



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
Remembrance of and Tribute
to the Victims of Terrorism



CONCEPT NOTE

VOICES FOR PEACE:

"Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators"

21 August 2024

Background

The General Assembly, in its resolution [A/RES/72/165](#), proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (hereinafter referred to as "International Day"). The resolution "invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other international organizations and civil society entities, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner." Its main focus is to honour, remember and pay tribute to the victims of terrorism, stand in solidarity with them and promote and protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Objective

This year will mark the seventh commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. Amid the multiplicity of violent conflicts and terrorist attacks worldwide, this day continues to honour victims and survivors of terrorism, ensure their voices are elevated, raise awareness and highlight global solidarity. By amplifying the voices and experiences of victims, the International Day seeks to inspire collective action and empower individuals and communities to work towards a future defined by peace, solidarity, and resilience.

This year's theme, "*Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators*," emphasizes the pivotal role of victims and survivors as agents of change and peace educators. It pays tribute to victims and survivors of terrorism across the world and to their efforts to transform

their personal tragedies into collective strengths, emphasizing the importance of heeding their voices when they advocate for peacebuilding initiatives while also fostering dialogue and promoting understanding among diverse communities. These efforts are critical components of peaceful and open societies, to which victims and survivors of terrorism play a pivotal role.

Activities

This year's International Day commemoration will consist of a live virtual event featuring a high-level segment followed by a panel discussion featuring victims and survivors of terrorism. In the lead up to International Day, from 23 July to 23 August 2024, the "Memories" exhibition, alongside three Legacy Project short clips, will be displayed in the Visitors' Lobby of the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

1. High-level Virtual Event

On 21 August 2024, the International Day commemoration will feature a high-level virtual event, which will include a pre-recorded message from the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, as well as statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr Vladimir Voronkov, the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (Iraq and Spain) and two victims of terrorism who will share their experiences and deliver a call-to-action emphasizing how education and peace are interlinked to peacebuilding.

2. Panel Discussion on Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators

A virtual panel discussion will follow the high-level segment. The panel will feature five participants, including victims and survivors of terrorism, victims' associations and Member States to reflect and foster discussion on the transformative power of victims' voices when used to raise awareness, build peace, and contribute to strengthening more resilient communities. Panelists will also discuss initiatives that have successfully promoted peace and understanding, offering valuable insight into efforts to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism and its impact on individuals and communities. The final panel selection will be geographically diverse and gender balanced.



PROGRAMME

21 August 2024 | 9:15 am EDT (New York time)

Welcome remarks and moderation of event

- Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

Keynote remarks

- **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Opening remarks

- **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Statements from victims of terrorism

- To be confirmed

Global Minute of Silence

- Featuring photos and footage of memorials and commemorations of victims of terrorism from around the world

Statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

- Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

Closing Remarks / End of High-Level Segment

Panel Discussion: “Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators”

Music performed by the UN Chamber Music Society

Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K. 622, II. Adagio, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (extract from the 2020 event to commemorate International Day)

3. “Memories” Exhibition at UNHQ Visitors Lobby (23 July-23 August 2024)

As part of the activities to mark the seventh International Day, the UNOCT/UNCCT “Memories” exhibition will be displayed along the Visitors’ Lobby of the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 23 July to 23 August 2024. The “[Memories](#)” exhibition is part of a campaign that aims to raise awareness about the personal stories that lie at the heart of the experiences of each victim/survivor of terrorism, and their lasting impact. This year, the exhibition features 15 life-size posters of victims/survivors with a significant object, highlighting why this object or memory is important to them and how through this link they became more resilient. On each poster, a QR code will lead the public to a 1-2 min videoclip where each victim explains the importance of the object or memory.

The exhibition will also include a digital interactive element as three TV screens, installed along the wall, will show a video montage of victims and survivors featured in the “Legacy Project” Gallery. This Gallery, hosted on Instagram, was launched during the sixth commemoration of the International Day. It features testimonies of victims and survivors of terrorism highlighting their experiences and their efforts to leave a legacy of resilience to end terrorism and prevent violent extremism. The videos will have English subtitles, which can be accessed via a mobile device using a QR code displayed on the screen.

To date, the “[Legacy Project](#)” has generated more than 6,000 direct interactions and attracted more than 3,500 followers from 45 countries. Since its inception, the “Legacy Project” has continued to expand, incorporating new voices that seek to inspire others to pay tribute to those whose lives have been lost or forever transformed by terrorism, and to reach out to new generations to deepen their understanding of the impact of terrorism.

Media and Communications

Victims of terrorism and victims’ associations, Member States, civil society and partner UN agencies, will be encouraged to create social media content based on the theme “*Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators*,” for use on their own social media platforms and websites in the lead-up to and on International Day, using the UNOCT hashtag #UNiteforVictimsofTerrorism. A Trello board containing relevant communications assets will be available.

A social media guidance note will also be developed to amplify the theme and message of the seventh International Day. In addition, the United Nations Information Centres (UNICS) and other UN entities from across the world will be invited to share these products on International Day across different time zones, as in previous commemorations.

More information about International Day will be available on the dedicated International Day page on the UNOCT website and on the main [UN Observances page](#). For more information, please contact **Ms. Laurence Gerard**, Public Information Officer, at gerardl@un.org

Partnerships

The UNOCT/UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme leads the organization of all commemorative activities for International Day, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and in partnership with the United Nations Department of Global Communications and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism.