are fundamental values that help raise the defences of peace against violent extremism.

ARTICLE 2: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PILLAR

To ensure that:-

1. The government shall focus on the following in order to realize Education, skills and economic empowerment:-
 - a) Empowering women overcome the push and pull factors to CVE.
 - b) Developing programs that educate youths on the dangers of violence extremism and radicalization. Many of them face the challenge of distinguishing the truth and myths of these matters.
 - c) Introducing CVE as a syllabus/ course for schools to adopt to curb VE at earlier stages of the pupils.
 - d) Establish a centre under NCTC at the Coast that will be the training facility of CVE .
 - e) Enforce awareness plans through media, CSOs, Community Based and Faith Based Organizations on Countering violent Extremism (CVE).
 - f) Conduct Skills Development Trainings for traumatized women and these trainings should be introduced at the county level to support these women.
 - g) Create more awareness to the community so as to understand these survivors and the children of the affected women and they should also be given civic education.

- h) Introduce Women programs and trainings on countering violent Extremism (CVE) in Kenya, preferably in the 6 Coastal counties with emphasis on peace building and conflict resolution.
- i) Support women through seminars on violence extremism and radicalization. This will empower them with the requisite knowledge to prevent members of the families from joining extremist groups.
- j) Provide access to on-going support for rehabilitated and reintegrated victims to help them carry on with their normal lives.
- k) Introduce more sustainable women programs to support traumatized women. These programmes should be managed by the County government either alone or in partnership with non-state actors.
- l) Come up with economic empowerment programmes for single mothers as a vulnerable group to help boost their economic situation in order to support their children's welfare.
- m) Create job opportunities to employ youths so as to address the challenges of unemployment among the youths in the counties.
- n) Create a special fund to facilitate those women, widows and families who lost their breadwinners i.e. their husbands or sons during terror attacks as they tend to suffer socially, psychologically and economically.
- o) Adopt and implement this charter and county strategies on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), In order for there to be a collective approach on eradicating violent extremism.

ARTICLE 3: PSYCHOSOCIAL PILLAR

To lobby the State to :-

1. Establish a psychosocial support for women affected by Violent Extremism (VE) in Kenya and Specifically Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi County.
2. Rehabilitate, re-integrate of reformed extremists and provide support to the affected families and social networks through, among others, a health kitty for those that shall be affected.

3. Establish a trauma counselling centre for women in Kenya and preferably in the Coast region.
4. Introduce a '*safe house for victims*' of violent Extremism (VE) to serve like a temporary home as they sort out their next move and provide them with skill development training.
5. Develop mechanisms of detecting early warning and intervention efforts to prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism such as:-
 - a) Sudden break or detachment with family and long standing friendships
 - b) Sudden drop out of school and conflicts with the school
 - c) Change in behaviour relating to food, clothing, language or finances.
 - d) Changes in attitudes and behaviours towards others; anti-social comments, rejection of authority, refusal to interact socially and signs of withdrawal or isolation.
 - e) Regular viewing of internet sites and participation in social media networks that condone radical or extremists views
 - f) Reference to apocalyptic and conspiracy theories.

ARTICLE 4: LEGAL AND POLICY PILLAR

To lobby and Influence parliament:-

1. Enact or Streamline where enacted laws intended at detection, prevention, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, rehabilitation, integration and support of people affected by violent extremism at the same time respecting the fundamental rights and freedom under the constitution.
2. Ensure the laws and policy frame works it enacts shall support Countering and eradication of violent extremism (CVE).
3. Ensure the laws it enacts provide for plea bargaining for suspects to enable obtain assistance and or information from them.
4. Ensure there shall be an annual review of the efficacy of laws and policies for CVE carried out through the coordination by the NCTC, where relevant

stakeholders such as political leaders at the local and national levels, communities, civil society and researchers shall also be consulted.

5. Ensure the laws enacted on the subject consider the use of evidence-based approaches to identify and effectively address the factors that lead to women involvement in violent extremism and terrorism.
6. Ensure the laws enacted are based on analyses of the varying roles of women and girls, men and boys, in violent extremism as well as the push and pull factors that put them specifically at risk of radicalization and recruitment which are a critical component of designing policy and interventions that shall address violent extremism's complexity.
7. Ensure the laws enacted provide for strengthening of the links on the international relations and on the whereabouts of the people who seek employment to foreign countries.
8. Ensure the laws enacted provide access to administrative justice and equal protection before the laws by putting the following measures:-
 - a) Strict regulation for those interested to be citizens of Kenya through immigration department.
 - b) Involvement of the parents, government, youths and the communities in all dialogues and the mechanism to curb extremism.
 - c) Protection of whistle blowers instead of exposing them to the community hence fall victim of the extremist youths.
 - d) Provide for accountability in Countering violent extremism (CVE) and related matters
 - e) There shall be respect of the rule of law as citizens.
 - f) The victims of violence extremism shall be investigated and if found innocent, clear them and allow them to live a normal life.
 - g) Police brutality shall be stopped since its adding to more youths joining the extremist groups because of bitterness and revenge.
 - h) Ensure the employment and deployment of more Police officers in order to tackle the problem of insecurity/ violent extremism (VE) not only at boarder but also at community level.

ARTICLE 5: FAITH BASED AND IDEOLOGICAL PILLAR

To Lobby and influence religious leaders and Kenyans in general:

1. Ensure Religion and beliefs foster awareness about, and respect for, diversity within the community and provide opportunity to explore different values and beliefs.
2. Ensure religious People and believers' accommodate and tolerate members of other religion, faiths and beliefs and they should not be stereotyped.
3. Encourage Governments, private institutions and civil societies to collaborate to realize the following actions;
 - a) Develop a programme that will inform and enlighten community members that no single religion is bound to kill a fellow human being in order to go to heaven. These kinds of programmes will help reduce the ill feeling and hatred between Christians and Muslims in Kenya.
 - b) Evaluate all religious places of worship that are suspected to be the venues of recruitment of youths and establish a framework that will introduce new rules and regulations for the management and administration of the religious institutions.
 - c) Ensure that religious institutions seek to address religious profiling and stereotyping while demystifying extreme narratives aligned to religion.
 - d) Ensure that Religious institutions train their followers both men and women on responsible enjoyment of freedom of worship.

ARTICLE 6: POLITICAL PILLAR

To lobby and Influence all female politicians to:-

1. Support all legislative measures to ensure the objectives of this charter are realized.
2. Ensure that the one third gender rule is implemented in all the governmental programmes, representations and recruitment.
3. Develop Mechanism that ensure that Women in either Political or corporate leadership positions should be role models in the implementation of this charter.

ARTICLE 7: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT

To lobby and influence Government to :-

1. Enact legislation in accordance with the Kenyan constitution to adopt legislative or other measures that may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this women's charter.
2. Ensure full involvement and participation of women in all efforts made towards addressing the push and pull factors of violent extremism. This includes but is not limited to:-
 - a) Dialogue and decision making forums
 - b) Community activities
 - c) Policy formulation and implementation
3. Work with all stakeholders including but not limited to civil society groups, international development partners and the community to engage women in peace building initiatives geared towards countering violent extremism.
4. Recognize and uphold the basic human rights stipulated in the bill of rights in the Kenyan constitution in their efforts towards countering violent extremism. This includes enforcing the rule of law and due process.
5. Undertake support programs or initiatives that lead to the holistic development of women who have been directly or indirectly affected by violent extremism or counter violent extremism measures to ensure improvement of their psychological state, social, economic and political life.

ARTICLE 8: INFORMATION GATHERING ON VIOLENT EXTREMISM

To spearhead campaigns intended at the Government: -

1. To enact laws that embraces the *Nyumba Kumi initiative*' as a way of gathering information among which shall be that related to violent extremism cases. A reporting mechanism system shall be introduced at the ward level which will act as a liaison office with the NCTC in countering violence extremism.

2. Create awareness on the need to report all those who want to support and fund the youth's groups.
3. Empower Parents to be ready and willing to share information about their children with law enforcement agents for purposes of monitoring children's conduct this will enable to understand their whereabouts and bad peer influence.
4. Create a platform for dialogue among all stakeholders on violent extremism.

ARTICLE 9: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

To be in the forefront in ensuring that the implementation of this charter, the governments should respect the rights and freedom of all citizens. For instance:-

- a) It should respect the international treaties, concessions and all Conventions that touch on the rights and freedom of all people.
- b) It should protect the human rights and freedoms of women and girls at all times, including their equality, non-discrimination and equal participation and ensure that CVE efforts do not stereotype, instrumentalize, or securitize women. The support and fortification of women's rights are essential to efforts to embrace women and mainstream gender in CVE.
- c) Ensure that Security agencies uphold the right to security of person in the constitution (Chapter 4 article 29) especially in the arrest or investigations of their loved ones.

ARTICLE 10: FAMILY

To ensure through Civic education that:-

1. Parents spare sometime over the day or in the evening i.e. after work to have a chat with their children on how the day had gone. This shall help in cementing good morals to the children and this shall also help the children not to deviate and join the illegal gangs.
2. Members of the family shall encourage effective communication at all times, especially husband to wife and children to parents.

3. Family shall watch out for early signs of radicalization such as sudden break with the family and long standing friendships, sudden drop-out of school and conflicts with the school, change of behaviour and attitude towards others – anti social, withdrawal, regular viewing of internet sites and participation in social media network that condone radical or extremist views as well as reference to apocalyptic and conspiracy theories.
4. Families shall prevent radicalisation of family members and shall assist disengagement of those involved in violent extremism.

ARTICLE 11: STAKEHOLDERS PARTNERSHIP AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

To ensure that:-

1. All stakeholders in the prevention of violent extremism shall, through education be part of a broader prevention effort in which the family, community and media shall be involved.
2. All stakeholders should partner to building support and care networks that enhances the likelihood of having a positive impact that develops the wellbeing of the community, without focusing on surveillance alone.
3. All Counties that do not have a CVE regional Plan should endeavour to contextualize one.
4. Civil society organizations should outline specific roles and duties that they shall play in implementing CVE under National CVE strategy.
5. Faith based organization should establish a framework for implementing this charter.
6. Stakeholders should Strengthen County Policing Authority to deal with community policing.
7. The National Police Service together with the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) shall come up with mechanism to punish police officers who takes advantage by mistreating women and young girls during investigation
8. Police Authorities shall come up with community program that will enable free interaction of Police Officers and the community members. This shall help create

rapport and build confidence among the community members therefore making them free to report any suspected terror activity without any fear of victimization.

ARTICLE 12: MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

To influence the Government to :-

1. Include women and girls in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of CVE efforts.
2. Measure the effectiveness and efficiency of women CVE Progress and end results, by adopting and implementing this charter, which will incorporate gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation of CVE policy and programs to enhance efficacy.
3. Monitor the implementation of the Charter through regular and organised meetings at the county level as well as at the national level. Therefore it will develop a monitoring instrument to enable consistency in tracking results.
4. Ensure that the reviews of the charter occur at frequent and specified intervals either quarterly or bi- annually. The reviews shall determine whether the implementation of the charter is on course and identify specific variances and their causes.
5. Ensure that the evaluation of the charter is undertaken at the end of the month of June in each financial year.



Tudor Kiziwi Opp Masjid Khairat,
P.O Box 40914 - 80100
Tel: 0775 985 334 (Office)
Email: info@coec.or.ke



@COECMSA



@COEC_MSA