



**Media Advisory  
Side Event**

**Media and Information Literacy: Educational Strategies  
for the Prevention of Violent Extremism**

**What :**

Side event co-organized by UNAOC & UNAI

Media and Information Literacy (MIL) are formal and informal pedagogical practices that aim at developing critical thinking skills applied to media messages. Rather than censoring media that is potentially harmful, MIL invests in a long-term strategy that aims to promote the development of discerning critical thinking skills in individuals. Skills, that in fact, protect and enrich the worldviews of these individuals. At the same time it promotes a culture of peace and understanding among individuals from different cultural and religious backgrounds by using skills to "unlearn" false assumptions and to forestall extremism and the violence it can trigger.

UNAOC's Media and Information Literacy program and United Nations Academic Impact's "Unlearning Intolerance" program have organized this side event as part of UNAI's "Prevention Forum" discussion series. The event will also be an occasion for the presentation of the most recent UNAOC-UNESCO-NORDICOM publication "Opportunities for Media and Information Literacy in the Middle East and North Africa".

**Who :**

3:00-3:30 pm – Opening Remarks

António Guterres, Secretary-General United Nations (tbc)

Cristina Gallach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative, Mission of Spain to the United Nations (tbc)

3:30-4:00 pm - Keynote speaker

Renee Hobbs, Professor of Communication Studies, University of Rhode Island, USA

4:00-5:30 pm - Panel Discussion

Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Representative, Mission of Croatia to the United Nations (tbc)

Magda Abu-Fadil, Director, Media Unlimited (Lebanon)

Liam Hackett, Founder, Ditch the Label (UK)

Regina de Assis, Former Secretary of Education, Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Education (Brazil)  
Representative of UNESCO (tbc)

5:30-6:00 – Q & A

Moderator: Jordi Torrent, Project Manager, Media Literacy Initiatives, UNAOC

**When :** Thursday February 9 / 3:00-6:00 pm

**Where :** United Nations Headquarters, New York