

The Jihadi mobilisation of women in Spain, 2012-2018

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- Context
- Social Characterisation
- Patterns of radicalisation
- Recommendations for PVE (Preventing Violent Extremism)

- 117 individuals convicted in Spain between 2012 and 2018 for activities related to jihadi terrorism
- 11.1 % (13) were women
- Empirical study at an individual level of analysis. Data from the Elcano Database on Jihadists in Spain (BDEYE, in Spanish)

Social characterisation

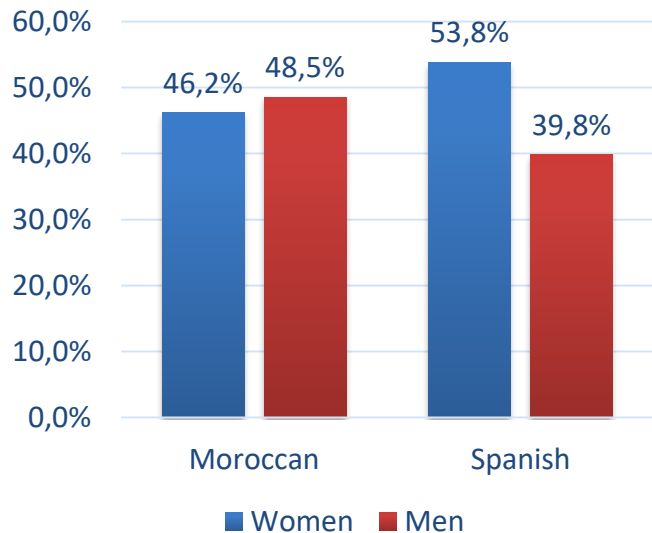
Average age



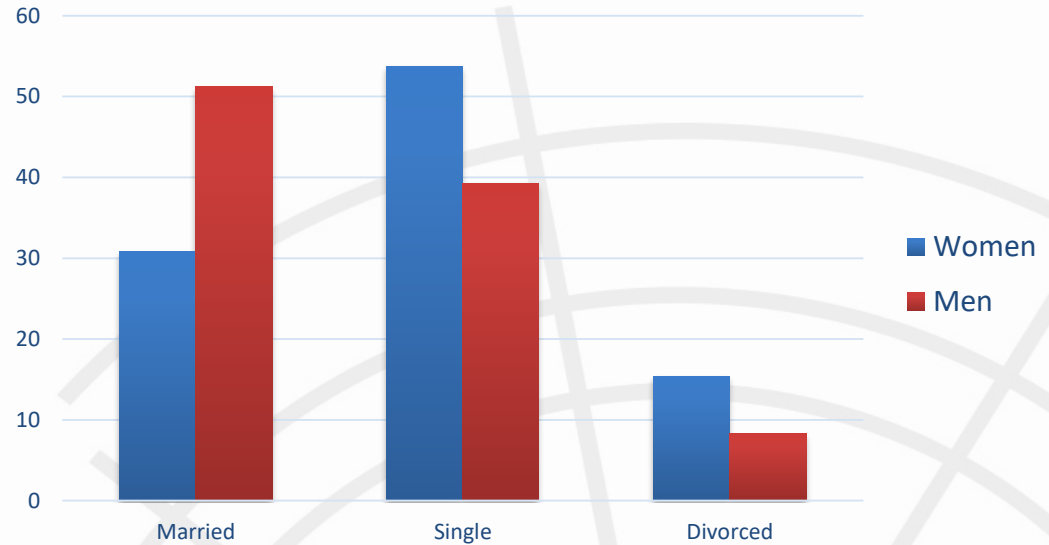
**25.7
years**



**29.9
years**



Civil status

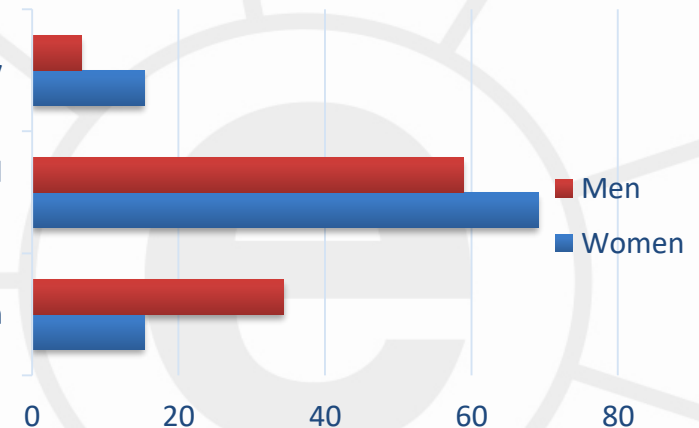


Generation

No migration ascendancy

Second or third generations

First Generation



Radicalisation: when?

- 88.8% started their radicalisation process between 2012 and 2015. Both 2014 and 2015 were critical years (66.6%).
- Average age at the onset of radicalisation:
 - Women: 20.2 years
 - Men: 26 years

Radicalisation: where?

- Women radicalised to a greater extent online than men
 - 84.7% of women radicalised totally or partially online compared with 78.4% of men
 - 38.5% of women radicalised exclusively online compared with 30.7% of men
- Online environments: social media (100%), instant messaging apps (72.7%), Internet (45.5%)
- Offline environments: private homes (37.5%), places of worship and Islamic cultural centers (25%)

- None self-radicalised woman. All of them radicalised in the company of others through the critical action of a radicalisation agent:
 - Main online radicalisation agents: peers and activists (71.4%)
 - Main offline radicalisation agent: close relatives (42.9%)
- Less pre-existing social bonds with other jihadist or FTF among women (46.2%) than among men (75.3%):
 - Women with close relatives (85.7%)
 - Men with friends (71%)

Recommendations for PVE

- Avoid gender stereotypes
- Adopt research-informed approaches
- Promote horizontal or bottom-up approaches
- Train frontline actors on the roles of women in violent extremism and PVE processes