



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions  
and Human Rights




Penal Reform International (PRI)  
Office in Central Asia

# THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ADDRESSING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEADS TO TERRORISM (VERLT) IN THE PRISON CONTEXT

Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Date: 18 September 2017  
Time: 18.15 - 19.45





Questions concerning Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) in the prison context have received increasing attention at the OSCE and at the international level more generally.

The 2015 Belgrade Declaration on preventing and countering VERLT of the OSCE Ministerial Council drew attention to “the fact that radicalization to terrorism and recruitment by terrorists can take place in prisons”, as did several resolutions of the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

A number of international and regional actors (such as UNODC and the Council of Europe) have also published guidance documents related to the issue; and both ODIHR's Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism (HRAT) Programme as well as Penal Reform International (PRI) have started exploring the various human rights issues arising in preventing and countering VERLT in prisons in accordance with their respective areas of work. Given that many conditions conducive to VERLT in prisons appear to stem from human rights violations, it is essential that OSCE participating States follow a human rights-based approach to preventing terrorist radicalization in prisons.

This must encompass efforts to improve overall prison conditions and ensure humane, safe and secure conditions for all prisoners; but also human rights based measures concerning the management of violent extremist offenders and their reintegration and rehabilitation.

The side event will provide a platform to further explore the human rights issues arising in preventing and countering VERLT in prisons, promote exchange of information and views on the subject and highlight the need for human rights compliant responses to VERLT in prison settings.