



About Us

The West Africa Centre for Counter-Extremism (WACCE) is an independent, not-for-profit civil society organization focused on counterterrorism research and outreach in West Africa.

WACCE works to engage with the local community; youth groups, parents, teachers, local associations and the religious community as well as state actors in countering the underpinnings of radicalization and violent extremism. Our research work and outreach works are intended at making effective contribution to State and Regional counter terrorism and security strategy. We consider civil society and the local community as credible agencies that can uniquely and positively alter outcomes of CVE programs and in building sustainably peaceful and stable societies.

WACCE was founded in response to the growing number of young people in West Africa who are succumbing to the allure of terrorist ideals. We work closely with the Ministry of Interior, the National Security Council and youth groups such as the Federation of Youth Clubs (FYC). Our peace network, WACCE PeaceNetwork, is aimed at building an active youth in the promotion of peace, citizenship and democratic values.

Issues of stark poverty and inequality, political violence, chieftaincy, ethnic and land disputes, the ugly, fierce contestation over power amongst political parties, agents and vigilante groups as well as locally generated conflicts resulting from competition over economic resources and livelihoods, continue to characterize the security environment in West Africa. Such incidents have a proclivity to serve as conveyor belt to extremist violence and radicalization.

Vision

WACCE's vision is to make leading contribution to the creation of a sustainable environment of peace and community resilience against terrorism in West Africa.

Mission

WACCE seeks to serve as the key, effective and credible agency for countering the underpinnings of radicalization and violent extremism in West Africa through collaborative work with state and non-state actors, civil society and the local community as effective contribution to state and regional peace and counter terrorism strategy.

Goals and Objectives

Our goals are to serve as a key agency for counter terrorism and security research helping to build resilient societies through research, capacity building and outreach. We seek to help prevent radicalization, dissuade vulnerable individuals from engaging in terrorism and reduce sympathy for terrorist propaganda.

Core Values and Principles

Our core values and principles are modeled around scholarly excellence, pluralism, protection of humanity, justice, equality, accountability and transparency in leadership. Our approach is rooted in a human security framework that prioritizes protection of the individual and the community. We evaluate security and counter-terrorism on the basis of the number of lives saved rather than the number of terrorists killed or apprehended.

Research

WACCE's foundation is built around original research. WACCE has conducted and published research reports in the area of Maritime Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, Gender and Violent Extremism, Terrorism Threat in West Africa and Local Community Actors in combating radicalization.

Local Counter-Radicalization Program

One of our effective approaches to countering violent extremism and inspiring peace is to encourage discourse that can help explain, expose or counter the economic, social, religious and ideological underpinnings of Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT). We make deliberate use of counter-narratives. Counter-narratives are very powerful in weakening the terrorist propaganda aimed at radicalizing and recruiting vulnerable individuals. So we work with youth groups in the local community in the deconstruction of messages that can potentially influence and invoke extremist ideals among the vulnerable youth.



Civil Society:
civil society as counteracting because it is terms of messages that propensity to extremist effectively inducing and put in its Such counter powerful and from community leaders and members themselves rather than even the State.

"Civil Society can effectively challenge the terror-inducing narratives of radicalizers and put in its stead positive alternatives. Such counter messages are often more powerful and effective when they come from community leaders and members themselves rather than even the State".

We engage and consider a credible agency for violent extremism. This is particularly powerful in altering narratives and influence the individual's endure in violence and ideas. Civil Society can challenge the terror-narratives of radicalizers steady positive alternatives. messages are often more effective when they come

Youth Engagement – WACCE Peace Network

The goal of the WACCE Peace Network in educational institutions and the local community is to create a sustainable culture of peace anchored on the values of tolerance, cultural diversity and a pluralistic society through a series of activities such as seminars, debating and essay writing competitions, community service and art. These activities are intended to contribute to educating a new generation of peace builders as key agents for sustainable peace throughout the West Africa region. They engage in the following:

- Pluralism, Cultural Diversity and Social Inclusion
- Citizenship and Civic Education
- Democracy, Rule of Law and Democratic Participation
- Human Rights and Gender-Based Violence
- Leadership and Public Speaking
- Drivers and sources of violent extremism and radicalization
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
- Games and sporting activities
- Debate Competitions



Ms Ruka Yaro Deliman, Mandela Washington Fellow addressing the youth at WACCE event

Partnerships

WACCE works local groups and associations including educational institutions to engage in innovative initiatives aimed at promoting peace and building resilient societies. WACCE currently has its network, WACCE Peace Network, in five educational institutions in Ghana. Our partnership with the Federation of Youth Clubs (FYC), a non-governmental, non-religious and a locally based umbrella organization consisting of about 150 Youth Clubs and Organizations is to engage a large number of youth. This partnership gives WACCE access to a huge network of youth and the general local population.



Ghana Senior High School Chapter of the WACCE Peace Network at its inauguration

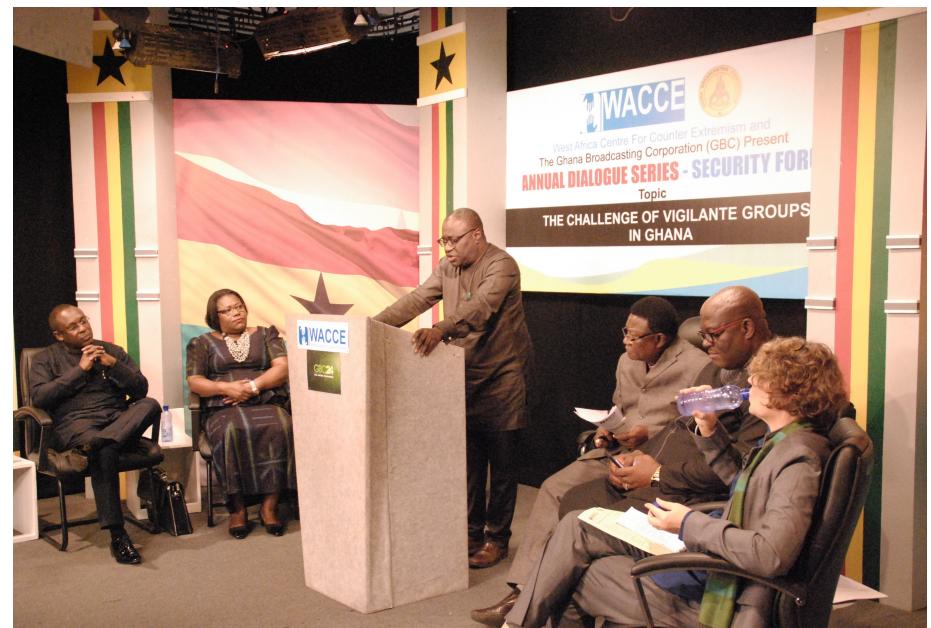
WACCE Impact

In the last two years WACCE has conducted research in maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, countering terrorism in West Africa, Violent extremism and radicalization and has significantly deepened local awareness around issues of radicalization and violent extremism in the local community through outreach programs. Through our radio and TV outreach programs, WACCE uncovered many cases of radicalization and terrorist recruitment. In 2016, WACCE helped save a young man's life. He was radicalized and recruited online, and just a day he was to depart for Syria, he watched our Counter

Radicalization program on national television. That was what changed everything for him. He changed his mind.

WACCE Security Forum

WACCE organizes security forums involving all relevant stakeholders in contributing to measures and solutions to security challenges.



"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it." – Eleanor Roosevelt

West Africa Centre for Counter-Extremism (WACCE)
No. 45 Odum Street, High Tension Lane
North Dzorwulu, Accra, Ghana
Tel +233 505837185
Email: info@wacce.org / mmmutaru@gmail.com
Web: www.wacce.org