



UN GLOBAL CONGRESS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Advancing the rights & needs of victims of terrorism

CONCEPT NOTE

Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism:
“Advancing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism”
8-9 September 2022

1. Introduction

The United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, convened under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, will be held on 8 and 9 September 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Global Congress will also be livestreamed to ensure virtual participation and allow for a diverse audience of stakeholders.

The event will be hosted by the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and will provide an opportunity for Member States, victims of terrorism, civil society, academics, experts, and the private sector to promote dialogue and engagement on key issues related to the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. The Global Congress will chart the way forward on a victim-centric approach to promote and protect victims’ rights and support their needs.

The Global Congress will also provide a platform for victims of terrorism to directly share experiences, stories of their resilience, and contributions to wider society in a socially connected environment and to advocate for the strengthening and upholding of their rights and effective fulfillment of their needs. The Congress will allow the audience to learn about good practices undertaken by Member States and civil society organizations, while ensuring that victims’ voices are heard and that their experiences shape the way forward in their own countries and across borders.

The Global Congress will also continue to showcase [UNOCT’s United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre \(UNCCT\) “Memories” campaign](#), which was launched in Málaga, Spain, in May 2022 during the “Victims and Survivors of Terrorism” session of the United Nations High-Level Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism. The campaign tells the stories of a series of objects possessed by the victims featured in the “Memories” film and photographic exhibition and shares the memories and emotions that such objects represent to their owners. It is a simple but powerful way for audiences to relate to the victims, feel their loss, and to better understand the importance of remembering and paying tribute to victims of terrorism worldwide.



2. Purpose

The aim of the Global Congress is to generate genuine dialogue and interaction between all stakeholders with the ultimate objective of raising awareness about the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, advocating for the respect and protection of these rights, and to better address victims' needs based on international best practice and standards.

3. Programme and methodology

The opening of the Global Congress will feature high-level participation, including by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov, the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Iraq, and other senior United Nations and international community representatives. Subsequent plenaries and parallel sessions will feature speakers representing Member States, victims, victims' associations, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, experts, academics, and the private sector. Due care will be taken to ensure appropriate geographic, gender, and age representation.

The programme of the Global Congress consists of six overarching themes, which reflect the key rights and needs ascribed to victims of terrorism. The themes emerged as the outcome of extensive consultations with victims, in particular within the framework of the "[Model Legislative Provisions to Uphold the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism](#)"¹, and were informed by lessons learnt through capacity development activities with victims, engagement with Member States, outcomes of handbooks and other toolkits, the General Assembly resolution on the "Enhancement of International Cooperation to Assist Victims of Terrorism" (A/RES/73/305), and the Secretary-General's report on "Progress made by the United Nations system in supporting Member States in assisting victims of terrorism" (A/74/790). The themes are:

1. **Recognition and remembrance measures**
2. **The importance of access to justice for victims of terrorism**
3. **Situation analysis: the changing nature of terrorism and victims of terrorism**
4. **Protecting the rights of victims of terrorism**
5. **Rehabilitation, assistance and support**
6. **Addressing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism with specific needs**

¹ Learn more about the launch of the Model Legislative Provisions, developed by UNCCT/UNOCT, UNODC, and IPU: <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/launch-model-legislative-provisions-to-support-protect-rights-needs-of-victims-of-terrorism>

These themes are further subdivided into parallel/breakout sessions to enable the broadest range of experiences and knowledge to be shared and discussed by Member States, civil society representatives, and victims of terrorism.

To ensure inclusivity, especially for victims and civil society organizations that are unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed on UN WebTV.

4. Participants

The Global Congress will convene Member States, victims, victims' associations, civil society organizations, experts and academics on victims of terrorism, and private sector representatives. Special efforts have been placed on ensuring an equitable geographic representation, with a special focus on gender-sensitive and youth-inclusive participation.

5. Wellbeing Resources for Participants

In line with the UNCCT/UNOCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme's victim-centric approach, and in coordination with the United Nations Staff Counsellor's Office, wellbeing resources will be made available to participants attending the Global Congress both in-person and virtually. These resources will be designed to complement participants' own primary psychosocial support tools and peer support networks while in attendance at the Global Congress in United Nations Headquarters. Activities and resources will be designed to focus on post-traumatic growth and will offer participants ideas on resilience building.