

# Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons

Across the world, prison services are playing an increasingly pivotal role in preventing and countering the spread of violent extremism and terrorism. As the number of criminal prosecutions and convictions of terrorism offenders increases, including as a result of returning foreign terrorist fighters, prison services operate on the frontlines of the counterterrorism and countering violent extremism (CVE) challenge. They carry responsibility for managing the potential risks posed by violent extremist offenders (VEOs) and for preventing the radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism of other inmates.

## OUR WORK

The Global Center developed the Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons (CVE-P) Program, which encompasses a series of targeted trainings, technical assistance, and ongoing support to prison authorities, to improve the management of VEOs and to effectively identify and address radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism in prisons.

Established in 2015 in cooperation with the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Detention and Reintegration Work Group, the program is founded on the latest, evolving best practices, knowledge, and expertise from correctional services around the world. Key thematic areas include the management of terrorism-related offenders, violent extremism risk identification and assessment, risk reduction and rehabilitative interventions, prison culture, and multi-stakeholder engagement. The Global Center draws on an international, multidisciplinary team of forensic psychologists, former prison officials, CVE practitioners, and academic experts.

## Program Streams

The CVE-P Program contains four streams of work to support prison authorities in preventing and countering violent extremism in prisons.

- **Resource and Guidance.** The CVE-P Program includes tailored resources and guidance for prison services to enhance approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism in custodial settings. These resources are based on the latest available data, national approaches, and international guidelines and good practices.
- **Training.** The CVE-P Program provides bespoke awareness raising and skills training for prison authorities housing VEOs and managing issues of radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism in their prisons. The Global Center designs and delivers training curricula for frontline staff in close consultation with national prisons training academies and local country experts who serve as cofacilitators. Through training of trainers and mentoring, the objective is to institutionalize the curricula as part of national prison training academies.
- **Strategy.** The CVE-P Program provides technical assistance to senior prison managers and leadership, such as wardens, governors, directors, and headquarters staff. It is designed to support senior officials in assessing areas of improvement and making strategic decisions on changes in policies and procedures around the management of VEOs.

- **Networks.** The CVE-P Program benefits from a global network of corrections experts spanning Europe, North America, Southeast Asia, and North, East, and West Africa. Trainees are able to benefit from peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, foreign study visits, and exchange programs to promote learning and the development of new expertise.
- **Morocco.** The Global Center partners with the Moroccan General Delegation of Prison Administration and Rehabilitation and its training academy to deliver training on the management of VEOs for staff from those prisons currently housing these offenders and a general awareness-raising course for all existing prison staff and new recruits.

### Country Programs

The CVE-P Program currently supports the national prison services of Indonesia, Kenya, and Morocco.

- **Indonesia.** The Global Center partners with the Indonesian Directorate General of Corrections and local experts to support the prison institutions on Nusakambangan to enhance the management of VEOs, including through frontline staff training and additional training-of-trainers courses to mainstream the curriculum.
- **Kenya.** The Global Center collaborates with the Kenyan Prison Service and the National Counter-Terrorism Centre to support frontline staff to improve approaches to the management of VEOs within Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in Nairobi.

### Core Values

The CVE-P Program is developed and implemented specific to the prisons in which it operates and benefits from a high degree of ownership by partner countries in the design and implementation of activities. It seeks to contribute to sustainable and meaningful change in a niche area of capacity building and technical assistance. Staying focused on this niche helps target the program, improve its effectiveness, guard against coordination issues, and ensure that it is complimentary to other ongoing national and international efforts.

### Funding

The CVE-P Program receives pooled funding from the governments of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom.

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#### About the Global Center on Cooperative Security

The Global Center works with governments, international organizations, and civil society to develop and implement comprehensive and sustainable responses to complex international security challenges through collaborative policy research, context-sensitive programming, and capacity development. In collaboration with a global network of expert practitioners and partner organizations, the Global Center fosters stronger multilateral partnerships and convenes key stakeholders to support integrated and inclusive security policies across national, regional, and global levels.

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