

United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact
Commemoration
of International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when
Conducive to Terrorism

12 February 2025, 1:15pm–2:30pm |
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Video message by Stefania Giannini, ADG/ED, UNESCO

291 words (3 minutes)

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Violent extremism remains a serious threat to lasting peace.

It takes root where inequalities grow, where conflict disrupts societies, and where social divisions deepen.

Armed conflicts, the rapid evolution of digital technologies, and rising social unrest are creating conditions that extremists exploit, often drawing in the most vulnerable, especially youth.

At UNESCO, we believe education is one of the most powerful tools to build, safeguard, and sustain peace—before, during, and after conflict.

Our 2023 Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development is helping countries address the root causes of violent extremism through education.

To scale up these efforts, we are launching a new flagship programme to further integrate education for peace into learning systems and policies.

Education must go hand in hand with cultural renewal and rebuilding communities. In Iraq, with the support of the United Arab Emirates, European Union, Canada, and other partners, UNESCO's 'Revive the Spirit of Mosul' initiative is restoring cultural and educational institutions that were devastated by violence.

The Al-Nouri Mosque, Al-Hadba Minaret, Al-Saa'a Convent, and Al-Tahera Church are rising again.

Schools are being rebuilt, with hundreds of classrooms renovated and thousands of educators trained in education for peace.

These efforts send a powerful message to violent extremists that destruction can be undone, and communities can reclaim their future.

The digital space is another critical front.

Disinformation and hate speech spread rapidly online and fuel extremism, making it essential to equip young people with Global Citizenship Education and Media and Information Literacy.

We are also strengthening efforts to prevent and counter online extremism through training educators and supporting media organizations,

By working together across education, culture, and digital spaces, we can build more peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies.

Thank you.