



## THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

# PARLIAMENTARIANS INITIATIVE

for Effective Counterterrorism within the Rule of Law

The Parliamentarians Initiative is one of eight core initiatives that the IIJ is implementing:

**Addressing Homegrown Terrorism    Global Central Authorities    Returning FTFs**  
**Judicial Capacity-Building    Juvenile Justice    Parliamentarians**  
**Prison Management    Investigations**

The IIJ is a non-profit intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting terrorism through capacity-building training in justice and the rule of law. More than 4000 criminal justice practitioners have participated in IIJ workshops in Malta and abroad.

In 2015, the IIJ launched an initiative to support parliamentarians - and the important role they play in effective counterterrorism - from the Middle East, and North, East and West Africa. With EU support and endorsement of the GCTF's Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group, the Initiative was inaugurated at the IIJ in Valletta in May 2015. Since then, almost 250 parliamentarians from 31 countries and 11 regional inter-parliamentary fora have participated in a series of IIJ programs hosted by Malta's House of Representatives, Morocco's House of Representatives, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and the Arab League, as well two symposia held in Brussels, and a meeting hosted by the IIJ in Malta.



### GCTF

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

The GCTF's *Valletta Recommendations* were developed with input from parliamentarians from Algeria, the Arab Parliament, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, ECOWAS Parliament, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Parliament, France, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA), the Netherlands, Palestinian National Authority, Pan African Parliament, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, and the Union for the Mediterranean. The GCTF's *Valletta Recommendations* are available at: [www.thegctf.org](http://www.thegctf.org)

### Key Foci:

- ▶ **Emphasizing the responsibility parliamentarians** have in enhancing accountability mechanisms, encouraging civic participation, and promoting adherence to international standards in counterterrorism efforts
- ▶ **Encouraging parliamentarians to incorporate** an effective counterterrorism legal framework into national legislation
- ▶ **Reinforcing the role parliamentarians** have in allocating budgets and resources to fight terrorism within their states
- ▶ **Supporting the independence of parliamentarians** to strengthen counterterrorism legislation while maintaining the balance between protecting individual rights and national security



## Objectives, Goals and Programs

The key goals of the IIJ Parliamentarians Initiative are promoting trust between legislative and judicial institutions in order to achieve criminal justice practices that respond effectively to terrorism within the rule of law; informing legislators and criminal justice practitioners on international norms as reflected in the GCTF's *Valletta Recommendations*; and strengthening the independence of justice sector institutions and interagency bodies to effectively counter terrorism while respecting human rights.

### Key Recent Events:

1) In October 2017, the IIJ convened The Nexus of Parliamentarians and Criminal Justice Actors in Counter Terrorism Regional Workshop in Cairo, Egypt, in coordination with the Arab Parliament and hosted by the Arab League.

2) In March 2018, the IIJ sponsored a regional workshop on The Nexus of Parliamentarians and Criminal Justice Actors in Counter Terrorism: Implementing the GCTF's *Valletta Recommendations* in Malta. Parliamentarians from twenty countries and inter-parliamentary fora from Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, together with international counterterrorism experts, met to discuss implementation of the GCTF's *Valletta Recommendations*.

3) In May 2018, the IIJ hosted a symposium on The Nexus of Parliamentarians and Criminal Justice Actors in Counter Terrorism: Implementing the GCTF's *Valletta Recommendations* in Brussels. This EU-funded Symposium completed the successful series of regional-level events implemented by the IIJ, as part of its three-year Parliamentarian Initiative. The meeting brought together more than 40 parliamentarians and senior justice practitioners from Algeria, Egypt, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Nigeria, Spain and Turkey, as well as international experts from the EU, EEAS, NATO, Arab Parliament, Tech Against Terrorism, and Parliamentarians for Global Action to contribute to the discussions around implementing the GCTF's *Valletta Recommendations*.

### IIJ Handbook for Parliamentarians

The IIJ is developing a handbook focused on the responsibilities of parliamentarians in countering terrorism. The handbook is intended to provide substantive recommendations for parliamentarians on strengthening counterterrorism policies and practices based on the rule of law.

Further, the handbook suggests ways parliamentarians can provide oversight on implementation of such policies as part of their legislative oversight roles. The handbook is drafted by parliamentarians for parliamentarians. It draws on contributions from members of parliaments who participated in IIJ's regional workshops under the Parliamentarians Initiative.

The *IIJ Handbook for Parliamentarians* will serve as a main point of reference for new members of parliaments and help to normalize expectations and build consensus around the concept that parliamentarians have a fundamental role to play in building and overseeing counterterrorism frameworks. The handbook will also serve as a useful tool for other key actors such as parliamentary staff, civil society organizations, media, judiciary, and counterterrorism practitioners.

For more information on the Parliamentarians Initiative or to support the IIJ financially, please contact:  
Thomas Wuchte  
IIJ Executive Secretary  
wuchtet@theiij.org

 @iijmalta  
[www.theiij.org](http://www.theiij.org)



The International Institute  
for Justice and the Rule of Law  
University of Malta – Valletta Campus,  
Old University Building, St. Paul Street,  
Valletta VLT 1216 Malta