



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Capacity-Building Workshop for representatives of Civil Society Organizations on the Integration of a Gender Perspective into Initiatives to Prevent Violent Extremism

Nouakchott, Mauritania
20-21-22 May 2024

BACKGROUND

The impact of conflict, violence and insecurity on women and girls has long been explored both within and outside the context of the United Nations system. In 2000, the United Nations Security Council officially addressed the interconnectedness of these topics when it adopted the landmark resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). This resolution is a crucial framework to address the unique ways women and girls are affected by conflict and promote their participation in maintaining peace and security, conflict prevention, and post-conflict efforts. Within this framework, the importance of gender mainstreaming, specifically in the context of preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), has been widely acknowledged.

Since 2015, several WPS resolutions have increasingly addressed the specific challenges women face in the context of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, calling for the inclusion of a gender perspective in all efforts to counter and prevent this phenomenon. The UN Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violent Extremism also encourages investment in gender-sensitive research and data collection on women's roles in violent extremism, as well as the development of targeted and evidence-based policy and programming responses that address women's specific needs, which is the focus of UNICRI's latest study.

UNICRI'S INITIATIVE

Since 2015, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) has been active in the field of the prevention of violent extremism in the Sahel. Its approach has been grounded on the view that P/CVE strategies must rely on the assumption that the interactions between men, women and violent extremist groups are not uniform throughout the Sahel and that the experiences and everyday realities of local communities should inform their design. This view has prompted UNICRI to analyse these elements further, with the aim of mainstreaming gender perspectives across P/CVE efforts in the region.



In this context, in late 2022, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) – supported by the generous contribution of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) – launched a two-year project aimed at building gender-sensitive resilience to violent extremism in Mali, Mauritania and Niger. During the first phase of the project, UNICRI initiated a data collection effort in the three target countries to define guiding principles for the design of future P/CVE interventions based on a sound analysis of gender roles and power relations. By gathering the opinions of local communities on issues such as the availability of services, gender roles, violence, and P/CVE interventions, the study provided a unique opportunity to explore through a gendered lens how these elements may be interlinked and how concerns over the lack of essential services and fundamental rights may act as drivers of violence. Based on the collected data, in November 2023, UNICRI released the publication [Voices of Resilience: A Gender Needs Analysis on Preventing Violent Extremism in the Sahel](#).

During the second phase of this initiative, UNICRI aims to build the capacity of key stakeholders to develop a P/CVE approach that fully considers and addresses the gender dynamics of violent radicalisation and recruitment in the region. To achieve this, based on the findings of the first phase, the Institute will develop capacity-building sessions for key stakeholders from Mauritania.

CAPACITY-BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

In this context, on 20-21-22 May 2024, UNICRI will deliver a capacity-building workshop to 25 civil society representatives in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Civil society is widely recognised as a critical actor in counter-terrorism and PVE efforts, as recalled by the United Nations General Assembly's UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006). Civil society stakeholders can facilitate and increase the impact of practical, innovative and sustainable measures due to their ability to reach out to all communities and translate global strategies into local and regional realities.

The objectives of the workshop are to

- Increase awareness of existing international commitments and frameworks on women, peace and security and gender-responsive interventions on preventing violent extremism among civil society actors working on gender equality and P/CVE;
- and
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to incorporate gender perspectives into programming and to implement P/CVE initiatives that reflect sound gender analysis and address gender-based discrimination.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS



Civil society representatives will be selected through this open Call for Expression of Interest.

Due to limited slots, participants will be subjected to a selection process that will consider the relevance of their application, their experience as actors of change, and the motivation and interest demonstrated. To the extent possible, the selection committee will balance age, gender, and diversity of backgrounds among selected participants.

Eligibility and Evaluation of Applicants

This Call for Expression of Interest is addressed to representatives of not-for-profit organisations – civil society organisations, women and youth-led organisations.

To be eligible to participate in the workshop, applicants must

- Currently be employed at a relevant non-profit organisation (CSOs including NGOs, CBOs) registered under the relevant Laws of Mauritania and working in the area of gender equality, prevention of gender-based violence, prevention of violent extremism, conflict prevention and mitigation.

Applicants will be evaluated based on their

- Experience and engagement with one or more of the topics of the workshop (gender equality, gender-based violence, prevention of violent extremism, conflict prevention and mitigation, community resilience);
- Background in acting as change makers in their communities;
- Motivation and commitment to further engage on the topics and the ability to consult with and reach a broad group of audiences or networks.

Documents to be submitted

Applicants will be required to submit all of the following documents:

- 1) Fully completed Application form (template provided)
- 2) Passport or National ID of applicant
- 3) Official registration of relevant CSO
- 4) Proof of applicant's employment at the relevant CSO
- 5) A letter signed by the legal representative of the relevant CSO confirming the applicant will act as the designated representative of that organisation (template provided)

Further instructions

- Applications must be completed in English or French.
- Hand-written applications will not be accepted.



- Due care must be taken to complete the application form. Any error or major discrepancy related to the application form (e.g. not submitting all required documents) may lead to rejection of the application.
- Applications should be sent by e-mail. Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by mail) or delivered to other addresses will not be considered.
- All required documents, including the Application form, should be sent as attachments in the same email.
- The completed application form must be submitted in Word.
- Only one representative from each organisation can attend the workshop.

How to send the application

Applications must be submitted by email to alice.roberti@un.org, marked “Application to Workshop Gender and PVE - name of organisation” in the subject.

After reviewing the applications received, UNICRI will contact selected applicants with an invitation to participate in the workshop and will provide more details about the event.

Reimbursement of expenses

The cost of participants' travels and applicable daily subsistence allowance in Nouakchott will be covered by UNICRI as per United Nations rules and regulations. More details will be provided to selected applicants.

After selection, participants will be required to provide a bank statement to facilitate the reimbursement of expenses.

Deadline for submission of applications

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is Sunday, 7th April 2024, h. 23.59 (UTC +1), as evidenced by the date of receipt of the submission email. Any application submitted after the deadline will not be considered.