



Hedayah E-Newsletter

Activities

Hedayah conducts CVE Workshop for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 9 January 2017, Hedayah was invited to conduct an internal workshop for over 15 representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Netherlands in The Hague, The Netherlands. The workshop included Dutch diplomats based in several regions of the world.

Mr. Ivo Veenkamp, Deputy Executive Director of Hedayah, provided an overview of Hedayah's activities to date, including a brief on Hedayah's International CVE Research Conference 2016 recently held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Ms. Saira Saeed, Program Manager at Hedayah, presented Hedayah's work on the [Returning Foreign Fighters \(RFTF\) Program](#) and highlighted its key findings and lessons learned. As part of this discussion, Ms. Jessika Soors, Head of Violent Extremism and De-radicalization in the city of Vilvoorde, Belgium, offered a case study on the re-integration and de-radicalization efforts of RFTFs. She also highlighted the work of social workers in an innovative community-led response to counter extremism. During individual sessions, Hedayah representatives provided region specific overviews of the trends and concerns on radicalization and violent extremism.

Engagements

Hedayah brings CVE Perspective to GCC High-Level Workshop on the Responsibility to Protect

From 23-24 January 2017, Hedayah participated in "The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the Gulf Cooperation Council's Response to Mass Atrocities" workshop, convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in Doha, Qatar. The workshop brought together high-level representatives from the UN, the GCC and other international organizations.

The aim of the workshop is to discuss R2P in relation to imminent threats throughout the Middle East and the measures that can be taken to better implement its principles within the GCC and at a regional level. H.E. Maq-soud Kruse, Executive Director of Hedayah moderated a session on "R2P & CVE", which explored the role CVE plays in the responsibility to protect. H.E. Kruse highlighted Hedayah's new satellite office in Washington D.C. which responds directly to the recommendations of the UN Secretary General that all governments should develop their PCVE National Action Plans in efforts to reduce the violent extremist threat. [Read more.](#)





Hedayah shares CVE good practices at regional consultations for UN & World Bank Joint Study in Preventing Violent Conflict

On 19 January 2017, Hedayah participated in a regional consultation held to further develop a global study titled “United Nations and World Bank Joint Study: The Role of Development in Preventing Violent Conflict” in Amman, Jordan. It brought together relevant civil society actors, academics, regional and international organizations from the MENA region.

The aim of the consultation was to generate awareness and engagement in the development of the global study, to identify and examine regionally specific trends, and explore the impact of development policies and programs in advancing the prevention and mitigation of violent conflict. During the consultation, Ms. Lilah El Sayed, Research Associate at Hedayah, took part in the discussions examining the evidence base on how development policies and programs contribute to the prevention of violent conflict and extremism. The study will be presented at the opening of the UN General Assembly and the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund in 2017.

Hedayah presents policymaking recommendations at the Raisina Dialogue 2017

From 17-19 January 2017, Hedayah presented at the Raisina Dialogue 2017 held by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the Ministry of External Affairs of India in New Delhi, India.

The conference theme was “New Normal: Multilateralism with Multipolarity,” and provided the platform for politicians, strategists and military leaders in attendance to discuss how the changing world dynamics would contribute to the future of international security. On a panel titled “Reclaiming the Digital: Countering Violent Extremism Online,” Ms. Sara Zeiger, Senior Research Analyst at Hedayah, presented recommendations for policymaking on behalf of Hedayah for developing better counter-narratives.

Hedayah shares good practices on developing Counter Narratives at PCVE conference

From 16-17 January 2017, Hedayah participated in the “Opportunities for Multi-Stakeholder Partnership to Prevent and Counter Radicalization and Violent Extremism” conference organized by the Vivekananda International Foundation, the US Embassy (New Delhi), and Facebook in New Delhi, India.

The aim of the conference was to create space and dialogue about CVE in the context of India and the greater South Asia region. Ms. Sara Zeiger, Senior Research Analyst, presented on Hedayah’s Counter-Narrative Library, specifically drawing on lessons from the South East Asia collection that could be potentially applied to the South Asian context.





Hedayah highlights the role of mothers in counter-radicalization at “Women Voices of Reason to CVE in Tunisia” workshop

On December 20, 2016, Hedayah presented at the workshop on “Women Voices of Reason to Counter Violent Extremism in Tunisia” organized by the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), in Tunis, Tunisia.

During the workshop, Tunisian and international subject matter experts presented relevant research on the role of women in radicalization and resilience efforts. Ms. Cristina Mattei, Senior Program Associate at Hedayah, focused on the role of women in counter-radicalization and prevention, citing “mothers” as key figures in this respect. Without neglecting the evidence that an increasing number of women are travelling to Syria and Iraq to join extremist groups, Hedayah’s research gave more specific insights in the preventive and rehabilitative role women can play in their families and how mothers especially could be empowered and educated in this field.

Hedayah highlights the role of Southeast Asian Counter-Narratives at “Building Recurrent Dialogue in Community Resilience in Southeast Asia on Countering Violent Extremism” Workshop

From 15-16 December 2016, Hedayah participated in a workshop held on “Building Recurrent Dialogue in Community Resilience in Southeast Asia on Countering Violent Extremism” jointly organized and sponsored by IMAN, the US Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT), and US Department of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform to share good practices and concrete initiatives presented as case studies from across the region. It focused on the challenges faced in relation to advancing community resilience in Southeast Asia. The workshop brought together a diverse group of experts in preventing violent extremism and government officials from across the region.

Ms. Lilah Elsayed, Research Associate at Hedayah, presented on Southeast Asian Counter-Narratives and highlighted key steps to develop effective messages, which can help in undermining violent extremist narratives in the region. She also drew on examples of counter-narratives that can be adapted and applied within relevant local contexts. The workshop resulted in a draft document of outcomes, serving as reference for participating entities to consider for future initiatives.

Hedayah announces the Launch of the “Foreign Terrorist Fighters Programs Catalogue”

On 14 December 2016, Hedayah took part in the “Southeast Asia Regional Conference: Preventing the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters” conference organized by the US Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecu-





torial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT), and US Department of State Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) and US Embassy in Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur.

During the conference, Ms. Lilah Elsayed, Research Associate at He-dayah, announced the launch of the “Foreign Terrorist Fighters Programs Catalogue”. The catalogue consists of existing programs sponsored by or led by countries that all UN member states may find useful or appropriate for their particular national context. All governments, civil society organizations and NGOs were highly encouraged to share and contribute relevant FTF-related CVE and Returnees’ Programs to the Catalogue to the following link, [click here](#).

