

UN Human Rights Council 46: UK statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Countering Terrorism

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report.

Human Rights and fundamental freedoms must be protected throughout all counter terrorism activities.

We agree on the importance of mainstreaming gender into preventing and countering violent extremism.

Gender stereotypes can be reinforced in research and programming, with women presented as victims or peacemakers, and insufficient attention paid to their diverse roles, in either countering or participating in violent movements. Evidence of women's experiences of terrorism in East Africa underlines the complexity of this issue.

The UK's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, recognises women's key role in developing strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism.

In Syria, participation in UK supported CVE programmes helps address the rise of radicalisation and prepare participants for reintegration into communities.

We particularly agree with the Special Rapporteur on protecting the right to family life.

Supporting and strengthening family ties can increase individual resilience to radicalisation and recruitment by building self-awareness, empathy, and mutually-supportive networks.

Can the Special Rapporteur provide further advice on best practice for supporting families to protect themselves?

Thank you.