



## **Victims of Terrorism – International Standards and Good Practices**

*A road to national implementation of the UN Model Legislative*

*Provisions on Victims of Terrorism*

**Side event on the margins of the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**12 March 2024, 15:30-16:30 (Hybrid event)**

**Palais des Nations, Room XXVII**

### **Background**

The Human Rights Council has long acknowledged the suffering to victims and their families caused by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and has committed to promote and protect the human rights of victims. In resolution 49/10, the Council recognised and encouraged the work on victims of terrorism of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

Successive Special Rapporteurs have been dedicated to advancing the rights of victims of terrorism, in consultation with them and their families, their representatives, governments, and civil society organisations, including victims of terrorism organisations. A previous Special Rapporteur developed the Framework principles for securing the human rights of victims of terrorism ([A/HRC/20/14](#)). The present Special Rapporteur was closely involved in drafting the United Nations [Model Legislative Provisions to support the needs and protect the rights of victims of terrorism](#), developed by UNOCT/UNCCT, IPU and UNODC.

### **Objective**

This side-event supports the commemoration of the European Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism the previous day on 11 March, which was established after the Madrid Bombings of 11 March 2004. This side-event will focus on current developments and experiences in good practices to support, assist and protect victims of terrorism worldwide. It aims to provide practical solutions to address the gaps in and priorities for national efforts, including assistance to States by national, regional and international stakeholders.

During the panel discussion, experts and practitioners will be invited to reflect on the implementation of the [Model Legislative Provisions to support the needs and protect the rights of victims of terrorism](#), which are aimed at assisting Member States in protecting the rights and supporting the needs of victims of terrorism in their national laws. We will also hear from the victims themselves, victims' organisations, and lawyers of victims of terrorism on the effective implementation as well as the gaps identified.

Panellists will examine specific situations and challenges involving the protection of victims, including victim participation in the criminal trials of 20 alleged perpetrators of the

November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris; support for people affected by the many decades of Troubles/Conflict in Northern Ireland; and victims of terrorism in Pakistan.

**Organizers:**

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

**Format and tentative programme:** One hour

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

**Welcoming and opening remarks:**

- H.E. Mrs. Aurora DÍAZ-RATO REVUELTA, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- H.E. Mr. Abdul Kareem Kaab, Head of Human Rights Department in ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

**Panellists:**

- **Ben SAUL**, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (Chair)
- **Marleen STEENBRUGGHE**, Human Rights Counselor, Delegation of the European Union to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva
- **Jeanne SULZER**, founding partner of Impact Litigation Law firm, representing victims of terrorism and international crimes
- **Sandra PEAKE**, CEO of WAVE Trauma Centre, supporting people affected by the Troubles/Conflict in Northern Ireland
- **Fatima ALI HAIDER**, Founder, The Grief Directory, supporting sufferers of political violence and violent extremism in Pakistan (online participation)
- **Ulrich GARMS**, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Ana IZAR**, Head of the UNOCT/UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) / United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) (online participation)

**Registration:**

**Online** participants are kindly requested to register for the event at:

<https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/weblink/register/r0e5ed63e634ded39e63fc51b471e16a1>

Registered participants will receive the link to the side event in their confirmation email.

In-person participation requires accreditation to grant access to Palais des Nations. Please register at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1009848/>