

Congress High-level Event Form

ORGANIZER	
Name of UNODC division: DTA/TPB	
Name of focal point for the event: Kate Fitzpatrick	
Email address of focal point: kate.fitzpatrick@un.org	
EVENT PROFILE	
Proposed topic	Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism
Envisaged co-sponsors	Please describe which Member States and other stakeholders would be invited to co-sponsor the event and why Indonesia: significant experience and promising practice regarding women and children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups Japan: major supporter of UNODC counter-terrorism work and of UN-wide work on women and CT/PVE Nigeria: among countries most affected by terrorism; important measures taken to integrate gender dimensions in counter-terrorism
Description of event	The event will be a high-level panel, with time for questions and answers following presentations of 10-12 minutes by the panellists. It will take place on 8 March 16:30 – 18.00.
High-level participation	Please describe which high-level participants would be invited Ms. Ghada Waly, Executive Director, UNODC (tbc) Mr. Suhardi Alius, Head of National Agency for Combating Terrorism (BNPT), Indonesia Attorney General of Nigeria OR Rear Admiral YEM Musa, Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Nigeria (TBC) Representative of Kazakhstan (TBC) Representative of Japan (TBC)
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	

CONCEPT NOTE

High-level event on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism

I. Context and Justification

Men and women are involved in the activities of terrorist groups such as ISIL/Daesh, Al-Shabaab or Boko Haram and in the commission of terrorism-related offences. However, in many cases, the circumstances of their association with these groups and the roles that they fulfil differ. Further, while women and men are among the victims of general acts of terrorism, women and girls are specifically targeted through acts of sexual and gender-based violence to achieve tactical and ideological aims. In some contexts, women disproportionately experience internal displacement due to terrorist threats, and may also face gender-specific difficulties accessing justice and seeking remedies as victims of terrorism.

Despite these different impacts and associations, traditional analysis has often placed women on the periphery of terrorism and counter-terrorism discourses, either viewing them solely as victims or as unwilling or incidental associates of the primary terrorist actors. Recently, there has been growing recognition at the international level that women are associated with and affected by terrorism in complex ways. This calls for gender perspectives to be considered through the spectrum of State responses to terrorism, ranging from measures to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism, and in criminal justice responses to terrorism.

UNODC's work in this regard is based on the understanding that criminal justice responses which do not differentiate between the impact of terrorism and counter-terrorism measures on women and men may in fact reflect largely male priorities, since men typically dominate decision-making at the household, community, and state levels.

The 2017 General Assembly resolution on *Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism* (A/RES/72/194) encourages UNODC "to assist Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism, in full compliance with human rights law, in order to prevent the recruitment of women and girls as terrorists and promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists".

This mandate was reconfirmed and expanded by the General Assembly in 2019¹. The General Assembly also welcomed the publication of the *UNODC Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism*.²

These requests to UNODC complement numerous other General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, Secretary-General reports, and other documents from the UN and others (e.g. GCTF), calling on Member States and UN entities to pay more attention to gender dimensions and women's rights in counter-terrorism and P/CVE, and to address sexual and gender-based violence used as a tactic of terrorism.³

Since 2017, UNODC has included capacity building on gender dimensions into its technical assistance cooperation with countries in Africa⁴, the Middle East, Central, South and South-East Asia.

II. Purpose of the High-Level Event

The Side Event will serve to

- Discuss trends regarding women's participation in terrorist groups;
- Highlight the links and synergies between SDGs 5 and 16, the UN's Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and UNODC's technical assistance regarding gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism;
- Present examples of UNODC technical assistance and collaboration with Member States to strengthen the ability to take into account gender dimensions in criminal justice responses to terrorism;
- Disseminate the recently published *UNODC Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism*.

¹ A/RES/174/75, OP 25.

² Available here: https://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/17-08887_HB_Gender_Criminal_Justice_E_ebook.pdf

³ GA resolution 68/178 (2014), 2018 Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review resolution, Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, Security Council resolutions 2242 (2015) and 2331 (2016).

⁴ See eg <https://www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/unodc-launches-nigeria-training-module-on-gender-dimensions-of-criminal-justice-responses-to-terrorism.html>