



**Statement of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism**  
**The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of**  
**Terrorism**  
21 August 2023

Excellencies, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism,  
Distinguished delegations, honorable participants, ladies, and gentlemen,

Today is the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, annually observed as the day to pay tribute to the victims of terrorist acts and remember the losses, but also the transformational journeys and legacy of those who have survived.

It is a day to honor those who lost their lives and sympathize with their families and relatives. It is also a day to raise awareness of the necessity to prevent terrorist attacks from happening.

As you know, the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was established by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/165 to serve as a reminder of the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to provide support to victims of terrorism, protect their rights, including their right to justice, address their needs, and hold that the memory of the victims of terrorism should be preserved and honored.

On this sixth commemoration event of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism recognizes that victims of terrorism are agents of change, who make a positive impact on building a peaceful future, as terrorism is not periodic, terrorism is chronic and has a long-lasting influence affecting future generations. Hence, we encourage everyone today to reflect upon our common interest to promote greater cohesion, inclusion, and understanding amongst various communities.

We recognize that our efforts to truly counter terrorism must stem from our real desire to fight all conditions conducive (he says conducive – please correct if possible) to terrorism. We must provide our societies with



the necessary assistance, services, and support needed to cast away all forms associated with hate and phobia toward others. It's only when we appreciate each other that we can move forward.

Today, we would like to focus on some key points highlighting this “legacy” theme embraced for this International Day, which we hope will contribute to building up a peaceful future for victims and survivors of terrorism and societies at large. These key points are as follows:

- Honor the victims of terrorism, acknowledge their pain, suffering, and loss, and ensure their stories are heard and shared.
- Focus on healing and hope, provide support services, counselling, and opportunities for victims of terrorism to connect and share with each other, and help them move from a place of anger and despair to peace and purpose.
- Express support for victims of terrorism who wish to pursue paths of reconciliation and forgiveness.
- Build community resilience and strengthen community bonds and social networks to build resilience against violent extremism conducive (he says conducive – please correct if possible) to terrorism.
- Educate for peace, offer educational initiatives focused on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, empathy, and respect for diversity, starting with children and youth to shape the next generation.
- Empower victims of terrorism to become peace-builders and provide opportunities for them to transform their pain into positive action for peace because their voices and experiences can inspire others.
- Work to eliminate conditions like poverty, injustice, and lack of opportunity that can fuel violent extremism conducive (he says conducive – please correct if possible) to terrorism. Promote good governance, human rights, gender equality, and economic opportunity.
- Build global solidarity and connect with victims of terrorism and peacebuilders around the world. Share the best practices and build an international network of hope.

In conclusion, only a holistic, multi-faceted approach focused on healing, reconciliation, community resilience, and education can help victims of terrorism to find hope and build a peaceful future.

THANK YOU