Building Partnerships to Counter Misogynistic, Faith-Based Extremist Messaging

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Misogyny and Religious Extremism

• Use of faith-based messaging to advocate for oppression of women

• Cultural relativism by international actors

• Social media a new outlet for ultraconservative and misogynistic religious interpretations
How are women peacebuilders responding?

Al-Firdaws Society (Iraq)

- Use of religious texts, tradition, history to promote women’s rights and gender equality
- Negotiating with religious and tribal leaders to transform their perceptions of women’s place in society
- Agreement among 150 tribes to stop VAW
How are women peacebuilders responding?

AMAN Indonesia

- Convening women religious leaders (women *ulama*) to contest extremist narratives
- Promoting Islamic perspectives that advance gender equality and women’s empowerment
- Creating spaces for civic dialogue + debate
Key takeaways

• Elevating women’s voices in discussions on religion and culture
• Credibility and trust
• Promoting a culture of pluralism and dialogue
  • Rights-based approaches
• Protection needs
Discussion questions

• What is the responsibility of the religious community in countering extremist, faith-based messaging that justifies the oppression of women?

• What are best practices and tactics for partnership between women peacebuilders/activists and religious and traditional leaders?

• What are challenges and barriers to this type of partnership – how can they be overcome?