



For decades, violent groups have been advancing their agendas by exploiting existing social inequalities and injustices, particularly those caused by conflict and violent authoritarian regimes. Extremism feeds on discrimination, racism, and intolerance. It gains strength from acts that amplify differences and isolation and push people to embrace the darkest most divisive part of their identities. It will not be possible to address violent extremism without addressing these very causes.

Combating extremism requires addressing pre-existing discrimination, which is often embedded in laws and social norms. Member States should engage with women and women’s organization in order to address these barriers. For example, WILPF and partners have supported calls on the Government of Iraq to amend the legal prohibitions that require government approval to set up and operate shelters. This would allow Iraqi organisations to open a greater number of shelters in order to provide adequate services for women fleeing gender-based violence. E ven before the expansion of D aesh, Iraqi N G O s and women’s rights defenders that seek to assist women and girls have encountered regular harassment, arbitrary surveillance, and warrantless searches.

WILPF also urged fellow international organisations to adopt long-term support p(l)13(a)-2D83-5rID 5c9)-2(ID 5yr

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To counter terrorism and violent extremism, ideological root causes and power dynamics must be addressed from a gen

