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2021-2022**
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2021 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

24-30 JUNE 2021

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

FROM ONLINE HATE TO OFFLINE VIOLENCE Addressing and Countering Hate Speech and Violent Extremism Through Education in a Digital World

An Online Interactive Discussion

Friday 25 June 2021

08:00 AM - 09:30 AM EST

We are witnessing an unprecedented ‘digital revolution’ that is making our world even more interconnected; creating infinite opportunities, but also baring new challenges. This ‘digital revolution’, among other things, has enabled the spread of hate speech and violent extremist narratives; easily, freely and anonymously, with an increasing amount of online hate transforming into offline violence. For many years, governments, researchers, civil society organizations, tech and social media companies and other key stakeholders have struggled to find ways to counteract the “dark” side of the internet: that is the prevalence of hate speech and violent extremist content.

The **UNESCO, OSAPG, OSRSG-VAC and UNOCT/UNCCT** – in partnership with the **Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Norway** – joint side event, titled *“From online hate to offline violence”*. The event will seek to further unpack this dilemma, by exploring how we can address and counter, through education in a digital context, hate speech and violent extremism which can lead in the worst instances to atrocity crimes. In particular, it will explore the role of education (including media and information literacy) as a tool for prevention and a means to build learners’ resilience against hateful and violent narratives, with a view to offer possible solutions for early interventions, for the consideration of the international community. At the same time, the side event will recognize that education alone cannot undertake the full range of preventive measures that are needed. And so, it will call for multi-sectoral partnerships and a whole-society approach that requires engagement of government and non- governmental multi-stakeholders in the decision-making process to address the multiplicity of factors feeding hate speech and violent extremism.

www.un.org/counterterrorism/CTweek-sidevents

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2021 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

The event will also explore the importance of the role of children and youth, as actors of change in developing and promoting counter-narratives, peace, tolerance and respect for human rights, as well as the need for a gender transformative and human-rights based approach to addressing and countering this issue. Finally, the event will propose key recommendations for fostering media and information literate citizens, who are knowledgeable and discerning processors and producers of information, which allows them to actively address hate speech and violent extremism, whilst contributing to social inclusion and peace, in online and offline spaces.

Event Agenda:

Moderator: George Papagiannis, UNESCO Media Chief [TBC]

08:00 – 08:05

Welcome and Introduction

Background and objectives of the session by moderator

08:05– 08:30

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Identifying the scale of the problem and challenges in addressing hate speech, violent extremism and atrocity crimes in a digital context

- **Karen Smith**, UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, OSAPG
- **Jehangir Khan**, Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, UNOCT/UNCCT
- **Dina Hussein**, Counterterrorism & Dangerous Organisations Policy Head for EMEA, Facebook
- **High-level speaker: Thor Kleppen Sættem**, Deputy Minister of Justice/State Secretary, Norway

08:30 – 08:45

YOUTH STEERING THE WHEEL: realities, concerns and opportunities

- Young experts will respond to key questions raised on social media platforms from participants viewing the live stream – (1) **Naz Sharifi**, Youth Ambassadors Program at MYAN NSW and (2) **Samar Abushama**, Student and Project Manager, AMNA

08:45 – 09:05

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: What can be done? – exploring prevention efforts, including the role of education

- *Kingdom of Jordan [TBC]*
- **Stefania Giannini**, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
- **Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, OSRSG-VAC
- **Faruq Faisal**, Regional Director for Bangladesh and South Asia, ARTICLE 19

09:05 – 09:25

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION: Short Q&A session

- *Facilitated by moderator*

09:25 – 09:30

REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: what can you take away from this session?

- Summary of the discussion by moderator