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UNAFEI 186th International Senior Seminar

Prevention of Violent Extremism & Terrorism: Children and Youth

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Prevention of Violent Extremism & Terrorism: Children and Youth

- **Context:** Broader international frameworks, strategies, and consensus on terrorism and violent extremism, and the role of children and youth.
- **Global trend in terrorism generally and with youth offenders**
- **Recruitment of youth**
- **Criminal justice systems' treatment of youth (investigation, prosecution and adjudication)**
- **Rehabilitation and reintegration of youth from conflict area and de-radicalization**
- **UNODC mandates, strategy, and programming**
- **Best Practices**
- **UNODC resources to support authorities and civil society**

2



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International Legal Framework against Terrorism

- **UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by the UN General Assembly. UNGA reviews the Strategy biennially, updating priorities, based on emerging threats and trends, and based on international consensus.**
- **19 international legal instruments to prevent terrorist acts**

3



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UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006)

*Unanimously adopted by the General Assembly (all UN Member States)
in resolution 60/288 – 8 September 2006, and reviewed every two years*

Pillar I

Addressing
the conditions
conductive to
the spread of
terrorism

Pillar II

Preventing and
combatting
Terrorism

Pillar III

Building States'
capacity and
strengthening
the role of the
United Nations

Pillar IV

Ensuring
Human Rights
and the rule of
law

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4

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

International Human Rights Law

- **Convention on the Rights of the Child:** civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children.
- **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict:** prohibits the compulsory recruitment of children into the armed forces of States parties.
- **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**
- **Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), of the International Labour Organization:** calls for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including the compulsory recruitment of children in armed forces.
- **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:** requires States parties to take effective measures to prevent torture in any territory under their jurisdiction and forbids States to transport people to any country where there is reason to believe they will be in danger of being tortured.

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

- **UN Security Council resolution 1373 (2001):** established a framework for improved international cooperation against terrorism.
- **Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter** which creates legal obligations on Member States for maintaining international peace and security. Adopted on September 28, 2001, in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- **Legal obligations to implement measures to enhance their capacity to counter terrorism and to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.**
- **Prevent, criminalize financing of terrorist acts / Freeze the funds/assets/economic resources / Criminalize terrorist acts as serious offenses / preparation and support of terrorist acts. Greatest measure of international cooperation in criminal matter / Deny safe haven • Extradite or prosecute / Prevent fraudulent use of identity papers & travel documents**
- **Established the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), with all 15 members of the Security Council.**

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

- **UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)**, adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter: creates legal obligation on Member States to take action to prevent terrorism through the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Recent case: Japan-based organize crime figure pleaded guilty on 08 January 2025 in the US to charges of trafficking uranium and plutonium from Myanmar under the belief that Iran would use it for nuclear weapons.

He also worked to send massive quantities of heroin and methamphetamine to US in exchange for heavy-duty weaponry such as surface-to-air missiles to be used on battlefields in Burma and laundered what he believed to be drug money from New York to Tokyo.

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

- **UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999)**: required member states to freeze the assets of the targeted individuals and entities. Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 1735 (2006)**: Requires arms embargo, travel ban and financial sanctions against all terrorist groups and individuals. Preamble expressed concern at misuse of the Internet by terrorist groups and individuals, further noting the changing nature of the threat, particularly in the way terrorists would promote their ideologies.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005)**: urged Member States to adopt measures to prevent incitement to commit terrorist acts and recruitment into terrorist groups by countering violent extremism.
- **UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014)**: condemned violent extremism and addressed the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, including their recruitment of children, and called upon all Member States to develop rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returnees.
- **UN Security Council resolution 2427 (2018)**: calls for protections for children affected by armed conflict.

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III))**
- **United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice**
- **United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) (General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex)**
- **United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) (General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex)**
- **United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (General Assembly resolution 45/113, annex)**
- **Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System (EcoSoc resolution 1997/30, annex)**
- **Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (EcoSoc resolution 2005/20, annex)**
- **United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 69/194, annex)**

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

OTHER RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS AND NORMS IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex)**
- **United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) (General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex)**
- **United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) (General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex)**
- **Basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters (Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/12, annex)**
- **United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems (General Assembly resolution 67/187, annex)**

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

OTHER SOFT LAW

- **Paris Commitments to protect children from unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups**
- **Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups**

OTHER RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS

- **Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention (Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/18)**
- **Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism (Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/17)**

International Legal Framework: Children & Youth

International humanitarian law

- **Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (1949) (Third Geneva Convention)**
- **Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention)**
- **The additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions supplement shortcomings of the Geneva Conventions related to the conduct of combatants and protection of civilians. (Some of the provisions are considered customary law, whereas others apply only to States that have ratified the protocol.)**
- **Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I)**
- **Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)**

UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism

UNGA (Feb. 2016) adopted a resolution **welcoming** the initiative by the Secretary-General, and **taking note** of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

The Plan of Action calls for a comprehensive approach encompassing not only essential security-based counter-terrorism measures but also **systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalize and join violent extremist groups**.

The Plan is an appeal for concerted action by the international community. It provides more than 70 recommendations to Member States and the United Nations System to prevent the further spread of violent extremism.

Terrorism Definitions

Terrorism is commonly understood to refer to acts of violence that target civilians in the pursuit of political or ideological aims.

But, in legal terms, the international community has yet to adopt a comprehensive definition of terrorism. Several conventions, declarations, and resolutions define certain acts as terrorism (hijacking, hostage-taking, bombing, financing of terrorism, nuclear terrorism, etc.).

UN General Assembly Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (in resolution 49/60)(1994): terrorism includes "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes" and that such acts "are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them."



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Terrorism Definitions (cont'd)

Security Council Resolution 1566 (2004): criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act”.

Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change: any action that is “intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or noncombatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act” and identified a number of key elements, with further reference to the definitions contained in the *1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism* and *Security Council resolution 1566 (2004)*.

15



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Definitions of Violent Extremism

Violent extremism is a diverse phenomenon, without clear definition.

UN General Assembly Resolution 77/243 declared 12 February the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, in order to raise awareness of the threats linked to **violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism**, and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.

GA emphasized in this context the primary responsibility of Member States and their respective national institutions in countering terrorism, and underlined the important role of intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia, religious leaders and the media in countering terrorism and preventing **violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism**.

The resolution reaffirmed that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

16

Definitions of Children and Youth

Children - defined in international law as human beings **under the age of 18 years** and holders of a distinct set of rights.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Youth – not defined in international law. In the context of terrorism and counter-terrorism, UNODC follows the UN Security Council in defining youth as persons **aged 18-29**.

UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security

Recent Global Trends in Terrorism (*Global Terrorism Index*):

- Deaths from terrorism are now at their highest level since 2017. However, they are still almost 25 per cent lower than at their peak in 2015.
- The epicentre of terrorism has shifted from the Middle East and North Africa into sub-Saharan Africa, concentrated largely in the Sahel region. This region now accounts for almost half of all deaths from terrorism globally.
- Terrorism has become more concentrated over the past decade. The number of countries recording at least one death from terrorism fell to 41 in 2023, down from 44 in 2022 and 57 in 2015.
- South Asia has the highest regional average impact from terrorism, although it improved over the past year.

Recent Global Trends in Terrorism (*Global Terrorism Index*):

(cont'd)

- Over the past decade the average impact of terrorism has only increased in two regions: North America and sub-Saharan Africa. Every other region has recorded a decrease in the average impact since 2013.
- Total deaths from terrorism are now considerably higher in sub-Saharan Africa than any other region. Sub-Saharan Africa has recorded the most deaths from terrorism for the past seven years.
- Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia have far more deaths from terrorism than any other regions. Collectively they accounted for just under 94 per cent of deaths from terrorism in 2023.
- In 2023, 98 per cent of terrorism deaths occurred in countries experiencing some level of conflict. Most of these occurred in countries at war, but the number of deaths in countries involved in minor conflicts has been steadily rising.



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Global trend in terrorism with youth offenders

- **Digital Radicalization:** Terrorist groups exploit social media algorithms, creating echo chambers to indoctrinate youth.
- **Gaming Platforms:** Used as covert spaces to connect with and radicalize young players.
- **Youth as Lone Actors:** Rising cases of self-radicalized individuals, especially in regions with high internet penetration.
- **Global Patterns:**
 - Terrorist groups leverage global crises to amplify propaganda and attract youth.
 - ISIL and al-Qaeda affiliates dominate the online recruitment space in Asia.

Overall situation on Youth Involvement in Terrorism

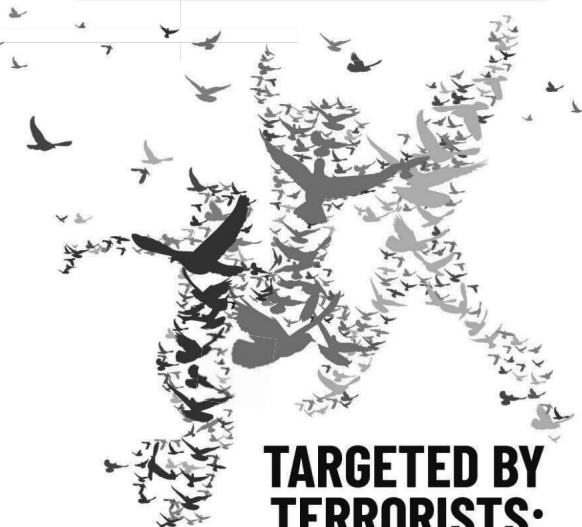
- **Global Concern:** Youth represent a significant proportion of individuals recruited by terrorist groups due to their adaptability to digital tools and their impressionable stage in life.
- **Key Statistics:**
 - In Bangladesh, **82% of individuals arrested for extremism-related activities** were radicalized through social media.
 - Increasing use of gaming platforms popular among children and youth, and alternative communication apps for covert radicalization.
- **Gendered Impact:** Men are typically recruited for combat or operational roles, while women are recruited for propaganda or logistical support.
- **Regional Variances:** In South Asia, online radicalization is prevalent due to widespread grievances, while Southeast Asia has witnessed increased use of encrypted platforms for youth recruitment.

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21

Research

Aim of increasing knowledge regarding children associated with groups designated "terrorist".



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download the report

**TARGETED BY
TERRORISTS:**
CHILD RECRUITMENT, EXPLOITATION
AND REINTEGRATION IN INDONESIA,
IRAQ AND NIGERIA

Seven key findings:

- 1. Child recruitment by terrorist groups is not exceptional and largely overlaps child recruitment by other armed and criminal groups.**
- 2. Children do not join terrorist groups voluntarily. Their association is characterized by a spectrum of coercion, even when they exercise some form of agency.**
- 3. A background of political conflict and the perception of a broken social contract are determinants of children's association with terrorist groups both in conflict and non-conflict settings.**
- 4. While children's roles in association with terrorist groups vary according to the duration of the association, their gender, and other factors, their experiences are consistently characterized by violence and harm.**

Seven key findings (cont'd):

- 5. Children exit and disengage from terrorist groups despite serious risk of retaliation when they reach a tipping point of negative experience within the group and positive prospects for life outside it.**
- 6. The barriers and incentives to successful reintegration are determined by gendered and stereotypical representations of children's association with terrorist groups.**
- 7. While upholding children's rights has proved challenging in efforts to counter terrorism, it contributes to the effectiveness of counter-terrorist programmes and the promotion of peace and security.**

How are youth recruited?



Online Recruitment:

- **Social Media:** Extremist groups use platforms like Facebook, TikTok, and Telegram to spread messages and target vulnerable youth.
- **Gaming & Online Communities:** Extremists recruit youth through in-game chats, forums, and encrypted messaging apps.
- **Generative AI:** AI tools enable the creation of personalized propaganda targeting specific vulnerabilities.



Offline Recruitment:

- **Peer Influence & Social Networks:** Youth are recruited through friends, family, and local networks.
- **Community Institutions:** Extremist groups exploit educational institutions, religious schools, and local community centres to spread their ideology and recruit vulnerable youth

Root causes of why youth are recruited

- **Conditions: Conflict, Weak Governance and Rule of Law**
- **Vulnerability: Children and Youth are easy targets for manipulation**
- **Socioeconomic Factors:**
 - High unemployment, poverty, displacement, and lack of education make youth susceptible to promises of financial stability and belonging.
- **Psychological Needs:**
 - Desire for identity, purpose, and a sense of belonging drives youth to join extremist groups.
- **Marginalization and Discrimination:**
 - Ethnic, religious, and political disenfranchisement exploited by VEOs.
- **Digital Accessibility:**
 - Widespread internet penetration allows recruiters to reach vulnerable individuals.



The role of youth joined in terrorist groups

Youth are exploited in various roles, both directly in conflict and in supporting terrorist operations:

- **Combatants:** Forced or coerced into direct combat or attacks.
- **Human Shields:** Used as protection during conflicts.
- **Suicide Bombers:** Exploited to carry out bombings, including children as young as 12.
- **Informants:** Used to identify individuals who resist recruitment.
- **Support Roles:** Assigned tasks like cooking, cleaning, or carrying equipment.
- **Forced Marriage:** Girls compelled to marry group members.
- **Recruiters:** Used to attract peers through social and peer influence.
- **Operational Roles:** Fighters, logisticians.
- **Support Roles:** Propagandists, fundraisers.



Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Youth

- **Psychological Support:**
 - Provide trauma counseling and psychological therapy to address mental health issues caused by conflict experiences; Establish peer support groups to foster a sense of belonging and mutual encouragement.
- **Education and Skill Development:**
 - Offer formal education opportunities to bridge educational gaps caused by conflict; Introduce vocational training programs tailored to local labor market demands to ensure employability.
- **Community-Based Reintegration:**
 - Engage local communities in reintegration efforts to reduce stigma and foster acceptance; Promote community dialogue and awareness campaigns to facilitate social cohesion and trust.
- **Economic Empowerment:**
 - Offer micro-finance opportunities, grants, or start-up funding to help youth establish small businesses; Collaborate with local businesses to create employment opportunities for rehabilitated youth.

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Youth Participation

<p>YPS Agenda - UN SCR 2250 (2015); 2419 (2018); 2535 (2020)</p>	<p>Recognise the contribution of young people to peace-building and emphasize the importance of youth participation</p>	
<p>UN Global CT Strategy 2006 and its Reviews</p>	<p>Note the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism</p>	
<p>SG's Plan of Action to PVE 2015</p>	<p>Calls for Youth Empowerment, amplifying the voices of youth and supports youth participation in PVE</p>	

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UNODC Approaches to Youth and Children in the Context of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

<p>Youth (18-29)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNODC's Approach to the Preventing and Countering the Involvement of Youth in Terrorism and Violent Extremism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ <i>Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (TPB)</i>
<p>Children (<18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNODC's Approach to the Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ <i>Global Programme to End Violence against Children (END VAC)</i>

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UNODC's Mandate

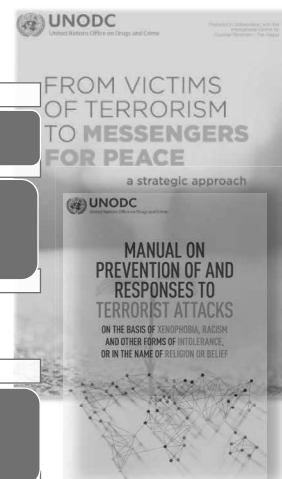
The UN's crime prevention and criminal justice agency

Guardian of the international conventions and protocols against illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, corruption and **terrorism**

UNODC's has been given a mandate on terrorism prevention since 2003 and continuously renewed by UN General Assembly resolutions

Global HQ in Vienna, Austria and Regional HQ for Southeast Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

Country and Project Offices in the region: Indonesia, The Philippines, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.



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UNODC



Tackling the world drug problem

through balanced, evidence-based responses to address drug abuse and drug use disorders, as well as the production and trafficking of illicit drugs



Preventing corruption

by promoting integrity and good governance and helping recover stolen assets



Countering terrorism

through effective, accountable and inclusive legal, crime prevention and criminal justice measures in line with international norms and the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy



Combating organized crime

by providing technical assistance and support and strengthening international cooperation to address organized criminal activity and all forms of trafficking



Preventing crime and promoting criminal justice

through human rights-based and victim-centered approaches that strengthen the rule of law and access to justice

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32

UNODC Around the World



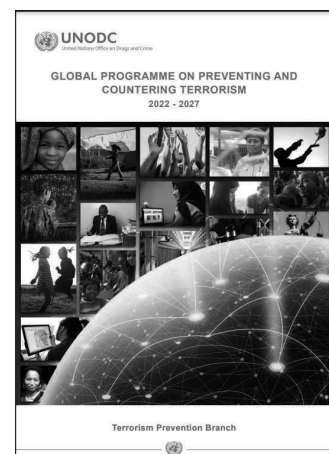
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33

UNODC's Global Programme on Preventing Terrorism (2022-2027)

Outcomes:

1. Increased Member States' adherence to and implementation of the **international legal framework against terrorism**.
2. Development and implementation of terrorism **prevention** measures that are **partnership-based, gender-responsive & youth-empowering**.
3. Increased effectiveness of **criminal justice** institutions to prevent and counter terrorism, in line with international **human rights** obligations.



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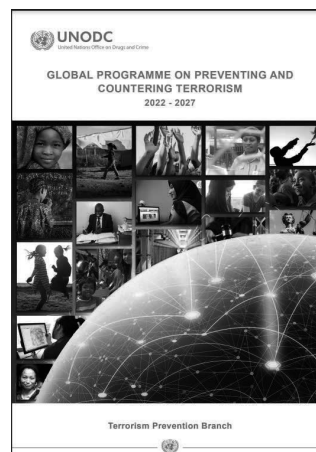
34

UNODC's Global Programme on Preventing Terrorism (2022-2027)

Outcome 2: Comprehensive measures to prevent terrorism that are inclusive, partnership-based, gender-responsive, and **youth-empowering** are developed and implemented

Including:

- **Youth-led**, socially inclusive platforms and networks are established to prevent terrorism, with leaders and volunteers supported to build bridges with government institutions and shape policies and programmes through increased civic involvement, allowing for meaningful dialogue and participation, as well as building trust, and
- Initiatives are promoted between civil society actors, **including youth leaders** and women-led organizations that leverage collaborative approaches to prevent terrorism.



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UNODC Expertise on CT and P/CVE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International legal framework • International cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism • Promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism • Investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases • Gender mainstreaming • Preventing CBRN terrorism • Countering the financing of terrorism • Criminal justice responses to preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism • Protecting the rights of victims of terrorism • Preventing the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes • Evidence management • Addressing the threat of (R)FTFs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies • Preventing XRIRB terrorism • Responding to transport-related terrorism offences • Countering the use of IED • Engaging and empowering youth to prevent terrorism and violent extremism • Treatment of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups • Support to prison administrations in PVE in prisons and managing terrorist and violent extremist offenders • Reintegration and alternatives to imprisonment for former terrorists • Links between organized crime and terrorism • Education for universities (EDU4U) |
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UNODC's Work on Youth and PVE (2019–Present)

Since 2019, UNODC has launched and participated in numerous workshops and activities aimed at addressing Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and engaging youth across various topics, including:

- Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development
- Education and Awareness
- Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism
- Community Resilience and Rehabilitation
- Sports for PVE and Youth Empowerment
- Anti-Corruption Efforts Led by Youth
- Digital and Technological Solutions
- Global Campaigns and Partnerships

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Youth-Led Action to Prevent Violent Extremism



UNODC established a network of youth-led and youth-focused civil society organizations to support the design and implementation of effective projects that promote peace and prevent terrorism within the broader criminal justice context.

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UNODC Holds First Regional Meeting of the Youth-led Action to Prevent Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia, Putrajaya, Malaysia, 5-7 November 2024

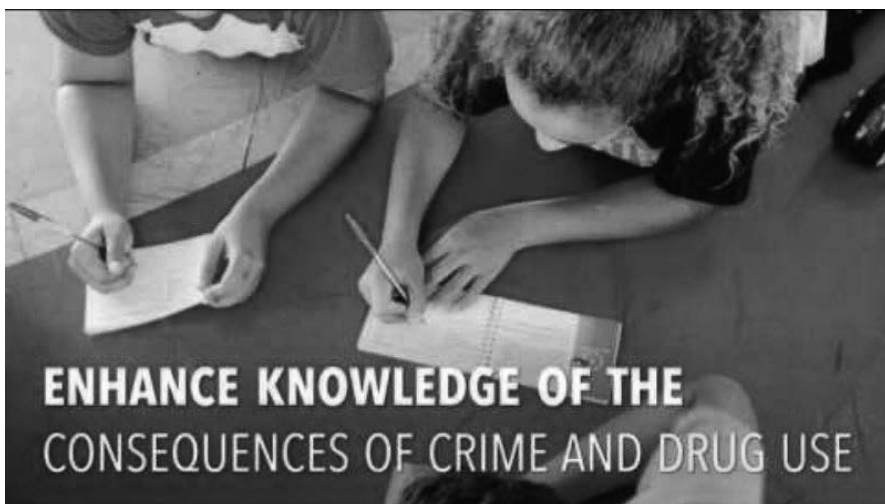
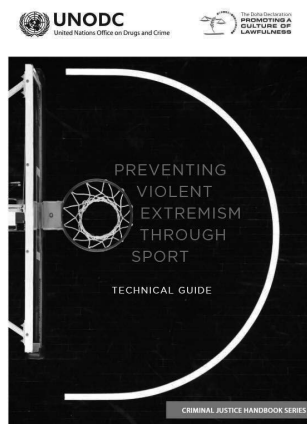


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39

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LEVERAGING SPORT TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM



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40

VISITING EXPERTS' PRESENTATIONS



20 Young justice coders from four countries compete in global hackathon in California to design games promoting UNODC-mandated issues

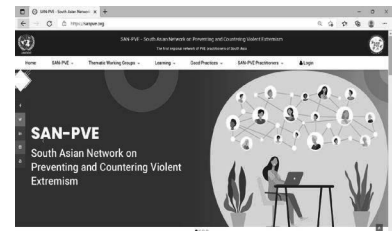
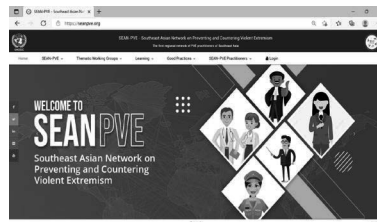


Celebrating International Youth Day 2024: Empowering Young Digital Innovators for Sustainable Development

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41

UNODC PVE network initiatives



Promoting regional PVE networks to:

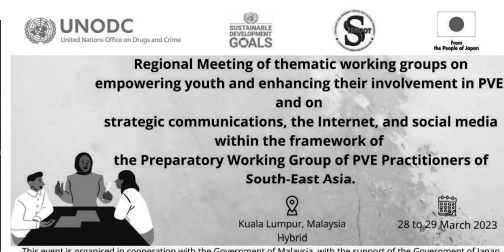
- ✓ Enhance regional cooperation, peer learning, knowledge- and experience-sharing;
- ✓ Bring together PVE stakeholders to enhance their expertise and capacities and promote multi-disciplinary coordination;
- ✓ Assist in developing training tools and resources;
- ✓ Provide online networking opportunities; and
- ✓ **Promote youth empowerment and engagement in PVE.**

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42

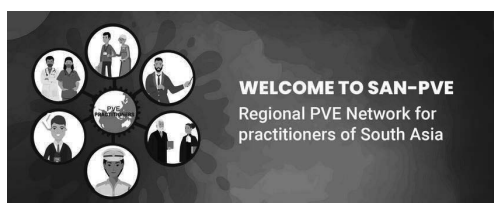
SEAN-PVE (Southeast Asia Network for Preventing Violent Extremism)


- Focused on engaging youth in Southeast Asia to prevent violent extremism (PVE) through community-driven initiatives and capacity building.
- **Key Activities:**
 - Organizing regional youth dialogues and workshops to promote peacebuilding and counter extremist narratives.
 - Developing educational materials and curricula for schools to foster critical thinking and resilience against radicalization.
 - Partnering with local NGOs to implement grassroots campaigns aimed at empowering marginalized youth populations.



SAN-PVE (South Asia Network for Preventing Violent Extremism)

- Empowering youth in South Asia by addressing root causes of radicalization, such as poverty, lack of education, and social exclusion.
- **Key Activities:**
 - Hosting regional forums to facilitate youth participation in policymaking and advocacy for PVE strategies.
 - Providing technical support to governments in developing youth-focused PVE policies and programs.
 - Conducting youth empowerment campaigns, including sports, arts, and cultural initiatives, to promote social integration.







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SAHEL-PVE Network (Preventing Violent Extremism in the Sahel Region)

- Addressing youth involvement in violent extremism in the Sahel region by promoting socio-economic development and resilience.
- **Key Activities:**
 - Training youth leaders as peace ambassadors to counter extremist ideologies within their communities.
 - Supporting economic empowerment programs, such as vocational training and entrepreneurship initiatives, to provide alternatives to radicalization.
 - Implementing community-based reintegration programs for youth disengaged from terrorist groups.



Launch of a youth-focused regional network on Preventing Violent Extremism in Sahel Region
SAHEL-PEV



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45



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UNODC
END VAC

UNODC GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM TERRORISM SINCE 2015



Technical assistance for **over 50 countries**



Publication of groundbreaking research study
Targeted by Terrorists



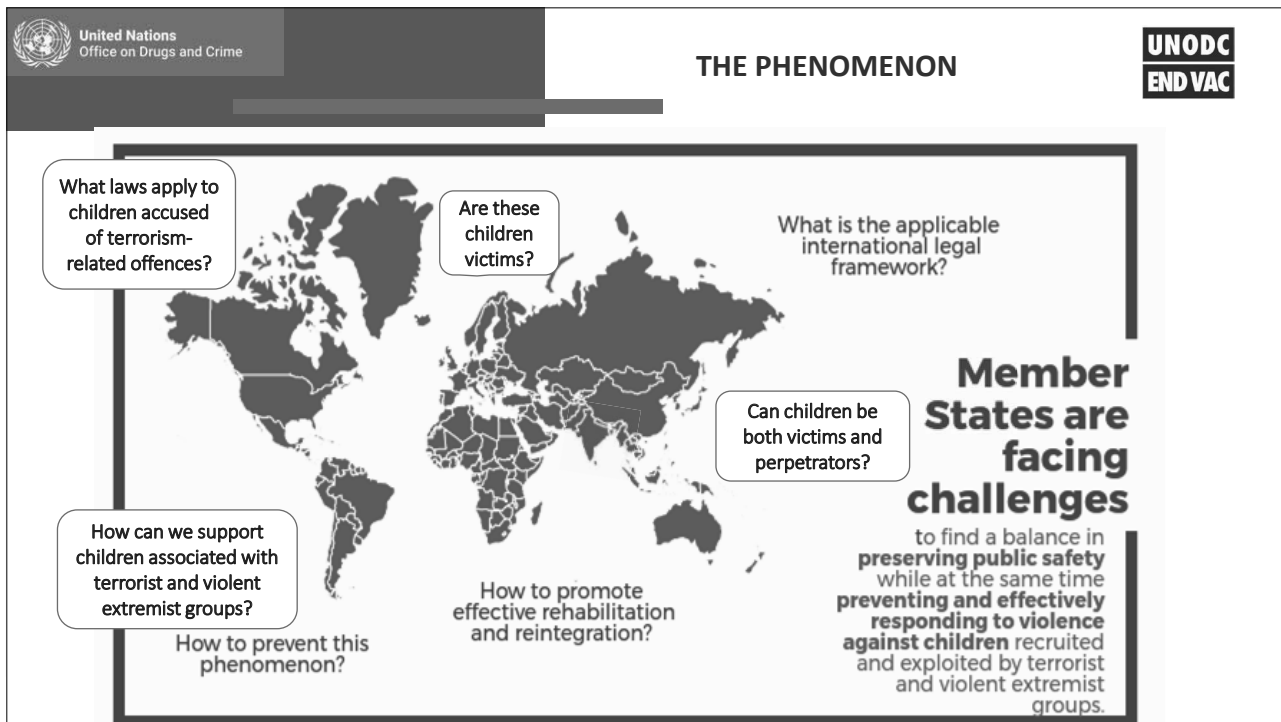
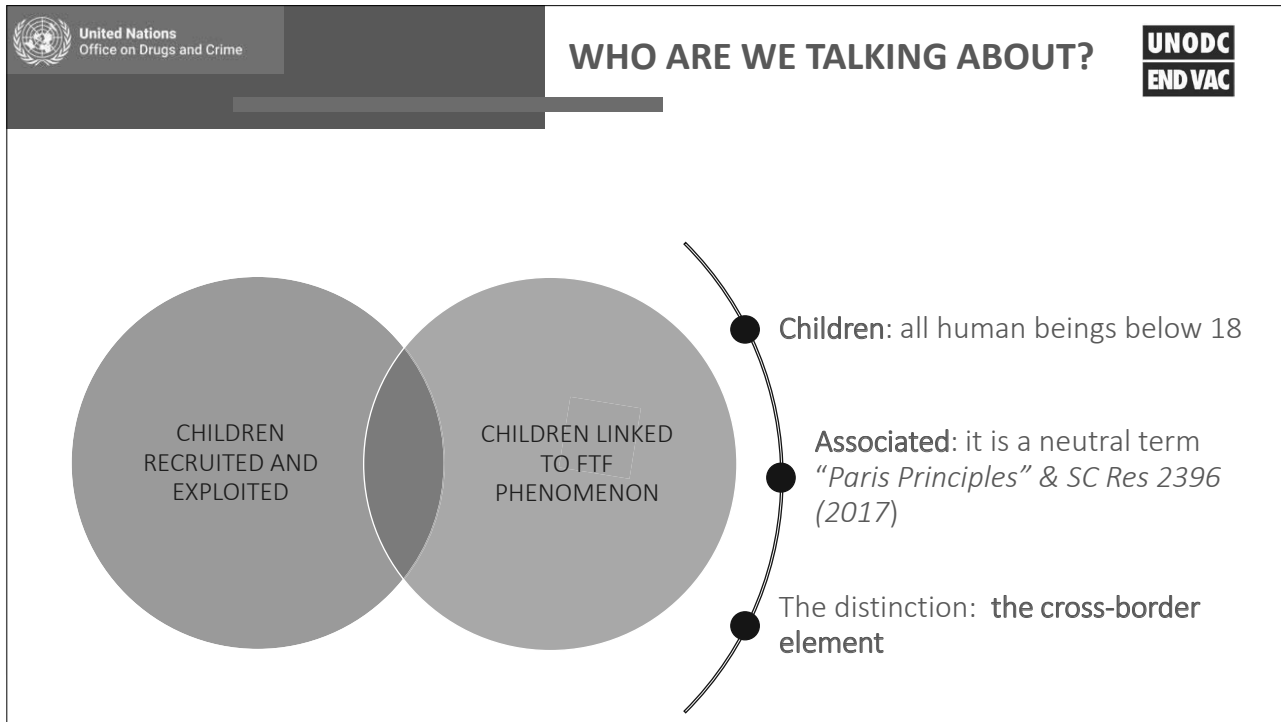
Elaboration and dissemination of **35 manuals, guides and other tools**



Capacity development for **over 3000 professionals**



Prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts benefitting **over 20,000 children**



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UNODC's APPROACH

**UNODC
END VAC**

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graph TD
    A[Relying on international law] --- B[Knowledge of the context on the ground: Integrating child-rights focus and security perspective]
    A --- C[No one-size fits-all approaches to deal with this issue]
    B --- C
    
```

Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System

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UNODC ROADMAP ON THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORIST GROUPS

TEN PRINCIPLES FOR PRACTICE


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Global Programme to end Violence Against Children

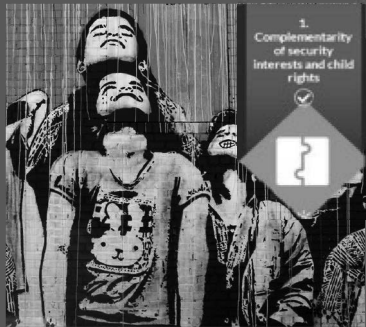
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UNODC ROADMAP
On the Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups

1. Complementarity of security interests and child rights
2. Child recruitment is a serious form of violence against children
3. Child recruitment is never truly voluntary
4. Children should be treated primarily as victims
5. The best interests of the child must be the primary consideration
6. Prevention is a key priority
7. Securing effective rehabilitation and reintegration of children is a key objective for all interventions
8. International legal safeguards for children apply equally to children alleged as or accused of terrorism related crimes
9. Child- and gender-sensitive approaches must be applied
10. Child recruitment is first and foremost a developmental issue that demands multidisciplinary approaches and multi-sectoral responses



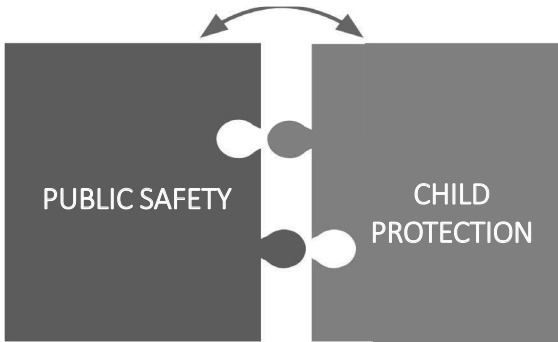
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OVERCOME THE PERCEIVED DICHOTOMY
BETWEEN SECURITY INTERESTS AND CHILD
RIGHTS


UNODC APPROACH: BRIDGING THE GAP



UNODC Added-Value



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Our responses

Three Key Areas
of Work:

Advocating for a
comprehensive
approach

VISITING EXPERTS' PRESENTATIONS

United Nations
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UNODC and Indonesia's BNPT Organize Cross-Regional Event to Promote Children's Resilience to Recruitment and Exploitation by Terrorist Groups and Adoption of 2024 "Bali Conclusions", 29 May 2024

Conclusions of the Cross-Regional Event "Child Resilience in Insecurity Contexts"

Bali, 29-31 May 2024

We, experts and representatives of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Philippines, held a three-day dialogue discussing strategies and measures to prevent and respond to child association with terrorist groups¹.

We remain convinced that child association with terrorist groups continues to gravely affect children's well-being and enjoyment of their rights, while also posing considerable security concerns to the countries affected by this phenomenon. As such, this phenomenon deserves immediate attention and demands comprehensive intervention.

We endorse the 2019 "UNODC Roadmap on the Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups" and we reaffirm the following principles as the basis for a comprehensive, just, and sustainable approach to the treatment of these children:

Adherence to international law shall guide all actions aimed to prevent and respond to child association with groups designated terrorists. In particular, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the fundamental rights of children, based on the recognition of their ongoing developmental process and their entitlement to special care and assistance. Furthermore, its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict establishes fundamental commitments to protect children from recruitment and from its harmful consequences on child development as well as on sustainable development, peace and security.

It is necessary to tackle the root causes of child recruitment and association, devising comprehensive strategies and measures that provide a bridge between development, security and peacebuilding efforts. Strengthening the nexus between these areas of interventions is key to responding to children's lived experiences and enhancing the potential for societal resilience. Integrated and comprehensive interventions require coordination and cooperation among different sectors, including (but not limited to) health, education, child protection, justice and security sectors.

Tackling child association with terrorist groups also requires taking into account and supporting children's agency to actively take part in decision-making processes that impact their lives. This includes providing opportunities for children to contribute ideas, voice their concerns, and shape interventions that affect them. In parallel, participatory mechanisms and platforms should be in place to allow community perspectives and needs to be integrated throughout the policy formulation and intervention development process.


¹ In accordance with Article 1 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, this document refers to children to include all human beings below 18 years of age.

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UNODC Workshops on PVE and Youth in the Philippines: Promoting Peaceful Engagement: Learning from and Empowering the Youth on Preventing Violent Extremism (2019)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

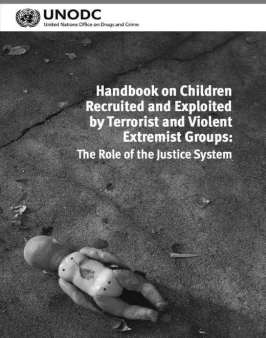
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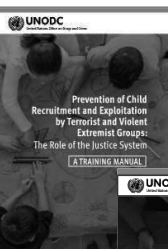


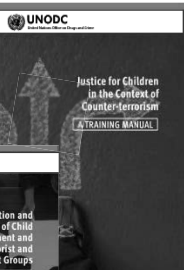
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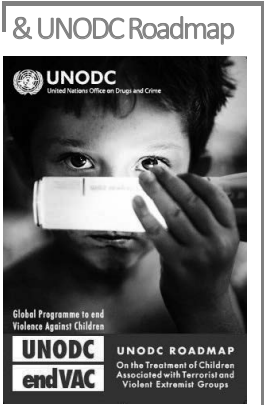
UNODC Comprehensive Training Package








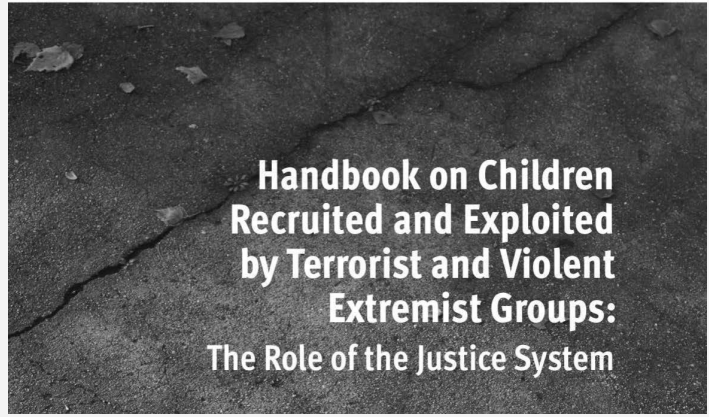




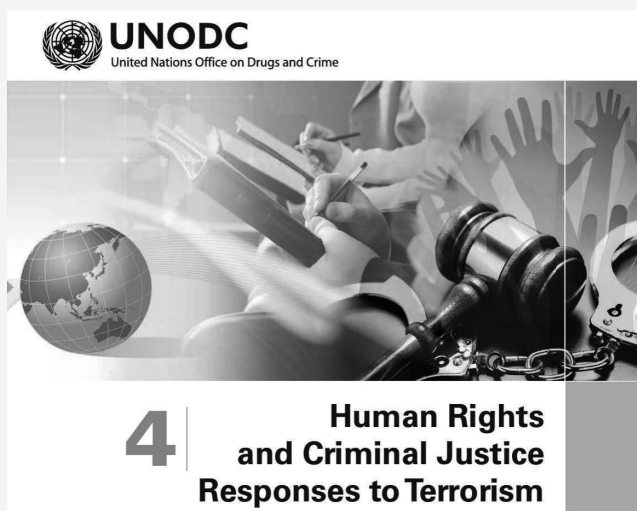
**Five
E-learning
modules**



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UNODC Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System



UNODC Legal Training Curriculum: [Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism](#)

UNODC Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System

- Strategies for preventing recruitment of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups
- Adopting a holistic approach: preventing violence against children
- Preventing recruitment of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups
- Child victims of recruitment and exploitation: their treatment in the justice system
- Recognizing as victims children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups
- Protecting child victims and witnesses during investigations and trials
- The right of child victims to reparation
- Justice for children accused of terrorism-related offences
- Specialized juvenile justice system
- Pretrial stage
- Trial and sentencing
- Children deprived of their liberty
- Rehabilitation and reintegration of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups
- Promoting comprehensive reintegration policies and programmes

Best Practices in Preventing Children and Youth Involvement in Terrorism


- **Build coalitions:** empowering civil society and communities as allies and listen. Canaries in the coal mine, far more alert to at-risk youth and radicalization, and can help address the root causes of extremism.
- **Build resilience:** against violent extremism, by addressing risks of alienation, exclusion, and intolerance, along social, psychological, economic fissures. Build counter-narratives.
- **Build safe spaces:** to help young people vent frustration and channel energy and find off-ramps away from anti-social, destructive, or violent escalation.
- **Build new skills:** put more tools in your toolkit: Multi-disciplinary approaches that include mental health and education professionals can help to address the root causes of extremism.
- **Build good governance, rule of law, and human rights:** Address discrimination, marginalization, and poorly performing institutions of governance.
- **Beware complacency:** no (recent) attack is no assurance that you're doing enough to prevent one in the future.

Best Practices in Preventing Children and Youth Involvement in Terrorism


- **Develop a smarter terrorism prevention strategy**
- **Adopt whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches**
- **Invest in prevention**
- **Be proactive in assessing and addressing risks before there is an attack**
- **Adopt intelligence-led policing policies and practices**
- **Design a counter-terrorism architecture, division of labour, and structured inter-agency cooperation and information sharing**
- **Update legal framework in line with international standards**
- **Build specialized capacity among all relevant agencies: forensic, analytical, tools, and training**
- **Integrate investigate technology and tools to identify and exploit evidence, especially digital evidence to both prevent attacks and to hold offenders accountable**
- **Establish specialized agency, court, and procedures for child suspects, detainees, witnesses, and victims, in line with international standards**
- **Ensure access to justice, through provisions for legal aid, psycho-social services, and secure facilities for children**




United Nations
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UNODC and BNPT Strengthen Child Protection through Training of Trainers in Indonesia – 9 August 2024, Jakarta, Indonesia







United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime




Supporting rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups through the rehabilitation of youth detention facilities in Iraq, May 2023




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STRIVE
Juvenile




UN-HABITAT





www.unodc.org/strive-juvenile
#ENDViolence
#BridgingTheGap


MAY 2023



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Rebuilding resilience among children and youth in Nigeria



Youth Peace Champions working with children in Northeast Nigeria.



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Rebuilding resilience among
children and youth in Nigeria

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UNODC RESOURCES

UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch [resources, publication, guidebooks, and online courses, including:](#)

[Model Legislative Provisions in Response to Terrorism to Protect Victims](#)

[Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism](#)

UNODC RESOURCES

The SHERLOC portal is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of [the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism.](#)

LEGISLATION DATABASE

- Legislation implementing the Organized Crime Convention, the Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism and addressing specific forms of organized crime and relevant "cross cutting" issues

CASE LAW DATABASE

- Case summaries of judicial decisions relating to organized crime and terrorism

CNA DIRECTORY

- Directory of central and competent national authorities designated for international cooperation in criminal matters

UNODC RESOURCES (CONT'D)

TREATIES DATABASE

- Bilateral and multilateral treaties concerning organized crime and terrorism, including information on the adherence status of each instrument

STRATEGIES DATABASE

- National and regional strategies to prevent and combat organized crime and terrorism



**Thank you and wishing
you great success in
delivering justice.**

Masood Karimipour

Regional Representative

UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia & the
Pacific

<https://www.unodc.org/roseap/>

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