The Permanent Missions of Niger, Norway, Qatar and Tunisia to the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Cordially request the honour of your esteemed attendance at the

Special Event on

“Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism”

Thursday 27 Jun 2019
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
UNHQ – Conference Room 7

- H.E. Jøran Kallmyr, Minister of Justice and Immigration of Norway
- H.E. Abdou Abarry, Permanent Representative, of Niger to the UN
- H.E. Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN
- H.E. Sami Bougacha, Chargé d’Affaires of Tunisia to the UN
- Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism
- Mr. Masood Karimipour, Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC
- Ms. Paivi Kannisto, Chief of Peace and Security Unit, UN Women

Moderator: Ms. Miwa Kato, UNODC Director of Operations.

We welcome interventions from the floor during the interactive session.

A light lunch will be served outside the meeting room at 1 pm.

Kindly RSVP here or to Mr. Matteo Pasquali (pasquali@un.org)
**Background Information**

Women and men, girls and boys are among the victims of acts of terrorism, such as hostage-taking, explosives attacks in public places, or aeroplane hijacking. Terrorist groups, however, also specifically target women through acts of sexual and gender-based violence — such as rape, sexual slavery and forced marriage — as a means of achieving tactical, strategic, and ideological aims. Many terrorist groups encroach on women’s human rights and impede their socioeconomic development, including by restricting their education, movement, work opportunities. In some contexts, women disproportionately experience internal displacement as a result of terrorist threats, and lose access to livelihoods owing to terrorist attacks. Women may also face gender-specific difficulties when attempting to access justice and seeking remedies as victims of terrorism.

Some women actively and voluntarily support terrorist groups, ideologically and operationally, and are involved in the commission of terrorism-related offences. The active participation of women in terrorist groups is not a new phenomenon. The circumstances of women’s association with contemporary terrorist and violent extremist groups, the roles they fulfil in these groups and the levels of violence with which they engage, however, differ from men in many contexts, and are often based on gender roles and stereotypes. In some conflicts, women become associated with these groups through coercion or abduction, and may commit terrorism-related offences while themselves being victims of violence by terrorist groups.

Despite these different impacts and associations, traditional analysis has often placed women on the periphery of terrorism and counter-terrorism discourses, being viewed either as victims or as unwilling or incidental associates of the primary terrorist actors. There has, however, been a discernible shift at the international level towards recognizing that women are associated with, and affected by, acts of terrorism in many different ways. The Security Council helped to shift international dialogue on these matters with the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015), in which the Council recognized the differential impact of terrorism on the human rights of women and girls, and called for the greater integration by Member States and the United Nations of their agendas on Women, Peace and Security; counter-terrorism; and countering violent extremism. In 2016, the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/148, urged States to ensure that gender equality and non-discrimination were taken into account when shaping, reviewing and implementing all counter-terrorism measures, and to promote the full and effective participation of women in those processes.

A corollary of this shift is an increased recognition of the need to examine how gendered experiences and practices should inform and shape the criminal justice response to terrorism. In 2017, the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/194, encouraged 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.

UNODC’s new “Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism” is designed to provide guidance to Member States on incorporating a gender lens into the investigation and prosecution of terrorism offences, the detention of terrorism suspects, and
support to victims of terrorism, including holding terrorist groups accountable for the use of sexual and gender-based violence.

The Special Event will be an opportunity to explore the way Member States and United Nations entities are taking into account women’s involvement in terrorism as perpetrators and victims and designing gender-sensitive measures to prevent violent extremism and respond to terrorism. It will highlight how UNODC’s new Handbook can provide an important contribution to more effective criminal justice responses to terrorism and better protection of women’s rights in