

Forum: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Issue: Developing the Use of Education as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism

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Introduction

As mentioned by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, extremism can be recognized as the personal or communal retention of extreme views, whether they be religious or political. In some cases, this concept may prove to be problematic as some will choose to express their extremist beliefs violently. This issue can be demonstrated with the many real-life case studies on a global scale where extremist beliefs were established and publicly shared using hate crimes, [propaganda](#), and more. The impacts of these actions can cause long-lasting strain that puts the lives of many at stake and may also downgrade the security and living circumstances within a nation. However, using education as a tool to combat this violence would serve to be impactful as it would help foster responsible [global citizenship](#) along with moral ideologies within current and future generations to prevent the willfulness of individuals to commit such actions.

The typical consequence of extremism involves the formation of violent groups with similar motives and beliefs. There are numerous violent extremist groups that have been quite active in modern times. For one, the United States government officially recognizes one notorious group as Al Qaeda. This body of non-state actors was founded in 1998 by Osama bin Laden, who is now deceased, and all its movements are supported by underlying extremist motives. Since its initial emergence, Al Qaeda have been attacking those they believe are enemies of the Islamic religion, and have pronounced their overarching duty as to target Americans and supporters of the American region. They have carried out many hate crimes in the past, such as the infamous bombings on September 11, 2001 that killed 2,996, left over 6,000 injured, and caused a minimum of 10 billion US dollars in property damage repair.

The sixteenth [sustainable development goal](#) can plausibly be associated with the continuously-growing issue of violent extremism within the international community. This specific goal is dedicated to encouraging peace, justice, and strong institutions, with hopes that

its aims will provide adequate living conditions and opportunities for all. The particular aspect of peace within this goal pertains and connects directly to the issue at hand as it is, essentially, the ideal outcome once this issue is handled. Using the ideologies of this one goal along with other impactful measures supported by the UN, the violent extremism issue could improve significantly in the future.

Definition of Key Terms

Cyberterrorism

The utilization of technology to cause disruption in society by instilling fear.

Decolonization

The withdrawal of a nation from the possession of a colony; the process of gaining independence.

Emancipation

The granting of economic, social, and political rights to a social class or ethnic group; independence and equality.

Fatalities

The deaths of individuals as a result of war or disease.

Global Citizenship

The moral and ethical ideology that one's identity is not restricted solely by political borders, but instead by a sense of humanity and righteous responsibility.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The GDP of a country is the overall value of all goods and/or services produced within a yearly period per country.

Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

An organization headquartered in Sydney, Australia that focuses on analyzing peace and determining its economic value by branching out internationally, observing case studies, and conducting general research.

Mercenarism

The act of voluntarily involving oneself in public conflict, often related to political causes, for private benefit.

Money Laundering

The action of concealing the origins and process of acquiring illegal money, typically performed by transferring it using complex sequences of bank transactions.

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

A specialized agency dedicated to researching, analyzing, and developing scientific research to achieve more improved public safety and justice.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

A union group of 30 countries from North America and Europe that was formed in 1949 with the intentions to protect both the territory and the civilians of its member states.

Organization of American States (OAS)

An organization founded on April 30, 1948 concentrated on the American continent to provide a convenient source for communication and cooperation between its member states.

Propaganda

Information used to publicly promote and encourage a political cause, typically extensively biased with misleading intentions.

Prosecution

The process of conducting legal proceedings against an individual, group, or organization, typically following the event of criminal activity.

Ratify

Making a legal document, such as a treaty, agreement, or contract, valid by formally signing it.

Recession

A period in which the economic activity within a country decreases and slows down where trading and industrial processes are reduced as well. This decline typically occurs due to a fall in the gross domestic product of said country.

Security Council

One of the fundamental United Nations bodies that mainly concentrates on international peace and security.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Goals created by the UN after the duration of the millennium development goals elapsed with aims to guarantee a more sustainable future of good quality for all by addressing major, pressing modern-day issues.

Key Issues

Economic Strain

Violent extremism and the terrorism that typically results from it is known to have major detrimental impacts on the economies of nations of influence. Evidently, as demonstrated by studies executed by the [Institute for Economics and Peace \(IEP\)](#), the impact of terrorism on a global scale cost 52 billion US dollars. As the international economic impact continues to rise by the year, so do the strains forcefully inflicted upon unwilling countries' governments. Without assistance and measures taken to reduce the issue in the near future, the investments required per victimized nation will continue to increase, eventually taking over the country's economy and financial budget.

Restoring Inflicted Damage

The breakdown of costs required by the influence of violent extremism and terrorist activities can be categorized. For one, as a result of extremist-conducted attacks, property destruction restoration must be carried out to reverse whatever architectural damage was caused by hate crimes. Furthermore, a large portion of financial investments for this issue must be dedicated specifically for medically aiding [fatalities](#) and injuries within the civilians. Naturally, attacks carried out by violent extremists pose a

severe danger to citizens of impacted nations and put numerous lives at stake. However, tending to those individuals require large financial contributions towards medical facilities and suitable equipment. These two components can both feasibly be observed within the continent of Africa as a whole, where each individual nation involved has had to allocate funds taken out from their overall governmental budgets.

	Cost of Property Destruction (Millions, constant 2017 USD)	Cost of Fatalities & Injuries (Millions, constant 2017 USD)	Number of Fatalities	Number of Terrorist Attacks
Nigeria	US\$598.8	US\$40,828.6	18952	3058
Libya	US\$177.4	US\$5,023.9	1413	1595
Sudan	US\$26.3	US\$3,780.8	2664	717
Kenya	US\$63.3	US\$1,204.5	1426	447
Cameroon	US\$4.6	US\$874.0	1326	190
Somalia	US\$276.6	US\$493.7	4472	2152
Tunisia	US\$54.2	US\$443.5	158	44
Uganda	US\$1.5	US\$408.0	1242	184
Chad	US\$0.4	US\$341.3	629	53
Ethiopia	US\$4.1	US\$277.3	505	66
Mali	US\$13.0	US\$213.4	486	271
CAR	US\$2.0	US\$195.2	1136	204
Niger	US\$0.8	US\$170.9	838	78
Morocco	US\$0.4	US\$98.7	75	13
Tanzania	US\$2.0	US\$42.7	61	45
Senegal	US\$0.8	US\$25.8	92	32
Mauritania	US\$0.4	US\$22.8	27	11
Burkina Faso	US\$0.2	US\$19.7	57	15

Terrorism aftermath costs per country in the African region, 2007-2016

Declines in Economic Productivity

Extremist-executed activities have also proven to cause a decrease in economic productivity. More specifically, one major aspect of a country's economy that typically is influenced negatively after the occurrence of these attacks is the [gross domestic product \(GDP\)](#). A fall in a nation's GDP per year can be associated with an increase in violent extremist attacks. This can occur for a wide variety of reasons, ranging from budget cuts to further investment in damage repair processes to the simple inability to focus on the economic welfare and prosperity due to an extensive presence of violent extremism and terrorist activity within the country's borders. Decreases in a nation's annual gross domestic product, particularly rapid ones, can have many harmful effects on the overall economic state. To elaborate, these falls may lead to [recessions](#) over time where layoffs and unemployment rates tend to increase. This ultimately would cause the quality and ability of businesses to perform necessary tasks and operations to be alarmingly restricted, resulting in a downgrade in the economic state of an individual nation.

Social Issues

Naturally, with the vast presence of extremism and attacks motivated by such beliefs, social issues and complications tend to arise as a result. Left unattended to, these issues, such as educational, publicity, and cultural-related matters, will continue to escalate. Ultimately, over time, extremist groups and/or individuals will gain more motives for attack and capability to do so, while the civilian lives of vulnerable nations will be put at substantial risk.

Lack of Awareness and Education

One key issue that contributes to the presence of violent extremism within the international community is the fact that education and public awareness is not utilized as a tool to prevent it occurring in the future. Typically, individuals and groups who withhold extremist beliefs, whether they may be religious or political, have been raised and educated in a way that has not taught them to be global citizens. In a way, this category of individuals have been indoctrinated to accept and value beliefs that are extreme and terrorizing in nature. Unfortunately, the general outcome of this is that these individuals grow up with aggressive and vengeful motives, which ultimately lead to and prompt the hate crimes and propaganda that can be observed in the modern society.

Propaganda

Oftentimes, propaganda is used by extremist individuals and bodies in order to help spread their beliefs in hope to persuade the public of their ideas. These types of groups actively and constantly attempt to recruit the public into supporting their causes, and even to possibly join them in their movements. Unfortunately, extremists are able to do so feasibly, as they have access to a variety of resources that can help them distribute their thoughts and beliefs. Extremist-centered propaganda and biased information can be carried out with a number of methods, including but not limited to promoting causes through websites and social media; [cyberterrorism](#). A notorious strategy of indirect propaganda widely used by violent extremists is terrorism and the committing of hate crimes. Using violence as a way to instill fear within their targets and effectively establish their viewpoints, the public can easily be manipulated into supporting extremist causes out of worry for their safety.

In terms of recruiting new members, the youth are often and especially targeted by extremist groups. This is done in a strategic manner in a way that gives extremists the opportunity to effectively foster their ideas and beliefs within the youth and manipulate

them at a young age. This is often done using one of two methods. Firstly, extremists could choose the path of manipulation where they persuade young children that joining their group will ensure the safety of their families. The other main method extremists tend to lean toward is where extremist groups execute mass kidnappings in order to easily acquire more members by targeting educational facilities, orphanages, and even family homes. One group of non-state actors that has utilized this strategy extensively is Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army, which has abducted over 20,000 children since 1987. To exemplify, this particular tactic contributes greatly towards the violent extremism matter as a whole because educating the current generation based on violent extremist beliefs and neglecting to teach them otherwise puts future generations at risk of experiencing the same, if not more, issues that are being dealt with now.

Lack of Security

As the extremism continues to escalate, the security and safety levels within a country tend to decrease as a result for a number of secondary reasons. An instance where this evidently occurs is when extremist groups decide to execute attacks and hate crimes. These decisions are typically made when a group of individuals with similar motives decide to use violence as a way to establish their causes and overall presence to the public. Hate crimes can take place in many forms, such as bombings, arson, the usage of nuclear weapons, and more. When extremist groups carry out these attacks, they generally target public areas in order to inflict as much damage as possible. Needless to say, civilians of impacted nations are automatically put in harm's way during these attacks, as they often result in numerous casualties and severe injuries. This impact can be observed in numerous case studies in history, one being the Yazidi Communities Bombing of 2007. This attack was initiated by an undetermined group of Islamic extremists on August 14, where the attackers used two tons of explosives to attack a local area in Iraq. This event resulted in approximately 500 deaths and left over 1,500 injured, and also caused significant damage to the region's infrastructure as several buildings and homes collapsed. Thus, violent extremist activity puts the security of a country and its citizens at great risk.

In addition to this, the security of a nation can be compromised alarmingly in the event in which an extremist group manages to take over a government. As extremist groups continue to grow in size by recruiting new members, they also gain more power to pose as a potential threat. Hence, governments will be more susceptible and likely to succumb under pressure,

allowing extremists to possibly take over and force them to do as they wish. This ultimately has many detrimental impacts, one scenario being widespread, national corruption.

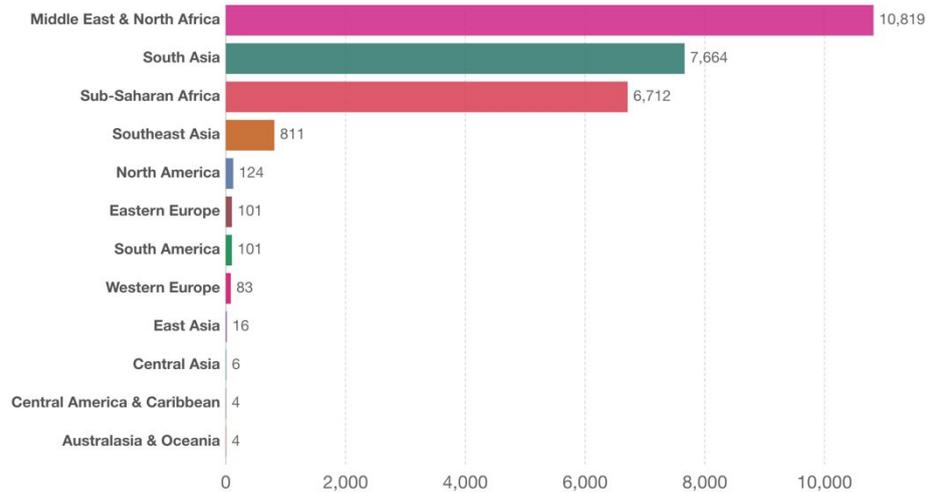
Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme is one of the main bodies involved in the issue of violent extremism. This particular organization has made many attempts and efforts to attempt to assist the issue in the past, all using the strategy and theory that violent extremism can be prevented by promoting tolerance, respect for diversity, and strengthening society's cohesion. For instance, one step the UNDP took towards reducing this issue is the making of sustainable development goal 16: peace, justice, and strong institutions. The United Nations Development Programme has been conducting extensive research on this matter since 2014 in order to develop a deeper and more insightful understanding of the issue as a whole. To exemplify, not only have they been addressing the rise in violent extremism, but this international body has also addressed the possibility of governing diverse, multicultural communities as to attempt to reduce the issue in the future. To this day, the UNDP continues to study and analyze the matter, working together and communicating with numerous other organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (UNCT), the UN Alliance of Civilians, and more.

The African Union

The continent of Africa, as a whole, has dealt with conflict revolving violent extremism greatly in the past, and continues to battle them to this day. The extremist and terrorist attacks that occur in this particular area are evidently the source of security threats and the general lack of peace. These incidents occur sporadically in various countries, including but not limited to Tunisia, Nigeria, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. To elaborate, African nations are some of the leading countries in terms of deaths by terrorism on an annual basis as the issue continues to escalate.



Confirmed fatalities from terrorism, 2017

As a result, the African Union has taken multiple measures in order to improve the violent extremism issue, and one example of a solution they have deemed suitable is further [emancipation](#) of civilian women. To exemplify, one of the key issues associated with extremist activity for African regions is that it may negatively influence the long-term sustainable development within the continent as a whole. By promoting women's rights, the continent continues to develop sustainably by making progress with the SDGs. In addition to this, participation of women in political matters and decision making helps integrate different gender perspectives, making the measures taken towards the issue more insightful and efficient.

Another theory that the African union believes will help combat the issue of violent extremism is engaging with the youth. This is an approach that many bodies and countries are investing into as it is widely believed that fostering "values of tolerance, mutual respect and better understanding centred on intra and interfaith, interreligious and inter-cultural values that are the core principles for integration and peace" (African Union Peace and Security Council) will help raise and education of generation of global citizens that will be more responsible in the future. It is the hope that this 'soft' approach will help to encourage a behavioral and mental change in the future generation, so it has already been enforced in Nigeria and is being looked into by other African nations.

United Kingdom (UK)

As one of the P5 nations, the United Kingdom has contributed greatly towards the movement of countering violent extremism by implementing measures that will not only help

regionally, but can apply to other countries on a global scale. The UK believes that this issue can be combatted effectively if it is treated at the source, as prevention is one of the four pillars of the EU Counter-Terrorism strategy. Radicalization is often the process by which violent extremist behaviors form, so, hypothetically, ensuring that the youth of the UK are not exposed to such information and movements would decrease the likelihood of the current generation to grow up to commit violence related to extremist beliefs. This theory has been analyzed and looked into greatly as the United Kingdom published and publicly adopted the Strategy for Combating Radicalization and Recruitment to Terrorism in 2005, and continues to be periodically updated accordingly. Measures regarding the prevention of radicalization in the UK have also been implemented in a variety of other methods, including “supporting research, evidence building, monitoring and networking; (ii) countering terrorist propaganda and hate speech online; (iii) addressing radicalisation in prisons; (iv) promoting inclusive education and EU common values; (v) promoting an inclusive, open and resilient society and reaching out to young people; (vi) the security dimension of addressing radicalisation and; (vii) the international dimension” (European Union, European Commission, 2016). The utilization of these methods within the United Kingdom will serve as preventative measures that, ideally, will decrease the occurrence of radicalization and violent extremism in the future.

United States of America (USA)

The American region has been involved in numerous conflicts regarding violent extremism and terrorism in the past as well as in current times. One of the most notorious terrorist attacks that they are directly associated with is the famous attacks of September 11, 2001 executed by the Al Qaeda Islamic group. American civilians have also been targeted in various other attacks by other related international bodies and even by internal extremist/terrorist groups.

The attacks of 9/11 greatly prompted the US government into looking into the violent extremism issue and, soon, a form of action was taken. In 2002, the [Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#) issued the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism and distributed it to each member state. It consists of information resembling that of a UN resolution, discussing both the negative implications and key issues correlated to the problem as well as articles containing information regarding the countering of the issue. However, what stands out about this approach is its depth and the fact that it addresses the topic of terrorism from a variety of angles. Some unique solutions proposed include measures to suppress the financing of terrorism, [money laundering](#), cooperation of border control, reiterating human rights, and more.

The ideas that this convention puts forth can assist the issue both directly and in a secondary manner as it ensures that the participating member states will be able to combat all possible sides and appearances of terrorism and violent extremism effectively and effortlessly with the help of extra security measures. Ultimately, this convention proved to be prosperous and convenient as the number of terrorism cases have decreased steadily since the occurrence of the 9/11 attacks, otherwise known as the peak of Islamic extremist influence on the United States of America.

Despite these efforts, the US has expressed no mentions and has not looked into any solutions associated with the prevention of radicalization thus far. To exemplify, although the USA has implemented various, successful preventative measures, it has not focused on eliminating the issue from the source, making their main approaches to terrorism and violent extremism disparate from that of other nations and governments.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE is yet another major institution contributing to the movement of eradicating terrorism and violent extremism amongst many other humanitarian projects. This particular organization, as well as its state participants, strongly believe in the claim that “terrorism is one of the most significant threats to peace, security and stability, as well as to the enjoyment of human rights and social and economic development, in the OSCE area and beyond.” The purpose of this sector of the OSCE is to help its supporting member states within the regional area understand the issue more as well as to provide an assortment of viable solutions for them to utilize. The overwhelming majority of these proposed solutions relate to increasing security as this establishment holds the opinion that a lack of security and stability will increase the severity of the potential harm that can be caused by terrorism and violent extremism. Therefore, increasing security guarantees within its member states will, ideally, evade any detrimental consequences in the event of which these issues are occurring. Some of their guiding principles and suggested combating techniques include eradicating the financing of terrorism-related activities, monitoring to put a stop to using the internet as a tool to spread extremist beliefs, strengthening and reinforcing security measures regarding travel documents, and more.

The OSCE also believes that their attempt to counter terrorism and the effectivity of their given solutions can be further guaranteed if cooperation between its member states is present.

Hence, they strongly encourage and periodically monitor cooperation and coordination between national authorities to ensure that maximum efficiency is present at all times.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
1972	President Nixon established the cabinet committee to combat terrorism.	This committee prompted the attention brought towards the issue as it was the first of its kind in the US. Educated and specialized officials have gathered and continue to develop action plans since.
April 22, 1977	The African Union adopted and began operating under the Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism .	Aided the threat of terrorism and extremist attacks that mercenarism produced as it had been a continental security defect since the decolonization of 1975.
September 11, 2001	Al-Qaeda executed four coordinated terrorist attacks against the civilians and government of the US.	As one of the largest terrorist attacks in the US, the incident left countless injured and dead, and also raised further awareness of the terrorism and violent extremism on a global scale.
2001	The patriot act was passed a mere 45 days after the 9/11 attacks as a security response.	This act allowed the US government to easily gather intelligence on its civilians to monitor their activity and isolate/identify suspects of terrorist schemes.

July 7, 2005	The London suicide bombings were executed by an Islamist group.	60 were killed and over 700 were left wounded. Extensive damage was done to the infrastructure and economy of the nation afterward.
May 2012	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) leaders gathered at the Chicago Summit meeting.	New policy guidelines were established towards the members' allied counter-terrorism work, including improving threat awareness and engagement with other international actors. Soon after, these policies were put together into an official document, dubbed the Chicago Summit Declaration of May 20, 2012.
2014	The United States government officially introduced a new anti-terrorism plan for its civilians, known as the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program.	This initiative intended on deterring the citizens of the US from participating in activities associated with extremist motives.
2014	The annual death toll for terrorism peaked and reached the highest it had ever been in the 30 years preceding it.	There were 44,490 casualties, making it apparent to states of the international community that the terrorism and violent extremism issue was increasing rapidly.
March 2017	The government of the UK founded the	The citizens of the United Kingdom were provided an

	Counter-Terrorism Policing network establishment.	accessible source in which they could report suspicious affairs they deemed potentially harmful to the police for further investigation.
2017	The Donald Trump administration put a travel ban into place.	This travel ban legally blocked the entering of individuals from 7 specific countries into the US for an allocated period of time.
2019	71 countries reported at least one death due to terrorism, a peak number since 2002.	Attacks and violent extremism continue to pose as a security threat to individuals globally as their safety remains compromised and unguaranteed.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Creation of the International Humanitarian Law

The creation of the International Humanitarian Law, otherwise known as the laws of armed conflict, was a global attempt to solve the security issue that is posed by terrorist activity and violent extremism. These laws of armed conflict have been around since 1864 and have evolved slowly and gained more supporters since then. As of January 12, 2007, this set of regulations has been enforced and [ratified](#) by 167 countries and counting. Its main purpose is to regulate the conduct of war between nations and to minimize the effect that it has on innocent civilians and individuals who are not involved in said hostilities. This international law is designed in a way specifically to balance and carefully consider humanitarian concern as well as military requirements. These laws achieve their initial goal mainly by permitting [prosecution](#) against deliberate acts of violence against non-military forces as well as making acts of terrorism a legal felony. These concepts work hand in hand because, while using the skill of distinction as a tool, extremist groups are efficiently forced to only target the nation's military

forces as to reduce the suffering of the civilians, and will still be able to be punished by law afterward for their criminal activity. However, although its regulations have been effective towards preventing conflict and harm towards citizens, they also caused other, new problems to arise. For one, loopholes have been found and extremist individuals began to misuse the law to justify acts of criminality under the law. This essentially means that the international humanitarian law backfired as well because instead of preventing countless avoidable civilian fatalities, it also did quite the opposite as a side product. Another reason why this set of regulations has not been as prosperous as initially intended is because although it increased prosecution of criminal activity and brings justice to the victims, it causes minimal long-term improvement. The actual victims of these crimes, that have suffered psychological damage, have been neglected and have not received aid, meaning that the effect that the issue at hand has on society has not been effectively and sustainably reduced.

Preventing the Financing of Terrorism

One action that prompts acts of extremism and permits their occurrence is the fundamental financing of them. In order for a terrorist organization to remain functional, they require frequent funding for a variety of components, not only for the actual terrorist attacks, but to support their criminal network, one example being providing fundamental technical necessities. Hence, it had been theorized in the past that by cutting off the financial supply to extremist organizations, their activity and harm done to civilians of various nations would decline as well. One internationally-involved institution that attempted to solve the issue with this approach is the [United Nations Security Council](#). This particular body has made many efforts to prevent terrorism financing, one being the creation and adoption of resolution 2462 of March 28, 2019. This resolution effectively attempts to deprive terrorists of funds by encouraging member states to take measures such as criminalizing terrorism financing, identifying and taking action on sectors/financial instruments most vulnerable this funding, and creating relationships with financial establishments, technology institutions, and social media/internet companies to monitor trends and activity regularly. These suggested solutions, along with multiple others, will help member states make it more difficult for funding to be acquired by terrorists while also making it easier for national governments to detect such criminal activity. Other legal documents that have the same goal and that provide similar solutions include Council resolution 1373 of 2001 and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 1999.

Travel Limitations

In the past, nation leaders have made the decision to issue travel bans on certain countries that they felt would disrupt the peace within their countries if they were granted the right to enter. These bans normally function in a way where a government does not allow the entering of civilians from certain or multiple countries into their political borders for a designated period of time. Once the allotted time has elapsed, the government leaders will then decide to either lift the ban or extend it, based on whether or not they feel as though the country still poses a security threat. A notorious example in which this process took place is the Trump travel ban. In the early months of 2017, the Trump administration made the executive decision to implement a travel ban on 7 countries: Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria for a period of 90 days, prohibiting the entering of the individuals in question with few exceptions made on a case-by-case basis. A disadvantage that resulted from the implemented travel ban was that the economic welfare of the US was put at risk. Restricting permission of entry to numerous individuals from multiple nations will decrease economic and business productivity as American corporations are involved in the global marketplace, indicating that a large portion of their profits are acquired overseas. This travel restriction also increased the risk of the countries that were banned of either boycotting the United States' goods and services or even issue a travel ban back onto the US.

Further Research and Development

In order to truly understand the issue of terrorism, numerous establishments have dedicated their resources towards conducting more research before they attempt to take any action. This way, when the time comes to take measures to improve the problem, solutions will be made under a more comprehensive and reliable influence. One group that works under this philosophy is the [National Institute of Justice \(NIJ\)](#). This body has been conducting extensive research on the matter since the official introduction of the specialized program, dubbed Research on Domestic Terrorism and Radicalization in 2012. During the initial year of the program, the members identified four major areas of concern that would be focused on in the years to come: "Empirical evaluation of social science theories of domestic radicalization. Examination of the radicalization process for individuals, including "lone wolf" terrorists. Comparative analysis of terrorists, organized criminals, gangs, hate groups and/or cults. Influence of community-level and policing strategies on domestic radicalization" according to the general NIJ establishment. In the following years, the NIJ proceeded to conduct research by

contacting other international stakeholders and involved bodies, and continues to gather evidence and expand their knowledge on the matter to this day. This type of attempt to solve terrorism and violent extremism has evolved in a slow and steady manner, but it has proved to be effective. This is due to the fact that individuals and groups who have decided to take this path have ultimately gained a more insightful and analytical understanding of the topic as a whole, and will be more reliable when trying to tackle it later on. The main disadvantage of the attempt, however, is that it is greatly time consuming. In the time and span of multiple years of which research was conducted, action could have been taken alongside it to assist the issue.

Possible Solutions

Preventing Radicalization

The reason why terrorist attacks and violent extremism occur can be traced back to one significant source. Radicalization and the fostering of extremist beliefs in the youth can often lead to an increased inclination and yearning to commit acts of violent terrorism. Instead of solely prioritizing reversing the damage done by the current generation of violent extremists, effective action can be taken if governments also focus on educating today's youth in a more ethical and moral manner. This could be efficiently accomplished if each government around the world made having a program/class dedicated to global citizenship mandatory within each regional school facility mandatory. In the case of LEDCs, the UN could provide appropriate grants and resources for countries with a smaller economic budget so that the option of educating their civilians is available for them as well. With these programs, the youth will be educated in a manner that will help promote values, behaviors, and critical thinking skills that will help strengthen the youth's ability to refuse involvement and take action against terrorist activity and violent extremism.

In addition to this, if countries wish to take this approach further, they could make this educational opportunity available for individuals of older ages as well. This idea could be applied in modern day society if the UN were to create 'homeschooling' courses easily accessible on an online platform, such as a website or app, with similar knowledge and exercises as those completed in schools for the youth. This way, adults who wish to educate themselves further and engage themselves in such programs would be able to do so easily, simultaneously strengthening the global citizenship within older age categories as well.

Encouraging Civilian-to-Police Communication

Terrorist attacks and incidents associated with extremist motives, regardless of how major or minor, could be caught early and ahead of time if they were to be reported by a knowing individual(s). Providing citizens with the opportunity to comfortably report activity they view as suspicious within a friend, family member, or mere acquaintance would be convenient for governments and police forces. This could be done by setting up and establishing a specialized sub-center within police networking hotlines that an individual could contact, as they would regularly do to the police, whenever necessary. This approach is effective for two main reasons. For one, since all citizens within a country have access to this center, the government and police force would gain easy access to plentiful intelligence within a shorter time frame instead of having to do the extensive, time consuming investigations on their own without assistance or insight from helpful resources. Ultimately, this will help them protect their civilians from potential danger in the future. Furthermore, another benefit of this solution is that the creation of an individual networking system allows the government to isolate the received knowledge separated from other police call information, making the investigation process more efficient and reliable.

Public Awareness

In order to make sure that this solution goes as smoothly as possible, the community of which this system is implemented into must be adequately educated on its presence. To do so, the UN should proceed to encourage national governments to make efforts to make sure that their civilians are aware of this program. Such efforts should consist of informing the public about the purpose of the program, how to reach out/the communication process, etc. National leaders should also consider the importance of providing contextual information and emphasizing the severity of the issue of violent extremism for several reasons. Firstly, if citizens are properly educated on the matter and how grave it is, they will know not to use the platform for misconduct, decreasing the likelihood of negligent hoaxes and misunderstandings. In addition to this, fully educated civilians will be more likely to comprehend that they should prioritize their safety and the safety of their surroundings. This will, essentially, make them more comfortable with reporting individuals without hesitation, even if they are known or loved ones.

Restricting Access to Weapons

The security and peace threats that the issue of violent extremism poses can be curtailed if weapons are only provided after extensive consideration on a case-by-case basis. The accidental provision of dangerous weapons and materials to individuals with violent intentions is what allows them to carry out said plans in the first place. Hence, by reducing access to these objects, the risk of attack perpetrated by terrorists and/or extremists will decline correspondingly. To exemplify, one way national governments can apply this solution to their communities is by further complicating background checks done on customers who wish to purchase a gun. Some of the criteria of these checks could include but are not limited to checking for past criminal activity, previous diagnosis of a mental condition(s), unlawful use of drugs and substance, and even past military records, if applicable (such as if the individual in question has been dishonorably discharged). Using these background examinations, governments will be able to determine which of their candidates are unfit to possess a firearm in order to avoid the distribution of weapons into the wrong hands.

In addition to this, another way in which weapons are unintentionally given to violent individuals is the selling of ingredients that can be utilized to build explosives. For instance, in the EU, the vast majority of terrorist attacks that occur in that region were carried out with the use of home-made bombs. Thus, the restriction of purchases made for substances, such as hydrogen peroxide and nitric acid, will make it more difficult for terrorists/extremists to go through with their plans as it cuts off their fundamental supply. However, since some of the materials used to make these explosives also do have legitimate uses to the general public, governments must be careful when setting restrictions as to not disturb the efficiency of everyday life.

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- i. Possible solutions to terrorism listed:
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ii. Extremism, radicalization, and other key terminology explained:

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