



# THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

2020 ~~~ 2024

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# FOREWORD

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The Maldives has been, and for the most part, still is, a peace-loving, tolerant nation. However, the religious and political goals of a few have resulted in the introduction of alien ideologies that promote terrorism and extremism, challenging community cohesion and our harmonious way of life, the very heart of our national identity.

Since 2012, we have seen several young Maldivians with immense potential yet radicalized through various means and recruited by terrorist groups, travelling abroad as Foreign Terrorist Fighters to join terrorist organizations engaged in civil wars miles away from home. The vast majority of Maldivians including top religious scholars agree that, the agendas of these organizations are antithetical to the interests of the long-suffering civilians of these countries.

Therefore, my administration will not allow these individuals to succeed in their nefarious undertakings, which threaten the socio-economic progress of our nation.

While comprehensive measures are being taken to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism, the threat we face has also been evolving. Our greatest weapon against this threat is our collective belief that violence is never the answer. However, this needs to be compounded with practical measures. My administration will continue to enforce our “Zero Tolerance Policy on Violent Extremism and Terrorism”, to guarantee an environment hostile to terror.

This National Action Plan is a critical document in that it outlines the ways in which the Maldives will attempt to

counter violent extremism over the next 5 years. The Plan will provide guidance and support to relevant government institutions and civil society organizations, as they embark on this noble mission to keep our nation safe and secure.

I urge all stakeholders to play their part in implementing the National Action Plan, with a view to allowing peace, prosperity and stability to prevail on our shores.

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**IBRAHIM MOHAMED SOLIH**  
**PRESIDENT**

# REMARKS BY MINISTER OF DEFENCE

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As the Minister of Defence, I see it as my primary duty to ensure that there is a climate of peace, safety and security in the country.

This National Action Plan sets out how the Maldives will attempt to counter the sinister scourge of terrorism through preventing and countering violent extremism over the next 5 years, by a well-considered combination of security and prevention measures that build on the central theme of social cohesion. This will involve all elements of government and the broader society through the engagement of civil society organizations and religious leaders. In this way, the Republic of the Maldives will continue to be a tolerant and peaceful country. In order to achieve this end, the following are to be achieved:

1 Creating a more resilient, connected, and less vulnerable Maldivian youth community through peer, psychosocial, and community support.

2 Improving care for young people so they can thrive in an environment where they feel comfortable and engaged.

3 Enhancing education to improve skills around social cohesion, critical thinking, communication and online literacy.

4 Strengthening engagement with shared national and religious values to reduce the effect of malign external influences.

5 Ensuring that groups or individuals that isolate themselves from mainstream society are engaged through education and employment.

I believe that the whole of government and the whole of society approach outlined in the National Action Plan are an excellent way forward in tackling this problem. Together with all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, I am confident we can revitalize and strengthen the centuries-old culture of peace, tolerance and stability on these beautiful islands.

I would also like to express my profound gratitude to UNDP Maldives, for their continued support to the National Counter Terrorism Centre in formulating this Plan, and in our efforts to make a real difference in the lives of the Maldivian people.

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UZA. MARIYA DIDI  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE

# PRINCIPLES

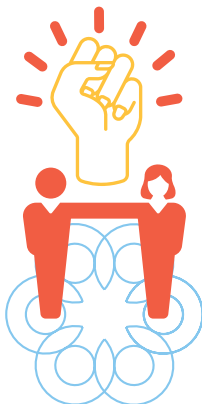
The National Action Plan and all policies that come under it will follow these principles:



**Actions to prevent violent extremism should be based on research, informed by behavioural science and evidence.**



**Actions to prevent violent extremism to be reviewed by young women and men.**



**They will enable and empower communities to resist radicalisation.**



**Policies will work to support collaboration among the three protagonists—the individual, the community, and the institutions through a “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach to ensure effectiveness, inclusion and coordination.**



**They will ensure human rights, gender equality, the dignity of the person, the rule of law and the right to privacy are maintained.**



# AIMS

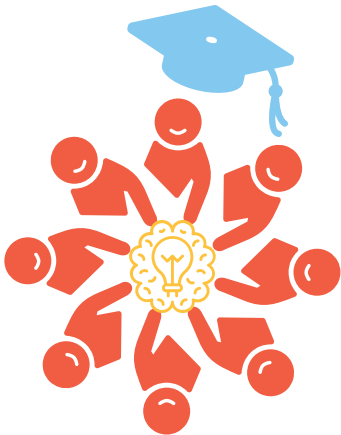
The National Action Plan has the following aims:



More resilient, connected, and less vulnerable Maldivian young women and men through peer, psychosocial, community and institution support.



Improved care for Young women and men so they can thrive in an environment in which they feel comfortable and engaged.



Enhanced education to improve Citizen engagement skills around social cohesion, critical thinking, communication and online literacy.



A stronger engagement with shared national understanding of a tolerant religion and culture to reduce the effect of malign external influences.



Support desire of young women and men to be agent of change in their community and have ability to practice culture of care and service.



# PILLARS

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**Strengthening National PCVE framework through enhanced coordination and cooperation.**



**Enhancing public safety and community resilience through stronger systems and strengthened legislative framework.**



**Creating a more resilient, connected, and less vulnerable Maldivian youth population**



**Fostering resilience to PCVE through awareness, counter narrative, digital literacy and critical thinking**



**Strengthening evidence based policy making for effective PCVE efforts**





