

RELEASE IN
FULL

THE WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT TO COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Countering Violent Extremism

"When people are oppressed, and human rights are denied -- particularly along sectarian lines or ethnic lines -- and when dissent is silenced, it feeds violent extremism. It creates an environment that is ripe for terrorists to exploit. When peaceful, democratic change is impossible, it feeds into the terrorist propaganda that violence is the only answer available." -- President Barack Obama

President Obama hosted the White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism on February 17-19, bringing together more than 300 participants from national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, and multilateral bodies, to launch a global movement to counter violent extremism. This movement builds on existing military, law enforcement, and intelligence efforts to counter terrorism and emphasizes the important role that civil society and local communities must play, alongside national governments, in addressing the drivers of violent extremism. The goal is to expand CVE initiatives that can be used to address not only immediate threats, like ISIL, but also to build community resilience against the spread of violent extremism more broadly and prevent future threats.

An Ambitious Action Agenda

The Summit participants agreed to work together on an ambitious action agenda with a number of areas of focus:

- Researching the local drivers of violent extremism threats and how to coordinate our responses
- Strengthening protections for all people, including religious and ethnic minorities
- Empowering civil society, especially youth, women, religious leaders, and victims of terrorism
- Expanding economic and educational opportunities, particularly for marginalized populations
- Undermining violent extremists' messages by amplifying authentic and credible counter narratives

Regional CVE Summits to Broaden Movement

In an effort to expand this global movement, several countries will host regional CVE summits. These summits will allow regional stakeholders to advance elements of the action agenda. They will take place May-August in countries, such as:

Albania	Algeria	Australia	
Kazakhstan	Kenya	Mauritania	Norway

Putting Policy into Practice: CVE Deliverables

Summit participants will reconvene at a leaders' summit in New York in September to report on progress on implementing the agenda. This includes:

- Developing inclusive national CVE strategies that involve civil society and local communities
- Supporting civil society in developing and disseminating their own counter-messages
- Ensuring that civil society organizations have sufficient space to operate independently
- Facilitating partnership between local and national governments, including security forces, and marginalized communities
- Building the capacity of educational institutions to promote tolerance and critical-thinking skills
- Rehabilitating and reintegrating violent extremists and returning foreign terrorist fighters
- Launching a global network of cities against violent extremism

Additional Information

For more information, please visit CVESummit.org, an independent, civil society-managed website.

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