



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM



Hedayah

RELEASE IN FULL

CONCEPT NOTE

**Experts Workshop on The role of families
in preventing and countering violent extremism**

23-25 May 2016
Abu Dhabi

Background: Families have a critical role to play in preventing and countering violent extremism, as well as in supporting rehabilitation and reintegration of family members who already joined violent extremist groups. Wives, mothers, fathers, and siblings are often close to those possibly susceptible to violent radicalization, but they may not be able to identify the signs - or may not be able to prevent or intervene constructively to stop - such a process. Indeed, some family members of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" (FTF) have reported that they were initially unaware of why their relatives demonstrated certain behavior changes, and were unsure of how to respond.

The Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) has launched an "Initiative to Address the Life Cycle of Radicalization to Violence" ("Life Cycle Initiative"), co-lead by Turkey and the United States, which aims to create an up-to-date and comprehensive practitioner "toolkit" for addressing the full life cycle of radicalization to violence. Within this initiative, the GCTF has identified the family's role in countering violent extremism (CVE) as one of the gaps in the current architecture of good practices and capacity building for addressing radicalization to violence.

In December 2013, *Hedayah*, the International CVE Center of Excellence, and the Global Center on Cooperative Security hosted a workshop on the "Roles of Families and Communities in Strengthening Community Resilience against Violence Extremism."¹ This workshop highlighted the importance of families in supporting deradicalization and disengagement, as well as in detecting early warning signs of support for, or engagement in, violent extremism. Participants noted that families may also play a role in supporting violent extremist organizations and encouraging or enabling young people to join them.

Current research into families and CVE focuses on the importance of women as wives and mothers preventing family members from, radicalization.² In 2014 and 2015, the GCTF and the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe developed, drafted and approved a set of non-binding *Good Practices on Women and Countering Violent Extremism*. In a number of

¹ Bhulai, R.B. Chowdhury Fink, N. & Zeiger, S. (2014) "Meeting Note", Hedayah and GCCS: www.hedayah.ac/pdf/the-roles-of-families-and-communities-in-building-resilience-meeting-report.pdf

² See, for example, Chowdhury Fink, N., Zeiger, S., & Bhulai, R., (2016) "A Man's World? Exploring the Role of Women in Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism", Hedayah and GCCS: <http://www.hedayah.ac/pdf/a-man-s-world-1.pdf>

countries, local organizations have worked with, and supported women to identify signs of radicalization and to develop techniques to respond within families and communities. Further engagement with women as mothers and spouses in CVE programming was also a recommendation of *Hedayah's* 2013 workshop.³ Another important gap identified by the workshop was a lack of research into the roles of fathers and father figures in both recruitment and prevention.⁴

Description: Under the auspices of the GCTF Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group, *Hedayah* seeks to address this issue by hosting an experts' workshop to: (1) Identify lessons learned and good practices on the role of families in recognizing, preventing and intervening in violent extremist radicalization and recruitment; (2) catalogue specific programmatic approaches to empowering and supporting family members – wives, mothers, fathers and siblings; and (3) create practitioner resources.

The workshop will focus on issues such as the roles of cultural identity within family dynamics; the roles of wives, mothers, fathers and siblings in identifying, preventing and intervening in radicalization; the impact of social workers, religious and other community leaders on supporting families in their prevention roles; and CVE programs by national and local authorities, as well as non-governmental actors, to support families. The workshop format will include panel presentations, case studies and small-group, practical exercises. Participants will leave with a set of tools and resources - programming approaches and examples, actionable project ideas and access to a network of like-minded counterparts.

Participants: GCTF members will be asked to identify up to two (2) participants. Member states are asked to nominate at least one participant from a government ministry or agency with competency for women, youth, family affairs; ideally, both participants would come from such ministries/agencies. Relevant mid-level officials or officers with policy and/or programmatic authorities and responsibilities are particularly encouraged. Other participants will include experts on the role of families in CVE; researchers and CVE practitioners; and religious leaders, social workers, community leaders, and civil society representatives.

³ Bhulai, R.B. Chowdhury Fink, N. & Zeiger, S. (2014) "Meeting Note", *Hedayah* and GCCS: www.hedayah.ae/pdf/the-roles-of-families-and-communities-in-building-resilience-meeting-report.pdf, p6-7.

⁴ Bhulai, R.B. Chowdhury Fink, N. & Zeiger, S. (2014) "Meeting Note", *Hedayah* and GCCS: www.hedayah.ae/pdf/the-roles-of-families-and-communities-in-building-resilience-meeting-report.pdf, p7



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM



Hedayah

RELEASE IN FULL

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group

Experts' Workshop on The Role of Families in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

23-25 May 2016
Abu Dhabi

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, 23 May 2016

0830 – 0900

Registration

0900 – 0915

Opening Remarks

- CVE Working Group Co-Chair (United Arab Emirates)
- Executive Director, *Hedayah*
- Life Cycle Initiative Co-Lead (the United States)

0915 – 0930

Introduction to workshop framework and structure

9:30-11:00

Session 1: *The role of cultural identities, cohesion and integration within families in influencing support for or resistance to violent extremism*

This session will highlight the best practices and lessons learned from engaging with families for CVE in the past, and specifically focus on the challenges of tailoring interventions to various family roles and dynamics in specific contexts, cultures and traditions.

Key discussion questions:

- Best practices and lessons learned: why should families be considered key players in countering violent extremism?
- How can we find a balance between interventions to improve the family context with regards to extremism and radicalization and respecting cultural (and religious) traditions and values?
- How can we tailor interventions to be suitable in different environments, given the diversity of roles of family members and family dynamics in different situations?

1100 – 1130

Coffee Break



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM



Hedayah

1130 - 1300

Session 2: *The role of mothers and fathers*

This session will look into the influence of mothers and fathers on radicalization, as well as the role that parents can play in preventing and countering extremism based on past approaches and current efforts.

Key discussion questions:

- What factors (social, political, economic, cultural) seem to affect the influence that parents have on radicalization or de-radicalization?
- What factors impede parents from intervening in radicalization? (eg. lack of awareness, lack of knowledge on how to handle, lack of support, fear of ramifications)?
- In what way can current efforts better utilize mothers, given research showing the importance of their role in radicalization and de-radicalization?
- What is the role of fathers in CVE? How can efforts better engage fathers, especially with regards to best practices and lessons learned from CVE programming targeting mothers?

1300 – 1415

Lunch

1415 – 1545

Session 3: *The role of siblings/youth*

The aim of this session is to identify common trends in the role that siblings and youth may have in radicalization, especially given the fact that recent terrorist attacks have often had links between young family members (siblings, cousins) and how to better involve youth in CVE programming.

Key discussion questions:

- What roles do siblings (or peer group relatives, such as cousins) play in radicalization, recruitment and de-radicalization?
- What are some best practices or lessons learned from past efforts to integrate siblings and peer groups into CVE programming?
- How can CVE efforts reach out to include young (marginalized) community members and empower them to be agents of change among their peers?

1545 – 1715

Session 4: *Families as credible voices crafting narratives and as audiences targeted by narratives*

This session will consider counter-narratives and alternative narratives for CVE, the role that families can have as narrators, messengers and providing credible voices for these narratives and how to better involve



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM



Hedayah

family members in counter-narrative programming. Another angle to be looked at is how media and counter-narratives reach and influence families facing challenges or signs of radicalization.

Key discussion questions:

- What roles can family members play in crafting effective counter- and alternative narratives?
- What platforms exist that allow for families' voices to be heard?
- What are the barriers to engaging families in the production and dissemination of counter- and alternative narratives?
- How can media reach families, and promote their resilience to, or their role in preventing, radicalization and recruitment to violence?

1715 – 1730

Wrap Up

Tuesday, 24 May 2016

0830 – 0900

Coffee

0900 – 0915

Day 1 Recap

0915 – 1045

Session 5: *The impact of social workers and religious leaders on supporting families in their prevention roles*

The aim of this session is to identify how community engagements through social workers and religious leaders can be useful for CVE, how they can be better coordinated and to identify the potential challenges posed by these types of interventions.

Key discussion questions:

- How can efforts by family, community or religious leaders, social workers and authorities be harmonized to ensure coordination and collaboration?
- What are some best practices and lessons learned from past efforts of social workers intervening at family level for CVE purposes?
- What are some best practices and lessons learned from past efforts of religious leaders supporting families in CVE (particularly with regards to providing alternative interpretations of religious ideas)?

1045 – 1115

Coffee Break

1115 – 1245

Session 6: *Roundtable: Programs by national and local authorities to support families*



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM



Hedayah

The round-table style session will showcase different approaches by governments to support families and communities for CVE. The aim is to discuss lessons learned and evolving best practices in different contexts.

Key discussion questions:

- How can families be better utilized in programs by national and local authorities?
- What models or best practices from past engagement be used to connect authorities with families as well as other community actors?
- How can efforts be national and local authorities be better coordinated with efforts by NGOs, cultural and religious groups?

1245 – 1400

Lunch

1400 – 1530

Session 7: *The impact and role of family in de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs*

This session will focus on disengagement, de-radicalization and rehabilitation and the way that family members can/should be involved in these programs.

Key discussion questions:

- What best practices and lessons learned can be shared from engaging families in de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs?
- How can current efforts better involve families in de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs?
- What are the challenges that families of individuals imprisoned or under surveillance face, and how can these families be better supported?

1530 – 1630

Session 8: *NGO programs to support families and build resilience within communities*

In this session, various approaches by NGOs to include and support families for CVE will be showcased and discussed, in order to identify successful models and best practices as well as challenges that NGOs face.

Key discussion questions:

- What are some best practices and lessons learned from past and ongoing NGO initiatives to engage families in CVE?
- What challenges do NGOs face in efforts to reach out to families?
- How can efforts by NGOs be better supported by other CVE actors, including authorities, educators and local leaders?



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM



Hedayah

1630 – 1645

Wrap Up

Wednesday, 25 May 2016

0830 – 0900

Coffee

0900 – 0915

Practical Exercise Description

0915 – 1030

Practical Exercise and Group Discussions

1030 – 1100

Coffee Break

1100 – 1200

Group Presentation and Wrap Up

1200 – 1230

General Feedback on Proposed Projects and Brainstorming of Next Steps

1230 – 1245

Closing Remarks

1245 – 1400

Lunch



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

www.theGCTF.org

RELEASE IN FULL

Families and Countering Violent Extremism Programs

DATA CAPTURE TEMPLATE

Instructions: Please use the table below (page 2) to capture the details of relevant families and communities related CVE programs. Complete each field as necessary. Please note that you are not restricted to the size of the fields when completing this form electronically, the boxes will adjust.

Please describe key government or government-funded programs, projects or activities that either (1) build resilience in families to radicalization and recruitment into violent extremism; or (2) support families in preventing or countering such radicalization and recruitment. Information on relevant efforts of social service ministries or agencies is particularly welcome.

Additionally, please describe non-governmental or community-based programs, projects or activities in your country that build family resilience or support the prevention and intervention roles of families vis-a-vis violent radicalization and recruitment.

Please submit one copy of the below template per program.

Please return this form and any additional documentation to the GCTF Administrative Unit (adminunit@TheGCTF.org) no later than 12 May 2016.

Project Template:

Country	
Project Title	
Project Type¹ <i>(see footnote for detail)</i>	
Relevance to FTF <i>(Please type YES or NO in the space next to each line)</i>	(1) <i>detecting and intervening against violent extremism</i> _____ (2) <i>detecting and intervening against recruitment and facilitation</i> _____ (3) <i>detecting and intervening against travel and fighting</i> _____ (4) <i>detecting and intervening upon return</i> _____
Implementer <i>(Organization or Department)</i>	
Project	

¹ Type of Project may include: technical assistance, grant, public-private partnership, community engagement, community-oriented policing, etc.

Description	
Point of Contact	Name: Title: Tel: E-Mail:
Project Website <i>(If Available)</i>	

Additional Questions:

1. Please identify up to three lessons learned or good practices from the government, non-governmental or community-based efforts outlined in template. The more specific, the more useful such observations may be for other countries to reflect on.

2. Would your ministry or government be interested in technical exchanges or consultations regarding programs, projects and activities to build family resilience to, or to support the roles of families in preventing and countering, violent extremism?



Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group

RELEASE IN FULL

The role of families in preventing and countering violent extremism

Practitioner Workshop

23-25 May 2016

Abu Dhabi

Administrative Circular

On behalf of the CVE Working Group Co-Chairs (the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom) and *Hedayah*, we look forward to welcoming you to the Experts' Workshop on the Role of Families in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

GCTF members are kindly asked to limit their delegations to two (2) delegates. Please submit your completed registration to the GCTF Administrative Unit (adminunit@TheGCTF.org) no later than **6 May 2016**. Please include "Experts' Workshop on the Role of Families in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism" in the subject line of your message.

General Information

Date and Venue

The meeting will take place on **23-25 May 2016** at the:

Hotel Sofitel Abu Dhabi

Corniche Road East Capital Plaza Complex Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Tel: (+971) 02/8137777

Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche

Language

Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English, and French will be provided.

Dress Code

The dress code for this meeting is business attire.

Travel Information

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for air travel, accommodations, ground transportation, and visas.

- 2 -

Accommodations

Sofitel Hotel Corniche
Corniche Road East Capital Plaza Complex
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
Tel: (+971) 02/8137777

Rate per night: AED 400 for single occupancy and AED 500 for double occupancy, subject to 16% tourism tax, inclusive of breakfast and Wi-Fi.

Booking procedures

Please complete the attached hotel booking form and send it to H7507-RE1@sofitel.com.

Other nearby hotels

Sheraton Abu Dhabi Hotel & Resort
Sheraton Abu Dhabi Hotel and Resort

Millennium Corniche Hotel
Millennium Hotels and Resorts

Hala Arjaan Hotel by Rotana
Hala Arjaan by Rotana - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates - Arjaan Hotel Apartments

Transportation

Taxis are readily available from the airport to the hotel venue. While taxis are relatively inexpensive, please be aware they typically only accept cash in the local currency (AED). ATM machines and currency exchanges can be found at the Abu Dhabi International Airport and at most malls around town.

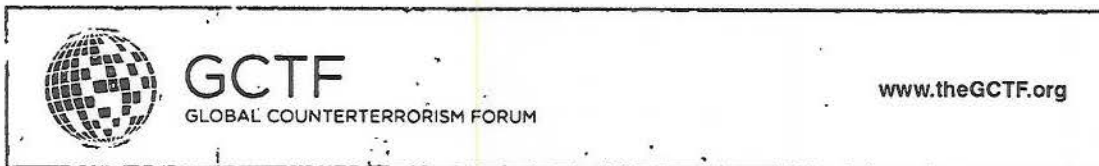
The hosts of the meeting will not provide ground transportation to and from the airport.

Visa and Passport Requirements

Participants are responsible for obtaining their own visa, and should investigate visa requirements at least 4 weeks prior to travel. Participants traveling to Abu Dhabi must be in possession of a valid passport that will not expire until at least 6 months after entry into the UAE. Delegates from certain countries may require visas to enter; we encourage you to check with your travel agent, flight carrier, or the nearest Embassy and allow sufficient time for processing. If you need assistance in obtaining a visa due to extenuating circumstances, please contact the conference organizer.

Contact Information

Please contact the GCTF Administrative Unit (adminunit@TheGCTF.org) with any questions you may have.



Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group

RELEASE IN FULL

Experts' Workshop on the Role of Families in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

23-25 May 2016
Abu Dhabi

Registration Form

Please submit this form to adminunit@TheGCTF.org no later than **6 May 2016**. All delegates must be registered in advance. Kindly limit your delegation to two (2) participants. Members are asked to nominate participants from a ministry/agency with competency for women, youth and/or family affairs. Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English, and French will be provided.

Delegation:	
--------------------	--

Participant 1 (Head of Delegation):

Title (check one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate here):
---------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	--

Surname:	First Name:
Agency or Office	Position :
E-mail:	

Participant 2:

Title (check one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate here):
---------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	--

Surname:	First Name:
Agency or Office	Position
E-mail:	