

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

AN INTRODUCTION: CLEAR ACTIONS, HIDDEN MECHANISMS	7
1. THE ACTIVE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE JIHAD	13
1.1 Women are as Capable of Violence as men	13
1.2 Women as Perpetrators and Supporters of Violence and Terrorism	16
1.3 The Role of Women in the Main Jihadist Groups	18
1.3.1 Sexual Jihad	22
1.3.2 Women in Al-Qaeda	23
1.3.3 Women in ISIS	27
2. FROM THE MIND TO THE POLITICS: MAIN CAUSES OF WOMEN RADICALIZATION	31
2.1 Social Factors: Feeling of Isolation, Lack of Integration and Identity	33
2.2 Romanticization as Pull Factor of the Jihad	35
2.3 Political Push Factors: Desire for Revenge and Frustration at the Lack of Defense of the Muslim Community	37
2.4 Religious Duty and Ideology as a Political Movement	40
2.5 Psycho-anthropological Factors: a Complementarist Explanation	42
2.6 Psychological Factors: Flow of Consciousness, Positive Heroism and the Role of Mentors	50
2.7 Psychological Factors: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	57

3. WOMEN AND ISLAMIST ONLINE PROPAGANDA	61
3.1 Introduction to Online Radicalization	61
3.2 The Role of Women in the Internet and Social Media's Islamist Propaganda	64
3.3 Women in the Online Magazines <i>Dabiq</i> and <i>Inspire</i>	71
3.4 Women as Online Recruiters	73
4. CASE STUDIES OF WESTERN FEMALE JIHADISTS	81
4.1 Fatima Az Zahra, the Italian "Lady Jihad"	81
4.1.1 Fatima's Profile and the Psycho-Social Reasons for her Radicalization	84
4.2 Sophie Kasiki, the Repentant Jihadist who Escaped from Raqqa	92
4.2.1 Psychological Profile of Sophie Kasiki	94
4.3 Jihadi Jane: the American Jihadist with a Traumatic Past	97
4.4 Imane: the 19 Year-Old who Almost Went on a Suicide Attack	100
4.5 Jihadi Jones: the British ISIS Recruiter	101
4.6 Fatima's Husband's Story: an Example of Women's Influence	103
4.7 Common Drivers and Psychological Dynamics	103
5. WOMEN IN COUNTER-TERRORISM PROGRAMS	105
5.1 The UN Resolution on "Empowering Women to Address the Impact of Terrorism"	107
5.2 Examples of Women Active in Countering Terrorism in Local Communities and Online	109
5.3 Tunisia to Involve Women in Counter-terrorism Programs	112
5.4 <i>Mothers schools</i> : a Project by "Women Without Borders"	114
6. CONCLUSIONS	115
REFERENCES	117