

MotherSchools: Parenting for Peace



RADPol2020 webinar "Doing it better: Improving Policy and Practice tackling Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in Central and Eastern Europe"

Panel IV "Gender beyond not religiously motivated extremism", 2nd July 2020

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Content

- ▶ **About Women without Borders**
About the MotherSchools

Women without Borders (WwB) is a Vienna-based NGO with deep expertise empowering families and community actors as defences against violent extremism

- **We work globally**, implementing projects in close to 30 countries since our founding in 2001
- **Preventing violent extremism has become our top priority** among the range of distinct but interrelated types of capacity-building work we have done
- Our PVE approach reflects our overall philosophy: moving from **research to action**
- From our **core focus – equipping mothers to intervene** if their children are at risk – we have **expanded to work with fathers and other community actors** as well
- We use a range of different activities to both **raise awareness** of the radicalisation threat and **build the capacity** to address it
- **We take a rigorous, structured approach** to **monitor** our projects' progress and **evaluate** their success

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Focus of this presentation

**Preventing
violent
extremism**

**Female
Leadership**

**Capacity
Building**

**Gender Based
Violence**

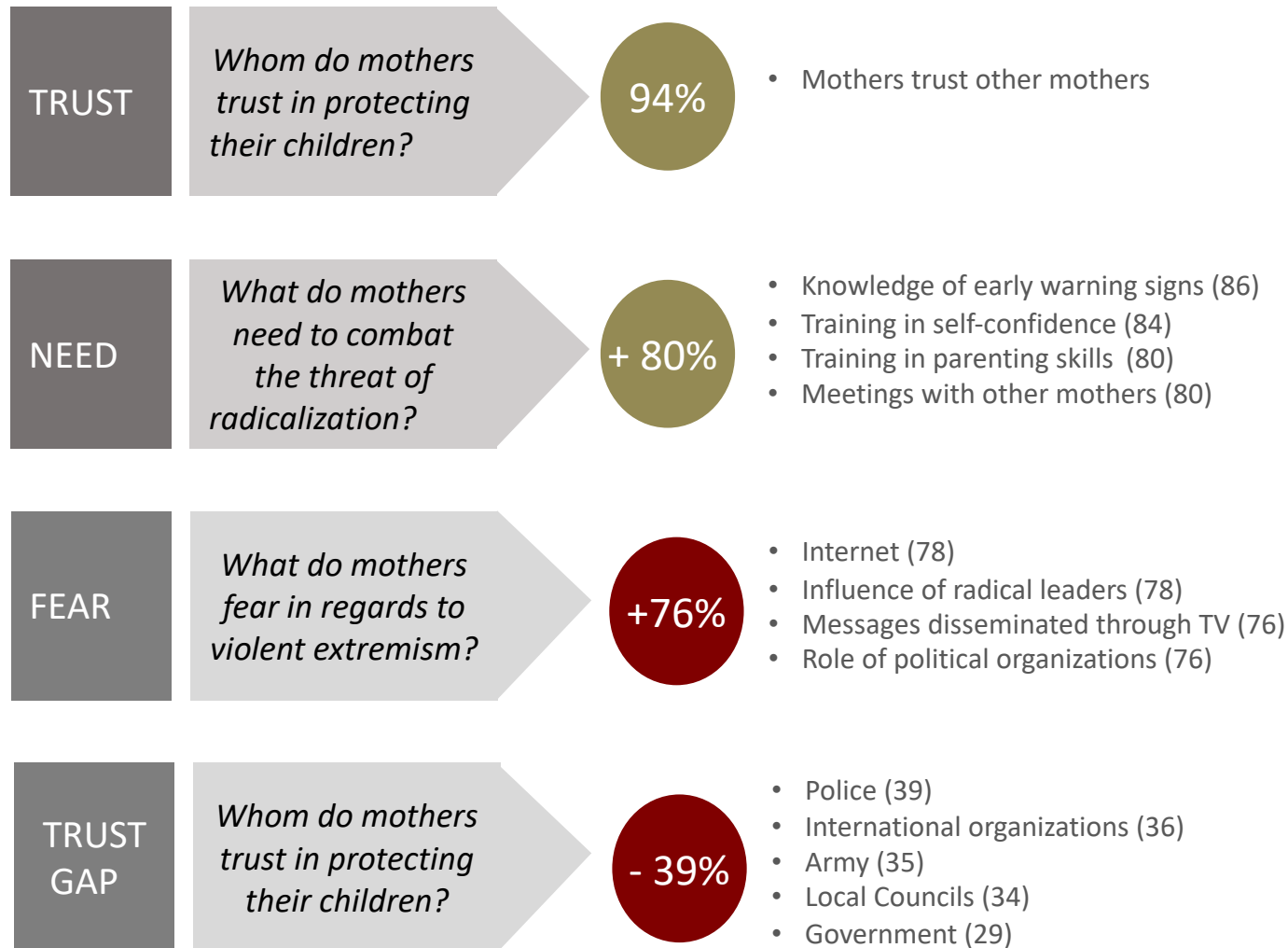
**Intercultural
Dialogue**

Content

About Women without Borders

▶ **About the MotherSchools**

Why MotherSchools work – A WwB study found that mothers trust other mothers most in countering the threat of extremism



“Can Mothers Challenge Extremism?”

The MotherSchools were an outcome of the WwB study: „Can Mothers Challenge Extremism?“ which was conducted in Pakistan, Israel and Palestine, Northern Ireland and Nigeria in 2013 and reflects the subjective understanding of mothers on the existence and proliferation of violent extremism as they experience it in the context of their families, communities and, most importantly, in the lives of their children.

The study explored 1000 mothers' perceptions of the threat of radicalization to their families in Pakistan, Palestine, Israel, Nigeria and Northern Ireland.

MotherSchools

Objective

Confidence

&

Competence

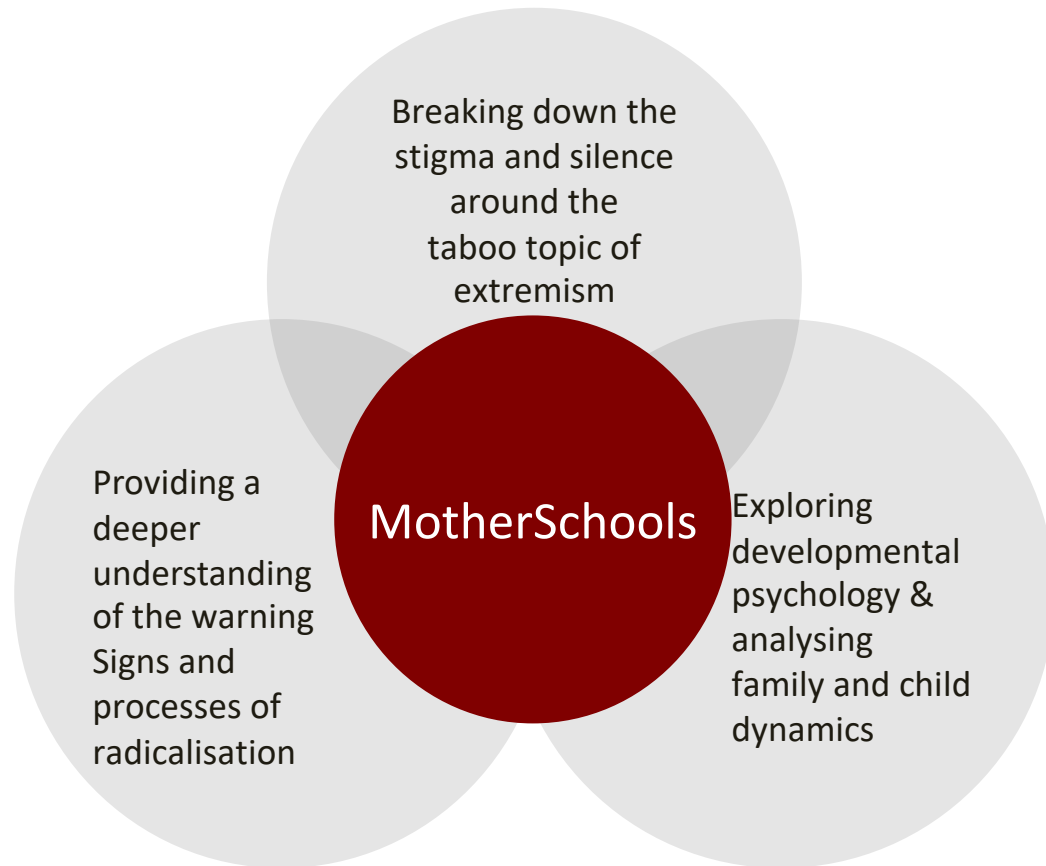
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Action

Theory of Change

WwB believes that in equipping mothers with the competence and confidence to translate their unique potential into action, they will become the first line of defence against extremism in at-risk communities around the globe.

How the MotherSchools work



The MotherSchools

The MotherSchools Model was developed based on the results of the WwB study “Can Mothers Challenge Violent Extremism?” conducted in Pakistan, Israel and Palestine, Northern Ireland and Nigeria in 2013.

The MotherSchools Model brings together concerned and affected mothers and creates a formalised space where mothers develop their self-confidence and knowledge of early warning signs and build effective barriers to radical influences at the home- front.

The combination of the MotherSchools Model’s three elements through theory sessions, regular workshops and the building of community response networks enables mothers to rise against radicalisation and build a first line of defence.

The MotherSchools have been implemented in 16 countries worldwide



* Internationally contested territory

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