

Barcelona Conference

# TOWARDS A NEW PARADIGM, PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Participatory definition of a Plan of Action addressed to reinforce the actions of the Euro-Mediterranean civil society to prevent ALL forms of violent extremism.

BARCELONA, 28-30 JANUARY 2017





TERRE  
ACTIVISM  
TOLERANCE  
RESPECT  
FEMINISM  
EQUALITY  
LIBERTÉ  
JUSTICIA  
DEMOCRÀCIA  
مشاركة  
PREVENCIÓ  
LANGUE  
حوار  
DERECHO  
RESILIENCE  
CONSTRUCCIÓ DE LA PAU  
PAU  
DIGNIDAD  
INCLUSIÓ  
DRETS HUMANS  
NOVIOLÈNCIA  
إعتراف  
SOLIDARITAT  
PÉRIPHÉRIE  
CONTROL

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## // THE PROBLEM

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Violent extremist movements are an affront to the principles of the Civil Society committed with the collective efforts towards maintaining positive peace and human security, fostering sustainable development, protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and taking humanitarian action in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Their actions and messages fuel violence and war and contribute to a cycle of diffidence, anxiety and insecurity. The spread of violent extremism has further aggravated an already unprecedented economic, political and humanitarian crisis, which surpasses the boundaries of any region. No country is immune from its impacts.

Violent extremism is a global, centuries-old problem, without clear definition. It is neither new nor exclusive to any region, nationality or system of belief. It is currently raising in Europe, where fanatic movements spreading racist, islamopho-

bic, ultra-nationalistic and extreme-right ideologies are gaining momentum and institutional representation. It is evolving in North Africa and the Middle East where extremist movements are cynically distorting and exploiting religious beliefs, ethnic differences and political ideologies to legitimize their actions, establish their claim on territories and radicalize their followers. Violent extremism is undermining our humanity in all the Euro-Mediterranean Region, destabilizing our tolerant societies by dividing local communities and provoking an overreaction.

Nothing can justify violent extremism but we must also acknowledge that it does not arise from nowhere. Narratives of grievance, actual or perceived injustice, promised empowerment and sweeping change become attractive where human rights are being violated, good governance is being ignored and aspirations are being frustrated.

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## // THE RESPONSE

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Over the past decades, our Euro-Mediterranean governments have sought to address violent extremism within the context of security-based on counter-terrorism measures. They have been determined to respond to violence with more violence. In the name of the battle against violent extremism, we have observed an extensive use of military power, that has been not only highly ineffective but also responsible for dramatic human rights violations and increasing the global human suffering. The anxiety to respond has also fueled overreactions in terms of Homeland Security, where our fundamental freedoms and civil and political rights have been restricted, subjected to massive vigilance and the democratic and plural values have been limited by a general state of emergency. Counter-terrorism measures have limited the perimeter of our fundamental rights and freedoms. In front of the new emergence of violent extremist groups, security-based only measures will not be effective. Those strategies cannot dry up the emotional and social wellsprings of radicalization and, indeed, can make matters worse.

There is a need to take a more comprehensive approach which encompasses not only ongoing, measures, but also systematic preventive measures which directly address the drivers of violent extremism those emergencies have given rise to the emergence of these new and more virulent groups. We must be principled and

strategic and must calibrate our response carefully. We must re-focus our priorities, strengthen our application of justice, and rebuild the social contract between the governing and the governed. We need to focus into why individuals are attracted to violent extremist groups.

We will not be successful unless we can harness the idealism, creativity and energy of civil society groups all around the Euro-Mediterranean Region. Social movements must be empowered to make a constructive contribution to the political and economic development of their societies and nations. We represent an untapped resource. We can offer a positive vision of our future together that can generate an effective alternative in front of violent radicalisation.

We are convinced that the creation of open, equitable, inclusive and plural societies, based on the full respect of human rights, and with economic opportunities for all, represents the most tangible and meaningful alternative to violent extremism and the most promising strategy to render it unattractive.

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## // GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

To be effective in preventing violent extremism, the actions of the Euro-Mediterranean civil society must be as agile and far-reaching as the phenomenon itself. We should improve our set of tools dynamically and keep reviewing our responses. The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism presented by the United Nations Secretary General on January 2016, constitutes the inaugural basis for a comprehensive approach to this fast evolving and multidimensional challenge.

At a time of growing polarization on several national, regional and global issues, the new paradigm presented by the UN Plan of Action offers a real opportunity for all the actors of the Euro-Mediterranean community to unite, harmonize their actions and pursue inclusive approaches in the face of division, intolerance and hatred.

We are convinced that we need to plan our constructive contribution to prevent violent extremism in view of the lessons learned over the past decades and the challenges that lie ahead. The Barcelona Conference: "Towards a new paradigm: Prevention of Violent Extremism" will offer to civil society groups from across the Euro-Mediterranean region an opportunity to par-

ticipatory planning an Action Plan addressed to reinforce the actions of the Euro-Mediterranean civil society to prevent ALL forms of violent extremism.

During this conference we will ground the UN Plan of Action from an Euro-Mediterranean Civil Society perspective. Our Plan will be coherent with civil society engagements. In so doing, the conference will offer a think-to-do agora for:

- + Reinforcing the role and commitment of the organised civil society to actively contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.
- + Challenging the current hegemonic definition of violent extremism, in order to include ALL forms of violent extremism.
- + Reinforcing our understanding on Counter Terrorism policies and their impact on fundamental freedoms and Human Rights.
- + Establishing a strategic CSO platform to support dialogue with authorities and the CSO role on preventing violent extremism.

## // THE UN PLAN OF ACTION

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On 15th January 2016 the UN Secretary-General presented his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism to the General Assembly. On 12th February 2016, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that “welcomes the initiative by the Secretary-General, and takes note of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism”.

In the Plan, the Secretary-General calls for a comprehensive approach encompassing not only essential security-based counter-terrorism measures but also systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalise and join violent extremist groups. The Plan is a concrete response from the international community coordinated among civil society groups from all over the world and appeal for concerted action by the international community.

It provides more than 70 recommendations to Member States and the United Nations System to prevent the further spread of violent extremism. The Plan is accompanied by a Letter of the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assem-

bly, where the Secretary-General puts forward an “All-of-UN” approach both at Headquarters and in the field to support national, regional and global efforts to prevent violent extremism and assist Member States in developing National Plans of Action.

The Plan was developed through an extensive United Nations inter-agency process and is based on the outcomes of high-level meetings of the General Assembly and Security Council, interactive briefings to Member States and outcomes of international and regional meetings.

You can read it here

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674)

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## // METHODOLOGY

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The Conference will have four main parts:

+ A first day (28th January) with plenary conferences on different subjects concerning violent extremism: definition, causes, mitigation measures, way forward. Through the use of a deliberative methodology, we will be able to consolidate the conclusions and, at the same time, to foster the Plan of Action addressed to reinforce the Euro-Mediterranean civil society actions to prevent ALL forms of violent extremism. It will be available simultaneous translation to Spanish, English, French and Arab

+ A second half day (29th January morning) with parallel workshops on different Violent Extremism related subjects.

+ Another half day (29th January afternoon) where the Plan of Action addressed to reinforce the Euro-Mediterranean civil society actions to prevent ALL forms of violent extremism will be discussed and validated. It will be available simultaneous translation to Spanish, English, French and Arab

+ A final half-day (30th January, morning) to present the above-mentioned Plan of Action to the local authorities and to launch the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory to Prevent Violent Extremism. It will be available simultaneous translation to Catalan, English, French and Arab.

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# // AGENDA

## SATURDAY, 28TH OF JANUARY

**FRANCESCA BONNEMAISON SPACE – LA SALA (CARRER SANT PERE MÉS BAIX, 7). FROM 09:00 TO 17:30**

**09.00h.** Reception and registration of participants.

**Opening Session:** Inaugural speeches and presentation of the conference.

**1st Session: What is Violent Extremism?**

Towards a common definition of radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism. Analysis of the juridical and theoretical frameworks existing in the Euro-Mediterrania Region.

**2nd Session: Understanding the causes of violent extremism.**

Vectors of radicalization. Economic, social, civil and political motivations.

**3rd Session: Analysis of the current responses in front of Violent Extremism.**

Analysis of the current security and military approach (CVE) and the impact of anti-terrorist policies in Human Rights.

**4th Session: Towards a new Paradigm: Preventing Violent Extremism.**

Presentation of the PVE UN Plan of Action and the PVE euro-Mediterranean NGO best practices and lessons learned .

**17 :30h** End of the first day.

## SUNDAY, 29TH OF JANUARY

**FRANCESCA BONNEMAISON SPACE – LA SALA (CARRER SANT PERE MÉS BAIX, 7). FROM 09:00 TO 17:30**

**09.00h.** Reception and registration of participants.

**Parallel workshops sessions:**

- 1) Understanding Islamophobia in Europe and how to prevent it.
- 2) The Agenda for Women, Peace and Security in the Prevention of Violent Extremism.
- 3) Understanding the Anti-Terrorist legislation and Human Rights violations: building and agenda for change.
- 4) Reinforcing community resilience in front of Violent Extremism.
- 5) The role of youth and education in the prevention of Violent Extremism.

**Participatory definition of the Plan of Action addressed to reinforce the action of the Euro-Mediterranean civil society to prevent ALL forms of violent extremism.**

**Validation of the Plan of Action addressed to reinforce the action of the Euro-Mediterranean civil society to prevent ALL forms of violent extremism.**

**17.30** End of the second day.

**MONDAY, 30TH OF JANUARY****SALÓ DE CENT- PLAÇA SANT JAUME, 1.  
FROM 09:00 TO 14:00****09.00h.** Registration of the participants.**Welcome speech of the authorities supporting of the Conference.****Introduction speech:** Towards a new paradigm: Preventing Violent Extremism.**Presentation of the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.****Presentation of the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory to Prevent Violent Extremism.****Presentation of the xPlan of Action addressed to reinforce the action of the Euro-Mediterranean civil society to prevent ALL forms of violent extremism.****Institutional initiatives in PVE.****14.00h.** End of the conference.**// PARTICIPANTS****A - C**

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ARDD - Legal Aid, Jordan

Association des Femmes Chefs de Famille, Tunisia Association des Magistrats, Tunisia

Assication des Magistrats Tunisiens, Tunisia

Association des Marocains en France, France

Association des Travailleurs Maghrébins de France, France

Association des Tunisiens en France, France

Association Marocaine des Droits Humains, Morocco

Association Marocaine des Femmes Progressistes, Morocco

Association Mauritanienne des Droits de l'Homme, Mauritania

Association pour la Defense des Droits de l'Homme du Maroc, France

Association Tharwa N Fadma N soumeu, Algeria

Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates, Tunisia

Beyond Reform and Development, Lebanon

Bisan, Palestine

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Egypt

Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University, Palestine

Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression, Syria

Clligendal Institute for International Relations, Netherlands

Club de Madrid, Spain

Collectif Marocain des Instances des Droits Humains, Morocco

Comité pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droits de l'Homme en Tunisie, Tunisia

Confédération Générale des Travailleurs, Mauritania

Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs, Mauritania

Confédération Libre des Travailleurs, Mauritania

Conseil des lycées d'Algérie, Algeria

Coordination Maghrebine des Organisations des Droits Humains, Maghreb

**D - E**

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DJAZAIROUNA association des victimes du terrorisme, Algeria

EKO, Greece

EL MARSAD pour les droits humains, Mauritania

**F - I**

Federation des Tunisiens pour une Citoyenneté des deux Rives, Tunisia  
 Fighters for peace, Lebanon  
 Fondation Chokri Belaid Contre la Violence, Tunisia  
 Forum des Alternatives, Morocco  
 Forum des Organisations Nationales des Droits Humains, Mauritania  
 Forum Marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice, Morocco  
 Forum Tunisien des Droits Economiques et Sociaux, Tunisia  
 Free Sight, Tunisia  
 Freedom Now, Morocco  
 Hamisch, Turkey/Syria  
 Helsinki Citizens, Turkey  
 IEMed, Spain  
 I love Thiqr, Iraq  
 Independent Commission on Human Rights in Kurdistan, Iraq  
 Instance Marocaine des Droits Humains, Morocco  
 Institut Català dels Drets Humans, Spain  
 Institut International du Développement Humain, Tunisia  
 International Alert Tunis, Tunisia  
 Internatioal Organization for Cooperation and Emergency Aid, Libya  
 Iraqi Social Forum, Iraq

**J - M**

Johud /, Jordan  
 Jordanian National Commission for Women, Jordan  
 Leaders for Tomorrow, Jordan  
 Ligue Algerienne de Defense des Droits de l'Homme, Algeria  
 Ligue Algérienne des Droits de l'Homme, Algeria  
 Ligue Marocaine de Défense des Droits de l'Homme, Morocco  
 Ligue Mauritanienne des Droits de l'homme, Mauritania  
 Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, Tunisia  
 Maaber, Syria  
 Masarat, Iraq  
 Médias et Culture, Morocco  
 Mouvement Pour la Paix, France  
 Muwatin Institute For Democracy And Human Rights, Palestine

**O - P**

Observatoire Marocain des Prisons, Morocco  
 Observatoire Mauritanien pour les Droits de l'Homme (AL MARSAD), Mauritania  
 Organisation pour la Liberté d'Information et d'Expression, Morocco  
 Palestinian Cenetr For Human Rights, Palestine  
 PARTIR, Rumania  
 PAX for Peace, Netherlands  
 Permanent Peace Movement, Lebanon  
 Popular Struggle Coordination Committee, Palestine.

**R - Z**

Reseau Anna Lindh AEC, Algeria  
 SOS - ESCLAVES, Mauritania  
 SOS Racisme, Espanya Soutuna, Iraq  
 Soutuna, Iraq  
 Sports Against Violence, Iraq  
 Syndicat National des Avocats, Morocco  
 Union des Diplômés Chômeurs, Tunisia  
 Union Générale des Travailleurs de Tunisie, Tunisia  
 Union of Kurdish Students in Syria and Germany, Syria  
 Un Ponte Per, Italia  
 Womens Centers for Legal Aid and Council, Palestine  
 WE Centre, Jordan  
 Zaheia Farag, Libya

Those organizations interested in participating in the conference, should contact:

- +Organizations from the Maghreb region: [laia@novact.org](mailto:laia@novact.org)
- + Organizations from the Mashreq region: [mar@novact.org](mailto:mar@novact.org)
- + Organizations from Europe, should contact: [albert@novact.org](mailto:albert@novact.org)

## // ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

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### **About NOVACT**

International Institute for Nonviolent Action promotes international peace building actions in conflict situations. Through a global network of experts and activists in the Middle East, Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, the Institute supports nonviolent movements, working for change and social transformation, and develops nonviolent interventions to protect vulnerable communities in conflict situations. As a committed and politically independent actor, the Institute promotes actions, innovative ideas, research, and training to influence the policies of defense, security and foreign policy in Europe and other international contexts.

Established in 1999, during the last 15 years we have developed more than 300 international projects upon request from conflict parties both state and non-state actors and international organizations and agencies. NOVACT' credibility is founded on its field-based relations. Its task is not only to understand local realities, but to offer support to local civil society and social movements through capacity building, technical assistance, academic programs or legal defense for human rights defenders.

### **About the CMODH**

The idea of the creation of the CMODH was in Barcelona in June 2005 with the celebration of the first Mediterranean Social Forum and under the preparation of the 1st Maghreb Social Forum. CMODH action aims to support

the human rights respect, both in protection and promotion areas, in the Maghrebi countries and for all its citizens. Particularly aims to:

- + Reinforce the solidarity and cooperation among its members on the fight for the human rights promotion and protection in their universal and global debate.
- + Prioritize the solidarity and cooperation on the protection of human right defenders in conformity to the international declaration for the protection of human right defenders.
- + Reinforce the solid relations among different Maghrebi associations active in the civil society.
- + Participate on the promotion of the democratic, tolerance, equity and human rights culture values, as well as to reinforce the proximity and solidarity among the people in the region.
- + Contribute to the migrants' rights defense in the Maghrebi countries and their countries of migration.
- + Contribute to the promotion of gender justice.

### **About the KHOTWA Project**

The KHOTWA: Promoting regional integration in the Maghreb project aims to promote the civil society participation in Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia in the regional integration of the Maghreb (North Africa). This objective is achieved strengthening the NGO participation in the policy dialogue to promote social and human development and democratic transformation in the region.

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## CORE REGIONAL PARTNERS

## From the Maghreb Region



## From the Mashreq region



## From Europe



## WITH THE SUPPORT OF



## WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF





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al Desenvolupament

