



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXVIII

NOT FRESHMAN F

**TOPIC: TERRORISM – COUNTERING
VIOLENT EXTREMEISM**



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NOT Freshman F Terrorism – Countering Violent Extremism

Hello, my name is McKenna Bradley and I am going to be your chair at SOCOMUN XXVIII this year! I am a junior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is currently my third year in the Model United Nations program. MUN has been extremely beneficial as it keeps me up to date with current events, enriches my critical thinking skills, and has enhanced my public speaking significantly. Personally, my favorite topics to debate are about handling civil war issues and conflicts regarding refugees. My favorite committee to participate in is Security Council. In addition to participating in MUN, I am on the girls' varsity soccer and track team at my school. I am thrilled to be able to be your head chair at SOCOMUN and listen to all your innovative solutions and watch you all work with one another to combat the global conflict of violent extremism!

I hope you all have an exciting and enjoyable experience here at SOCOMUN. We shall start committee with basic announcements and a roll call where your country will announce whether it is “present” or “present and voting”. After this, we will begin debate. You may open the speaker's list and motion to be added to it if you wish to make a speech. These speeches consist mostly of solutions for the topic at hand (which means background should not be a primary topic throughout one's speech). After each speech, delegates make comments on the ideas presented. The purpose of comments is to collaborate by pointing out significant thoughts made in the speech and adding to the ideas offered. If you wish to discuss your ideas and solutions more in depth, you may want to motion for an unmoderated caucus in which delegates will debate freely amongst each other. In unmoderated caucuses, the delegates may also organize themselves into resolution groups where they will collaborate, modify, and combine their solutions into resolution papers. At the end of debate, we will present the resolutions and vote on them all. Delegates, please make sure to always stick to your country's policy on the topic. Furthermore, please make sure to remain kind and respectful towards your fellow delegates, as diplomacy is key. If you have any questions, please do not be afraid to shoot me an email at socomunnotf@gmail.com I cannot wait to meet you all! I wish you all the best of luck!

Hello, my name is Alex Vallone. I will be one of your vice chairs for SOCOMUN this year! I am a junior at SMCHS, and this is my third year involved with MUN. I have loved being a part of MUN because I enjoy developing viable solutions for real world problems that are happening all around us. MUN has allowed me to become more aware of the problems that we face in our society. I enjoy focusing on humanitarian and health committees, such as women rights and HIV/AIDS, because I want to go into a health field in the future. I have traveled to Santa Barbara for MUN and I look forward to traveling in the future. Besides MUN, I am on the Eagle Eye Staff for our school paper and love writing stories. I'm so excited to be your SOCOMUN vice chair this year! I look forward to hearing all solutions and watching you collaborate with one another to make well-rounded resolutions. Good luck to all of you!

My name is Daniel Palfi and I am a sophomore who goes to Santa Margarita, and I will be your rapporteur in committee this year. This is my third year doing MUN, but this is the first conference where I have been part of the bureau. Outside of MUN I like to play water polo and swim.



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E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC

The UNODC has provided some great resources for students involved with Model United Nations.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/crime-prevention/terrorism.html> - Information about terrorism and combatting terrorism. Also information about terrorism and the sustainable development goals.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/terrorism.html> - Looks like the other link but scroll down and you will see some links to additional resources. International Instruments related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism would be a good place to find past UN actions. (You might want to Ctrl +F search “extreme” to find sections related to extremism because it is a lengthy document)

Background:

Violent extremism is a significant problem in our society today as it brings forth strife and threatens peace worldwide. It affects the lives of thousands upon thousands around the world. “Violent extremism” refers to the beliefs of extremely radical ideological, religious, or political views, and promoting these ideals by threatening or engaging in the use of violence. Extremist threats can come from range of groups and individuals, including domestic terrorists and homegrown violent extremist, as well as international terrorist groups—notably the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria/Levant, the Taliban, Al-Shabaab, al Qaeda, and Boko Haram. Oftentimes, acts of terrorism have been associated with violent extremism due to the fact they involve the direct targeting of noncombatants.

There are several elements that cause violent extremism. Factors such as an absence of socioeconomic opportunities, marginalization and discrimination, poor governance, violations of human rights and rule of law, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, and economic or other repression are all contributing driving forces that push for the formation of extremist groups and radicalization worldwide. Unfortunately, violent extremism lacks a universally accepted definition and can sometimes be employed interchangeably, making it difficult for governments, civil society organizations, and international institutions to collaborate on unified initiatives to counter this issue. In addition to that, many of these violent extremist groups have ideology that are based on hatred for another race, religion, ethnicity, gender, country, or government as they believe their extremist agendas are under attack by these factors.

Violent extremist groups oftentimes attack many symbols of countries, specifically America, in order to make their actions and beliefs appear to be more important. For example, the World Trade Center in New York City has been targeted on two different occasions, both times reportedly done by Al Qaeda extremists. On February 26, 1993 was the first attack there when an explosive device set off in the garage that killed six people and injured over a thousand. The second incident was on September 11, 2001 when a group of hijackers flew planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center—killing nearly 3,000 people from around the world. In addition to that, Al Qaeda also slammed the hijacked plane into the side of the Pentagon, killing 189 people on September 11, 2001 as well. The pentagon was also victim to another extremist attack as domestic extremists bombed it back in 1972.



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There are also many organizations that are focused on targeting and eradicating violent extremism. They are dedicated to making protraction actions to counter radical efforts made by extremists. First, Counter Violence Extremism (CVE) is an approach is intended to detect and reduce the factors that contribute to the recruitment and formation of radical groups. It includes initiatives for counter-messaging through social media and other communication channels to combat radical ideals and promote ideals based on the respect for human rights as well as human dignity. Basically, their efforts comprise large public partnerships, local youth programming, and individual intervention. However, these efforts made by CVE do not include the gathering of data or performing investigations for criminal prosecutions. Stakeholders also have a role in the fight against violent extremism and their responsibility includes involvement within Federal, State, and Local governments and law enforcements; social services organizations; NGOs; mental health providers; the private sector; communities; and educators. The Countering Violent Extremism Taskforce brings together experts from Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the US National Counterterrorism Center and has also received policy guidance form non-security agencies to organize investments and obtain data, implement technical assistance to diverse stakeholders, and cultivate communication and digital strategies focused on intervention and prohibition of acts of violent extremism.

Over the years, the United Nations Security Council has increased the importance for a comprehensive approach to combating the increasing movement of violent extremism and radicalization. Firstly, the security council recognizes that the CVE plays a huge role in addressing the threat to international peace and security threatened by FTFs (foreign terrorist fighters). In addition to that, the Security Council requests that member states create strategies directed towards violent extremists that can stimulate terrorist attacks and are pushed to promote tolerance and cohabitation as well as fostering an environment that prohibits the incitement of terrorism or any other acts of violence. To counter the violent extremism includes an emphasis on dialogue, inclusion, and promoting the idea of understanding. The Council suggests that this could be done through forums for interreligious and intercultural dialogue. The Council and CTED plan on bringing states together with technological assistance to help with this conflict in those areas in need of it. In January 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General presented a Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) to the General Assembly that would identify the factors that attribute of violent extremism at the local, national, regional, and global levels in addition to developing the essential security-based counter-terrorism measures necessary to challenge this issue. Followed by this suggestion made by the Secretary-General, a resolution was adopted that references his plan of action in July 2016. They also invited members states, regional as well as sub regional organizations to think about developing national and regional plans of action against violent extremism.

Possible Solutions:

It is highly encouraged that you are creative and innovative when forming solutions. Also, it is significant that you follow the policy of your own topic when creating these solutions as well. Delegates should keep I mind the fact that they should primarily focus on the most recent events in history when brainstorming solutions. Please make sure to make your solutions as detailed as possible. Having a couple highly detailed, well-formed solutions are preferred rather than having a lot of short solutions that lack the information and detail to be carried out.



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Lastly, there is no need to mention or address funding as that would be taken care of by the United Nation's Fifth Committee along with the World Bank.

It is necessary to note the fact that violent extremism come in many forms and from many different groups, so it is necessary to identify the violent extremism and how they came to be within your country. From there, you may create solutions that appropriately addresses the matter in your country. Secondly, it has been made known that there is no agreed-upon definition for violent extremism, which creates confusion amongst organizations, governments, and other institutions. It makes it more difficult to properly identify an act of violent extremism and how to handle the conflict correctly. Perhaps creating a solution devoted to establishing a unified and universal definition may help with international collaboration and recognizing the critical topic at hand. Moreover, stepping up the exchange of information regarding acts of violence may be a key element in combatting extremist violence and protecting civilians from danger. Thus, developing solutions that aim towards providing more databases and information systems for internal security may be accommodating for establishing safety against acts of violence caused by extremists. It is important to keep in mind that solutions should aim towards preventing racialization. In Europe, most of the terrorist attacks were enacted by home-grown terrorists. So, you should develop solutions that fight extremism and radicalization in prisons and online. Perhaps one could do this through the use of education and social inclusion.

Keep these three things in mind when developing solutions: be innovative, always stick to your country's policy, and create feasible solutions. By considering these tips when developing solutions, you will stand out as a unique delegate and it will put you in a great position to succeed at SOCOMUN.

Questions to consider:

You will not need to literally answer these questions in committee. They are given to you to help guide your research and to help them form your country policy and solutions.

1. How has your country been affected by violent extremism?
2. What extremist groups populate your country?
3. What has your country's government done, if anything, to combat violent extremism?
4. Which past United Nations resolutions has your country been part of?
5. Which organizations can assist in the implementation of your country's solution?
6. How can your country work to target the roots of violent extremism?
7. What factors in your country have led to the formation of violent extremist groups?
8. Which countries, having similar views on this topic, would be beneficial to work and collaborate with?



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Works Cited

“What Is CVE?” *Department of Homeland Security*, 14 July 2017, www.dhs.gov/cve/what-is-cve.

This site explains what countering violent extremism is, which is helpful for the background information. It also describes the “stakeholders”, which are the people involved in countering violent extremism, such as Federal, State, and local governments. This information is useful for background information. In addition, the site also talks about strategies and implementation. There is a countering violent extremism task force and this site describes what that task force does and their actions. The Task Force helps coordinate investments in and dissemination of research and analysis, supports the development of innovative intervention models, and more. This is will be helpful for solutions by getting some ideas on how to implement ideas modeled after the Task Force. It is also includes links to plans, such as the Department of Homeland Security Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism and Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States, which will also help with solutions. Delegates can use these plans as guidelines or models for ways to implement solutions.

“Countering Violent Extremism” *Security Council- Counter Terrorism Committee*, <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/countering-violent-extremism/>

This site is very beneficial for UN involvement. It discusses previous resolutions such as resolution 2178 and resolution 1624 implemented by the Security Council. It goes in depth details about these resolutions. It also talks about how the Council encourages Member States to engage with relevant local communities and non-governmental bodies in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative. This helps with possible solutions, for example member states proposing solutions to collaborate with local communities to find solutions that fit their beliefs and needs. It also describes initiatives for countering incitement and violent extremism which is helpful for solutions. It also talks about the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is beneficial for UN involvement. In 2016, the United Nations secretary-general presented to the General Assembly a Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE). Overall, this site has a lot of details on UN actions and resolutions.

“Terrorism Prevention Partnerships.” *Department of Homeland Security*, 29 Oct. 2018, www.dhs.gov/terrorism-prevention-partnerships.

This site talks about Terrorism Prevention Partnerships (TTP) which have become a key focus of the DHS’s (Department of Homeland Security) work to secure the homeland. This site is helpful for UN involvement and also solutions because it talks about the TTP aiming to address the root causes of violent extremism. This is important for delegates to talk about in committee: the factors that contribute to violent extremism. This will help the delegates provide solutions that are aimed toward addressing the root causes. Some examples of solutions are providing resources to communities to build and sustain local prevention efforts and to promote the use of counter-narratives to confront violent extremist messaging online. This site explains that building relationships based on trust



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with communities is essential to this effort, so delegates should provide solutions on how to build these relationships. Overall, this site talks about Terrorism Prevention Partnerships which is beneficial to know for UN involvement, but this site will also help with solutions.

“What Is Violent Extremism?.” *Futures without Violence*, May 2017, www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/FWV_blueprint_3-What-is-VE.pdf.

This site talks about what violent extremism is, which will be very helpful for background information. It talks about how violent extremist threats come from a range of groups and individuals, including domestic terrorists and homegrown violent extremist, as well as international terrorist groups. This is important to understand when developing solutions that violent extremism can come in many forms from many different groups. One interesting point that this site said was that the US government does not have one agreed-upon definition for violent extremism, this lack of a common definition can make it difficult for governments, civil society organizations, and international institutions to collaborate on unified initiatives to counter violent extremism. This is a good solution idea to create one unified and universal definition on violent extremism. Lastly, this site talks about contributing factors across regions, which is important to know for background information, and also solutions so delegates can come up with solutions that address the root causes.

“What Is Violent Extremism?” *FBI*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, cve.fbi.gov/whatis/.

This site is very helpful for background information, it discusses many topics related to violent extremism. It talks about what violent extremism is, what the known violent extremist groups are, that groups that violent extremists affect, why people become violent extremists, and more. This site answers many questions on what violent extremism is and the people involved. This will also help with solutions because delegates can come up with solutions specific to those known violent extremists and those that violent extremists affect. Overall this is a good site describing what violent extremism is and the parties involved helping delegates with their background information.

“Preventing Violent Extremism.” INEE, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, Accessed 27 March 2019, www.ineesite.org/en/preventing-violent-extremism.

This website talks about education and how it can cause and prevent terrorism. It also provides some key terms and definitions, and gives examples on how terrorism is caused, and how it can be prevented using education. The source is useful and reliable since the entire website is built upon promoting access to quality education for children in crisis. Also, the source is not biased since it provides both how terrorism can start and how we can prevent it. This source was helpful because it provided a non-violent way to react to a violent action. This source could be used in our paper to encourage non-violent reactions since using violence on violence usually never turns out good.



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"Extremism—The Fundamentals." History Behind the Headlines: The Origins of Conflicts Worldwide. . Encyclopedia.com. 27 Mar. 2019, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/energy-government-and-defense-magazines/extremism-fundamentals>

This website tells us what extremism means and it covers how different extremist groups have used the internet, as well as their independence and freedom to spread themselves and their message to younger people. It also gives some historical background on three main extremist groups stationed across the world. This source is reliable since it provides its own list of sources at the bottom of the page, however it is a little bit outdated being copyrighter in 2001. This website is an encyclopedia-based website, so it collects information from a lot of sources and combines them into one gigantic source, however it is biased a little bit. It only provides the cons of the internet and social freedom but does not provide any solutions on how we can use these ourselves to prevent terrorism. This source can be used in our paper to provide some background information on the meaning of extremism and how extremist groups can gain power. It would be helpful to use this source since it provides a different viewpoint on how extremists gain power using non-violent methods.

Esri Story Maps, PeaceTech Lab, Wikipedia. *Esri.com*. Story Maps Esri, 2016, Accessed 27 March 2019, <https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/terrorist-attacks/>,

This source is a map that is used to see the different locations of terrorist attacks. It is updated every day and it also tells us information about the extremist attacks, like number of fatalities, and which group committed the attack. This source is extremely useful since it provides an interactive map and summaries of different extremist groups. It is reliable because all of the information comes from Wikipedia and other data sources. We can use this source to provide summaries of different groups as well as give some examples of different attacks. Also, the map can be filtered by location and can be used to figure out where prevention of terrorism is needed the most.

Rostow, Nicholas (2002) "Before and after: The Changed UN Response to Terrorism Since September 11th," *Cornell International Law Journal*: Vol. 35: Iss. 3, Article 3. Accessed 27 March 2019, <https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1512&context=cilj>

This article discusses how the view on terrorism has changed before and after the attacks of 9/11. It also discusses how people outside of the United Nations may view terrorism differently than they do in the UN. This article is reliable since it is from Cornell University. This source is probably the most reliable source in the bibliography, and it is also the most insightful, specifically about the UN and its actions. This article is excellent for 2 reasons. It provides different viewpoints on the idea of terrorism, and it explains how the UN is made up and how it works which can really help those who are new to MUN.



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“How to Stop Terrorism: EU Measures Explained (Infographic) | News | European Parliament.”,
European Parliament, 27 Mar. 2018,
www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/security/20180316STO99922/how-to-stop-terrorism-eu-measures-explained-infographic.

This website explains the thought process behind different actions the European Union has taken against terrorism. It also provides an infographic and videos that explain these decisions further. This source is reliable since it is on the official website of the European parliament. Also, it gives specific data related to the subject, such as how many EU citizens want the EU to combat terrorism. This goal of this source is to educate people in and outside of the EU on why the parliament is making these decisions. This source would be good to include since it contains multiple solutions to combat extremism. Also, it has information about the financing of terrorism, which many people do not take into consideration and it could be one of the key ways of preventing extremism.