



2021 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

24-30 JUNE 2021

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

Prevention and the Misuse of New Communication Platforms

Wednesday 30 June 2021
01:30PM – 03:00PM EST

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to more young people spending long hours online and on social networks and platforms. This increased online social engagement has created an opportunity for terrorists and violent extremists to disseminate misinformation, spread hate speech and mobilize for violence offline. There is a need for prevention interventions against the increasing influence of the internet as a powerful and prolific channel of exposure to violent extremist ideas around the world.

This session aims to understand the changing online environment, channels and methods used by terrorists and violent groups, particularly in the context of COVID-19. It will aim to explore new and unconventional methods of communication in the digital space, as well as exploring preventive measures to take into consideration. This will include an analysis of new and emerging communications platforms such as “new generation” social media and online gaming networks. Participants will explore current trends in the dissemination of terrorist narratives on these new platforms and discuss options for PCVE interventions.

The session will also provide an opportunity to listen to voices from the field from participants of the EDIN - “Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks” project and launch the official website. “EDIN” is a pilot initiative developed by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNOCT). EDIN aims to provide young religious leaders, representatives of faith-based organizations and young media makers with a peer-to-peer learning space and build their capacity to prevent sectarian violence and counter terrorist narratives online, using efficient communication tools and strategies to reach their communities.

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2021 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

Through an interactive discussion with the young leaders supported through this programme, alternative and creative entry points for PCVE programming in response to terrorist and violent extremist misuse of new communication platforms will be explored.

Event Agenda:

Moderator: Ms. Amani Alkhiami, Junior Professional Officer, UNOCT/UNCCT

01:30 – 01:50 **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism [5 minutes]

HE. Ambassador Abdullah Almoualimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN [5 minutes]

Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, UN Alliance of Civilizations [5 minutes]

Ms. Michèle Coninsx, Assistant-Secretary-General, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate [5 minutes]

01:52 – 02:02 **Understanding the new digital environment and how COVID-19 has impacted terrorist and violent extremist communications online**

Dr. Kurt Braddok, Assistant Professor of Public Communication in the School of Communication at American University [5 minutes]

Ms. Celia Davies, Senior Leader, Moonshot [5 minutes]

02:04 – 02:20 **Exploring prevention and intervention efforts countering increasingly sophisticated terrorist and violent extremist narrative dissemination, hate speech and misinformation**

Mr. André Duvillard, Delegate for the Swiss Security Network [5 minutes]

Ms. Norah Alfaadhel, Project Manager, Etidal [5 minutes]

TBD, Social Media Company [5 minutes]

02:20 – 02:50 **Listening to voices from the field and launch of the EDIN - “Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks” campaigns website**

Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson of the High-Representative for UNAOC [2 minutes]

Ms. Farah Heiba, EDIN participant [5 minutes]

Ms. Lauren Keiles, EDIN participant [5 minutes]

Mr. Yannis Umlauf, EDIN participant [5 minutes]

02:50 – 02:55 **Website Launch and screening**

“EDIN: Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks” [3 minutes]

02:55 – 03:00 **Closing Remarks**

Ms. Amani Alkhiami, Junior Professional Office, UNOCT/UNCCT [2 minutes]