



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations**

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

[svgmission@gmail.com](mailto:svgmission@gmail.com) | <http://svg-un.org>

**Statement**

by

**H.E. Dr. Halimah DeShong**

Second Deputy Permanent Representative

**Arria Formula – Preventing terrorism and violent extremism through  
tackling gender stereotypes, masculinities, and structural gender inequality**

Security Council

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
New York

Check against delivery

Thank you Chair,

We thank Mexico and all co-sponsor for organising today's meeting. We also thank our distinguished briefers for their critical insights.

Today we will focus on three issues, related to the theme.

First, if the intention is to enhance the analytical approach applied to creating actions and arrangements which will eliminate terrorism and violent extremism, then we recommend a more robust framework for performing gender analysis. In many ways, we believe that reference to "stereotypes" flattens the analysis of what are far more complex relations. The structural, institutional and social relations which produce violent extremism are in fact grounded in histories of racism, colonial violence and religious extremism. How these appear at the individual level, where we see mostly young men being recruited and performing acts of terrorism and violent extremism, must be understood as part of the operation of racialized, gendered and socio-economic arrangements. We must therefore engage actions which address a combination of beliefs, practices, arrangements and structures that create the pathways for violent extremist recruitment and radicalization to violence.

Secondly, the focus on men and masculinities must be situated within larger gender systems, which are historically and geographically diverse. While we acknowledge the need to examine men as gendered beings, since young men are the overwhelming majority of those who perpetrate acts of terrorism, we suggest the more expansive analyses offered by Indigenous, Black, Caribbean, African, Latin American, Asian and other global South feminist thinkers, who call attention to the multiple and intersecting forms of domination which produce violent extremism. It is unsettling and hard, but necessary work. We must be willing to connect the multiple valences of power and difference in operation, lest we continue to maintain the conditions which produce violent extremism. In doing this critical PVE work, we must also make the critical link to how gendered and sexual violence against women, girls and boys is magnified with increased extremist violence.

Our final point relates to the urgency of engaging those young men and women made most vulnerable to being targeted for radicalization. There is no better source from whom we can learn, than the young people themselves, who are recruited, lured and victimised. As our briefers have stressed, our gender analysis must account for why specific young men are overwhelmingly targeted, to better support critical PVE work. The call for national and community-level ownership of PVE actions is important, given the varied experiences across countries and regions, globally. In this regard, we must address both the socio-economic exclusion and marginalization facing youth, as well as the institutionalised racism out of which various forms of violent extremist actions and rhetoric are maintained.

I thank you.