

The logo for the International CVE Research Conference is a circular emblem composed of numerous thin, white, vertical lines of varying lengths, creating a sunburst or radar-like effect. It is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page, partially overlapping the text.

**INTERNATIONAL  
CVE RESEARCH  
CONFERENCE**

# **BRIEF OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR P/CVE POLICY, PROGRAMMING, AND FUTURE RESEARCH**

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The logo for the International CVE Research Conference features the text "INTERNATIONAL CVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE" in white, uppercase letters, centered within a dark blue circular graphic composed of numerous thin, white radial lines. The background of the top section is a dark blue geometric pattern of overlapping triangles.

# INTERNATIONAL CVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## BRIEF OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR P/CVE POLICY, PROGRAMMING, AND FUTURE RESEARCH

*Compiled by: Farangiz Atamuradova, Hedayah<sup>1</sup>*

### INTRODUCTION

The 5th International CVE Research Conference 2018 was held at Swansea University in Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom, from 29-31 August. The co-organizers of this conference were Hedayah, M&C Saatchi, TRENDS Research & Advisory, Swansea University, and UN Women. The Spanish Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, and EU-STRIVE Global (Hedayah) were the sponsors of the event.

The conference greatly benefited from the strategic partnership with the following: Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, Aktis Strategy, BRICS, Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence (ICSR), RESOLVE Network, and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).

The Conference aimed to:

- enhance the network of P/CVE researchers and policy-makers to share their most current research and good practices and to contribute and strengthen the P/CVE network;
- identify and present narratives and counter-narratives of violent extremist groups, as well as effective solutions for it;
- provide researchers and practitioners a platform to exchange ideas, jointly identify trends and needs for on-the-ground implementation, prepare the ground for further research, and collaborate with each other on emerging areas of work; and
- find ways to turn theoretical knowledge and research on P/CVE into coherent and practical implementation systems.

The purpose of this brief is to provide an overview of the conference, as well as present the recommendations made for P/CVE policy, programming, and future research. A more detailed description of the presentations will be provided through essays contributed to the annual edited volume expected to be published in 2019. The following sections will summarize key takeaways and recommendations made during presentations, discussions, and debates that took place throughout the separate sessions of the three-day conference.

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<sup>1</sup> The Conference organizers are grateful to the speakers, moderators, facilitators, and note-takers that made this report possible.

## THEMATIC SESSION 1: NARRATIVES AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES OF RELIGIOUS-BASED VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The first session looked at narratives of religious-based violent extremist groups (Daesh, Boko Haram, and Al Shabaab), and corresponding counter-narratives. It underlined not only distinct methods used by various groups, but also overlapping approaches. One of the speakers highlighted the importance of using *mainstream* religious interpretation in formulating counter-narratives to discredit the distorted versions that violent extremist groups often use in their propaganda. These groups often disproportionately leverage contested religious ideas and concepts, such as *caliphate*, *tawhid*, and *jihad*- which have both violent and non-violent interpretation. A study from Nigeria and East Africa pointed out that violent extremist groups overlay historical and political regional narratives with religious narratives in order to enhance their cause and gain more support. This panel also highlighted the importance of local context, whether it is economic, ethnic or historical that is targeted by violent extremist groups. An emphasis was made on the fact that it should be the context of a certain area rather than a region or country as a whole- specificity being key in P/CVE work. Finally, all of the speakers emphasized on the importance of offline and face-to-face violent extremist narratives. For instance, groups such as Al Shabaab and Boko Haram recognize that the best and most effective way to approach their audience is through personal connection and communications- while the accessibility of internet to individuals in Africa is on a rise, inter-personal relationships will continue to play a major role.

The panelists and audience indicated two major challenges to the available research on counter-narratives. On the one hand, there are not sufficient structured analyses of violent extremist propaganda. On the other hand, there is also not sufficient research on the effectiveness of counter-narratives, particularly on their impact on the target audience in terms of cognitive and behavioral changes.

Some of the main questions raised during this panel were around looking at how we can use alternative messages and counter-messages, when should these messages be posted, and how can they target the same audience that are being targeted by violent extremist groups. These are some of the questions that are continue to be asked, indicating that the P/CVE realm has yet to identify the most effective approach to using alternative/counter messages and how their effectiveness may be measured.

The panel on “Narratives and Counter-Narratives of Religious-based Violent Extremism” resulted in the following recommendations:

### **FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS**

- Take into perspective both cross-regional and localized narratives when building strategic communications and counter-narratives as they often manifest differently in various locations. For instance, Boko Haram's narratives vary across the countries of the Lake Chad Basin.
- Ensure states' responses to violent extremism do not create new grievances or provide violent extremist groups with new narratives or at least mitigates any negative implications of the state response.

### **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Analyze and undermine violent extremists' religious arguments. Current counter-narratives lack appropriate response to religious arguments, failing to rebut alternative religious claims of violent extremist groups. This is visible in the context of Boko Haram and Al Shabaab.
- Assert distinction between Islamist extremism and mainstream Islam in the public discourse in order to avoid conflation.
- Facilitate active participation of religious leaders in counter-extremism efforts, effectively leveraging their knowledge and role in the communities.
- Build capacity on deconstructing and refuting terrorist master narratives and develop alternative narratives and messages.
- Ensure counter-narratives do not reinforce violent extremist groups' messages, but instead focus on the non-violent interpretations of certain concepts.
- Allow messengers to determine the most appropriate platform to disseminate their narratives.

### **FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

- Analyze and assess violent extremist propaganda using rigorous research methods.
- Assess strategies implemented for the use of counter-narratives.
- Conduct in-depth research on the effectiveness of counter-narratives.

### **THEMATIC SESSION 2: NARRATIVES AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES OF THE FAR-RIGHT**

This session focused on narratives of far-right violent extremist groups in Europe, North America, and Australia and corresponding counter-narratives. All three presentations had similar findings identified in their research- far-right violent extremists share common elements on victimhood against foreigners (who they perceive to not have the right to claim their country) and denial of multiculturalism. The arguments of far-right violent extremists is similar to the ones used by

religious-based violent extremist groups. For instance, the perception that their identity is under an external threat is a recurring idea on both fronts. One of the presentations specifically drew on Benedict Anderson's "Imagined Communities"<sup>2</sup> and far-right extremists demonstrating how these groups use their socially constructed communities and "other" anyone who does not fit in. This is a practice present in both far-right and religious-based violent extremist groups. On the other hand, unlike religious-based violent extremist groups, far-right groups do not emphasize or make a great reference to religious terminology. Instead, they focus on "Europeanism" in the context of the broader European society. Finally, the rise of populist politics in Europe and North America provided these groups with grounds to further grow and legitimize their messages.

Some of the research results and good practices that were identified during this session include the use of former far-right extremist to explore their stories on why they chose to leave these groups. In the context of North America, it was argued that former extremists can be used for development and delivery of counter-messages. However, a number of participants questioned the underlying risk in the involvement of formers in P/CVE work.

One of the key takeaways from this panel was that far-right groups are generally more homogenous than religious-extremist groups in their messages and interpretations. However, cases where far-right messages are embedded in mainstream politics makes it more difficult to counter.

The panel on "Narratives and Counter-Narratives of the Far-right" resulted in the following recommendations:

#### **FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS**

- Establish working connections with partners working on the same topic around different countries to develop effective methods to counter messages, especially those embedded in mainstream politics that could lead to violence.

#### **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Work with grassroots organizations to inform policymakers and practitioners on effective narratives against the far-right.
- Establish working relationships with international practitioners to share information on lessons learned and challenges.

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<sup>2</sup> Anderson, B. (2006). "Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism." London: Verso

### FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

- Utilize a multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary approach to conduct research on far-right violent extremists across history and regions.
- Assess the impact of former far-right extremists in developing counter-narratives to violent extremists' messages.
- Research various far-right groups' communication strategies/modus operandi and assess their successes and failures.

### **THEMATIC SESSION 3: RECRUITMENT, RADICALIZATION, MEDIA, AND TECHNOLOGY**

During this session, panelists presented on the role modern technologies and media reporting have in violent extremist groups' recruitment and radicalization processes. Furthermore, it was highlighted how some of these elements may be leveraged and used to benefit this study and development of P/CVE strategies. While it is not a new phenomenon, the panelists and audience underlined the challenges modern technology and mass media communication pose for P/CVE work. The vast pool of available information via online platforms makes it more difficult to monitor in an effective and timely manner. Furthermore, while the amount of information available online continues to grow, some individuals do not have necessary skills or awareness of the need to filter or critically assess this information. In other words, they lack media literacy skills, which is crucial in evaluating and assessing any piece of information. As a result, this creates an opportunistic environment for recruiters to spread their messages and recruit individuals.

One of the speakers highlighted the diversity in use of social media outlets by different extremist groups. The range of outlets used further varies depending on the country recruiters operate in. One of the responses to the dissemination of extremist materials online is either blocking accounts or removing content. This is a common practice among social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. However, this approach proves to be counter-productive as the blocked content often reoccurs or reappears in the Dark Net, which violent extremists leverage for their benefit. Extremist groups, and criminal networks in general, often use the Dark Net not only to share content and guidebooks, but also set up illicit activities that provide financial support for their activities.

Other key findings and innovative ideas included the use of search engines, such as Google, to explore how they can be effectively utilized to study tendencies and trends in relation to certain global events. This could provide the P/CVE community an opportunity to push their alternative messages in search results to divert individuals away from extremist content.

This panel resulted in the following recommendations:

### **FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS**

- Explore the possibility to utilize similar strategies adopted to counter human-trafficking and/or child sexual exploitation.
- Create an international Internet code of conduct/ethics mechanism, similar to a financial conduct authority, for countering violent extremist content online.
- Archive extremist content and make it available to researchers to better understand online behavior.
- Develop communication strategies and an effective civic interaction to target isolated groups of society.

### **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Partner with the private sector to leverage the full spectrum of available resources, such as search engines and activity on the Dark Net, to understand trends in violent extremist content online.
- Continue to find best ways to develop programs on media literacy.
- Develop programs and trainings to increase reporting standards for journalists covering violent extremist activities.

### **FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

- Explore search-engine trends to assess tendencies and spikes in interest towards violent extremist materials in relation to global events.
- Explore the use of data from search engines to better understand attitudes toward specific topics. For instance, monitor the surge of searches after a terrorist attack or a speech given by a violent extremist leader.

### **THEMATIC SESSION 4: GENDER, WOMEN, AND THEIR ROLES IN VE AND P/CVE**

This panel focused on examples of the role of gender in East Africa, Western countries, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. Through a comparison of case studies, it could be derived that recruiters use different tactics to target males and females and that the role they play in violent extremist groups also often differs. However, when looking at the role of gender in P/CVE work, a couple of distinct findings were identified. Firstly, more often women as mothers play a role in P/CVE work, and yet it was highlighted that female “mother” nature may not serve as an antidote, especially when it comes to patriarchal societies. Fathers and peers were also emphasized to have an important role. Additionally, research on Muslim women suggested that in some cases “empowerment” initiatives done by outside actors is often perceived as an imposition of foreign

values and can be counter-productive in P/CVE work. Therefore, one of the speakers emphasized the “Do No Harm” principle when it comes to women’s empowerment work in relation to P/CVE. In certain societies such intervention may not be well-accepted and there might be a backlash against women involved. Examples from East Africa, Indonesia, and Bangladesh indicated that economic empowerment of women and independence provide a good ground for more stable and resilient societies.

Some of the research results and good practices that were identified during this session underlined that building trust between women and government institutions through neutral interlocutors may facilitate further collaboration in P/CVE work.

Other key findings and innovative ideas included the use of “father” voices in P/CVE initiatives. One common mistake that programs often make in use of “gender” in P/CVE programs is only focusing on women and their role.

The panel on Gender, Women, and Their Roles in VE and P/CVE made the following recommendations:

#### **FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS**

- Avoid securitization of the topic of gender and violent extremism or gender and P/CVE.
- Ensure that government’s discourse does not contribute to further dividing and negatively impacting communities in relation to how it approaches gender dynamics.

#### **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Develop necessary efforts to identify at-risk individuals and groups. CSOs and P/CVE interventions do not always reach the communities that are affected by active VE recruitment.
- Recognize the need to provide men and women psycho-social support as part of P/CVE initiatives. For instance, ex-Boko Haram girls or boy child soldiers would require trauma counselling when they are introduced back into the wider society. Therefore, it would also be crucial to ensure that programs are gender-sensitive.
- Tailor female or gender empowerment programs in a way that would be accepted by the target society to achieve best effect.
- Conduct careful context and evidence-based study to then develop the most appropriate approach in involving women in P/CVE practices.

### **FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

- Assess whether using mothers' voices and stories is an effective method in developing counter-narratives.
- Develop necessary research on reaching truly "at-risk" individuals and/or groups.

### **THEMATIC SESSION 5: REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

This session of the conference looked at different aspects involved in rehabilitation and reintegration of former violent extremists and returning foreign terrorist fighters (RFTFs) within prison settings, as well as looking at the role of local communities. This panel presented on research findings from Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, Mali, Indonesia, Kosovo, and Montenegro. The panelists and audience defined several challenges to this process, such as the difficulty to assess the intentions and the level of deradicalization, lack of programs in place as well as lack of awareness of existing programs, and different factors that impede smooth reintegration of individuals back into the society. Several speakers highlighted that in the process of rehabilitation, the components on disengagement and deradicalization need to be clearly defined and separated. Findings continue to show that disengaging an individual from violent activity is more realistic and attainable than deradicalizing them and ensuring they give up violent extremist ideology. One of the speakers emphasized the importance of empowering and using "resisters", individuals who resisted recruitment and/or radicalization, in P/CVE work. Finally, there was a discussion about the role of media in the reintegration process, particularly on how it may influence public perception through reporting on returnees, defectors, and formers.

Key findings from this panel also included the importance of maintaining a healthy and appropriate environment in prison settings. Speakers stated that violation of human rights and lack of necessary training provided to prison personnel may impede the process of rehabilitation and reintegration back into communities.

Some of the lessons learned included the acknowledgement that rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals associated with violent extremism is not enough. Releasing them from correctional institutions or prisons back into an unprepared society only places them into a "second prison" where they are not accepted. Hence, it is important to work with local communities and societies to help these individuals reintegrate and avoid a recidivism.

Panelists concluded with the following recommendations:

### **FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS**

- Develop programs for de-radicalization and disengagement that respects human rights and religious freedoms.
- Install a clear policy mechanism for returnees, and share the burden with grassroots stakeholders in development and implementation of P/CVE programs and policies.
- Include the community in rehabilitation and reintegration work for a more effective reintegration of individuals back into the society.

### **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Work with grassroots organizations to inform policy-makers and practitioners on the needs of the community.
- Identify relevant overseas partners and establish working relationships in order to share experiences and lessons learned.

### **FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

- Conduct in-depth research on individuals who turn away from violence to understand their motives and thought processes.
- Assess to what extent disengaged and deradicalized individuals dissociate themselves from extremism.
- Analyze the effectiveness and risk of using formers to work in rehabilitation programs.

### **THEMATIC SESSION 6: EDUCATION AND P/CVE**

The panel on Education and P/CVE presented findings from Uganda, the United Kingdom, Macedonia, and Malaysia. Furthermore, the panel covered education from the formal perspective, and looked at primary, secondary, and tertiary education. The first panelist spoke on the results of a small scale pilot program in Uganda to train teachers and improve their understanding of drivers of violent extremism, raise awareness on P/CVE terminology, and develop capacity to create safe and resilient classroom spaces. Lack of a safe space in educational facilities further fosters ethnic divide, lack of tolerance, which in return further creates the ground for development of vulnerabilities. Another speaker highlighted three areas that require much attention and reform: curricula, resources, and teaching practices. For curricula, it is important to avoid over-politicization of the education system which in return could undermine social cohesion within schools and on a broader society level. It is crucial to pay attention to how politics is presented or represented in education curriculum and mitigate any potential risks that may arise from it. A couple of additional points highlighted during this session included the development of a

curricula that encourages critical thinking rather than memorization. Additionally, teachers require access to resources that will help them maintain dialogue with students on “contentious issues” and “difficult topics.” Finally, teaching practices and educational strategies are another aspect that requires serious reform and policy development for better outcomes.

One of the challenges identified in the session was the gap in policy development and their effective implementation. The overall challenge included the lack of a universally accepted CVE language and difficulty in translating terms into local languages- this in return created obstacles in delivering the messages and conducting capacity building and awareness raising with recipients who are also not accustomed to the often used security language.

While all speakers highlighted the importance of using pedagogical approaches and formal education to increase resilience among students and develop a better methodology for teachers to approach, one of the speakers underlined that classrooms are similarly used by recruiters and radicalized individuals to spread their ideas. Hence, the focus should not only be made on students, but teachers as well.

The Education and P/CVE panel made the following recommendations:

#### **FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS**

- Embed P/CVE training in general teacher-training courses.
- Facilitate additional capacity building, ongoing support, and necessary resources to P/CVE for the education sector.
- Ensure that education reforms focus on practical implementations.
- Include critical thinking classes as part of curriculum and create safe-spaces in classrooms for discussion and dialogue about difficult topics.

#### **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Identify best practical methods and activities of integrating P/CVE into classrooms.
- Ensure effective transmission and translation of the core concepts to teachers and allow for flexibility on definitions based on local understanding and context.
- Develop credible alternatives to violence that can be implemented in the classroom setting.

#### **FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

- Research results and outcomes of education reforms and trainings in classrooms.

## THEMATIC SESSION 7: HUMAN MIGRATION, RADICALIZATION, & P/CVE

The panel focused on the migration of individuals, whether refugees or labor migrants, and how this relates to violent extremism and P/CVE activities. While there are a couple of general concerns and perceptions surrounding the topic, such as that migration and immigration provides routes for violent extremists and terrorists to enter foreign countries without being caught, that there is a risk of radicalization of refugees as they are a vulnerable population, it was agreed among the speakers that no evidence exists to support the causal theory that migration increases susceptibility to violent extremism. These findings were presented in three separate research projects conducted on: labor migrants coming from Central Asia, Middle Eastern refugees, and preventative measures taken in Germany toward refugees. Most of the researchers assessed the assumptions and accuracy of dominant representations that exist among the general population on the ties between migration and radicalization. While there is some evidence that refugee routes were used in the past to infiltrate countries, the number of those incidents do not provide a solid basis to build an assumption that all refugees or labor migrants are then violent extremists or susceptible to becoming one. One of the speakers highlighted that it will remain difficult to have clear information on the connection between the two until violent extremists are actually questioned on their experiences. Two of the other speakers underlined the lack of empirical data on refugees- which is often the case due to sensitivity over the stigmatization of these individuals. While violent extremist groups do encourage to target refugees for recruitment, there is no evidence on how successful they are. Furthermore, one of the presenters indicated that refugees with more extreme views often choose to remain in their region of origin rather than travel to the West, where they expect to be treated negatively. Finally, to ensure better acceptance of migrants into society and to address cases where a minority of individual migrants may be showing signs of being at-risk of violent extremism, speakers emphasized the importance of developing better-educated and professional care for migrants.

Some of the key challenges identified in research was lack of empirical data and difficulty to work with migrants especially in societies that have a negative perception of them.

The panelists made the following recommendations:

### FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS

- Enhance efforts to counteract anti-migrant and anti-Muslim sentiment within local communities where it is related to violent extremist narratives.
- Collect information and publicize the desires, intentions, and needs of refugees through giving them a voice instead of treating them as passive victims.
- Commission further research on the experience of immigration and analyze the vulnerability of illegal labor migrants and their relationship, if any, to violent extremism.

## **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Continue to enhance social work, psychological care for refugees and integration support within regulatory structures without focusing on P/CVE.

## **FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

- Conduct empirical studies on refugees and their experiences.
- Define and clearly separate terminology used in P/CVE and migration studies and engage critically with the concepts.

## **THEMATIC SESSION 8: FORECAST SESSION: AFTER DAESH**

The last panel of the conference took a different approach and explored ways to address the future of P/CVE in the post-Daesh era. One of the speakers highlighted that moving forward, programs, policies, and action plans need to maintain the respect for human rights and countering actions cannot be done at the expense of individual religious freedom. It was suggested that protection of religious freedom can potentially contribute to preventing violent extremism by addressing local grievances. Another speaker underlined that there is a need to rethink our future strategies- fragmentation of violent extremist groups, especially religious-based violent extremists, will require new tactics in P/CVE work. An emphasis was made on the fact that new emerging groups may have more robust outlook on who they identify as an enemy. When it comes to far-right extremists, their messages are becoming increasingly embedded in mainstream politics. While there is no evidence that this necessarily leads to an increase in far-right attacks, it creates obstacles to counter religious-based narratives. Finally, another study is underway exploring ways to deny Daesh of leaving a positive legacy behind for future violent extremist groups to use. While this study is only in the initial phases, it may help identify ways construct effective messages to undermine Daesh's narratives.

The panel on Forecast Session: After Daesh resulted with the following recommendations:

## **FOR P/CVE POLICYMAKERS**

- Work to enshrine human rights protection into future P/CVE strategies and action plans.
- Leverage existing ideas on religious conservatism and piety in a way that would contribute to building resilience against extremist ideologies.

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## **FOR P/CVE PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Develop programs that target both narratives and sources/messengers.
- Mobilize “silent majority” in creating of campaign against violent extremism.

## **FOR P/CVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

- Conduct timely research to understand Daesh’s changing narratives, based on its circumstances and near-territorial defeat.
- Develop practical definitions of key terms. Definition of P/CVE-related terms synthesize insights of practitioners, researchers, and policymakers.

Breakout sessions: Recommendations on Research Methods- Challenges to Researching Violent Extremism.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION A: P/CVE & ETHICAL RESEARCH**

### **FOR POLICYMAKERS AND GOVERNMENTS**

- Maintain neutrality while conducting P/CVE programs and research. Participants should not be led into responses, but instead listened to in their own terms.
- Explore the possibility of establishing a review board to monitor and maintain ethics on P/CVE related topics.

### **FOR PROGRAM DESIGNERS AND PRACTITIONERS**

- Ensure design process and development of a research project is thoroughly conducted prior to commencing the research.
- Avoid confirmation bias or letting presumptions affect program development/implementation.

### **FOR ACADEMIC AND FIELD RESEARCHERS**

- Maintain transparency about research goals and provide a safe space for subjects of research to avoid any stigmatization.
- Maintain privacy and respect human rights while conducting research on the ground- because the topic is considered to be sensitive.
- Develop a feedback mechanism for projects and place proper measurement, monitoring, and evaluation framework for projects.

**NOTE:** A general observation included a lack of understanding and incorporation of the “ethical” component in research and program development for the P/CVE field.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION B: RESEARCH TO SUPPORT P/CVE PROGRAMS**

### **FOR POLICYMAKERS AND GOVERNMENTS**

- Recognize the importance of research for policy and program development. Furthermore, share data with not only other policymakers and governments, but most importantly researchers who have the skills to analyze and assist policy makers and practitioners.
- Embed elements of monitoring, measurement, and evaluation or any other system of feedback for new and existing policies and adapt them accordingly.
- Acknowledge the existing complexity of the issue and make an effort to avoid politicization.

### **FOR PROGRAM DESIGNERS AND PRACTITIONERS**

- Deepen the baseline and avoid false proxy indicators. Taking into account context is crucial in developing tailored interventions.
- Pilot and test programs before implementing them on a wider scale.
- Mitigate the problem with translating programs into foreign languages. It is best to involve local practitioners in translation to ensure the use of local and more acceptable terms in program development.

### **FOR ACADEMIC AND FIELD RESEARCHERS**

- Conduct research that has a concrete end goal that can feed into program development. Academic research at times does not fulfil that need.
- Maintain ideological and political neutrality. Being perceived as a government entity can at times undermine not only the willingness of subjects to speak, but also the honesty in responses.
- Identify ways to overcome the issue with longevity of research results. As a solution, consider having constant tab on any developments and how they may affect results.
- Involve local stakeholders in research design.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION C: RESEARCH ON DRIVERS OF RADICALIZATION**

### **FOR POLICYMAKERS AND GOVERNMENTS**

- Ensure that relevant researchers and experts have access to sensitive data.

- Avoid duplication of efforts by sharing information on conducted or planned research. This applies to donors and governments that fund research projects on the given issue.
- Develop comprehensive and diverse policies to tackle different drivers of radicalization.

#### **FOR PROGRAM DESIGNERS AND PRACTITIONERS**

- Avoid duplication of efforts and inform the P/CVE community on other program's successes and failures.
- Use research as a way to develop an effective theory of change statement to measure outcomes of programs.
- Develop a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral approach for researching on drivers of radicalization. Using versatile approaches may help identify better ways to research P/CVE and drivers of radicalization.

#### **FOR ACADEMIC AND FIELD RESEARCHERS**

- Seek to build capacities of local researchers. Having a skilled groups of local researchers who know the context better and are equipped with the right tools will benefit overall research outcomes.
- Maximize different tools and methods available to research drivers of radicalization.
- Develop better cross-reference systems between quantitative and qualitative studies.

#### **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR P/CVE:**

- Researchers and audience underlined the challenge on lack of time in implementation and development of individually tailored programs, which are at time the best solutions for certain cases.
- Test assumptions: the field of P/CVE is plagued by assumptions. It is important to outline the assumptions of the topic at hand and to test them for their cogency and veracity.
- Disconfirm: researchers and research agendas are saddled with confirmation bias. For the P/CVE research to develop and mature, research should focus more on falsifying existing theories and assumptions, as well as empirically driven conclusions. It is just as important to learn about what does not work as what does.
- Identify best partners to implement and work on grassroots P/CVE work.
- Embed "Do No Harm" principle in all the levels of research development and implementation. Additionally, assess whether no-action and no-research is a better solution for the situation.