



Australian  
National  
University

CONFERENCE

# Women and Violent Extremism: Myth and Reality

## Date

Friday 29 July 2016  
9am-5.00pm

## Location

Innovations Theatre,  
Anthony Low Building  
Building 124, 24 Garran Road, ANU

## Registration

E [bellschool@anu.edu.au](mailto:bellschool@anu.edu.au)  
T 02 6125 2167



What prompts a young, educated woman brought up in the West to run away to join a fundamentalist society where the role of women is highly circumscribed?

Until recently terrorism and the war on terrorism was considered very much a male province. In recent months, and especially since ISIS entered onto the scene in 2014, we have seen an increase in women's involvement with radical Islam, especially in the areas of recruitment of other women and a willingness to engage in terrorist activities. These women have also been described as passive recipients of jihadi ideals propagated by jihadi groups and especially the Islamic State. To what extent is this true? Do these women have agency? What are the push and pull factors driving them to engage in violent activities in the name of jihad?

This one-day conference examines how the role of women in radical Islam has changed over time. It aims to demystify the sensationalised female jihadi phenomenon and provide a better understanding of the gender dimension of the debate on jihad and radical Islam.

The key themes that will be explored are:

- The appeal of violent jihad to women: the push/pull factors
- The different roles of women in jihadi groups
- Preventing female recruits in the Muslim Community in Australia
- Islamophobia in the West as a driver of Jihadism

The conference is jointly presented by two of The Australian National University's leading institution in these fields – Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australia's leading centre for international, political, societal, diplomatic and strategic affairs of our region, and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australia's premier location for studies of the Arab and Muslim world.

This event is accessible for media, the government and policy community, diplomatic core, students and graduates, and the general public. Registration to cover catering costs is \$60 (full) and \$25 (concession).

Presented by

Coral Bell School of  
Asia Pacific Affairs

ANU College of  
Asia & the Pacific

The Centre for Arab &  
Islamic Studies (The  
Middle East & Central Asia)

ANU College of  
Arts & Social Sciences



# ISLAM AND VIOLENT JIHAD: WESTERN POLICY RESPONSES

<b>9–9.35am</b>	<b>Opening and welcome</b>	<b>1.30–3.00 pm</b>	<b>Session 3</b> <b>Islamophobia: a driver for Jihad?</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Professor Michael Wesley</b> Director, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU.		<b>Professor James Piscatori</b> CAIS, ANU.
<b>Opening</b>	<b>Geraldine Doogue</b> ABC Radio presenter		<b>Dr Shakira Hussein</b> Asia Institute, University of Melbourne.
<b>9.15–9.45 am</b>	<b>Commencement Address</b> <b>ANU Distinguished Professor</b> <b>Amin Saikal</b> Director, CAIS, ANU.		<b>Amne Al-Rifa'i</b> Writer - 'Unveiled Thoughts'
<b>9.45–11.00 am</b>	<b>Session 1</b> <b>The appeal of violent Jihad</b> <b>to women: the push and pull</b> <b>factors</b>	<b>3.00–3.30 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
	<b>Katja Theodorakis</b> Research Scholar, CAIS, ANU.	<b>3.30–4.45 pm</b>	<b>Session 4</b> <b>.Preventing female recruits in</b> <b>Australia</b>
	<b>Kiriloi Ingram</b> Coral Bell School, ANU.		<b>Professor Samina Yasmeen</b> Director, Centre for Muslim States and Societies, University of Western Australia.
	<b>Dr Sally White</b> Coral Bell School, ANU.		<b>Jacinta Carroll</b> Head of Counter Terrorism Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, ACT.
<b>11.00–11.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>		<b>Dr Leah Farrall</b> National Security College, ANU.
<b>11.30–12.45 pm</b>	<b>Session 2</b> <b>Women in Jihadi Groups</b>	<b>4.45–5 pm</b>	<b>Session 5</b> <b>Closing comments</b>
	<b>Dr Raihan Ismail</b> CAIS, ANU.		<b>Dr Vanessa Newby</b> Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU.
	<b>Dr Bina D'Costa</b> Coral Bell School, ANU.		<b>Dr Raihan Ismail</b> CAIS, ANU.
	<b>Dr Vanessa Newby</b> Coral Bell School, ANU.		
<b>12.45–1.30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>5–6.00 pm</b>	<b>Drinks at University House</b>