

RELEASE IN FULL

**Action Agenda: Elevating Credible Religious Voices and Promoting Educational Initiatives to Build Resilience Against Violent Extremist**

UN Security Council Resolution 2178, adopted in September 2014, urges governments to adopt comprehensive approaches to countering violent extremism – including “empowering...education leaders” and highlighting “the role education can play in countering terrorist narratives.” Education and youth-based approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism draw on established areas of education – such as civic education, critical thinking and life skills – and adapt these practices for these objectives.

In recent years, a number of countries have implemented education-based reforms geared toward building children’s and youth’s resilience to violent-extremist ideas and ideology. Multilaterally, we have made some progress including through the promulgation of the Global Counterterrorism Forum’s *Abu Dhabi Memorandum* which captures good practices on the role of education in preventing and countering violent extremism. The memorandum was reviewed and approved at the September 2015 GCTF Ministerial meeting.

**Building on these efforts, the international community should consider:**

- Designing and implementing pilot programs drawing on civic education, critical thinking, life skills and other education-based approaches to prevent and counter violent extremism
- Providing technical assistance to governments interested in developing education and youth-based strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism
- Training older youth to serve as positive mentors to younger cohorts in geographic areas of radicalization and recruitment into violent extremism
- Supporting teachers, religious leaders, victims and survivors of terrorism and former violent extremists to collaborate on radicalization awareness in schools, youth groups and other settings
- Working with universities to develop curricula and implement and institutionalize training programs for teachers, religious leaders and others in techniques for preventing and countering violent extremism
- Supporting efforts to promote mainstream religious thought, scholarship, and education as counters to violent extremist messaging and narratives.

- Amplifying community and religious voices to expose the true nature of violent extremism through educational materials.
- Sharing information and unrestricted content with religious community leaders and civil society to better understand how terrorists are recruiting and radicalizing.
- Working with partners in the private sector to bring various religious and community leaders together to provide training on developing short-form videos to take on ideological fight against violent extremism online, in their own voices, and consistent with their religious traditions.