

## **PAKISTAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The following recommendations for leveraging women's skills and expertise in seeking to moderate extremism were developed by Pakistani women experts convened by The Institute for Inclusive Security in January 2010.*

### **TO INCREASE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN ALL EFFORTS TO MODERATE EXTREMISM**

#### **THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD:**

1. Create regular fora for dialogue involving US diplomatic, intelligence, and military communities and Pakistani women (i.e. parliamentarians, academics, journalists, civil society leaders, etc.) as women can be constructive interlocutors to Pakistani society and local communities.
2. Train and educate US advisors working in Pakistan as to the vulnerability and impact of conflict on women so that all assessments reflect better understanding of women's priorities and needs.
3. Engage and fund women-led NGOs to undertake a vast, nationwide public outreach and information effort to help inform policy-making and counter negative perceptions created by US policy.
4. Strengthen and scale-up sensitization and capacity building of women in parliament and in government (national and local), as well as male decision makers, the media, civil society, and youth regarding the strategic value of women in de-radicalization efforts.

#### **THE DONOR COMMUNITY (INCLUDING THE US) SHOULD:**

1. Involve women in advancing alternative, progressive views of Islam by funding women-led media outreach via print and electronic media, radio, and television.
2. Use women's economic empowerment to reduce the influence of radicals and criminals. Specifically:
  - a. Underwrite business development training for women, which would increase their authority and influence within families; and
  - b. Provide interest-free loans to poor families to prevent usury, combat poverty, and prevent the infiltration of criminal elements.

3. Invest in public education reform, including adult education reform, as well as its implementation to ensure curricula are unbiased, discuss tolerance, promote interfaith dialogue, and advance respect for human rights, especially women's rights.
4. Underwrite training and education for women in advocacy, lobbying, and coalition building. This should include increased scholarships for women to train and study abroad.
5. Integrate women and gender perspectives within all development programs rather than stove-piping and isolating programs to advance the status of women.
6. Develop and expand regional women and peace forums organized by women-led NGOs to foster tolerance, dialogue, and exchange of ideas for promoting peace and stability in the region.

#### **THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN SHOULD:**

1. To realize international and national commitments to women's inclusion, including UN Security Council resolutions,<sup>1</sup> invest in and scale-up ongoing women-led government and civil society initiatives that are working to counter extremism.
2. Implement laws prohibiting violence and extremism against women by:
  - a. Ensuring wide distribution of existing laws to police, courts, and the media;
  - b. Training and sensitizing police, judges and prosecutors, and the media to the existence of these laws; and
  - c. Mandating oversight and monitoring of laws' implementation by government and civil society.
3. Mandate, through a Supreme Court verdict, the inclusion of women on all village councils being created to undertake alternative dispute resolution nationwide.
4. Prosecute and prevent crimes that particularly affect women, including sexual violence and drug and human trafficking.
5. Ensure that all needs assessments and plans for reconstruction:
  - a. address gender in every component;
  - b. involve significant consultations with women; and
  - c. are led nationally and regionally by committees that include significant numbers of women.
6. Recognize and leverage the influence of women in diffusing radicalization and building consensus using print and electronic media, radio, and television campaigns.

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<sup>1</sup> Including National Action on Implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1889 on women, peace, and security, and UNSC Resolutions 1820 and 1888 on sexual violence during conflict.