

Gender Equality and Violent Extremism in North Africa

In 2014, violent extremism increased rapidly across the Middle East and North Africa region, leading to the emergence of many different militant groups with different religious, ideological and political affiliations.

There is an urgent need to increase women's participation and integrate gender analysis in preventing and countering violence extremism efforts in this region.

Despite this need, there are gaps in research to direct policy and programming in this area, particularly gender-sensitive research.

Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre (GPS)'s project is establishing a new research agenda in North Africa (Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) on the gendered dynamics of violent extremism in North Africa including gender analysis of extremist recruitment and mobilization, impacts of violent extremism and terrorism, and efforts to prevent and counter their threat in the region.

The 18-month project is mapping out why people participate in violent extremist groups and acts, and the factors that drive them to effectively prevent and counter violent extremism.

By working together with in country partners, Monash GPS is building the research capacity of national research institutes/organisations in each of the countries in North Africa. The project is undertaking in-depth regional analysis, grounded in primary data collection. It aims to better understand how the intersection of violent extremism and gender impact both women and men to inform national, regional and global programming and policy making.

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