

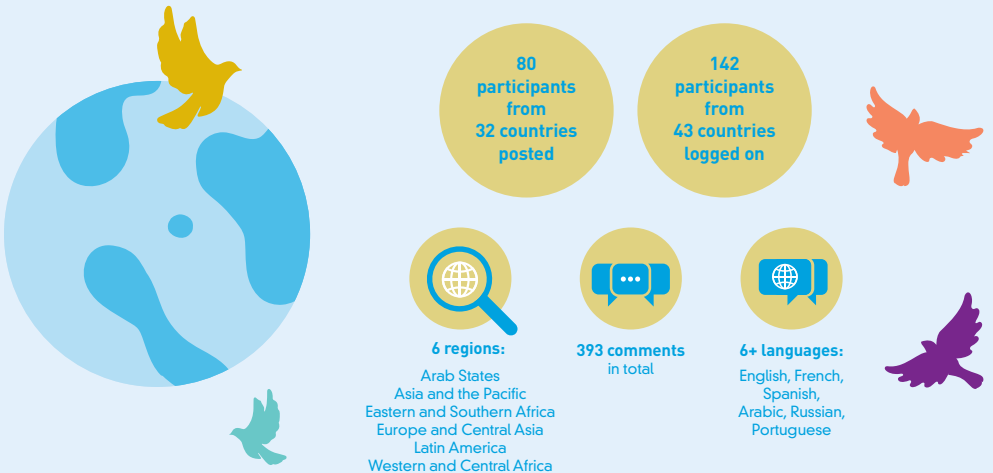
# VOICES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

## CHANGE IS NEEDED!

To prevent and properly address violent extremism we must develop a culture of **tolerance** and **peace**, where **freedom of expression** is guaranteed and where communities, including **women and girls**, are fully engaged in the design and implementation of **peace strategies**.



Between 25 May and 5 July 2020, women and men from civil society organizations across 43 countries joined the [global digital consultation](#) to reflect on the gendered dimensions of violent extremism and counter-terrorism approaches. They drafted a [Public Statement](#) with recommendations on how to change current approaches.



## PUBLIC STATEMENT

Some of the issues highlighted by civil society and some of the key recommendations they put forward during the consultation include:

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women's human rights are particularly at risk in contexts affected by violent extremism. They are caught between the violence of both violent extremist groups and State actors, who often fail to protect them

### LIMITS OF EXISTING APPROACHES

To address violent extremism, many States adopt "militarized" approaches, which lead to human rights violations, increased gender inequalities and reduced agency for women

### GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

To address violent extremism and terrorism we must protect human rights and promote gender equality

### TERMINOLOGY ISSUE

"Terrorism" and "extremism" are ambiguous terms that can be abused politically to generate biases against certain communities

### LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Violent extremism is often a locally-driven problem and it requires local solutions and leaders

### WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Women are on the frontlines as peacebuilders and human rights defenders in contexts affected by violent extremism. States must protect their rights and ensure their meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes

### INVESTING IN PEACE

Existing or past conflicts are fertile grounds for the emergence of extremism. We must address social injustices, build democratic and accountable institutions and eradicate poverty

### POWER OF EDUCATION

Investing in quality education for all, including for women and girls, is key to addressing violent extremism

The global digital consultation "Voices and perspectives of civil society on the gendered dimensions of violent extremism and counterterrorism responses" (25 May to 5 July 2020) was organized by UN Women on behalf of the Gender Working Group of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and funded by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Further information and consultation material is available on [unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org).