

New Approaches to Moderating Violent Extremism

WHAT: Twenty-one leaders from Pakistan, Lebanon, Bosnia, and Rwanda will spend two weeks in the United States to learn from one another's experiences working to moderate violent extremism. Recommendations for what the international community can do to support their work will be released on Jan. 20.

The leaders will participate in public events in Cambridge, Mass. and Washington, D.C. They will attend courses at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and interact with hundreds of decision makers from the U.S. government and military, foreign governments, private security contractors, regional security organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

WHO: Members of Parliament, civil society leaders, journalists, and academics from Pakistan, Lebanon, Bosnia, and Rwanda, with expertise ranging from Pakistani national defense strategies to Rwandan post-conflict reconciliation. **Ambassador Swanee Hunt**, chair of The Institute for Inclusive Security, will lead events throughout the two weeks. **News legend Dan Rather** will participate in some Washington, D.C. events.

WHEN & WHERE: Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 8 – 15, 2010

Featured Event: Women Moderating Extremism

JFK Jr. Forum, Harvard Kennedy School, Jan. 13, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Washington, D.C., Jan. 15 – 19, 2010

Featured Event: Policy Forum 2010 Luncheon

JW Marriott Hotel, Jan. 19, 2010, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend these events. Additional events are listed below. Participants will be available to speak with media through Jan. 21, 2010.

WHY: Countering violent extremism is now one of the primary goals of foreign policy in the United States and in NATO countries. While traditional counterintelligence strategies have continued to work in some contexts, they have been costly in lives lost, money spent, and damage to national reputations. Decision makers in the United States and its allied countries have rarely considered the particular contributions that women in leadership positions make to moderating extremist voices and activities.

These two weeks represent the first time that such a large number of women leaders have gathered to exchange success stories on this topic and advocate to decision makers in the United States. The recommendations that emerge from the discussions and meetings promise to point the international community in a new direction for engaging violent extremists and creating more sustainable peace.

CONTACTS:

(Cambridge, Mass.)

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(Washington, DC)

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Pakistani Delegation

Shabana Fayyaz

Assistant Professor

Defense and Strategic Studies Department, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad

- Teaches courses on terrorism and South Asia
- PhD candidate at the University of Birmingham's Political Science and International Studies Department; researching the question of terrorism and Pakistan
- Former senior research fellow at Quaid-I-Azam University and journalist at Pakistan Television Corporation's National News Bureau

Mossarat Qadeem

Assistant Executive Director

Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns (PAIMAN) Alumni Trust

- Taught for 14 years at the University of Peshawar's Department of Political Science and was previously assistant director of the university's Women Study Centre, working on women's political participation, gender and good governance, and women and conflict transformation
- PhD candidate at the Institute of Social Sciences in the Netherlands, focusing on women in politics in Pakistan
- Conducts training, surveys, and research in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and North-West Frontier Province on issues such as violence against women, women in conflict, and the impact of displacement on women

Humaira Shahid

Research Scholar

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

- Researches and writes about violent customary practices, Islam, and tribal culture
- Former member of the Provincial Assembly in Punjab (2002 to 2007)
- Previously editor of *The Post* newspaper and magazine, *Woman Issues* newspaper

Kishwar Sultana

Director

Insan Foundation

- Foundation programs focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, children's leadership development
- Involved in UNIFEM's Afghanistan/Pakistan Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security and Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 in Pakistan
- Former gender and communication coordinator for Canadian International Development Agency Devolution Support Project (2004 to 2008)

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Lebanese Delegation

Wafa Abed

President

Institute of Progressive Women Union

- Woman delegate for the Progressive Socialist Party since 2004
- Coordinates activities for women's political empowerment with several political parties

May Akl, PhD

Foreign Press Secretary

MP (and former Prime Minister) Michel Aoun

- Founding member of Free Patriotic Movement political party
- Lecturer at St. Joseph University
- Former journalist at *The Beirut Times* and *An-Nahar*

Elissar Douaihy

Training and Mobilization Coordinator

Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Security and Stability (WEPASS)

- WEPASS is joint collaboration between United Nations Population Fund and National Commission for Lebanese Women
- Former social worker at Ministry of Social Affairs, Development Services Center
- Worked with internally displaced families in Ain El Remmaneh, providing counseling, needs assessment, reintegration assistance

Claudia Chamoun Abi Nader, PhD

Professor

Military Academy

- President of the Council of Thought
- Professor in French literature at the Military Academy since 1980; has taught more than 2,000 military officers
- June 2009 US Department of State alumna member of the month

Lamia Osseiran

Vice President

Lebanese Council of Women (umbrella organization uniting 170 NGOs throughout Lebanon)

- Represents LCW on Economic and Social Council; acting member of the Human Development and Rights Committee
- Board member at Civil Center for National Initiative, working to eradicate sectarian divides in politics

Dima Sensenig, PhD

Director

Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Lebanese American University

- Professor of communication; expert on violence in Arab television
- Active in UN Division for the Advancement of Women

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Bosnian Delegation

Radmila Karlas

Journalist

Novi Prelom

- Independent media expert and founder of *Novi Prelom*, an alternative magazine promoting tolerance
- Correspondent for BBC's Serbian Service, covering Republica Srpska (1997 to 2007)
- Former coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina efforts at Amnesty International (1998 to 2004)

Natalija Petric

Legal Adviser and Attorney

Center for Free Legal and Psychosocial Assistance for Women

- Program coordinator for Advocacy Actions for Legislative Changes
- Has served on working groups for Bosnia's Agency for Gender Equality; Republika Srpska's Ministry of Justice; and the United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia
- PhD candidate in gender studies at University of Novi Sad

Amra Seleskovic

Founder and Director

Vesta Association

- Facilitated nine public debates about Bosnia's path to the European Union; debates initiated by the Office of the High Representative and the EU Special Representative, with focus on the role of civil society
- Vesta Association advocates for citizen participation in social change movements
- Former news editor in radio and television journalism for the community radio station Vesta Radio in Tuzla

Snjezana Susnjara, PhD

Professor of Philosophy

University of Sarajevo

- Former head of Joint Affairs at the Ministry of Defence
- Consultant at Gender Centre in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; represented Gender Centre in the European Council
- Participated in creation of National Action Plan for Bosnia on UN Security Council Resolution 1325

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Rwandan Delegation

Jane Gatete Abatoni

National Executive Secretary

Rwandese Association of Trauma Counselors

- Elected vice president of Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe, umbrella organization for Rwandan women's NGOs
- Works with international donors (EU, USAID, UNIFEM) and key Rwandan institutions (Gacaca Commission, Rwanda Demobilization and Reconciliation Commission)

Alice Urusaro Karekezi

Lecturer and Researcher

Faculty of Law, National University of Rwanda

- Former adviser on gender and conflict to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, addressing the General Assembly of the UN in 1999
- Worked for four years with Justice, Human Rights, and Governance Program
- Completing PhD in peace and development studies at Göteborg University in Sweden, focused on *gacaca* in post-genocide Rwanda

Angelina Muganza

Executive Secretary

Public Service Commission

- Former minister of State, developing five-year plans of action for youth employment, women's employment, and the elimination of child labor (2002-2007)
- Former head of Ministry of Gender and Women in Development, creating national gender policy and promulgating an inheritance law (1999-2002)
- For five months in 1995, served as director of Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration, working with demobilized soldiers and vulnerable families

Jacqueline Muhongayire

Member of Parliament

East African Legislative Assembly

- Former MP in Rwanda (1995-2007); deputy speaker of parliament from 1997 to 2000
- Member of FFRP, the Rwandan parliament's only cross-party caucus, and Rwanda Women Leaders Caucus
- Expert in governance and in gender and peacebuilding

Prisca Mujawayezu

Commissioner

National Unity and Reconciliation Commission

- Bridges divides among Rwandans healing from the 1994 genocide
- Deputy CEO of the Private Sector Federation
- Previously executive secretary of Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base

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The Institute for Inclusive Security Colloquium

Jan. 8 – 19, 2010

Schedule of Events (Tentative)

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Presentations by participants from Bosnia and Rwanda in Ambassador Swanee Hunt's "Inclusive Security" course
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Littauer Building 230

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch discussion with Tad Oelstrom, Director of Harvard's National Security Program, and Cynthia Enloe, Director of Clark University's Women Studies Program
Harvard Kennedy School, Bell Hall, Belfer Building 5th floor

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Presentations by participants from Lebanon in Ambassador Swanee Hunt's "Inclusive Security" course
Harvard Kennedy School, Littauer Building 230

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and discussion with Sanam Anderlini, author of *Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why it Matters*
Bell Hall, Belfer Building 5th floor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Presentations by participants from Pakistan in Ambassador Swanee Hunt's "Inclusive Security" course
Harvard Kennedy School, Littauer Building 230

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| 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. FORUM - Women Moderating Extremism <i>Harvard Kennedy School, Littauer Building, JFK Jr. Forum</i> |
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010 (WASHINGTON)

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Roundtable Discussions
The participants will discuss recommendations for increasing women's activity in countering violent extremism in their respective countries with experts and policymakers from the U.S. government, U.S. military and police, foreign governments, private security contractors, regional security organizations and non-government organizations.
JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

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12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Policy Forum 2010 Luncheon

A select number of participants will address more than 400 decision makers representing government, militaries, police, private contractors and non-government organizations during Inclusive Security's 11th annual Policy Forum luncheon.

JW Marriott Hotel

Members of the media are also invited to observe Inclusive Security-facilitated strategy sessions not listed above. For more details, please contact Jonathan Talbot, jonathan_talbot@huntalternatives.org, 202-403-2016, or Shari Abrams, shari_abrams@huntalternatives.org, 617-995-1923.

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About Inclusive Security

[The Institute for Inclusive Security](http://www.inclusivesecurity.org) uses research, training, and advocacy to promote the inclusion of all stakeholders, particularly women, in peace processes. We work with a global network of well over 1,000 women leaders from more than 40 conflict regions. Our research gives policymakers new strategies to drive inclusion by examining tangible contributions of women peace builders. Our training provides leaders the specialized skills and knowledge to direct local, national, and international peace-building. Our advocacy to high-level policymakers promotes change that makes peace processes more broad-based, and thus sustainable. To learn more, visit <http://www.inclusivesecurity.org>.

About Hunt Alternatives Fund

[Hunt Alternatives Fund](http://www.huntalternatives.org), a family foundation based in Cambridge, Mass., provokes sustainable social change through a blend of operating and grant-making programs. Since its founding in Denver in 1981, the Fund has contributed more than \$80 million toward a wide spectrum of social issues. Currently working to strengthen youth arts organizations, support social movement leaders, advocate for inclusive peace processes, combat the demand for modern-day slavery, and inspire women to political leadership, we convene allies, build their capacity, and empower them to achieve systemic change. To learn more, visit the Hunt Alternatives Fund Web site at <http://www.huntalternatives.org>.

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