FORUM: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (GA3)

TOPIC: The rise of extremist groups as a threat to society's integrity

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POSITION: Co-chair, Main Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

I am Ariadni Georgiakaki and I will be one of your co-chairs in this year's AML MUN conference. I am in 11th grade in Model Lyceum of Anavryta and I am truly honoured to have been given the chance to take on this role. I am sure that we will have fruitful debates and a generally amazing and unforgettable experience. I encourage you all to be well-prepared for the debate, but at the same time excited, just as I am. If you need any help you are free to contact me at ariadnegeo09@gmail.com . I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Kind regards,

Ariadni Georgiakaki

Dearest delegates,

My name is Christina Liakou, I am 19 years old and I will be the Main Chair for the SOCHUM Committee in this year's AML MUN Conference. I am currently a second-year law student at the University of Athens, but my MUN journey had already started when I was just a small 8th grader, shy and timid when speaking in front of big crowds. Model UN has played an important role in my life, from teaching me how to research a topic and debate upon it, to it being the reason for countless friendships and connections with beautiful people. I do truly hope that after our time together you too will feel the MUN magic and I wholeheartedly wish we have an amazing conference! If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at christine.liakou10@gmail.com!

Looking forward to meeting you all,

Christina

Extremism is considered a serious threat to the dignity of the missions and principles that the United Nations promote. It undermines fundamental human rights and sustainable development of countries, while the rise of extremist groups is a threat to its peace and security, as well as to society's integrity . It undermines social trust, while it fuels polarization within communities, whether expressed through hate speech, terrorism or targeted violence. In addition, every country and region is affected by its impacts.

Extremism is considered subjective by many , as an extremist act can be viewed as "freedom fighting" by some, while viewed as "terrorism" by others, depending on ideology, political opinion, personal values and more. Extremism is anti-democratic, that's why it can be a threat to society's integrity and it aims at particular goals, not universal ones.

Organised violent extremism, which we consider terrorism, is not clearly defined and is diverse, as it has no legal purpose due to its politically and emotionally charged nature. Basically, it is considered the use of violence in order to achieve multiple and specific political, ideological or religious goals by targeting and threatening the non-combatants.

Multiple terrorist groups have been rising for the past years, which has proved how major this issue is and how important it is for it to be tackled . These groups are intolerant in religious, social and cultural matters. They manage to object to countries' values of justice and human dignity by conquering territory and communicating in real time via social media, showing their hideous crimes. They also manage to destabilize legitimate governments.

This situation has caused a radical increase in migration. Multiple people leave their countries and homes, in search for a safest place to live, far from the extremist groups, while at the same time others are enticed to join the conflict as foreign terrorists, which results in the destabilization of other regions or countries involved.

These days, terrorism has increased due to the easing of border controls, the building of globe-circling infrastructures, which makes attacks easier, as well as the development of technology, as it was previously mentioned. Of course, there are other most important reasons why terrorism is rising , such as the increase of poverty, social inequalities, ethnic or religious discrimination and many more which are basically the root causes of the issue and are going to be analyzed and well-explained later.

It has been proven that the rise of extremism and its spread across national borders has been one of the two main global challenges in our days, with the other one being the governance of increasingly diverse, multi-cultural societies, which is undoubtedly relevant to extremism. However, we should all understand that terrorism is not the deadliest type of violence, as homicide, armed violence and

suicide statistically have much more fatalities. What, yet, makes it so important and worth discussing is that its huge psychological and social impact is absolutely destructive and traumatising for the entire society rather than only for the individual.

It is highly important for the unique nature of these extreme ideologies, many of them seeking to the entire destruction of civic order or even restructuring, to be understood by the governments from the beginning. Therefore, we believe that there should be given much attention to the root causes of these issues and how these can be faced.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Extremist

"A person whose opinions, especially about religion or politics, are extreme, and who may do things that are violent or illegal for what they believe" [1]

Integrity

"The quality or state of being complete and undivided" [2]

Radicalism

"The belief in radical ideas and principles, especially on political and social issues" [3]

Polarization

"The act of dividing something, especially something that contains different people or opinions, into two completely opposing groups" [4]

Conflict

"Fighting between two or more groups of people or countries" [5]

Hate speech

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[1] "Extremist." Oxford Reference, Oxford University Press, https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110810104855325. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[2] "Integrity." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/integrity. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[3] "Radicalism." *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/radicalism?q=radicalism. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[4] "Polarization." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/polarization. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[5] "Conflict." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/conflict?q=conflict+. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

"Public speech that expresses hate or encourages violence towards a person or group based on something such as race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation"[6]

Terrorism

"Violent actions or threats designed to cause fear among ordinary people, in order to achieve political aims"[7]

Infrastructures

"The basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organization to run smoothly, for example buildings, transport and water and power supplies"[8]

Civic order

"The public order, which includes government and other public authorities (legislative, executive, judicial and quasi-judicial regulatory agencies) at every level"[9]

UNDP

"Acronym for United Nations Development Programme"[10]

OECD

"Abbreviation for Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development: an international organization whose members are countries with advanced economies and whose aim is to encourage economic growth around the world"[11]

Asylum

"Protection or safety that a government gives to people who have left their own country, usually because they were in danger for political reasons"[12]

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

[6] "Hate Speech." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hate-speech. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[7] "Terrorism." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/terrorism. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[8] "Infrastructure." *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/infrastructure?q=infrastructure. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[9] **Ozey**. "Civic Order." *WordReference Forums*, WordReference.com, 26 Aug. 2014, https://forum.wordreference.com/threads/civic-order.2885136/. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[10] **United Nations Development Programme**. *UNDP*, United Nations, https://www.undp.org/. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[11] **"OECD."** *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/oecd. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[12] **"Asylum."** *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/asylum. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

"Abbreviation for non-governmental organization: an organization with social or political aims that is not controlled by a government or business"[13]

Civic space

"The environment that enables civil society to play a role in the political, economic and social life of our societies"[14]

Radicalization

"The action or process of making somebody more extreme or radical in their opinions on political, social or religious issues"[15]

Disengagement

"Stopping fighting and moving away: The process whereby an individual experiences a change in role or function that is usually associated with a reduction of violent participation. It may not necessarily involve leaving the movement, but is most frequently associated with significant temporary or permanent role change"[16]

Destabilization

"The action of making a government, area, or political group lose power or control, or making a political or economic situation less strong or safe, by causing changes and problems"[17]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Root causes of the issue

The rise of extremist groups and especially the increase of violent extremism and terrorism is a result of multiple factors in social, political or economic levels which should be analyzed and discussed, and that governments should take into consideration in order to solve the issue. Most of them have to do with radicalisation, which comes as a result of them.

First and foremost, we should definitely mention horizontal inequalities, meaning social, cultural, political or economic ones. Many people might be facing an

[13] **"NGO."** *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ngo. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[14] **"Civic Space."** *OHCHR*, United Nations, https://www.ohchr.org/en/civic-space. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[15] **"Radicalization."** *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/radicalization. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[16] **"Disengagement."** *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/disengagement. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

[17] **"Destabilization."** *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/destabilization. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

identity crisis or feeling that they live in injustice. Therefore, violent contestation can be surely influenced by this global issue, especially in our days, that technology has evolved and information spreads instantaneously throughout the media. Unemployment as well as the systematic lack of opportunities makes people feel frustrated, alienated and marginalized. It has been also proven that multiple transnational organisations, such as Daesh(the Islamic State), have attracted many radicalized people, by measuring unemployment and educational levels of each, using a new data set, and it is a fact that unemployment and lack of economic opportunities have caused the incorporation of many in these types of organisations, and mostly the countries near Syria.

Adding to that, political exclusion, civic space's contraction, underestimation of human rights such as freedom of speech and expression, as well as other limitations surely result in radicalization and violence.

Of course, poverty is definitely a usual reason for people to act violently, but the aggression and frustration that accompanies them due to other inequalities, corruption, discrimination and injustice surely play a more important role. The profiling or singling out of specific groups or communities, policing that is insensitive as well as the misunderstanding and mistreatment of certain minorities seem to be motivating them more to act like that, as they believe that it is a way for them to handle and get over these issues. For example, a particular profiling of Somali Muslims by security agencies has immensely increased extremist violence in Kenya. Unfortunately, plenty of sectarian schisms in different cultures and countries have also supported extremists, considering that most of them were politically manipulated.

Unfortunately, nowadays, almost half of the global wealth is owned by 1% of the world's population and extremists believe that the social, economic and political system is favorable to the rich and manage to satisfy their interests, while they view violence as a way to further project this issue and many more. As a result, they reject ideas such as democracy, multiculturalism or free markets and promote their personal ideologies. For instance, the Baader-Meinhof Group and the Red Brigades in Germany and Italy respectively, opposed the global system and how modern nations worked in order to raise awareness and draw attention to these issues.

Even though diversity is highly important and in the past multiple efforts have been made in order to achieve it in many aspects, such as religious, cultural, racial and more, extremists seem to be rejecting diversity as they sometimes feel threatened by different groups or they are prejudiced.
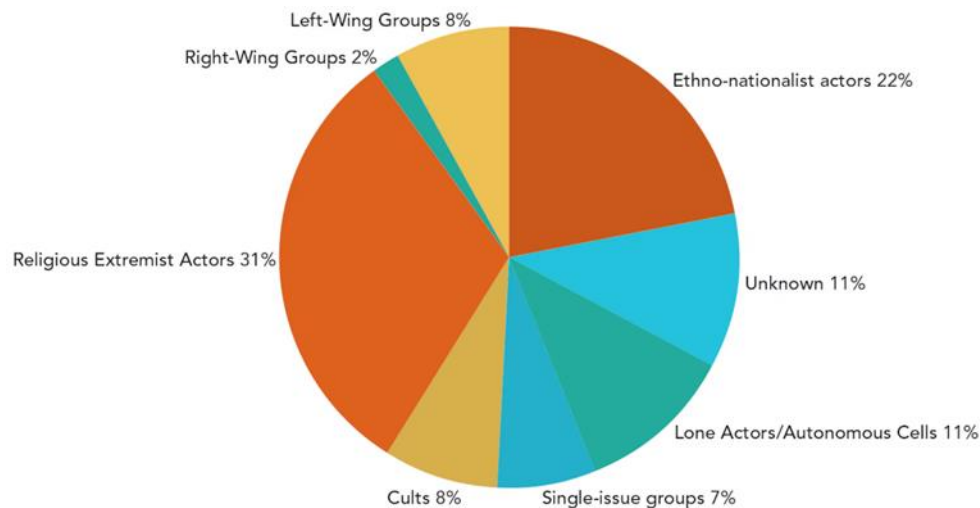
Governments many times fail to guarantee their citizens basic rights, services and safety. They also lack control over illegal activities such as human trafficking, drug trade and more, which extremists take advantage of, as it helps them fund their operations, such as buying weapons, recruiting members or carrying out attacks.

Last but not least, something that has been widely observed is that violence is becoming normalized in modern societies. Even children are exposed to violence from an early age through video games, movie scenes, or brutal games whose purpose is supposed to be entertainment. This phenomenon also affects adults, who are bombarded by news in the media involving multiple forms of violence. As a result, research has even shown that people, especially teenagers, tend to display higher aggression and many times engage in violent behaviours towards others from a young age.

Taking everything into deep consideration, it is important not only to try and overcome (violent) extremism and its rise directly, but mainly focus on addressing its root causes, which everyone, and especially governments, should be aware of, because that is the only effective way to solve this issue.

Types of extremist groups

Pie chart: Left-Wing Groups 8%, Right-Wing Groups 2%, Ethno-nationalist actors 22%, Unknown 11%, Lone Actors/Autonomous Cells 11%, Single-issue groups 7%, Cults 8%, Religious Extremist Actors 31%

Right wing terrorist groups

They seek to preserve or restore a theoretically traditional social order. Their key characteristics are extreme nationalism or ethnocentrism, which is followed by anti-immigrant and xenophobic beliefs alongside opposition to progressive reforms e.g. Nei-Nazi Groups, Anti-government militias.

Left wing terrorist groups

They aim to overthrow capitalist systems, fight against perceived social injustice or promote a communist/socialist ideology. They often target government authorities, corporations, or symbols of capitalism, e.g the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Red Army Faction (Germany).

Religious extremist actor

Individuals or groups that use violence in order to achieve political, social, or ideological aims justified by their interpretation of a certain religion.

Their actions are usually aimed at opposing enemies of their faith and/or reshaping societies according to said religious principles e.g. Al-Qaeda, ISIS
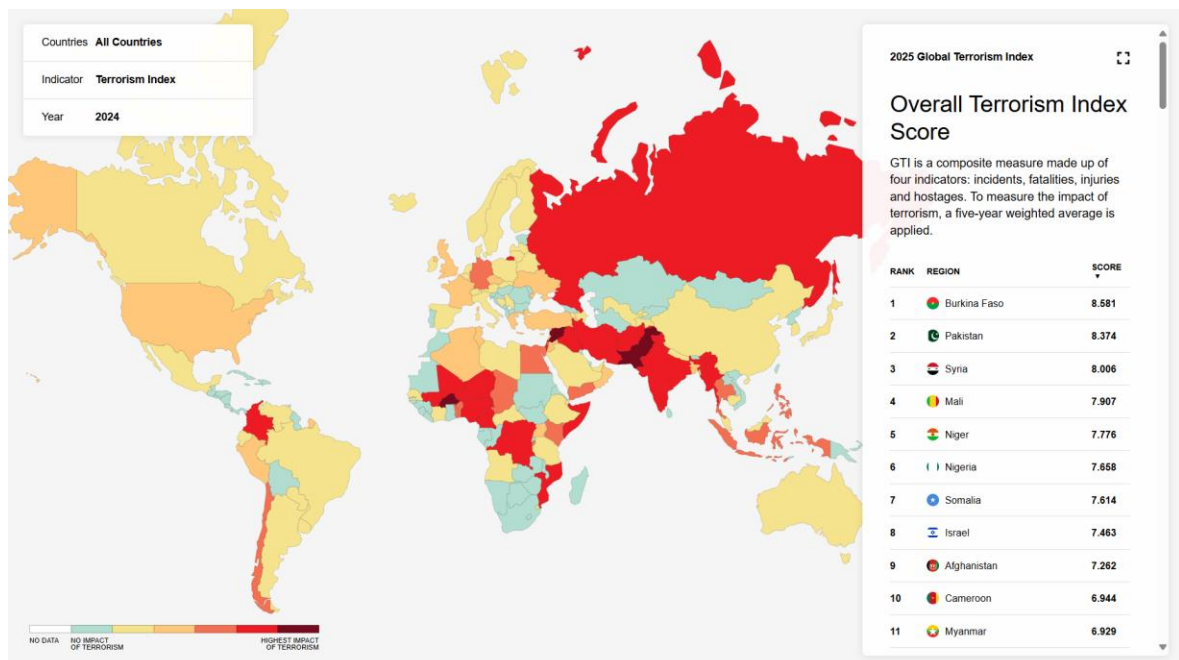
Ethno-natiolist actors

Individuals or groups that use violence or political pressure to promote the interests of a specific ethnic or national group, often craving autonomy, independence or dominance over other national groups. They are primarily motivated by ethnic or national identity, often resisting integration and political compromise, whilst targeting rival ethnic groups e.g. Basque separatists (ETA), Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)

Historical Background

The rise of extremist groups in recent years

Nowadays, as it was previously mentioned in the topic introduction as well, violent extremism and terrorism has strongly increased, while the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida and Boko Haram are some of the major groups that have risen.

As we see, the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) analyzes terrorism index nowadays globally, and makes further research, while it creates a report annually with multiple important facts and statistics for the previous year. Let's see some of the highlights of terrorism each year from 2020.

Countries with the highest terrorism index score globally as of 2024[18]

2020's report (of 2019)

Deaths are declined by almost 60% (from 2014-their peak), especially in Iraq, Syria and Nigeria

Central America and the Caribbean continue to have the lowest impact of terrorism, for the past 17 years

Afghanistan is mostly impacted by terrorism in 2020

Terrorist acts have mainly occurred in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa

2022's report (of 2021)

Terrorist attacks increased, however, deaths from them reduced by 1.2%

Many types of terrorism are likely to be increased due to the conflict in Ukraine

Sahel is emerging as the latest epicentre of terrorism

Attacks have highly augmented in the West(by 68%), however, US reached its lowest score in 10 years

Sab Saharan Africa were accounting for almost half of the deaths from terrorism globally

Taliban is being replaced by IS as the most deadly terror group in 2021, killing 15 people per attack

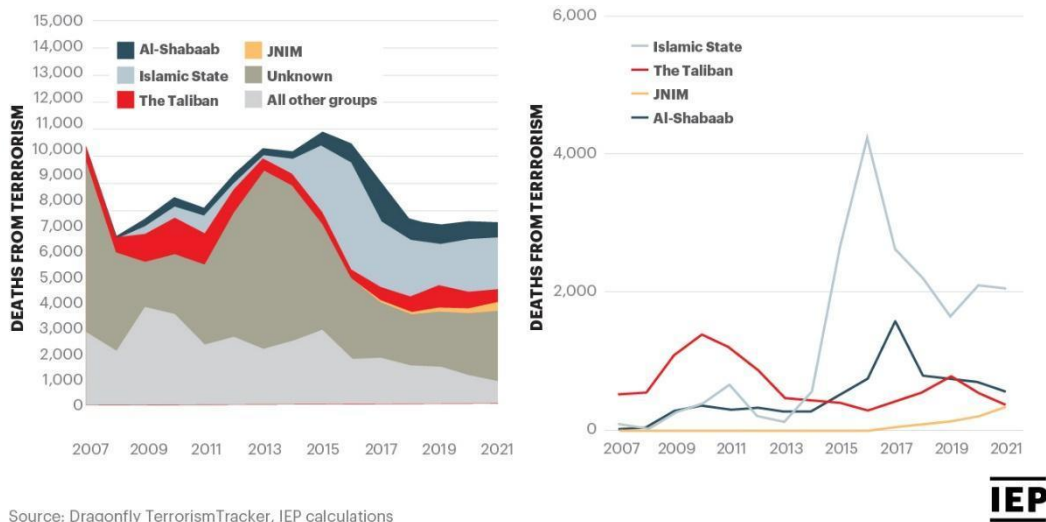119 countries had no deaths from terrorism in 15 years

Politically motivated attacks took the place of religious ones, which decreased by 82%

New technologies such as GPS systems, encrypted messaging services and drones started to be highly used by terrorists

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[18] Institute for Economics & Peace. *Global Terrorism Index 2025*. Vision of Humanity, 2025, https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Global-Terrorism-Index-2025.pdf.

Four deadliest terrorist groups in 2021

Source: Dragonfly TerrorismTracker, IEP calculations

IEP

The four deadliest terrorist groups in 2021 [19]

2023's report (of 2022)

Due to Taliban's transition from terror group to state actor, deaths reduced by 9%, however increased outside Afghanistan by 4%

IS has remained the most deadly terrorist group globally, operating in 21 countries

Sahel region is the most impacted from terrorism in the world for 2022

Countries with unstable ecologies as well as climate-driven disasters were the ones that terrorism tended to flourish more

The use of drone technologies by terrorist groups highly increased

2024's report (of 2023):

Pakistan had most incidents worldwide, with 490 and 689 deaths

Highest level of deaths since 2017

Sahel Region was accounting for half of the deaths from terrorism globally

Burkina Faso was the most impacted country from terrorism in 2023

Almost all terrorism attacks(90%) and deaths(98%) took place in conflict zones, showing us the strong relation between terrorism and conflict

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[19] **Dragonfly Intelligence.** *TerrorismTracker*. Dragonfly Intelligence, published approximately 1.8 years ago, https://dragonflyintelligence.com/intelligence/terrorismtracker/. Accessed 19 Aug. 2025.

On the 7th of October 2023 the deadliest terrorist attack took place in Israel, where Hamas killed almost 1200 people, 36 of whom were young children. They infiltrated Israel by land, air and sea, targeting several locations, including kibbutzim, towns and the Nova Peace Festival site. There happened more than 1.400 murders, more than 5.500 injuries, 242 hostages were taken to Gaza, while a plethora of people are still missing.This event, sadly, is the predictable continuation of a conflict between Israel and Palestine and follows plenty of other terror acts, like the memorable massacre in the village of Deir Yassin in 1948 when hundreds were killed.

As we all know, the full extent of this attack(the 7th of October) and conflict's consequences are still emerging, with at least 57.882 people being killed and 138.095 wounded.

2025's report (of 2024)

The Sahel region is the centre of terrorism with almost half of the deaths from it being seen there.

Islamic State has also broadened its activity to 22 regions, with 71% of its activity being in Syria and DRC. Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP) has proven to be the fastest-growing terrorist group.

Deaths in Africa(not North) have fortunately been reduced by 10% from 2016

However, in the West, attacks increased by 63% and especially in Europe doubled to 67

20% of terror actors were teenagers, most of them linked to the IS.

Anti-Semitic incidents rose by 200%

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Sahel Region (e.g Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria)

Violent extremism and terrorism has strongly increased these past years in the Sahel Region, and especially in Burkina Faso. This seems to have happened due to the Region's poor stability and security. According to the GTI, 19% of terrorist attacks took place in Sahel in 2024, while it accounted for 51% of deaths worldwide by terrorism. Generally, half of the countries mostly affected by terrorism are included in the Sahel Region. The Security Council has been highly concerned about Sahel and the unconstitutional changes that happened there, like the political changes in Burkina Faso, Niger, Guinea and Mali. The need to tackle poor governance, climate change and under-development in the Sahel is indisputable.

Israel

Extremism in Israel has especially risen due to the mainstreaming of far-right nationalism and the ideological settler movement, aiming at expanding and dominating from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, completely rejecting the

self-determination that Palestinians are aspiring for . At the same time, Israel is tending to be authoritarian. After the 7th of October 2023, Israel was said to have committed genocide.

Pakistan

For the past 15 years, Pakistan has been really struggling with terrorism, because of conflict, corruption, human displacement, injustice, as well as lack of education and other opportunities for people, especially the youth. Regarding the GTI of 2025, Pakistan is second in the rank with 45% augmentation in terror attacks from the previous year.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, Talibans, a famous terrorist group, have control over the country, while at the same time multiple other Islamistic groups are active. Women 's rights are highly violated, while women are fighting for their status.

Syria

In Syria, HTS (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham), related to al-Qaeda, has risen to authority. From the beginning of 2025, numerous Alawites, a religious minority, were killed in the Latakia province, with more recent incidents of violence directed at the Druze community. There are almost 2500 active ISIS fighters in Syria and Iraq, while the attacks have been increased since the rise of HTS.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Established in 2017, it coordinates global counter-terrorism efforts, strengthens member states' capacities and promotes international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism. It oversees the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT).

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Institute (UNICRI)

Founded in 1968, it assists governments and the international community in formulating and implementing improved policies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, focusing more so on areas such as organised crime, human trafficking and cybercrime.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
1960s-1970s	Left-Wing Terrorism in Europe
30th of April 1970	Red Army Faction (Germany) Bombing
1970s-1980s	Rise of Right-Wing Extremist Groups
16th of March 1978	Kidnapping of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro
1980s-1990s	Rise of Religious Extremism Globally

9th of November 1989	Neo-Nazi Riots in Germany
1990s-2000s	Intensification of Ethno-Nationalist Conflicts
7 th of August 1998	United States' Embassy Bombings in East Africa
23rd of July 2001	Tamil Tigers Suicide Bombings in Sri Lanka
9th of September 2001	9/11 Attacks in the United States
2010s	The Rise of ISIS and Global Jihadists Networks
10th of June 2014	ISIS Declares a Caliphate
2015-2020	Surge in Right-Wing Extremist Violence
27th of October 2018	Pittsburg Synagogue Shooting
2020s	Online Radicalization and Fragmented Extremist Networks
6th of January 2021	United States Capitol Riot
7ᵗʰ of October 2023	Terrorist attacks from Hamal in Israel

RELEVANT UN TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)

It criminalises the provision of financial support to terrorist activities, regardless of the intent of the target, aiming to disrupt the funding networks supporting extremist groups and thus weakening their operational capabilities.

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)

It defines and criminalises terrorist bombings, including attacks on public places and infrastructure, therefore enhancing international cooperation in prosecuting and extraditing individuals involved in bombing incidents.

International Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971)

It addresses unlawful acts against civil aviation, such as hijacking and sabotage, aiming to strengthen global aviation security and to establish legal frameworks for the prosecution of offenders.

International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973)

It criminalises attacks against diplomats and other internationally protected persons, thus reinforcing the protection of diplomatic missions and personnel and promoting international relations.

UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/2178/2014

It prevents the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) to conflict zones, particularly in Syria and Iraq, and to combat the threat posed by terrorist groups like ISIS.

UN Security Council Resolution 2242 on Women, Peace and Security

It strengthens the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, emphasising the role of women in preventing violent extremism and sustaining peace.

UN Security Council Resolution 1373/2001

It aims to strengthen the international efforts to combat terrorism following the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

UN Security Council Resolution 1540/2004

It aims to limit extremists groups' access to weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and related materials, by preventing their proliferation to non-state actors.

International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979)

Defines and criminalises the taking of hostages, regardless of the motives behind such acts, providing this way legal basics for the prosecution and extradition of individuals involved in hostage situations.

UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)

It provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, whilst encouraging member states to implement measures in four pillars: addressing conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, building states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, and ensuring respect for human rights.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism

It was presented by the UN Secretary-General in 2016 and it offers a comprehensive framework for addressing the underlying conditions conducive to violent extremism. It encourages a holistic approach that integrates human rights, development and peace building efforts, with core elements of the plan as a whole being: inclusive societies, education and youth engagement, human rights and rule of law, community engagement and strategic communication. It is overseen by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), which provides support to the member states in developing and executing national strategies. Nevertheless, critics do say that its guidelines can be a little vague from time to time, given that it does provide a wide range of principles that should be followed but does not lean heavily into actionable steps for implementation, making it harder for member states to translate it into concrete policies.

The Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

It was established by the United Nations to provide comprehensive assistance and protection to victims of terrorism worldwide. This type of assistance may include psychological support through the provision of counselling, trauma care and mental health services and capacity building by assisting governments in creating policies and programmes that support victims' rights and needs. Overall its goal is to ensure that victims of terrorism are recognised, supported and empowered, while promoting global frameworks that protect their rights' and well-being.

Civil Society and Community-Level Initiatives

Non-governmental organisations, local governments and community groups have launched programmes targeting radicalisation factors, that often include youth mentorship programmes, education and literacy campaigns, social cohesion and interfaith dialogue. Their main aim is to prevent extremist thoughts and mindsets before they even form and that is why they target a younger audience who is at its most impressionable. At the same time they try to promote healthy dialogue and communication as means for conflict-resolving in order to avoid civilians resorting to more violent actions. While these attempts have strengthened community engagement, challenges remain.Critics highlight gaps in addressing the socioeconomic and political grievances that often fuel extremism, as well as concerns over human rights violations and the effectiveness of de radicalisation programs.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Encouraging contributory decision-making and increasing civic space locally and nationally

We should make sure that everyone, and especially the youth, are able to participate in decision-making and engage in public life, by building the resilience of civil society, offering protected and wider civic spaces for these purposes, and ensuring participation in sports, cultural or political matters and more. This is really important as alienation can be faced due to the involvement and endurance of the civilians. Of course, much attention will be given to marginalized groups or groups facing discrimination, as these are main causes of radicalisation.

Developing sustainable social and economic solutions to steer groups at risk away from violence

We have to ensure that groups at risk have access to education as well as jobs and other important opportunities, in order to eliminate discrimination and injustice. We should also pay attention to girls, especially teenagers, so as to face human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Hiring internal intermediaries in order to achieve productive dialogue and discussions with alienated groups and managing reintegration for past extremists

In our days, modern technology and culture has made us further understand the importance of communication, especially with the alienated groups, which may feel misunderstood, disrespected and rejected by communities, state apparatus or even their families. Therefore, there should be some mediators, e.g. teachers, artists etc who are going to build dialogue and facilitate meaningful conversations even under tension. This way, more and more people will feel heard and counted on, while radicalization will be reduced.

Using (social) media as an effective way to promote humanitarian values such as human rights, tolerance and gender equality, focusing on women's empowerment

Social media is nowadays a major part of our lives, and even if sometimes it feels like an enemy, we should not view it that way. We can create an interactive platform where ideas in order to face social cohesion, injustice, discrimination, gender inequalities and more will be shared, while dialogue will be engaged as well. Adding to that, awareness will be raised through social media in order to prevent people from joining radical groups and promote human rights. Also, regarding the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, "extremist groups like ISIL and Boko Haram view female bodies as vessels for producing a new generation that can be raised in their own image, according to their radical ideology." Therefore, the importance of women's empowerment is major. Women's organisations have played an important role in reducing the action of extremists, but definitely more force and focus should be given to women and their rights, as they can be really helpful to solve the issue.

Including respect for human rights, diversity and global citizenship in schools' and universities' curricula as well as promoting them through educational campaigns

Awareness, as mentioned before, is highly important to solve any type of issue. Children, from an early age should be aware of extremists, their violent actions and tragic crimes, while they should be informed about radicalisation and make sure they stay away from it. They should be taught basic human rights and values , as well as the importance of diversity and inclusion of all groups in the society, and make sure they stay engraved in their minds for life. In order to achieve that, all these should be a major part of the school curriculum and the university curricula, while educational campaigns should also be organised with the same purposes.

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