



# Hedayah E-Newsletter

## A Message From Our Executive Director

*Dear friends,*

*On behalf of all of us at Hedayah, I would like to thank you for your continuous support, hard work and contributions to countering violent extremism. With your tireless efforts, you have played a significant role in our mission to develop projects and programs that can reduce threats of violent extremism.*

*As we are approaching the end of a very productive year, I wanted to highlight key achievements such as the launch of our Washington D.C. Office, the third Annual International Research Conference, the Counter-Narrative Library, the online FTF Programs Catalogue and the continuous global expansion of our outreach programs.*

*We look forward to a more prosperous 2017 with many new achievements to highlight through the year.*

*Warm wishes,  
H.E. Maqsoud Kruse*

## Updates

- **Hedayah launches the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Programs Catalogue**  
On 8 December 2016, Hedayah, with the support of GCTF, launched its Foreign Terrorist Fighters-related CVE and Returnees' 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 are highly encouraged to share and submit relevant programs [here](#). To view the catalogue, [click here](#).
- **Hedayah welcomes new Director of Dialogue and Communications**  
Hedayah welcomes Ms. Jessie Francescon, its new Director of Dialogue and Communications seconded by the U.S. Government. Jessie comes with years of international development, strategic communications, brand awareness and media relations experience. She has developed communication strategies in collaboration with a diverse range of clients including governments, private sector businesses, NGOs, trade associations, nonprofits and donor community across Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central and Southeast Asia. Prior to Hedayah, she served as Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture's (CNFA) Director of Communications and managed the communication activities for CNFA





Corporate, CNFA Europe and CNFA Programs (portfolio valued at +200 million). Jessie also served as the Communications Manager for the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) and completed a fellowship in the U.S. Senate.

## Activities

### **Hedayah and UNDP hold Third Annual International CVE Research Conference 2016**

From 6-8 December 2016, Hedayah and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-organized the Annual International Countering Violent Extremism Research Conference 2016, held for the first time in Jakarta, Indonesia. The conference was sponsored by the governments of Australia, Spain and Norway, Coventry University, Edith Cowan University, the Royal United Services Institute, Swansea University, UN Women and Wahid Foundation.

As the third annual conference, the International CVE Research Conference 2016 aimed to enhance a deeper understanding of CVE through regional and thematic sessions. It provided a platform for CVE researchers and network members of the Annual Research Conference to meet and share the most current, up-to-date research and analysis of CVE on an international scale. The conference will produce an edited volume of essays by the speakers, based on their research, and policy and program recommendations. [Read more.](#)

## Engagements

### **Hedayah presents current FTF threat at the 'Daesh Recruitment and Support' Conference**

On 30 November 2016, Hedayah participated in the 'Daesh Recruitment and Support: How People are Lured Into Terrorist Activities' convened by The German Marshall Fund of the United States and the NATO Strategic Communications Centre in Brussels, Belgium.

H.E. Mr. Maqsoud Kruse, Executive Director of Hedayah, presented on the existing threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) and its scope and impact in the Middle East and the West. H.E. Mr. Kruse outlined numerous good practices and recommendations, which can effectively tackle the FTF threat, also referencing the [22 Malta Principles for Reintegrating Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters](#) developed with the International Institute of Justice in Malta.





### **Hedayah shares good practices on National Action Plans at ‘National Plans to PVE’ workshop**

From 27-30 November 2016, Hedayah attended the ‘National Plans to Prevent Violent Extremism’ workshop convened by the GCTF in Algeria. During the workshop, representatives from various countries, such as Kenya, Mali, Cameroon and Nigeria presented their CVE National Action Plans (NAPs) and CVE efforts.

Ms. Cristina Mattei, Senior Program Associate at Hedayah, shared good practices for the development of PCVE National Actions Plans at the workshop and presented the newly established PCVE task force based in Washington D.C. The workshop identified main gaps and needs which will be included in the final recommendations for the GCTF working group on the Sahel region.

### **Hedayah discuss CVE strategies at the Religious Rehabilitation Group**

On 21 November 2016, Hedayah visited the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) in Singapore. The purpose of the visit was to explore collaboration opportunities in countering and preventing radicalization in Muslim communities through promoting the ideals of religious moderation.

H.E. Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of Hedayah commended the RRG for its leading efforts in providing counseling and rehabilitation in Singapore. He emphasized that collaboration would reflect a shared commitment to countering and preventing violent extremist narratives and provide youth with positive alternatives. H.E. Mr. Maqsood Kruse, Executive Director of Hedayah highlighted Hedayah’s current initiatives, including the International CVE Research Conference 2016.

### **Hedayah participates in the International Conference of CVE**

On 16 November 2016, Hedayah took part in the ‘International Conference of CVE’ organized by the UAE Embassy in the Republic of Montenegro held in Podgorica, Montenegro.

The purpose of the conference was to share international expertise and good practices to prevent and counter violent extremism, particularly in the Balkan region. H.E. Mr. Maqsood Kruse, Executive Director of Hedayah delivered the keynote address citing Hedayah’s important achievements and ongoing initiatives to counter violent extremism in all its forms. He also commended the role of the EU in supporting a total of 40 projects spearheaded by the STRIVE Global program within Hedayah.

### **Hedayah highlights the role of education in CVE at “The Role of Religious Education in Fostering Peace and Preventing Violence” workshop**

From 1-2 November 2016, Hedayah participated in a workshop held on “The Role of Religious Education in Fostering Peace and Preventing Vio-





lence” jointly organized by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Rabat, Morocco.

The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform to share good practices and concrete initiatives to advance peace through education. It also sought to address whether contemporary approaches to religious education are compatible with broader trends in religious education and brought together a diverse group of religious scholars, academics, experts in preventing violent extremism and government officials.

Ms. Wedad Al Hassen, Senior Program Associate at Hedayah, presented on the Abu Dhabi Memorandum and the Action Plan for Education and CVE and highlighted key recommendations that could be applied within a religious education framework. The workshop resulted in the drafting of conclusions and recommendations for areas in which the GCTF, ISESCO, the OIC and Hedayah can be considered for future initiatives.

