



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Video Statement by
Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
For the 16th EU Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism
Brussels, Belgium, 11 March 2020

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I send you warm greetings from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

I apologize that I am not able to be with you in person, but I am glad to have this opportunity to remotely participate in the commemoration of the 16th European Union Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism.

Today's commemoration in Europe marks the beginning of a series of important events and initiatives which we hope will make 2020 the year of remembrance of victims of terrorism.

We can never forget that the brunt of atrocities inflicted by terrorists and violent extremist groups is borne by innocent civilians. Men, women and children, whose only fault was to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The scars of these attacks may fade but they never fully heal. We must do more to better address this pain.

The United Nations continues to stand in solidarity with all victims.

Since I joined the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, I have made working with, and for, the victims and survivors of terrorism a key priority.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is only by working together that can we truly make a difference for victims at the international, national and individual level.

Let me use this opportunity to congratulate the European Union for showing strong leadership on victims and paving the way for others to follow. But most importantly, for not forgetting the human impact of terrorism.

I applaud the European Union's strong support to the United Nations Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and the two dedicated General Assembly resolutions in support of victims.

The European Union is also doing a lot for victims internally. My Office looks forward to working closely with the EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism, once it is established, and further cooperating with the Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism Working Group.

Secretary-General António Guterres has further underscored the importance he attaches to victims and has directed the United Nations to do more and do it together, through an "all of UN approach".

To address this call, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has developed, and is implementing, a global victims programme to further support Member States in their efforts to assist victims.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, during the second counter-terrorism week at the United Nations, UNOCT will hold, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

Under the theme of building institutional and social resilience to terrorism, we will explore how we can further protect the rights and address the needs of victims.

This will be an opportunity to consolidate and build on the existing momentum, to address the gaps and challenges and pave the way for a truly global commitment to victims.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with all of you, and to making 2020 the year of the remembrance of victims of terrorism.

Together we can make a difference.

Thank you.