



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 extremist 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 (UNCCT). 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.

www.un.org/counterterrorism/CTweek-sidevents
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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

Opening Remarks



Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism



HE. Ambassador Abdullah Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN

01:30 – 01:50



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



Ms. Michèle Coninsx, Assistant-Secretary-General, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

01:52 – 02:02

Understanding the new digital environment and how COVID-19 has impacted terrorist and violent extremist communications online



Dr. Kurt Braddock, Assistant Professor of Public Communication in the School of Communication at American University and CTED Consultant



Ms. Celia Davies, Senior Leader, Moonshot

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

02:04 – 02:20



Ms. Norah Alfaadhel, Project Manager, Etidal



Ms. Thawab Glynn, Global Issue Owner for Violent Extremism, TikTok

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



Ms. Farah Heiba, EDIN participant



Ms. Lauren Keiles, EDIN participant



Mr. Yannis Umlauf, EDIN participant

Website Launch and screening

02:50 – 02:55



“EDIN: Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks”

Closing Remarks

02:55 – 03:00



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