COUNTERING EXTREMISM

Building Social Resilience
through Community Engagement

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Community Engagement
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COUNTERING EXTREMISM

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PREFACE

Ideologically driven extremists, terrorists and insurgents have the capacity and capability to politicize, radicalize and mobilize vulnerable segments of communities. These communities have emerged as a principal and potential resource base for recruitment by terrorist organizations. To counter terrorism, a vicious by-product of ideological extremism, governments around the world are increasingly embracing community-based approaches.

Extremism is the precursor to terrorism, insurgency and other forms of political violence. Unless extremism is countered and moderation is promoted, extremist ideologies will lead to disharmony and violence. To build community resilience, both the government and communities should work together to promote mainstream ideology.

Since al-Qaeda's attacks on the U.S. mainland on September 11, 2001, the response of the international community has not been effective. Ten years after 9/11, governments are realizing that lethal and kinetic operations alone are insufficient to isolate, contain and eradicate violence including terrorism. To be effective, counterinsurgent and counterterrorism strategies should encompass both 'hard' and 'soft' strategies and tactics. To this end, governments are increasingly working on the prevention of extremism upstream and de-radicalization of ideological extremists, terrorists and insurgents downstream.

While rehabilitation to de-radicalize inmates and detainees is gathering momentum worldwide, governments need to develop a broad range of tools and capabilities to engage communities to

counter extremism and build community resilience. Engagement is critical for supporting community-based efforts to prevent ideological and violent extremism as it allows government and communities to share information, concerns, and potential solutions.

This book is an outcome of the inaugural International Conference on Community Engagement — Countering Extremism and Building Social Resilience held in Singapore from 21 to 22 September 2011. Attended by over 200 delegates and 20 international speakers, the conference was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Teo Chee Hean who is also the Minister of Home Affairs. The conference was an ideal platform for both practitioners and scholars to meet and share their experiences and research in countering extremism.

This book contains a series of chapters by leading researchers and practitioners on community engagement approaches in the field of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency. It presents existing and emerging community engagement models in various parts of the world which could serve as effective models for governments keen to work with community leaders to manage and reduce the terrorist threat. The book emphasizes the strength of communities as central to government approaches in countering violent extremism.

The themes in the book are countering extremism and building social resilience, community engagement models in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East and the West. The book also explores the roles and responsibilities of a range of actors such as the media, home or interior ministries in building social resilience. The key message of the book is that the onus is on local communities and local institutions to defend and protect themselves against violence and extremist ideologies.

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Rohan Gunaratna is a specialist of the global threat environment, with expertise in threat groups in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. He is Head of Singapore's International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), one of the largest specialist counter terrorism research and training centres in the world.

Professor Gunaratna is also Professor of Security Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and a Senior Fellow at the International Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, Oklahoma, USA. He is Member of the International Advisory Board of the International Institute for Counter Terrorism in Israel and a Member of the Steering Committee of George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute. He was also a Senior Fellow both at the Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy and at the United States Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Centre at West Point.

Ms Low Ai Ling

Deputy Director (Community Engagement & Planning), Community Engagement Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore

Low Ai Ling is part of the pioneer team that grew the Community Engagement Programme (CEP). As the Deputy Director of Community Engagement and Planning at Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs, her work aims to lay the ground and build networks of trust so that communities trust each other and know what has to be done to stay united. She plays a key role in the content management for national CEP events and CEP outreach. Ai Ling also led her team of officers on 'soft' awareness-building online, through popular online platforms and through the SG United web portal (www.SingaporeUnited.sg) that connects people, in particular, the CEP community leaders.

Mr Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri

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Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri is the President of the Federal Council of Minhaj-ul-Quran International (MQI) and a member of the Board of Governors, Minhaj University Lahore. Minhaj-ul-Quran International is a reformatory, social, spiritual and welfare organization working to alleviate poverty and promote education, peace, integration, inter-faith harmony and dialogue among communities, cultures and nations in more than 100 countries in the world.

Mr Hussain has written numerous books on a variety of subjects such as his Urdu poetic anthology *Naqsh-e-Awa*, *Stratégie de diversification d'EDF à l'étranger*, *Sugarcane Ethanol as an Alternate Fuel Source for Pakistan*, *Saarc & Globalization: Issues, Prospects and Policy Prescriptions*, *Child Abandonment: A Social Tragedy*, and *Economics of Agriculture Industry in Pakistan*. His most recent book *Islam and Environmental Protection* was published in August, 2011.

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Abdul Mun'im al-Mashawwah is currently the Head of the As-Sakina Campaign for Dialogue, supported by the Saudi Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs. The programme

consists of approximately 40 clerics and propagators of Islam who spread moderate Islamic ideology and concepts as well as refute doubtful matters presented by those who adopt deviant ideologies. Sheikh Abdul Mun'im is in charge of the website of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs as well as the Saudi Cultural Centre in Gibraltar. He is a certified international trainer and a global expert in project management who has participated in numerous conferences and seminars, both locally and globally.

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Dr Basia Spalek is a Reader in Communities and Justice within the School of Social Policy, and she is also Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer. She has led a number of high profile research projects funded by the Arts and Humanities and Economic and Social Studies Research Councils, looking specifically at community-based approaches to counter-terrorism.

Dr Spalek is also an Ambassador to the Make Justice Work Campaign and has acted as an advisor/consultant to the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the OSCE, DCLG, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and is a nominated social expert on 'Compensation of victims, prevention of crime and related aspects relevant to the security of citizens', for the Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham, in a successful tender to provide for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency reports and other services on human rights in the United Kingdom. She is also the Director of a new international forum on police community engagement for conflict transformation.

Ms Kristi Cooper

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Kristi Cooper is currently a DPhil candidate in Law at University of Oxford. Her work at Oxford concerns WWII denazification.

She has worked as a researcher to the Justices of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of New South Wales. Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court in 2007, Kristi then moved to the United Kingdom, completing an MPhil in Criminological Research at the University of Cambridge.

Ms Cooper's interests are economic crime, organized crime, group and organizational behaviour, security, social control, desistance, radicalization and radical movements.

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Tinka Veldhuis is a Research Fellow at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT)-The Hague. In addition, she is a Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' and a Ph.D. fellow at the Department of Sociology of the University of Groningen and the Interuniversity Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology (ICS). Her research focuses on detention and rehabilitation policies for violent extremist offenders, radicalization and de-radicalization, (counter-) terrorism, and counter-terrorism policy evaluation. She is involved in the UNICRI/ICCT 'Rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders' initiative and served in 2010 as the principal investigator for the evaluation research commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice, to evaluate the government's terrorist detention policy.

Prof Dr Edwin Bakker

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Edwin Bakker is Professor of (Counter-)Terrorism Studies at Leiden University. Previously, he was Head of the Clingendael Security and Conflict Programme (CSCP) of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael', where he currently still is a Visiting Research Fellow. He studied Economic Geography (Netherlands) and Political Geography (Netherlands and Germany).

In 1997, he defended his PhD thesis on minority conflicts in Slovakia and Hungary. He taught classes in international policies on preventing and managing separatism and intra-state war in the Balkans at the Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management (CICAM), Nijmegen University. He was actively involved in the projects 'Exploring Root and Trigger Causes of Terrorism', 'Radicalization Processes', and the 'Theoretical Treatise on Counterterrorism Approaches' for the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission. At the Centre for Conflict Studies (CCS) of Utrecht University he currently teaches a course in Terrorism and Counterterrorism. He is also a member of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee and board member of Spolu International. Additionally, he is part of the editorial staff of the quarterlies Human Rights and Security and Vrede & Veiligheid, as well as the monthly Internationale Spectator. Focal points of his research are issues of (counter-)terrorism and unconventional security threats.

Dr Robert Lambert

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Robert Lambert is the co-director of the European Muslim Research Centre (EMRC) at the University of Exeter and a lecturer at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews. In 2008, Robert was awarded an MBE for his police service.

In his new book *Countering al-Qaeda in London: Police and Muslims in Partnership*, Robert reflects on his experience as head of the Metropolitan Police Muslim Contact Unit (MCU) from January 2002 to December 2007 and on his subsequent PhD research examining the legitimacy and effectiveness of police and Muslim partnerships in London. In *Competing Counter-Radicalisation Models in the U.K.*, a chapter in Rik Coolsaet's *Jihadi Terrorism and the Radicalisation Challenge: European and American*

Experiences, Robert examines MCU's experience in relation to U.K. Prevent strategy in 2011. As part of an ongoing EMRC research project, Robert is also currently examining the nature of anti-Muslim or Islamophobic violence against Muslims in the U.K.

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Dr Caroline F. Ziemke-Dickens is a Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), USA. She has been a key facilitator in the establishment of the Council for Asian Transnational Threat Research (CATR), a sustained "strategic listening" engagement that brings together local experts from across Asia to promote intellectual exchange and collaborative research. As part of this effort, she also is the co-editor of a monthly CATR e-journal, *Asian Conflicts Reports*. She has also developed Strategic Personality Typology designed to help analysts and policymakers understand how historical and cultural factors shape the strategic conduct of states and groups in the modern world.

Her publications include "National Myth and the Strategic Personality of Iran: A Counter Proliferation Perspective," in Victor Utgoff (ed.) *The Coming Crisis: Nuclear Proliferation, US Interests, and World Order* (MIT Press, 2000), *Strategic Personality and the Effectiveness of Nuclear Deterrence* (IDA Document D-2537, November 2000), and *Strategic Personality and the Effectiveness of Nuclear Deterrence: Deterring Iraq and Iran* (IDA Paper P-3658, September 2001); "Reading the Elephant: Building Cooperative Approaches to Countering the Global Terrorist Threat," in *The International Symposium on Non-Traditional Security: Challenges and Responses* (Beijing: CIISS, June 2005); "Social Factors Contributing to Terrorism," in Joseph McMillan (ed.) *In the Same Light as Slavery: Building a Global Anti-Terrorist Consensus* (Washington, D.C.: National Defense University Press, 2007); and *Agents of Radicalization in the Non-Arab Muslim World* (IDA Paper P-4038, May 2005).

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Maria Ressa is currently the Head of the News and Current Affairs Division of ABS-CBN, Philippines' largest media network. She is also the author of the critically acclaimed book, *"Seeds of Terror"* which tackled the growing threat of terrorism in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Ms Ressa was Cable News Network's (CNN) bureau chief in Jakarta. She was CNN's lead reporter on three tumultuous changes of governments in Southeast Asia: in Indonesia in 1998, in East Timor in 1999 and finally in the Philippines in 2001. Among the awards she has received are the National Headliner Award for Investigative Journalism in 2002, the SAIS-Novartis International Journalism Award in 2000 for her work in East Timor, the Asian Television Awards in 1999 for Indonesia and the Ferris Professorship of Journalism at Princeton University for 2001.

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Dr Halafoff's work has been published in the following books and journals: *Terrorism and Social Exclusion: Misplaced Risk — Common Security*; *International Handbook of Inter-religious Education*; *Australian Soul: Religion and Spirituality in the 21st Century*; *Buddhism in Australia: Traditions in Change*; *Cultivating Wisdom Harvesting Peace: Education for a Culture of Peace*; *Political Theology*; *Studies of Conflict and Terrorism*; *the Journal of Religious Education* and *the Journal of Research in International Education*.

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Mr Hussain worked on the Preventing Extremism Together workgroups set up by the Home Office after July 7th 2005. He was appointed as Commissioner to the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) in April 2006. He is involved in a number of Europe-wide and U.K.-based research networks and projects, including the European Muslim Network and the Muslims in Britain Research Network. He is on the Advisory Board of the Institute of Community Cohesion and is an Associate of the think-tank, Demos. He served on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Life and Faith (2005–2006), is a Fellow of the Royal Foundation of St. Katharine's Contextual Theology Centre, London and a Fellow of the Citizen Organizing Foundation (COF). He was co-chair of Alif-Aleph UK (2005), a network which brings together British Jews and Muslims.