

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

Statement of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

New York, August 21 2024

Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. António Guterres,

Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,

Distinguished participants, ladies, and gentlemen,

It is my honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism.

Today we commemorate the seventh anniversary of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which offers the international community an opportunity to honor those who have lost their lives and to highlight the strength and resilience of victims. Today is an opportunity to hear their voices and thank them for their courage and tireless efforts in sharing and remembering their stories, and helping the world to understand their needs.

We welcome the theme of this year's International Day with its particular focus on the role of victims of terrorism as peace advocates and educators. This theme acknowledges that victims are survivors. They play a crucial role in strengthening community resilience and solidarity to foster peace. The exploration of today's theme can also feed into the discussions that will take place in the upcoming United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, scheduled to take place in Spain on 8-9 October 2024. Under the title 'Education as a Tool for Prevention, Peacebuilding and Empowerment of Victims of Terrorism,' participants will examine ways to educate and sensitize new generations about the impacts of terrorism. The International Conference also aims to foster collaboration, inspire innovative solutions, and advocate for a holistic approach to addressing the needs of victims of terrorism while striving to build more peaceful and resilient societies globally. It is essential that we continue to engage on these issues with each other, with victims and with civil society organizations.

The Group of Friends continues to stress that a multifaceted approach focused on recovery, recognition, community resilience and education is crucial to help victims of terrorism in their healing journey and to build a peaceful future.

We must continue to fight for justice and accountability for all.

Thank you very much.