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*“We have an economy that is highly dependent on tourism. If our youth gets radicalized, it could effect our tourism industry adversely and has the potential to ultimately cripple our whole economy.”*

Minister of Defence and National Security  
Hon Adam Shareef

 **1615**  
HOTLINE

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## Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism through Education - “Education Sector Awareness Workshop on the Threat of Violent Extremism and Terrorism for Maldives”





## NCTC CONDUCTS A ONE-DAY AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR SENIOR EDUCATORS OF GREATER MALE' REGION ON VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

08 September 2018

National Counter Terrorism Centre conducted an awareness workshop for heads of schools, principals and senior educators of Greater Male Area. The aim of the workshop was to educate and enhance the role of education sector in the national efforts to prevent spread of Violent Extremism (PVE), through enhancing resilience to address the issue of ideological difference, promotion of peace, respect and tolerance. The workshop was part of the “Soft Approach”, of the National Strategy to Preventing and Countering the spread of Violent

Area on Ideological Extremism and Terrorism. The one-day workshop for Senior Educators started off at 0900hrs with an inaugural speech by the Minister of Defence. In his speech, he highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the Educators in nurturing a more tolerant society. He further highlighted that the economy of Maldives is highly dependent on tourism which in turn is dependent on



*“The School environment is the stepping stone for all other sectors of the economy. It prepares a student to become a contributing citizen of the Nation and it is in that environment that you, as senior educators can identify their behavioral and psychological changes and make necessary adjustments”*

- Hon. Adam Shareef Umar, Minister of Defence & National Security

Extremism in the Maldives with a specific focus on addressing the issue of violence and societal divide emanating from ideological differences.

Minister of Defence and National Security Hon. Adam Shareef Umar inaugurated the first one-day workshop on increasing the awareness of senior educators of Greater Male

Area, Ministry of Education and College of Defence and Security Studies. creating a more peaceful society. The workshop was attended by 43 participants from 19 Schools of greater Male Area, Ministry of Education and College of Defence and Security Studies.

During the first half of the workshop, Subject Matter Experts delivered lectures on relevant topics. The first lecture was delivered by Major Ibrahim Naeem of National Counter Terrorism Centre on the



“Introduction to NCTC and the situational analysis of the Maldivian Environment on Violent Extremism and Terrorism” The second lecture was delivered by Chief Inspector Ahmed Ali of Maldives Police Service on the “Role of Youth in the propagation of Violence, Violent Extremism and Terrorism”. The third







lecture was delivered by the Dean of Post Graduate Studies of the Islamic University of Maldives Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa. He delivered his lecture on the “Role of religious Education to curb Religious Radicalism and Terrorism”. In his lecture he highlighted the peaceful messages of Islam from scripture and Prophet’s actions and sayings. He also highlighted the differences between a moderate Muslim and an extremist. The fourth and the final lecture was delivered by Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre, Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor. In his lecture, Gen. Mansoor addressed the topic of “Increasing Patriotism to address Extremism and Terrorism”. He highlighted that the extremists always try to diminish patriotism and highlights the importance of Islamic Unmah to attract people to go for Hijra and Jihad. He also highlighted the things that we as Maldivians should be proud of and the factors that contribute to the cohesion of the Maldives.

During the afternoon, the participants were grouped into four syndicates. The syndicate one deliberated on the indicators of Ideological Extremism seen in the school environment. The

syndicate two deliberated on the challenges faced by the schools in addressing Ideological Extremism and Terrorism. The third syndicate deliberated on the actions that can be taken by the schools towards increasing tolerance, curbing Violent Extremism and Terrorism. The fourth and the final syndicate deliberated on the roles and responsibilities of the parents, religious scholars and the society at large in addressing Ideological Extremism and Terrorism.

The four syndicates presented their views and recommendations to an expert panel of Subject Matter Experts. The panel comprised of Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor, Ambassador Hamdhoon Hameed, Ambassador Zahiya Zareer, and Sheikh. Ibrahim Ahmed. The expert panel gave their expert opinion and advise to the syndicates on presenting their views and recommendations.

National Counter Terrorism Centre acknowledges and appreciates the contributions from the ministry of Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Education and the United Nations Development Program-Maldives in making this workshop a success.



## SENIOR EDUCATORS PARTICIPATE IN THE “REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM THROUGH EDUCATION”

5-7 September 2018



The Dean of the Faculty of Islamic and Legal Studies of Maldives National University Sheikh Ali Zahir, principal of Iskandar School Mr. Hussain Saeed Muhammad and the principal of Madrasatul Arabiyyatul Islamiyya Mr. Shujau Abdul Raheem participated in a three-day workshop to increase the capacity of senior educators in addressing the issue of Radicalism and Violent Extremism. The National Counter Terrorism Centre in collaboration with the UNDP Maldives facilitated the participation of the Maldivian team in the workshop.

The global community and the United Nations is giving an increasing importance of Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/70/L.55 of 1 July 2016 and “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review” and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism issued by the UN Secretary-General in 2016 also refer to education sector as a key stakeholder in the prevention of Violent Extremism.

This workshop is one of a series of workshops conducted by Hedayah Centre, the United Nations Development Program, and the Commonwealth, for senior educators across South and South East Asia. The aim of the workshop is to equip senior educators with pedagogical skills to build resilience of their students against violent extremism. This workshop was conducted from the 5th -7th of September in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, for teachers, teacher trainers, administrators and personnel of Ministries of Education. In addition to participants from Maldives, senior educators from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand also participated in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to build the capacities of education stakeholders in developing and implementing educational interventions and approaches that contribute to the prevention of radicalization leading to Violent Extremism.

The workshop was very successful as it gave the skillset needed for the educators to mitigate Violent Extremism through resilience building, promotion of global citizenship, tolerance, and the respect for diversity and it also enhanced the knowledge of teachers and teacher trainers in developing lesson plans to promote peace, especially in the school environment.

Lectures were also conducted to enhance the understanding of; push and pull factors and the drivers of Violent Extremism, the role of educators in the prevention of Violent Extremism, PVE terminology, identifying priority areas of intervention, key implementation challenges and good practices to overcome obstacles.

Lectures were also given on creating safe spaces for classroom dialogue about challenging topics, including violent extremism; enhancing social and emotional learning that assists in building more resilient students, developing an understanding of digital and critical literacy skills, and pedagogical approaches to digital literacy.

The workshop also emphasized the need to create localized networks of educators to facilitate the continuous exchange of good practices and information in support of PVE goals, and facilitated the development of country work plans to enhance the capacities of teacher training



institutions to promote a culture of peace.

In addition, the workshop also facilitated the development of Activities Guide for teachers of South and South East Asia tailored towards specific cultural considerations.

The participants also developed a list of “early warning signs” for interventions and learned about social and emotional learning techniques related to reducing Violent Extremism in the classroom and discussed on Violent Extremist propaganda and narratives and how to counter them.

On the final day each country team developed their country follow-up plan to include the answers for the following questions:

1. What are the drivers of radicalization and push/pull factors relevant to the education sector in your country?
2. What are the possible action areas related to Prevent Violent Extremism through Education?
3. What is the timeline to these action areas?
4. Who is responsible for implementing those action areas, including assessment and partnership cooperation with various actors?
5. What are the potential contentious issues and expected challenges related to Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education in your country?
6. How do you propose to overcome those challenges?

### *Regional and National Capacity Building Workshop :*

#### **LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE WORKSHOP – A PARTICIPANT’S VIEW BY MR. HUSSAIN SAEED**



**Q** What lessons did you learn from the workshop and how would you be able to introduce the promotion of peace into the school environment?

**A** This workshop gave us an opportunity to learn and understand the concepts and definitions of the terms used in PVE and Terrorism. It also gave us an opportunity to interact with senior educators from across the region and learn from the Subject Matter Experts who gave lectures as well as from the other participants in the group discussions. The Maldivian context is very different from the other nations. We do not have the factors that divide a nation. Our society speaks the same language, follows the same sect of Islam, has the same ethnicity, culture and traditions. The other

nations that participated did not have such a homogenous society. In some of the nations, Muslims are a minority. Some nations did not have a universal curriculum.

We need to tailor make a program that would slowly and gradually introduce the lessons learnt into our school environment. It may be a shock to the system if we try to introduce this too quickly. We also should be careful to introduce the concepts of Counter Radicalization in an indirect way so that the realization comes more gradually.

We must keep in mind that recruiters of terrorism and Violent Extremism focuses on the youth as a specific target group, and our actions and teaching methodologies must be geared towards defeating the recruiters.

## NCTC CONDUCTS COUNTER TERRORISM LECTURES FOR AVIATION SECURITY COMMAND

13 September 2018

NCTC conducted Counter Terrorism Prevention lectures for the Aviation Basic Course - 54 of the Aviation Security Command as part of the national efforts to prevent a Terrorist incident from happening in the Maldives.

The lectures on Terrorism Theory and Practical Aspects was Delivered by Maj. Ibrahim Naeem, the Head of Intelligence and Analysis Department of NCTC. The participants of the lecture included personnel from the Aviation Security Command,



Maldives National Defence Force, and Maldives Police Service.

The basic theories of Terrorism, the organizational structure and the causes and driving factors were covered in the introductory lecture. Further lectures emphasized more practical aspects of the threat of terrorism related to the Aviation Sector, such as Operational Patterns and Modus Operandi, Recruitment Cycle, Evolving Trends and Attack Cycles.



## DG MEETS PROFESSOR SHAHB EMAN KHAN

13 September 2018



Director General of NCTC, Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor met eminent security expert, Associate Professor Enam Khan from the Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh at NCTC. Professor Enam Khan is an international

consultant of UNDP.

In the meeting, DG discussed the efforts of NCTC in curbing Radicalism, Violent Extremism and Terrorism in the Maldives. DG stressed

that being a Subject Matter Expert from Bangladesh, Professor Khan could assist Maldives in assessing the situation of the unregulated Bangladeshi expatriates working in the Maldives. He also highlighted that comprehensive research is needed to

asses the social, cultural and security dynamics of the Bangladeshi expatriate work force .

DG highlighted that Bangladeshi expatriate workers are major contributors to the economic development of the Maldives and their numbers are expected to increase in the future.

Hence, additional research and policy engagements are required to understand and to address the concerns of the expats as well as the level of security challenges posed by them.