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EMPOWERING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

*National Action Plan for Preventing
and Countering Violent Extremism
(NAPPCVE)*

BY

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SPEAKER

Dr. Ahmad El-Muhammady is an Assistant Professor at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC- IIUM). Besides that, he holds various external positions such as Associate Fellow at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), The Hague, Netherlands; Associate Research Fellow at the Accounting Research Institute (ARI), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia, International Advisory Committee Member at Global Peace Institute (GPI), United Kingdom, and Deputy Director, Alumni Relations Division (ARD), IIUM. Since 2011, he works closely with the Special Branch's Counter-Terrorism Division, Royal Malaysia Police, and Prison Department to implement the Rehabilitation and Deradicalisation programs for individuals detained under terrorism laws in Malaysia.

*Civil society
organisations need to
adopt strategic
positioning in order to
play more active role in
the implementation of
NAPPCVE*



Ahmad is also a member of the Deradicalisation Panel and Expert/Specialist appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for cases investigated under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (SOSMA) 2012 and Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2015. Prior to that, he was a consultant to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2019) and co-authored a report with Ben Schonveld, senior consultant at the United Nations

Ahmad also served as a think- tank member (2014-2019) and consultant (2018-2019) to the Institute for Youth Research Malaysia (IYRES), Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia. Ahmad is now a Co-principal investigator for two-year research at the IIUM-ISTAC's Extremism Analytical Unit in collaboration with the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses of Terrorism (START), University of Maryland (2018-2020).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Background:

The mandate to develop the National Action Plan on Prevention and Counter Violent Extremism (NAPPCVE) is derived from the United Nations General Assembly 70/674 in 2015 to address the changing threats of violent extremism. Many countries have come up with their own action plans, among them Indonesia (2020-2024) and Kenya (2020-2024). At the time of writing, Malaysia is still developing its NAP under the purview of the Home Affairs Ministry, with the launch expected in the first quarter of 2022.

This webinar will present and explore the urgency of developing the National Action Plan for Malaysia and the role of CSOs in the development and implementation of NAP.

The mandate puts forward an interdisciplinary “All-of-society” and “All-of-government” approach. Hence, civil society organisations (CSOs) are one of the key stakeholders in combating extremism and promoting peace. However, in the Malaysian context, more efforts are needed to empower the role of CSOs to achieve the overall success of NAP.

This webinar will present and explore the urgency of developing the National Action Plan for Malaysia and the role of CSOs in the development and implementation of NAP. Furthermore, viable recommendations to boost cooperation between a wider CSOs and government bodies/agencies based on the best practices learned.

THE CHALLENGES & ISSUES

The following are among the issues and challenges facing the CSOs-state cooperation

CRITICAL AGAINST THE STATE

CSOs often being critical against the state. This could be a perception or real. Being critical in public and behind the closed door is two different thing.

DEFICIT OF TRUST

Deficit of trust between CSOs and the state agencies due to confrontational approach adopted by CSOs and lack of interaction between the two.

NOT A CREDIBLE PARTNER

By taking confrontational or critical against the state, CSOs are not viewed as credible partners in collaboration works.

SECURITY-ORIENTED ISSUE

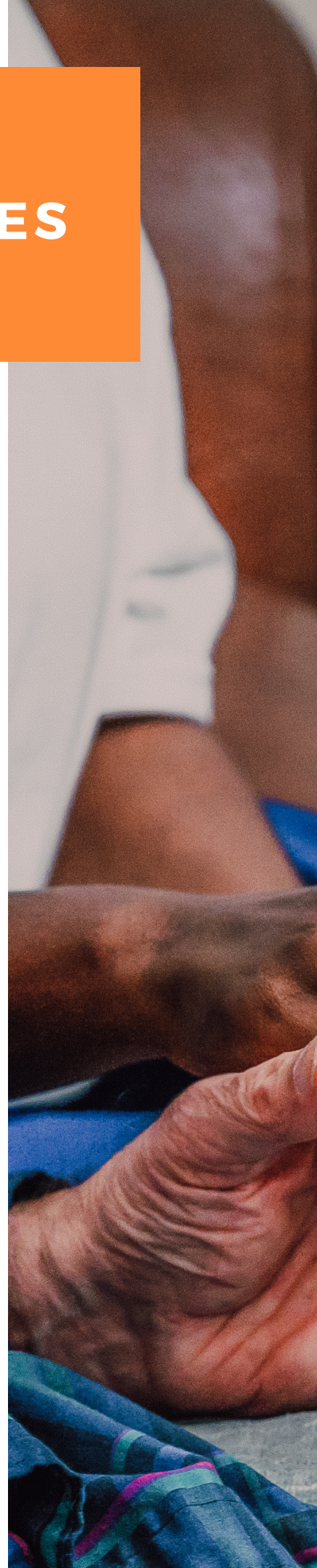
Terrorism issues are security-oriented ones. In some cases, in the eyes of the security establishment, having CSOs on board is irrelevant.

THE CHALLENGES & ISSUES

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DETAINEES ARE NOT READY

Detainees are not ready to engage with CSOs, anyone in the post-release phase. Former detainees experienced stigma, distrust, uncomfortable to meet outsiders.



The background of the page features a dark blue world map. Overlaid on the map is a network diagram consisting of several white circular nodes, each containing a black silhouette of a person. These nodes are interconnected by thin white lines. A hand, wearing a dark suit sleeve, is shown in the lower center, holding a white pen and drawing one of the lines that connect the nodes. In the center of the page, there is a large, solid orange rectangle that serves as a backdrop for the title text.

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS



Strategic Repositioning

*CSOs need to adopt Strategic
Repositioning to play more active
role in the implementation of
NAPPCVE*



Strategic Repositioning

Paradigm Shift

Government/state as adversary
to a strategic partner

Growth Mindset

Ready to explore possibility of
collaboration, playing supportive
role to any state's initiative



Confidence-building measures

To initiate confidence-building measures between the state and CSOs.

Being a credible partner
Building credibility as a credible partner in collaboration



Capacity-building

What can CSOs offer?

NAPPCVE

An opportunity for participation

The role of civil society organisations (CSOs) are vital component in NAPPCVE, including many recommendation proposed by CSOs meeting initiated by Initiate.My recently.



Misperception is
dangerous because it
may lead to a wrong
decision

