



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
Remembrance of and Tribute
to the Victims of Terrorism



CONCEPT NOTE

UNITED BY HOPE:

Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism

21 August 2025

Background

The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/165, proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism and invited “all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other international organizations and civil society entities, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner.” Its main focus is to honour, remember, and pay tribute to the victims of terrorism, stand in solidarity with them, and promote and protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Objective

This year will mark the eighth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. Amid the multiplicity of violent conflicts and terrorist attacks worldwide, this day continues to honour victims and survivors of terrorism, ensure their voices are elevated, raise awareness and highlight global solidarity. By amplifying the voices and experiences of victims, the International Day seeks to inspire collective action and empower individuals and communities to work towards a future defined by peace, solidarity, and resilience.

This year’s theme “United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism”, is inspired by members of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN) and emphasizes the hope that emerges when victims come together to transform pain into purpose. United by shared experiences across regions, cultures, and communities, victims and victims’ associations are leading the way; offering mutual support, amplifying each other’s voices, and advancing collective action that drives change for communities, countries, and at the international level.

The Day is both a tribute and a call to action: honoring the leadership and resilience of victims, while reaffirming the collective responsibility of Member States and the international community to uphold their rights and meet their needs. It is a reminder that only through sustained collaboration among victims, associations, and institutions can we build inclusive, responsive, and victim-centered counter-terrorism efforts and that together, united by hope, we can make a lasting impact.

High-Level Event (Pre-recorded)

This year's commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism will include a pre-recorded event on 21 August 2025, built around the theme *"United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism."* The event will feature a high-level segment and a panel discussion showcasing the power of collaboration among victims and survivors. Leading up to the International Day, victim-led messages and digital storytelling will be shared across UNOCT platforms and partner networks, reflecting the collective voice of victims and victims' associations worldwide.

1. High-level Segment

The high-level segment will open with statements from senior United Nations officials and representatives of Member States. A key focus of the segment will be to highlight the growing collaboration among victims of terrorism and to reaffirm the international community's responsibility to listen, support, engage with, and learn from victims and survivors. It will include: a pre-recorded message from the United Nations Secretary-General; remarks by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism; statements from the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism; the screening of the VoTAN film featuring twelve victims speaking about the relevance of the network; and a Global Minute of Silence, accompanied by visuals submitted by victims' associations and commemorative groups from around the world.

2. Panel Discussion: "United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism"

This panel will bring together five victims and survivors of terrorism from diverse regional and personal backgrounds who are actively leading change within their communities, across borders, and through international advocacy. In line with this year's theme, "United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism", the discussion will highlight the evolving role of victims in shaping policy, leading joint initiatives, and building cross-border alliances to advance the rights and needs of victims worldwide. Through personal experiences and collaborative examples, both within VoTAN and beyond, panelists will explore how collective leadership can drive meaningful change. The panel will be geographically diverse and gender-balanced, offering a forward-looking perspective on how to strengthen the global impact of victim advocacy and engagement. The session will highlight the power of victim and survivors' leadership, the need for meaningful participation in decision-making, and how working together can transform pain into purpose.

PROGRAMME

21 August 2025 10.00- 11.15 am EDT (New York time)

10:00 a.m.: Welcome remarks and moderation of event <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism
10:03 a.m.: Keynote remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
10:05 a.m.: Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
10:10 a.m.: Screening of the Victims of Terrorism Association Network (VoTAN) Film
10:19 a.m.: Global Minute of Silence
10:20 a.m.: Statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism
10:25 a.m.: Closing Remarks / End of High-Level Segment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism
10:30 a.m.: Panel Discussion: “United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism”
11:10 a.m.: Music performed by the UN Chamber Music Society Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K. 622, II. Adagio, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Media and Communications

Victims of terrorism and victims’ associations, Member States, civil society and partner UN agencies, are encouraged to create social media content to commemorate the International Day on their platforms, using the hashtag #UNiteforVictimsofTerrorism. Reference to this year’s theme “United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism,” is encouraged. A Trello board with communications assets will be provided by UNOCT.

A social media guidance note will also be developed to amplify the theme and message of the eighth International Day. In addition, the United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) and other UN entities from across the world will be invited to share these products on International Day across different time zones, as in previous commemorations.

More information about the International Day will be available on the dedicated page on the UNOCT website and on the main [UN Observances page](#). For more information, please contact **Ms. Laurence Gerard**, Public Information Officer, at gerardl@un.org

Partnerships

The UNOCT/UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme leads the organization of all commemorative activities for International Day, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and in partnership with the United Nations Department of Global Communications and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism.