

National Counter Terrorism Centre



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Ramadan: A Month of Virtue and Unity



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As billions of Muslims around the world observe the holy month of Ramadan, it is also a time of spiritual reflection and devotion, and more importantly, it is an opportunity to build a cohesive and resilient society. The month of Ramadan provides a unique opportunity to come together, build relationships, and create a sense of unity and belonging that can carry on throughout the year.

Firstly, organizing iftars is an excellent way to bring people together. It is a time for friends and family to break their fast together and enjoy a meal. However, it is also an opportunity to invite neighbors, colleagues, and others from the community, promoting unity and fostering a sense of togetherness. During iftars, everyone can share their experiences and learn about different experiences, promoting understanding and respect.

Secondly, volunteering is a great way to build a cohesive and resilient community. Ramadan is a month of giving, and Muslims are encouraged to give back to their communities. Volunteering can include activities

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such as preparing meals for the needy, distributing food to the homeless, or participating in community service projects. It is a great opportunity to work together and help those in need, promoting a sense of unity and compassion.

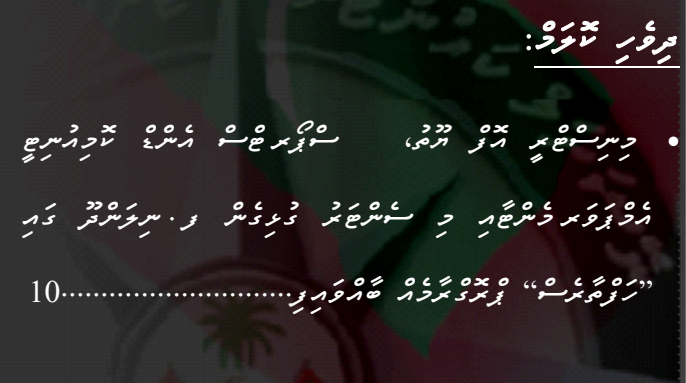
Thirdly, learning is an essential aspect of building a cohesive and resilient community. Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection and personal growth. During this time, Muslims engage in activities such as reading the Quran, attending religious lectures, and increasing participation in communal prayers compared to other months. These activities provide an opportunity for individuals to learn about their faith, develop a deeper understanding of their beliefs, and build a sense of community through shared faith and knowledge.

Finally, organizing recreational activities is an excellent way to bring people together and promote a healthy lifestyle. Engaging in physical activities during Ramadan, such as playing football or taking a slow jog or walk after iftar have many physiological benefits. Organizing such activities during Ramadan promotes teamwork, builds relationships, and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

It would behoove us all to make the best use of Ramadan to build a cohesive and resilient community. Organizing iftars, volunteering, learning, and organizing sports activities are just a few ways to bring people together, promote unity, and build strong relationships. By utilizing Ramadan to foster friendship and solidarity among our society, we can create a sense of belonging and togetherness that will carry on beyond the month of Ramadan and continue to make this nation a beacon of peace, love, and unity for all.

In this issue:

- Ramadan: A Month of Virtue and Unit.....1
- NCTC Discusses Areas of Collaboration with UNODC under EU’s “Support to Addressing the Risk of Terrorism and to Increase Security in Maldives” Project.....3
- High Commissioner of Australia to Sri Lanka and Maldives Calls on DG of NCTC.....3
- NCTC Briefs a Delegation from the European Union on the Work Done in P/CVE.....4
- NCTC Discusses Areas of Collaboration with US INDO-PACOM Augmentation Team.....4
- UNOCT Shares Inception Report of the STRIVE: Asia Project Funded by the EU.....5
- Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Conducts “Hafthaares” in F. Atoll in Collaboration with NCTC.....6
- NCTC Officials Participate in Exercise "Rihi Asseyri 2023" Conducted by the President's Office in partnership with the British High Commission.....7
- NCTC Staff Participates in “Mindful Ramadan” Workshop Held by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs.....7
- NCTC Officials Attend “Police Research and Innovation Conference”8
- NCTC Officials Attend Conference on “Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Maldivians Women and Children Returning from Conflict Zones”9



“Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”
Mattie Stepanek

NCTC Discusses Areas of Collaboration with UNODC under EU's "Support to Addressing the Risk of Terrorism and to Increase Security in Maldives" Project

8 March 2023

NCTC officials met with a team from UNODC in a multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss areas of collaboration under the European Union's "Support to Addressing the Risk of Terrorism and to Increase Security in Maldives" project. During the meeting, officials explored various avenues of collaboration that could help the preventive efforts in the Maldives.

Officials discussed programs areas of collaboration such as addressing the nexuses between radicalization and criminal behavior to increase security and prevent terrorism in the Maldives. These areas included the sharing of best practices and expertise, capacity building, and the

development of new strategies to address emerging threats.

All officials emphasized the need for a multi-faceted approach to address the issue, including education, awareness-raising, and treatment for drug addiction and reducing recidivism. The meeting concluded with all parties expressing their commitment to continued collaboration and cooperation to address the risk of terrorism in the Maldives.

The European Union has greatly contributed to the P/CVE efforts in the Maldives, especially strengthening the criminal justice response and enhancing capacity of P/CVE practitioners.

High Commissioner of Australia to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Calls on DG of NCTC

14 March 2023



H.E. Paul Stephens, High Commissioner of Australia to Sri Lanka and the Maldives called upon DG of NCTC Brigadier General (Rtd)

Zakariyya Mansoor in a meeting held at the Ministry of Defence.

During the meeting, officials discussed ongoing work by NCTC to build resilience and promote social cohesion in the Maldives. Ambassador Stephens and DG Mansoor also discussed areas of collaborations between Australia and the Maldives to strengthen PVE in the Maldives.

Australia works closely with the Maldives in strengthening defence and national security for a safer Maldives, and greater peace and security in the region.

NCTC Briefs a Delegation from the European Union on the Work Done in P/CVE

16 March 2023

NCTC recently hosted a delegation from the EU to discuss the progress of P/CVE programs conducted in the Maldives with the assistance of the EU. The meeting was an important opportunity for the NCTC to highlight the achievements of these programs and to discuss the ongoing efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism in the Maldives.

During the meeting, NCTC officials briefed the EU delegation on the P/CVE programs that have been implemented in the Maldives with assistance from the EU. These programs have focused on a range of areas, including community engagement, capacity building, training, and education. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the NCTC officials to discuss the future plans for collaboration with the EU.

NCTC works closely with international partners, local communities, and stakeholders to develop targeted strategies and initiatives that address the specific drivers of violent extremism in the region. The work being done in the Maldives is a valuable example of how effective collaboration between governments and international organizations can help to prevent and counter violent extremism.

Both sides expressed a strong interest in continuing to work together to build on the progress that has been made in the Maldives, and to explore new ways of addressing emerging threats in the region. Moving forward, NCTC will continue to work together with all of its international partners to build on the progress that has been made, and to develop new and innovative approaches to P/CVE in the Maldives.

NCTC Discusses Areas of Collaboration with US INDO-PACOM Augmentation Team

16 March 2023



NCTC Officials and the INDO-PACOM Augmentation Team of Embassy of United States to Sri Lanka and the Maldives met to discuss areas of cooperation in countering terrorism and violent extremism in

the Maldives.

The meeting focused on identifying areas where the two parties could work together to enhance counter terrorism efforts in the Maldives. One of the key areas of discussion was raising awareness, information sharing, and capacity building, with both sides emphasizing the importance of community engagement in preventing terrorist attacks and addressing violent extremism.

The United States and the Maldives have a strong relationship in countering terrorism and violent extremism and have had multiple cross-sectoral collaborations and joint efforts to enhance the security and stability of the Maldives and the wider Indo-Pacific region.

UNOCT Shares Inception Report of the STRIVE: Asia Project Funded by the EU

27 March 2023

The UNOCT held a virtual meeting with NCTC to share the inception report of the Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) project. This 48-month joint programme is an EU-UN partnership that is jointly implemented by the UNOCT, UNODC, and the UNDP. It is co-funded by the European Union, and all the UN Partners. This is the first year of the four-year programme.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations, NCTC, UNOCT, and the STRIVE Asia project. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress made in the project so far and to identify potential areas for improvement.

The STRIVE Asia program aims to help prevent and combat violent extremism in Central, South, and Southeast Asia by involving various groups such as governments, security forces, civil society, and

private sector organizations. The initiative aims to improve the capabilities and responsibilities of national and local authorities, legislative bodies, civil society groups, and the private sector in creating and implementing action plans and other policies to prevent and counter violent extremism, using international standards, best practices, and past experiences. Additionally, the program seeks to increase local resilience by supporting community-led efforts towards preventing and countering violent extremism.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the various stakeholders to share their perspectives and insights on the project. It also allowed them to identify potential areas for collaboration and to explore ways to enhance the project's impact.

The project represents a significant investment in preventing and countering violent extremism in Asia, and it will contribute greatly to lasting peace and security in the region.

“Let us all practice love and respect for a resilient and tolerant society”

وَدُونَ كَيْفَ مَرَدَدٍ دُونَ دَعْوَاهُ رِدَا مَدُونِ عَالَمٍ
رَى كَيْفَ مَرَدَدٍ رِدَا مَدُونِ سَوِيٍّ وَهِيَ سِرَرْدَا!

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Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Conducts “Hafthaares” in F. Atoll in Collaboration with NCTC

7-13 March 2023



The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Center conducted a "Hafthaares" program in F.Nilandhoo. This program is aimed at promoting community empowerment and strengthening resilience against extremism and terrorism.

The 6-day program involved participants from various sectors of society, including youth, women, senior educators, and community leaders. The sessions were designed to provide participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to build a cohesive and resilient community.



The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment and the NCTC have been working together to strengthen community resilience and prevent violent extremism in the Maldives. This collaboration has led to the development of a range of initiatives and programs aimed at promoting community empowerment and countering extremism.

The success of these programs and initiatives is evident in the increased awareness and engagement among communities in the Maldives.

By empowering communities and providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment and the NCTC are making a significant contribution to the prevention and countering of violent extremism in the country.

In addition to Youth Ministry, NCTC partnered with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, and Maldives Police Service to conduct a variety of



sessions concerning community empowerment. NCTC also conducted awareness sessions for parents of all inhabited islands in Faafu Atoll.

Establishing social cohesion through community engagement and outreach is vital for spreading awareness, empowering communities, and developing and maintaining a well-informed, cohesive, and resilient society.



NCTC Officials Participate in Exercise "Rihi Asseyri 2023" Conducted by the President's Office in partnership with the British High Commission

12-13 March 2023



Officials of NCTC participated in tabletop exercise "Rihi Asseyri 2023," organized by the President's Office in partnership with the British High Commission in Maldives. The exercise was aimed at testing the implementation of the National Terrorism Response Plan (NTRP) and the government's multi-agency response to a terrorist incident.

The exercise brought together representatives and policymakers from 11 government ministries and agencies. The main objective of the exercise was to test and improve multi-agency communication and coordination in emergency response activities, enhance the NTRP, strengthen communication and coordination between agencies, and improve future training programs and exercises to respond to terrorist incidents and save lives.

The exercise was the latest in several training programs in partnership with the UK to operationalize the National Terrorism Response Plan. The exercise highlighted the importance of collaboration and cooperation between different agencies in preventing and countering terrorism, ensuring the safety and security of citizens and visitors alike.

NCTC Staff Participates in "Mindful Ramadan" Workshop Held by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs

18 March 2023



A staff of NCTC participated in "Mindful Ramadan" workshop hosted by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The workshop was aimed at staff of government agencies and covered information about fasting and how to fully utilize the holy month of Ramadan.

Ministry of Islamic Affairs plays a vital role in increasing religious awareness including the dissemination of the authentic teachings of Islam and counter the spread of extremist ideologies.

NCTC Officials Attend “Police Research and Innovation Conference”

18-20 March 2023



NCTC officials attended the Police Research and Innovation Conference, jointly organized by the Police Board, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Maldives Police Service. The conference aimed to promote collaboration between law enforcement agencies and academia to enhance policing practices through research and innovation.

makers, and industry experts who are interested in contributing their knowledge, research findings, and personal experiences to the field of safety and security. The conference serves as a platform for diverse groups to participate in in-depth discussions on novel ideas, fresh perspectives, and innovative solutions that can enhance policy direction and practices related to community engagement in policing, safety and security, and crime prevention.



The objective of the conference was to establish and foster connections among various stakeholders, including civil society members, researchers, students, community leaders, policy

The Director General of NCTC also participated in the panel discussion on "Exploring the Link between Societal Gaps and Crimes." The discussion focused on the importance of understanding the root causes of crime and how societal gaps, such as inequality, poverty, and lack of education, contribute to criminal activities. The panelists emphasized the need for law enforcement agencies to work closely with other government agencies and civil society to address these societal gaps and create a safer and more secure society.

NCTC Officials Attend Conference on “Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Maldivians Women and Children Returning from Conflict Zones”

29-30 March 2023

NCTC officials attended a conference on “Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Maldivians Women and Children Returning from Conflict Zones” hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs in association with the National Reintegration Centre and International Center for Religion and Diplomacy.

The conference brought together practitioners and experts from government agencies, independent institutions, and CSOs. The presenters and panel discussions covered various aspects of repatriation

of women and children from conflict zones as well as best practices and international experiences in rehabilitation and reintegration of such victims.

The conference concluded on a positive note with all participants striving to work together to make the rehabilitation and reintegration process in the Maldives effective and successful.



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