# 'Gender inequality, unemployment can fuel radicalisation'

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...UNAOC High Rep. warns

### April 28, 2016 By: Sahr Morris Jr. in Baku, Azerbaijan

The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, has warned countries that gender inequality, unemployment, particular youths unemployment, could stimulate radicalisation and push people towards violent extremism.

HE Al-Nasser made this statement during the opening ceremony of the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He said: "The rising disparity of wealth and opportunities within societies always lead to marginalisation and exclusion. Gender inequality, unemployment, and particularly youth unemployment, fuel radicalisation and push people towards violent extremism.

The UNAOC representative further stated that too many people, especially young people, join terrorist groups, gangs, cliques because they lack prospects and meaning in their lives.

To combat this global menace, His Excellency Al-Nasser said there was need to make special effort to reach out to young people and recognize their potential as partners and leaders.

"We need to support their dreams of a better life and a positive vision of the future. Their voices need to be heard in political processes and decision-making. Their participation is an important element in building inclusive societies that can resist the threat of violent extremism," he said.

The UN Rep further stated that building inclusive societies requires overcoming challenges in amalgamation, education, youth, cultural diversity, migration, media and communication.

"Understanding, preventing, and thwarting violent extremism is one of the most challenging issues facing humankind. Violent 'Gender inequality, unemployment can fuel radicalisation': Sierra Leone Concord Times

radicalism is an affront to the purposes and principles of the United Nations," he underscored and added that war begins in people's minds, while the way to peace is through people's hearts.

The UNAOC high rep said he was hopeful that the platform UNAOC provides could help reach out to the hearts and minds of people to build bridges to peace.



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