



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of  
Counter-Terrorism**

**Launch meeting of the  
Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism**

**25 June 2019**

Secretary-General Guterres,  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Today's launching meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism is an important milestone in our work to support those that have been injured, traumatized or have lost their lives during terrorist attacks.

The launch of this group is the culmination of considerable efforts by a number of Member States to ensure that victims are at the forefront of the international community's work to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. I particularly applaud the leadership of Ambassador Raz of Afghanistan and Ambassador Santos of Spain in spearheading this initiative.

Your commitment to stand in solidarity with victims of terrorism has given our collective work real momentum and is delivering real impact.

The sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reaffirms the recognition by the international community that victims play an important role in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Since becoming Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, I have made support to victims a key and global part of UNOCT's work.

In July last year, we established a comprehensive programme to support and promote the needs of victims, to highlight their voices, and to strengthen the capacities of victims' associations, civil society and Member States.

This Group of Friends will be a leading partner in these efforts.

I would like to propose that my Office and the Group of Friends co-host a photographic exhibition that portrays the resilience of victims of terrorism to commemorate the second International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. This exhibition would take place in August.

I also look forward to the Group of Friends being a key partner in the first-ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism to be held next June in New York.

This landmark event will be an integral part of the second "UN Counter-Terrorism Week", along with the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

These events aim to be a testament to the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation, and a fitting part of next year's celebrations of the UN's 75th Anniversary.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am personally and deeply committed to the issue of victims of terrorism. I try to meet victims whenever I travel in my job, whether it is to Maiduguri, Fallujah, Timbuktu, Kabul, Paris, Madrid.

Recently, I met with youth victims of terrorism from across the world. Despite their dramatic stories, they remained positive, brave and resilient.

It was a reminder that we also need to take action.

We need to provide victims with long-term practical assistance, including financial, legal, medical and psychosocial support, and other kinds of support so they can rebuild their lives as best as they can.

We also need to support victims' calls for justice. Transparent investigations and due criminal processes are needed to ensure that terrorists will be held accountable and brought to justice.

I look forward to working with the Group of Friends to make progress on all of these issues and ensure that victims receive the attention, support the assistance they need and deserve.

Thank you very much for your attention.