



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## GENDER DIMENSIONS OF COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN AFRICA September 22, 2021

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

**Ms. Jeannine** Ella A Abatan joined the ISS in 2015 and is currently a Senior Researcher in the ISS' Dakar office, where she coordinates a project on gender and violent extremism in Mali and Niger. Her work covers peace and security issues in the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and West Africa Coastal states. Before joining the ISS, she worked at the University of Pretoria in South Africa as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences. Ella has a Master's degree in security studies from the University of Pretoria. She is also a Mandela Washington fellow.

**Ms. Azadeh Moaveni** is an author, researcher and academic who has been writing about gender and politics in the Middle East for two decades. She started reporting in Cairo in 1999 while on a Fulbright fellowship, and has worked across the region for years, covering Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and Tunisia. Her work has focused throughout on how women and girls are impacted by political instability and conflict, as well as the interplay between jihadism, Islamism and women's social and political rights. A Pulitzer finalist, she is the author of *Lipstick Jihad*, *Honeymoon in Tehran*, and co-author, with Iranian Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi, of *Iran Awakening*. Her latest book, *Guest House for Young Widows*, *Among the Women of ISIS*, was shortlisted for the Bailie Gifford Prize and the Folio Rathbone prize. She writes for the *London Review of Books* and the *New York Times*, among other publications, and lectures in journalism at New York University's London campus. She directs the Gender and Conflict Project at the International Crisis Group, where her latest work has focused on women's recruitment to and disengagement from al-Shabaab and Boko Haram, as well as the challenges of demobilising women affiliated with the Islamic State.

#### MODERATOR

**Dr. Anouar Boukhars** is professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism, at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Boukhars works closely with African government and nongovernmental security sector leaders on developing and implementing activities and programs relating to counterterrorism and countering violent extremism. His research focuses on the dynamics of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Boukhars was a nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an associate professor of

international relations at McDaniel College. He has served on several advisory boards and committees on the Sahel and North Africa, including at the African Peacebuilding Network at the Social Science Research Council. From August 2015 to July 2017, Dr. Boukhars served at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as lead facilitator of its flagship program, the Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa. His research has been published in numerous leading policy publications and academic journals. He routinely conducts fieldwork in Africa and consults frequently for the African Union, World Bank, United Nations, U.S. State Department, and European governments.

Dr. Boukhars holds a Ph.D. in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; an M.A. in applied humanities from Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.