



# Hedayah E-Newsletter

## Activities

### **Hedayah conducts Creative Minds for Social Good Workshop**

From 15-16 March 2017, Hedayah in collaboration with the Sawab Center kicked off its second workshop on Creative Minds for Social Good at the twofour54 Creative Lab in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. The workshop brought together the top five campaign ideas submitted by students across the U.A.E and paired them with well known U.A.E creative mentors (i.e. artists, filmmakers, writers, actors and PR executives) to serve as trainers by advising students in the development of their idea.

The workshop aims to empower youth in the U.A.E to create content through campaigns that will counter hate speech and violent extremist messages online. The campaigns will also promote positive messages of tolerance, multiculturalism, interfaith and inter religious dialogue.

### **Hedayah discusses the Colombian peace process within the CVE context**

On 9 March 2017, Hedayah and the Emirates Diplomatic Academy (EDA) conducted a lecture on the Colombian referendum and peace process in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. The lecture is part of an ongoing series by the EDA to provide a platform for prominent voices to share thought-provoking perspectives with the local community.

The lecture included valuable insights from H.E. Mr. Faihan Al Fayed Chalhub, Ambassador of Colombia to the UAE, and H.E. Mr. Maqsoud Kruse, Executive Director of Hedayah, on the Colombian peace process and the implications of the national referendum. H.E. Mr. Kruse highlighted the importance of ending conflicts through constructive diplomacy, negotiation and reconciliation. [Read more.](#)

### **Hedayah conducts Expert Workshop on “Developing a Toolkit for Monitoring, Measurement and Evaluation for P/CVE”**

From 6-8 March 2017, Hedayah and the Royal United Services Institute conducted an expert workshop on “Developing a Toolkit for Monitoring, Measurement and Evaluation for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)” in Ottawa, Canada. The workshop was sponsored by the Government of Canada as part of a wider project to develop a practitioners’ tool for P/CVE monitoring, measurement and evaluation.





The project is inspired by and a follow-up to the Compendium of Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Evaluating the Effectiveness of CVE Programs, a GCTF framework document supported and led by Canada. The practitioners' tool, in the form of a web-based or smart phone-based application, aims to provide step-by-step guidance to measure the impact of P/CVE programs. The tool will be developed for non-governmental and civil society organizations implementing P/CVE activities and will be linked to existing good practice and frameworks. [Read more.](#)

## Engagements

### **Hedayah addresses the FTF phenomenon at the “Counter-Da’esh Coalition FTF Working Group” meeting**

On 15 March 2017, Hedayah participated at a meeting titled “Counter-Da’esh Coalition Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) Working Group” organized by the government of Kuwait in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

The discussions at the meeting addressed current FTF trends and dynamics, reintegration and rehabilitation efforts, good practices in addressing radicalization and recruitment as well as the role of counter-narratives. H.E. Mr. Maqsoud Kruse, Executive Director at Hedayah, shared Hedayah's ongoing initiatives & activities on FTF, which includes the development of the [FTF Programs Catalogue](#) and the [Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters Program](#).

### **Hedayah presents at the 11th GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting**

From 9-10 March 2017, Hedayah took part in the Eleventh Coordinating Committee Meeting convened by the GCTF in Zurich, Switzerland. The meeting served as a platform for the forum and its inspired institutions, which include Hedayah, to showcase its progress, activities and engagements. Mr. Ivo Veenkamp, Deputy Executive Director at Hedayah, shared updates on Hedayah's past, ongoing and future programs and deliverables. It provided an opportunity for Hedayah to introduce Ms. Jessie Francescon, its new Director of Dialogue and Communications, seconded from the U.S. Government.

### **Hedayah outlines next steps on National Action Plans Task Force at GCTF 7th CVE Working Group Plenary Meeting**

On 8 March 2017, Hedayah participated in the Seventh Plenary Meeting for the CVE Working group held by the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) in Zurich. The meeting focused on substantive discussions primarily on *National Action Plans and Strategic Communications*.

During the meeting, Mr. Ivo Veenkamp, Deputy Executive Director at Hedayah and Mr. Patrick Lynch, Director of the Washington, D.C. Office at Hedayah, highlighted the work being conducted by the National Ac-





tion Plans Task Force and its ongoing Progress. Additionally, Hedayah is currently providing its input to the revised version of the initial draft skeleton for recommendations on strategic communications and social media aspects in P/CVE presented during the meeting.

### **Hedayah collaborates with local institutions in Singapore**

From 7-8 March 2017, Hedayah was invited by the U.A.E Government to participate in a joint committee meeting with the Government of Singapore to develop areas of collaboration on a range of CVE-related issues. The collaboration will focus on local institutions, such as the Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) of Singapore.

### **Hedayah participates in the TSAS Workshop**

On 2 March 2017, Hedayah took part in a workshop convened by the Canadian Network for Terrorism Security & Society (TSAS) in Ottawa, Canada. The workshop highlighted recent research conducted by the TSAS network members in counter-terrorism and social sciences. The network members also shared recommendations with Canadian government officials and other participants at the workshop.

### **Hedayah engages with new IGAD Center of Excellence for P/CVE**

On 1 March 2017, Hedayah participated in the Validation Meeting on the Establishment Document for the new IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) in Djibouti, Djibouti.

Hedayah representatives, Mr. Ivo Veenkamp, Deputy Executive Director at Hedayah and Mr. Thomson Hunter, Director of Capacity Building Programs at Hedayah, identified potential areas of collaboration and cooperation with the center.

### **Hedayah shares methods to confront violent extremism at the “Daesh, The Internal Organization & Ideology” seminar**

On 1 March 2017, Hedayah presented at a seminar titled “Daesh, the Internal Organization & Ideology” held by Rabdan Academy in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. The seminar emphasized the importance of joining efforts of regional states to confront violent extremist ideology and highlighted the role media & and educational institutions play in leading CVE efforts.

H.E. Mr. Maqsoud Kruse, Executive Director at Hedayah, shared good practices and stressed the importance of involving communities, families, educational institutions and thought leaders. He also emphasized the need for a high level of readiness to confront violent extremism.





## **Hedayah highlights innovative educational practices in prevention of violence**

From 21-23 February 2017, Hedayah supported a “Capacity-Building Workshop on the Prevention of Violence through Education in Sub-Saharan Africa” organized by UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa and the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The workshop brought together relevant practitioners, teachers and educators. Ms. Sara Zeiger, Senior Research Analyst at Hedayah, facilitated a session on key concepts related to violent extremism. During a session on “Innovative educational practices: what is working and why”, Ms. Zeiger also presented good practices on CVE and education and referenced the [Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Good Practices for Education & CVE](#).

## **Hedayah shares recommendations in creating positive alternative narratives**

On 31 January 2017, Hedayah virtually participated during a seminar on Violent Extremism Online: A Challenge to Peace and Security co-organized by the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

The seminar examined the serious threats to international peace and security posed by violent extremism online and will explore the role of the Internet in violent extremism - both as a tool for preventing as well as challenging it. Ms. Wedad Al Hassen, Senior Program Analyst at Hedayah, shared Hedayah’s most recent CVE communications and counter-narrative activities, including the Creative Minds for Social Good and the [Counter Narrative Library](#). Ms. Al Hassen also shared recommendations, good practices and outlined key areas to be considered when creating counter narratives and positive alternative narratives.

