

**ONE DAY SEMINAR ON EXTREMIST VIOLENCE, WOMEN AND
SECURITY**

TOPIC: EXTREMIST VIOLENCE, THE VARIOUS FORMS OF
EXTREMIST VIOLENCE AND THE REASONSONS FOR THE PRESENT
DAY INSURGENCY

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INTRODUCTION

I feel highly humbled to join in this important seminar which is a giant stride in stepping down the Women Preventing Extremist Violence Training. I thank God and the organizers – Women’s Interfaith Council Kaduna for the opportunity to contribute positively in chatting cause for solutions to our national and international problem. Before now we have become so fearful and hopeless on the state of affairs of the security in the country.

Now as women, wives and mothers, we can do something to prevent or reduce the factors of violent extremism. The youth are active, vibrant and more vulnerable to extremist violence. This is due to several factors that touch on socialization, self realization, development and futuristic dreams.

The topic to discuss today is to get the three Ws that is to say the “What”, the “Who” and the “Why” to violence extremism. This is highly connected to the theme which is how women are to respond to both extremist violence and security. Women as mothers have a great role to play in the affairs of the family and the society as well.

EXTREMIST VIOLENCE

The word “extreme” is connoting something that is beyond the natural stage. It is going above the normal line. While violence is the exerting of severe pains which can be physical, psychological or emotional. Extreme violence here is the radicalization (process) severe pains to act or omit to act and is usually irrationally justifiable act. It can be made to target the perpetrator and/or the victim (s) at times.

THE WHO

The violence extremist is a person who exerts violence on person(s) or a group of persons in a community or society. The perpetrator of the violence may or may not undergo same pains exerted on the victim (s). The person is usually influenced by some

irrational thinking that can be tied down to factors like religion, identity, ideology justifying the action of violence etc.

THE WHY

These are the factors that have great influence on the perpetrator of violence. These are what reason that are used to respond to personal or community issues. Most times the issues can be best resolved through dialogue and understanding.

THE VARIOUS FORMS OF EXTREMIST VIOLENCE

There are various forms of extremist violence and they differ from community to community. They however inflict various pains that may result to physical, psychological or emotional torture. There may be death of person or group of persons, permanent incapacitation may also occur. Families may also be homeless and economically bankrupt. The result may be devastating indeed. Some of the forms are but not limited to:

a. Abuse

This comes in various forms such as domestic violence, torture by persons in authority of children, youth, men and women such as parent, guardians, school/educator, sexual abuse, injustice, marginalization, exposure to violence; family or community placed in bondage by historical antecedents.

b. Political thuggery

This country has witnessed a lot of this violence with serious consequences leading to loss of lives, property and relationships.

c. Boundary disputes/tribal clashes

This also has an extreme violence when it occurs and loss of lives and valuable property

d. Crisis

These are like the other form with various consequences. In addition, the segregation of settlement e.g. in Plateau and Kaduna States. There may be some forms of silent killings or persons missing.

e. Attacks

These target persons or communities and usually, the attackers are not known or seen during the attacks. This is very bad as it brings ill feelings and suspensions amongst people leaving together. Weapons of various forms are used during such attacks.

f. Bombings

This form of violence is known to our communities or society. Unfortunately it has come with very devastating effects and fosters fear, mistrust and severed relationship. Sometimes the perpetrators may also become victims as well as the targeted victims.

REASONS FOR THE PRESENT DAY INSURGENCY

The insurgency is a product of radicalization i.e. process of extremist violence which are as a result of severe factors that this paper may not be adequate to list all of them. This is because it is difficult to understand all but an attempt will be made from the point of view of caring mothers as well as citizens of the country. Most of the factors have to do with the form of socialization of the persons one get in contacts with in life.

There are internal and external factors. The internal factors work on the person's mind, psychology, emotion, perceptions, self esteem etc. this brings feelings like the need to belong or identify with a social class, need for adventure or exploration of ideas and concepts, trauma on the person and low esteem. The external factors on the other hand, are factors that can be perceived such as poverty, unemployment, bad governance, political conflicts, lack of education, abuse, injustice, marginalization, exposure to violence etc.

These factors or a combination of them may have influence on a person to radicalize extremist violence. Other influences are hate speeches by leaders, such as religious community, political, youth, traditional, teachers, parent, internet, media incentives-giving financial reward or in kind etc.

THE WAY FORWARD

1. Proper education of all people on the true teachings of the religion.
2. Good governance – government to be sensitive to the needs of people in the communities to avoid crises.
3. Parents, teachers and educators to be involved in the lives of their children, wards and students. Also know their friends and the movies they watch and the internet services they access. This will enhance proper upbringing and parenting.
4. Leaders to avoid hate speeches but to promote and encourage peaceful coexistence love for God and humanity.
5. Government and private sectors to provide employment. Also government to create environment for self employment.
6. Need to provide recreational and sporting equipment for the youth. This will occupy their minds.
7. Create community interfaith dialogue or committees to curb crises and create sense of belonging, understanding, especially to check youth restiveness and extreme violence in communities.
8. Also, most important is for parents, guardians, teachers to watch out the early warning signs of their children and youth. They can be withdrawal syndrome looking so disturbed, dubious character, having very expensive gadgets, relating always with strangers etc.

Thank you all for listening