

NEWS RELEASE

MOMBASA,

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There is need to adopt more innovative approaches that will involve women in efforts to curb anti-radicalisation and violent extremism based on the central role they play in the family and the society.

The Executive Director of the Kenya Community Support Centre a transformative conflict resolution non-governmental organization Ms Phyllis Muema said that as mother's women were crucial in the war against violent extremism as they were likely to notice the signs of early radicalization and recruitment of the youth to radical groups.

Muema noted that women were well placed to recognize unfamiliar traits in their children and raise the red flag about illegal activities that their children could be involved in.

“We need to equip mothers who are at the heart of the family so that they can identify and be able to guide their youthful children so that they do not fall at the hands of radicalizing elements,” Muema observed.

To this end, Muema said that KECOSCE that works in transformative conflict resolution has organized a one day workshop for women leaders and activists in Mombasa on the 22nd of July 2011 to sensitize them on the crucial role that they can play in anti-radicalization efforts.

Muema added that the role of women in the efforts to curb violent extremism has been greatly ignored as they are seen as passive and marginal actors who only come into the picture when they have either lost their sons or husbands to the radicalizers.

“More often than not it is the women who will be seen crying and expressing the pain of loss for their loved ones, yet if they can be equipped to notice the changing behavioral patterns in their children, they can probably avert their recruitment,” Muema noted.

Muema also urged government and conflict resolution organizations to incorporate women in their efforts by empowering them as a basis for sustainable peace and security in their societies.

The Kenya Community Support Centre is a local Non Governmental Organization and which with support from the British High Commission has been implementing a Youth Mentoring Project titled: “Strengthening Community Resilience towards Preventing and Rejecting Radicalization in the Coast of Kenya.

"The campaign is informed by reports that radical elements have been recruiting young men to fight for extremist organizations like the Alshabab in war torn Somali and the Alqaeda movement. Further Kenya has twice suffered the effects of terrorism and radicalization and in both incidents local youth have been alleged to have played critical roles in the organization and implementation of terrorist schemes.

Currently, the Kenyan government is grappling with the emergence of an illegal organization, the Mombasa Republican Council which is feared to have links with Alshabab.

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