



# SUPPORTING WOMEN TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM

## WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT MAKE WOMEN & GIRLS VULNERABLE TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM ?

**Across the world, gendered power structures, inequities, and societal gender norms can cause women and girls to be vulnerable to violent extremism. Situations where they may be victims of violent extremism, and open to radicalisation and recruitment include:**



When communities lack structures, mechanisms, or spaces to address or prevent local conflicts, women and girls may develop feelings of alienation and frustration.



When women and girls have economic grievances, lack education, and experience inequality paired with limited agency, they may be marginalised and alienated from social, economic, and political life.



Where women and their families directly experience violence and it becomes normalised, they may be susceptible to extremist narratives which justify violence, promise a sense of belonging, and suggest opportunities for vengeance or justice.



Where women and girls and their families are marginalised based on their identity (religious, cultural, ethnic or other), isolation and lack of social support create openings for VE groups to offer a sense of belonging.

## HOW DO SOME WOMEN BECOME PARTICIPANTS IN VIOLENT EXTREMISM?



By providing support, encouragement, or shelter to family members engaged in extremist activities



As ideological advocates and recruiters



As combatants

## HOW DO WOMEN AND GIRLS CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM?

When given opportunities, women are highly effective as participants and leaders of efforts to prevent violent extremism, including when they renounce their own allegiance. GCERF facilitates their participation in prevention efforts by supporting organisations which provide awareness-raising, psychosocial support, skills-building and leadership training. Many of the programmes receiving grant funding are also led by women and girls. In projects in more than 20 countries, they are engaged in peer advocacy, are contributing to peaceful conflict resolution, and hold essential roles in community governance.



**BY THE END OF 2022, NEARLY 50% OF THE 3.1 MILLION DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF GCERF-SUPPORTED PROGRAMMES WERE WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

**As of the end of the third quarter of 2023, interventions supported by GCERF have reached:**



**125,205**

**Women**  
engaged in interfaith and  
intergenerational  
dialogues to bridge gaps,  
foster social cohesion and  
strengthen social  
networks.

**3,764**

**Women**  
reached through trainings  
on leadership, conflict  
resolution and  
peacebuilding.

**6,331**

**Women**  
provided with economic or  
material support to  
enhance their livelihood  
opportunities.

**10,688**

**Women and girls**  
made aware of prevention  
of violent extremism  
through sensitisation  
campaigns.



**GCERF'S PLEDGE: BY 2025, WE WILL ENSURE THAT AT LEAST 40% OF OUR GRANTEE ORGANISATIONS ARE WOMEN OR YOUTH-LED.**

**Today about 33% of organisations directly supported by GCERF are women or youth led.**