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Background

In its resolution 42/18, the Human Rights Council acknowledged the suffering caused by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism to victims and families and committed to promote and protect the human rights of victims of terrorism. That resolution also specifically highlighted the human rights of women victims of terrorism including acknowledging a broad panoply of harms experienced by women and girls, including killing, maiming, abduction, trafficking, forced marriage, harassment, rape, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence. The Human Rights Council has also recognized the particular vulnerability of children, both boys and girls including recruitment and all manner of extreme violations against children by terrorist acts.

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism is deeply committed to advancing and supporting the human rights of victims of terrorism. In 2021, the Special Rapporteur provided¹ a comprehensive update on the human rights obligations of States to victims of terrorism, urging States to consistently adopt a human rights approach and undertake human rights-compliant and non-discriminatory protection, investigation, remedy, participation and memorialization measures for victims of terrorism. The Special Rapporteur has also addressed this issue in her country visit reports.

¹ A/HRC/46/36, paras. 32–38.

Objective

This side-event will focus on the human rights of women and children who are victims and survivors of terrorism, addressing the advances made in the recognition of harms experienced by men, boys, women and girls; and consequences for States, and the provision of meaningful remedies, support, accountability and acknowledgement to victims at national level. The panel will also address how improvements can be made in State practice for women who are victims of terrorism and also to provide human rights-best practices for women and children as victims, survivors and as civil society actors. The panel will also specifically address the human rights of children who are victims of terrorism, as well as advancing human rights compliant practice to the situation of children detained or used by non-state and designated terrorist groups.

The panel will address the need to promote and protect human rights of victims in the context of contemporary counter-terrorism approaches in a range of complex geographies and capacities and the human rights of victims of terrorism.

Organizers:

The event is co-organized by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the Permanent Mission of Spain and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq.

Format and tentative programme: One hour

Welcoming and concluding remarks:

- H.E. Mrs. Aurora DÍAZ-RATO REVUELTA, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.
- Ms. Zainab Hasan Khayoon AL ABTAN, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Panellists:

- Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (Chair)
- Laura Dolci, Victim of Terrorism, UN Staff
- Hadia Khadida, Victim of terrorism - Sinjar (video message)
- Leila Murphy, (NYU student) and member of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows and Tuesday's Children
- Ulrich Garms, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- ICJ Representative - TBC

Information and registration

The event will be conducted in English only. No interpretation is available.

Participants are kindly requested to register for the event at:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1004678>

To follow the discussion online please join: <https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/ungeneva-vc/j.php?MTID=ma3710e4865bc448d0e930da8959d8f92>