



# UN GLOBAL CONGRESS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Advancing the rights & needs of victims of terrorism

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

[as of 30 June 2022]

**8-9 SEPTEMBER 2022**

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Day 1	
GA Hall Plenary	High-level Opening
10:00 – 10:45	MC Welcome and Introduction
	Introductory Remarks and Keynote address by high-level UN representatives
	<b>Call to action by victims of terrorism:</b> <i>Ten victims of terrorism give short statements about what they would like the Congress to achieve, making a collective call to action to everyone watching the opening session.</i>
	Further remarks by Eminent Speakers
GA Hall Plenary	High-level Ministerial Session
10:45 – 11:45	<b>Ministerial Statements and Interventions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Three-minute pre-registered interventions</li></ul>
11:45 – 11:55	Musical Interlude



GA Hall Plenary	Session I: Recognition and Remembrance Measures
<b>11:55 – 1:00</b>	<p><i>The recognition of victims of terrorism as a unique body of individuals is the first step toward basic reparations, and for many, the first step towards healing and post-traumatic growth. Measures of recognition and remembrance symbolize a sense of public support from the State and society as a whole, acknowledge the individual suffering of victims, and enable the provision of future rehabilitative and reparative services. This session will explore how recognition can be given: from formal processes such as reparation and legal recognition to public commemorations and remembrance activities; and discuss the problems of lack of recognition that some victims face. It will also highlight best practices of Member States, civil society organizations, and others in supporting recognition and remembrance efforts around the world.</i></p>
<b>1:00 – 3:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
PLENARY	Session II: Plenary – Situational Analysis: The changing nature of terrorism
<b>3:00 – 3:40</b>	<p><i>The rights and needs of victims of terrorism and the challenges to protecting and supporting them are greatly affected by the broader context in which Member States, international organizations, and civil society organizations operate in. This horizon-scanning overview will provide a situational analysis of that broader context of counter-terrorism efforts, important trends in the field, and the effects that these developments have on victims of terrorism.</i></p>
<b>3:40 – 3:45</b>	<b>MC update on breakout sessions</b>

[PARALLEL SESSION]	Session III: Parallel Breakout Sessions – Situational Analysis: The changing nature of terrorism
[PARALLEL]	<b>Breakout Session A – Linkages between Conflict-related Sexual Violence and Terrorism</b>
3:50 – 5:05	<p><i>The international community increasingly recognizes the role that femicide, sexual and gender-based violence, forced marriage, torture and slavery play in the agendas of some terrorist groups, and has increasingly spotlighted the importance of protecting and promoting the rights and needs of victims of such conduct perpetrated by terrorist groups. The use of sexual or gender-based violence as a terror tactic has long-lasting and pernicious effects on victims and their communities, especially women and girl victims, who tend to be the largest group of victims of this kind of violence. Victims of sexual violence perpetrated by members of terrorist groups have an added layer of vulnerability which often results in stigmatization and secondary victimization, and they may struggle to speak about their experience and refuse to seek help and access to justice as a consequence, as it can leave them isolated and shamed by their communities. This session will place a spotlight on conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated by members of terrorist groups and discuss the efforts of Member States and the international community to address it. It will also highlight the essential role of specialized CSOs in this work.</i></p>
[PARALLEL]	<b>Breakout Session B – Terrorism and violent extremism on the basis of xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief</b>
3:50 – 5:05	<p><i>Violent extremism has been on the increase, and most recently threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief has been recognized across the UN architecture as a growing and increasingly transnational threat. Experts have identified terrorism on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion or belief as a unique form of political violence with often fluid boundaries between hate crimes and terrorism. It is not a coherent or easily defined movement, but rather a shifting, complex and overlapping milieu of</i></p>

	<i>individuals, groups and movements (online and offline) espousing different but related ideologies, often linked by hatred and racism and toward minorities, xenophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and prejudice against persons of any other religion or belief. This session will highlight broader UN conversations about the need to address this phenomenon, and the specific challenges that victims face in the aftermath of violent extremism and terrorism on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief.</i>
<b>PLENARY</b>	<b>Day 1 Closing Plenary</b>
	<b>MC Remarks</b>
<b>5:10 – 5:50</b>	<b>Victims Spotlight:</b> <i>In line with the call to action, five victims of terrorism will highlight the advocacy that they have done for themselves and their community. Victims of terrorism and victims' associations more broadly have done important work to support victims of terrorism around the world, and this session will highlight some of those efforts.</i>
<b>5:50 – 5:55</b>	<b>Closing remarks by UNOCT representative</b>
<b>6:00 – 8:00</b>	<b>Welcome reception</b>

<b>Day 2</b>	
<b>PLENARY</b>	<b>Session IV Plenary – Protecting the rights of victims of terrorism</b>
	<b>MC Welcome back</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:10</b>	<b>Keynote Address:</b> <i>Victims of terrorism and their families have rights related to remedy and reparation that are articulated in international human rights and humanitarian law, regional standards, and domestic legislation, and the</i>

	<i>General Assembly has emphasized Member States' commitments to those rights, particularly in resolution 73/305. These opening remarks are designed to give an overview on the status of the protection and promotion of the rights of victims of terrorism, progress made in recent years by Member States and the international community, and the challenges that remain.</i>
<b>10:10 – 10:50</b>	<p><b>“Fireside chat” on the changing nature of protecting the rights of victims of terrorism:</b></p> <p><i>The “fireside chat” between the two former Special Rapporteurs and the current Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism will discuss the ways in which their mandate as it relates to victims of terrorism has changed over time. It will highlight changes in international attitudes and organizational structures that have allowed for increased focus and leverage on victims and ways for the mandate to continue to focus on victims' rights and needs at both the national and international level.</i></p>
<b>[PARALLEL SESSION]</b>	<b>Session V: Protecting the rights of victims of terrorism</b>
<b>[PARALLEL]</b>	<b>Breakout Session A – Protecting the right to privacy of victims</b>
<b>10:55 – 11:55</b>	<p><i>Reporting and information-sharing on terrorist attacks, including by authorities, the media as well as social media platforms have a profound impact on victim's right to privacy, and may lead to additional trauma or even exploitation. While victims' right to privacy may be limited to the extent this is necessary in the interest of satisfying the public's need to receive accurate information in the aftermath of a terrorist attack. Media exposure of victims can create a platform for public discussions and mass counselling, as well as for the mobilization of the population in support of victims. It can also have a positive role in supporting victims' right to be recognized as such, including the right to truth and information. However, in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack, victims often face overwhelming attention from both the general public and the media which can lead to breaches of privacy of the victims and their families which can have a profound impact on their long-term well-being. This session will discuss the how to protect the right to privacy of victims of terrorism while</i></p>

	<i>ensuring the rights to freedom of expression and access to information of public interest. It will also look at the roles of the State and of the media in protecting privacy and consider broader digital protection issues for victims of terrorism in an age of social media.</i>
<b>[PARALLEL]</b>	<b>Breakout Session B – Protecting against threats to physical and psychological integrity</b>
<b>10:55 – 11:55</b>	<i>In order to fulfil their obligations under human rights law to protect the life and security of individuals under their jurisdiction, States have both a right and a duty to take effective counter-terrorism measures, to prevent and deter future terrorist attacks and to prosecute those that are responsible for carrying out such acts. This includes ensuring victims’ safety from intimidation and retaliation, as well as that of their families and witnesses before, during, and after judicial, administrative, or other proceedings that affect the interests of victims. States should also take measures to protect against secondary victimization, which is victimization that occurs through the response of institutions and individuals to the victim. This session will identify human rights-based good practices to minimize, prevent and protect victims of terrorism from the above threats and abuses, in different contexts and across different stages of the victims’ healing process, including the role of CSOs and private actors in supporting these good practices.</i>
<b>PLENARY</b>	<b>Session VI: Rehabilitation, Assistance and Support</b>
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<i>Assistance and support refer to the provision of material, medical, psychological, and social assistance and rehabilitation, as well as related services, to victims of terrorism. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy details the need to provide capacity-building support to Member States to assist them in protecting and promoting the rights of victims of terrorism. This has been repeatedly reaffirmed in resolutions and reports, most recently in General Assembly resolution 73/305 on the “Enhancement of International Cooperation to Assist Victims of Terrorism” (A/RES/73/305). This session will explore the multi- and inter-disciplinary measures required to secure a holistic treatment for victims from the immediate aftermath of an attack to the longer term. These sessions will also discuss best practices in the development of national comprehensive assistance plans as called for in General Assembly resolution 73/305.</i>

<b>1:00 – 3:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>[PARALLEL SESSION]</b>	<b>Session VII: Parallel Breakout Sessions – Addressing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism with specific needs</b>
<b>[PARALLEL]</b>	<b>Breakout Session A – Children and Youth</b>
<b>3:00 – 4:15</b>	<i>Children and youth who are affected by terrorism perceive violence and death differently than adults and require focused, specialized, and individualized support to address their unique needs in the short, medium, and long term. Children with disabilities require special attention. This session will address the specific needs of children and youth victims, which include those who have lost or been separated from their parents due to terrorism, those born from acts of sexual violence committed by members of terrorist groups, or those abducted, enslaved, or recruited by terrorist groups.</i>
<b>[PARALLEL]</b>	<b>Breakout Session B – Cross-border victims</b>
<b>3:00 – 4:15</b>	<i>Cross-border victims often experience an array of unique and complex challenges, layers of bureaucratic hurdles, and with them, a heightened risk for secondary victimization. Differences between rights and legal frameworks in a variety of countries may be confusing for cross-border victims. The lack of familiarity with a foreign system may hinder the cross-border victims' access to support and assistance services, and to justice more generally. The session will explore how to strengthen international collaboration and coordination of cross-border victims. The cooperation between local foreign ministries and embassies and consulates is essential to help identify the needs for both information and assistance and support of cross-border victims. Special care must be taken as they may not receive the assistance and support that they need when they go back to their country of origin, especially in the long-term.</i>

[PARALLEL SESSION]	Session VIII: Parallel Breakout Sessions – The importance of access to justice for victims of terrorism
[PARALLEL]	<b>Breakout Session A – Victims’ safe participation in criminal justice processes</b>
4:20 – 5:35	<p><i>Like any victim of a crime, the place and role of victims of terrorism in a terrorism-related criminal justice processes depends on the legal system of the country they are in, and on their own varying needs, expectations, and willingness to participate. Victim participation in legal proceedings can promote individual healing and rehabilitation by providing victims with a sense of agency, empowerment, and closure. By allowing a victim to participate in the proceedings, abstract justice can take on a more personal dimension, permitting victims to express their views and concerns, to tell their story, to “experience” justice and to seek reparation. This session will highlight the needs of victims of terrorism to safely participate in victim-centric judicial proceedings to ensure that appropriate advice, assistance, care, facilities and support are provided to every victim throughout the criminal justice process in a manner that prevents revictimization and secondary victimization.</i></p>
[PARALLEL]	<b>Breakout Session B – Reparation (compensation and restitution)</b>
4:20 – 5:35	<p><i>The right to reparation under international law applies to all persons who have suffered harm as the result of a terrorist act without discrimination. This session will address the existing framework on reparations and outline how reparations may include monetary compensation, return of property, rehabilitation, medical support, victims' services centres, or symbolic measures such as apologies or memorials. It will highlight the important role of civil society and non-governmental organizations (many of whom are the main providers of these services), detail best practices for State-funded compensation schemes, particularly those independent from trial outcomes, and highlight the importance of equitable compensation for victims with additional vulnerabilities and needs.</i></p>



PLENARY	Closing Plenary – Closing session and memorial ceremony
5:40 – 5:52	MC Welcome back
	Chair's Summary
5:52 – 6:30	Memories campaign and Closing Memorial Ceremony