



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

GLOBAL VICTIMS OF TERRORISM SUPPORT PROGRAMME

<https://bit.ly/vot-programme>

PROGRAMME GOAL

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (the “VoT Programme”) seeks to show solidarity with the victims of terrorism, raise awareness of their rights and needs, and support the capacity of Member States and civil society organizations to advance them.

REACH OF THE PROGRAMME

The VoT Programme focuses on victims from around the world, with regional activities in Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and North America, as well as technical assistance and capacity-building activities at the national level.



UNOCT VoT Programme



The VoT Programme, located within the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, is dedicated to addressing the rights and supporting the needs of victims of terrorism. Unique across the United Nations system, the VoT Programme was launched in 2018 by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and UNCCT Executive Director, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and expanded in January 2020. In its resolution 73/305 (2019), the General Assembly welcomed the work of the VoT Programme, and called UNOCT to further enhance coordination and coherence across the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities in raising awareness of victims’ issues and to deliver United Nations capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States.

UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The VoT Programme sits under Pillar I and IV of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which identifies the dehumanization of victims as a condition conducive to terrorism and calls for measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. The VoT Programme supported Output 3.2 of UNCCT’s previous five-year programme and continues to support it in its current programme of work.

PRIORITY AREAS OF THE VoT PROGRAMME

The VoT Programme has four mutually reinforcing priority areas grounded in a commitment to human rights and gender mainstreaming:



1. To stand in solidarity with victims of terrorism and promote their rights among Member States, UN entities, and civil society through outreach and advocacy activities [Solidarity/Outreach/Advocacy]

Main Activities

- International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.
- Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.
- Expansion and formalization of UNCCT civil society network on victims of terrorism.
- Expansion and maintenance of the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.



2. To promote and establish policies, good practices, and efforts of Member States, UN entities, and civil society on victims of terrorism issues [Policy and coordination]

Main Activities

- Co-chairing of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism and supporting the victims of terrorism.
- Supporting the work of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism.



3. To enhance knowledge, understanding and capacities of Member States, UN entities, and civil society to uphold the rights and support the needs of victims of terrorism [Technical Assistance and Capacity building]

Main Activities

- Development and implementation of the Model Legislative Provisions.
- Capacity building activities to develop & implement National Comprehensive Assistance Plans for victims of terrorism.
- Development of handbooks of good practices for Member States and civil society organizations.
- Development of toolkits, trainings and other resources, including online curricula.



4. To enhance the capacity of victims of terrorism to develop and communicate their key messages through multimedia training and products, including on preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism [Communications and Visibility]

Main Activities

- Implementation of capacity-building activities to strengthen the ability of victims of terrorism to convey their key messages and interact with traditional and new media, particularly through strategic communications workshops for victims and representatives of victims' associations.
- Organization of activities that provide victims a platform to raise their voice, including documentaries, expert and guest interview series, photographic exhibitions, and social media campaigns.

Background

Following the designation of 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in 2017 by the General Assembly (A/RES/72/165), and the sixth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June 2018 (A/RES/72/284), support to victims of terrorism has moved towards a more robust engagement to advance their rights and support their needs. This is reflected in the launch of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism in June 2019 and the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly in June 2019 (A/RES/73/305) that calls upon Member States to strengthen international collaboration, develop comprehensive assistance plans for victims of terrorism, and address victims' immediate, short-term, and long-term relief and rehabilitation needs.

Substantive Partners: The VoT Programme is delivered in coordination and partnership with Member States, victims of terrorism, associations of victims of terrorism, civil society organizations, Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and relevant UN Country Teams.

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