



UN GLOBAL CONGRESS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Advancing the rights & needs of victims of terrorism

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

United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism

Protecting the Rights of Victims of Terrorism Plenary Session

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here for a second day to discuss how to further our aim to move from the rhetoric of solidarity to a rights-based approach.

We need to work towards guaranteeing that victims of terrorism receive necessary assistance and care; are afforded adequate, effective, and prompt reparation; and that their physical and psychological integrity, privacy and reputation are protected.

The international community's efforts to effectively tackle the scourge of terrorism cannot be complete nor sustainable without meaningfully addressing the suffering endured by the victims of terrorist acts, their next of kin and society at large.

It is imperative that the comprehensive support to victims of terrorism for which we advocate is grounded in international law, and particularly in international human rights law.



We will hear more about this rights-based approach during the Fireside Chat with the present and former Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ms. Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Mr. Ben Emmerson and Prof. Martin Scheinin.

But first, I am pleased to invite Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights of the United Nations to deliver the keynote address, through a pre-recorded statement, on the importance of a human-rights based approach for victims of terrorism.

I thank you.