2023 Counter-Terrorism Week
SIDE EVENTS

19–23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

OSCE

Good practices for managing violent extremist prisoners: preventing radicalisation to violence while promoting disengagement and rehabilitation

19 June, 13:15-14:30 EST
UNHQs Conference Room #12 & WebEx (Hybrid)

Concept Note

This side event is co-organised by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and the Council of Europe, in partnership with Austria, Finland, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Background and Context

In the context of counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism (CVE), States around the world have been devoting increased resources to the critical task of managing violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) and preventing radicalisation to violence while promoting disengagement and rehabilitation. This stems from the awareness that the protection of societies involves far more than bringing terrorists to justice, as crucial as that goal may be. The United Nations Security Council, in its resolution 2396 (2017), acknowledged that "prisons can serve as potential incubators for radicalization to terrorism and terrorist recruitment." It encouraged States "to take all appropriate actions to prevent inmates who have been convicted of terrorism-related offences from radicalizing other prisoners to violence, with whom they may come into contact, in compliance with domestic and international law."

From 2018 to 2022, UNODC, UNOCT, and CTED managed a joint initiative on preventing violent extremism in prisons. The project supported Kazakhstan, Tunisia and Uganda in building the capacity of their prisons to address the challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism, and it brought experts together to

share expertise and good practices in this area. The project was funded by the European Union, the Netherlands, and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT).

This critical issue has also been addressed at the regional level. In recent years, for example, a range of disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration (DRR) programmes have been established in Council of Europe member States and OSCE participating states in response to terrorist and violent extremist activity. As an emerging field of practice with less than a decade of knowledge and experience, it is widely acknowledged that there is a need for policymakers, practitioners, as well as experts in civil society, academia and others, to share good practices and lessons learned.

Many programmes in this area have been based within penitentiary and probation services, drawing upon pre-existing institutional practices and approaches towards dealing with issues such as organised crime or other dangerous offenses. Other programmes have been built from the ground up to specifically address certain terrorist or violent extremist groups. States have also supported initiatives at local levels, often organised or supervised by municipal-level bodies or police, with the support and active participation of community representatives or civil society organisations.

Outside the prison context, there has also been a wide range of short- and medium-term projects set up in various states aimed at supporting disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as resources developed at the international level such as the OSCE guidance on Non-Custodial Rehabilitation and Reintegration (2020). Furthermore, attention has been given to specific challenges concerning women prisoners and related gender-based issues that can emerge in the context of terrorism and violent extremism.

Objectives of the Side Event

This event falls within the Conference theme on multi-stakeholder engagement in counter-terrorism and P/CVE efforts, consistent with human rights and the rule of law, to bolster multilateralism and to strengthen institutions. The side event aims at furthering good practices and experience in working with incarcerated and recently-incarcerated individuals involved in terrorism and violent extremism, with a focus on ensuring security while maintaining respect for international human rights standards, in line with key instruments and guidance such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (known as the Nelson Mandela Rules).

The side event will discuss the challenges of addressing risks and needs associated with violent extremist and terrorist offenders in both custodial and non-custodial settings, as well as initiatives aimed at reducing the risk of escalating violent extremism, recidivism and re-engagement.

This event draws upon recent Council of Europe initiatives including the recently-adopted Compilation of good practices with regards to deradicalization, disengagement and social reintegration (2023), as well as the Council of Europe Handbook for Prison and Probation Services regarding Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, and Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the risk assessment of individuals indicted or convicted for terrorist offences. Guidance and training material on the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremists and terrorists has also been developed by the OSCE, including the OSCE/ODIHR Guide for Detention Monitors (2021), specifically on the conditions of violent extremist offenders. The event will also draw from the recent Analytical Brief published by CTED, on "Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalisation to Violence in Prison," which was prepared in close consultation with UNODC.

Format

The side event will be a panel discussion format featuring expert speakers and practitioners from the United Nations, Council of Europe, the OSCE, Kazakhstan and Austria.

The event will be held in a hybrid format and livestreamed.

The target audience for the side event will be:

- Counter-terrorism policymakers and practitioners from Member States;
- Representatives of international and regional organizations;
- Academia, research institutions and think tanks, and non-governmental organisations working on counter-terrorism, disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Topics

The Expert Panel will cover the following topics:

- Good practices and lessons learned from countries that have implemented age- and gender-sensitive disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes in custodial and non-custodial settings;
- Human rights protections when dealing with violent extremist offenders, including freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of expression, the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment;
- Security and safety concerns related to violent extremist offenders and programme/prison staff, including risk assessments, information sharing and management, as well as risks of radicalisation within prisons, re-engagement with terrorism and recidivism;
- Improving disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives to enhance the sustainability and capacity of relevant support structures and programmes.

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RSVP:

Please RSVP for this side event at this link.

Draft Agenda

Time	19 June 2023
13:15 – 13:35 (20 minutes)	**Opening Remarks** - *Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly*, Executive Director of UNODC - *Ambassador Päivi Kairamo,* Ambassador for Counterterrorism Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and Chair of the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism - *Ambassador Alena Kupchyna*, Co-ordinator to address Transnational Threats, OSCE - *Ms. Natalia Gherman*, Executive Director of CTED
13:35-14:25 (50 minutes)	**Expert Panel** Moderated by: *Mr. Carlo Chiaromonte*, Council of Europe Counter-terrorism Coordinator - *Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin,* Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations - *Dr Ioan Durnescu*, University of Bucharest, RAN Rehabilitation Working Group Co-Chair *(via video link)* - *Dr Florian Hamedinger*, Federal Ministry of Justice, Austria - *Mr. Wilson Francis Magomu,* Senior Assistant Commissioner of Prisons and Counter-Terrorism Focal Point, Uganda Prisons Service - *Ms Camilla Bognø*, Senior Adviser on anti-Terrorism Issues, OSCE
14:25-14:30 (5 minutes)	**Closing remarks** - CTED and Council of Europe