

# **CENTRE FOR PAKISTAN AND GULF** **STUDIES**

**PROJECT SALAM**

**STEERING COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND REPORT**

## **Composition and Objectives of Steering Committee**

### **Composition**

**Chairman:** Amb Arif Kamal

**Moderator:** Nasir Hafeez

**Members:** Dr Sarfraz Ansari

Dr Jamil Qalandar

Dr Noman Sattar

Air Cdr Khalid Iqbal

Mr Adil Shariff

Representative NACTA

Representative MO Dte

Representative ISI

Representative Ministry of Interior

Secretary : Mr Saqib Mehmood

Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> meeting – 5 Aug 1400 hrs at CPGS office

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting 06 Aug 1400 hrs at CPGS office

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 16 Aug 0900-1030 hrs at Marriott hotel

### **Agenda / Objectives:**

- Discuss and identify the problem statement of existing radicalisation and violent extremism in Pakistan.
- Restate the title of the national policy for counter terrorism or de-radicalisation
- Discuss and frame the preamble of a proposed policy
- Discuss and layout the guiding principles of the proposed policy

- Prepare outline plan of action.
- Identify the composition and areas of the working groups and draft questions to be discussed by these groups during the seminar.
- Collate all the proposals being discussed in the working groups and finalise the final draft policy paper to be issued at the end of the seminar .

## Steering Committee Findings & Report

### Problem Statement

In research methodology it is recognised that problem defined is half research done. Identification of the problem is the first step and then stating it clearly is the next, both are challenging but the latter is more. Every one today in Pakistan agrees that there are so many problems being faced by the country, but it is not quite certain as to what exactly these problems are and their correct order of priority at national level. In some cases there is vague understanding of the actual reality while in others there is vested interest in identifying particular nature of problems only.

Governments have their own problems and must not be always blamed, while the civil society is free to select, discuss and state problems in more objective and clear manner. Think tanks being part of the civil society are more suited for this task where qualified experts from different fields can freely express their views without any fear and political cost of losing face. Therefore CPGS has taken a lead to launch problem SALAM to understand and address the most burning issue of today that is destroying the very fabric of our society, creating dissention and divide, damaging the image of the nation and a serious threat to our own survival and the peace and security in the country and beyond. The threat of Violent Extremism that produces terrorism and whole sale death and destruction from within. There is no need of an external enemy, we are already on the path of self-destruction. Society against the state, if not against the state yet sympathises with the enemies of the state. The state has failed to take charge of the situation and rather deferred the matter to some other time and deal with other urgent issues of interest. There is attachment of religious factor to the issue which to some politicians and policy makers is very sensitive issue that has emotion ting so must not be discussed.

But we cannot be oblivious of the fact and importance of the issue and must try to define the burning problem of radical extremism. There can be a series of questions that can help define the problem

- How can we first define radical extremism clearly?
- How and when this phenomenon emerged prominently in our society?

- Who all were responsible for its introduction and promotion?
- Can we really control and reverse this trend?
- Who all can help in this process of identification, engagement and rehabilitation?

**A suggested problem statement:**

- **Premise**
  - Within a Nation state people having diverse culture and ideological background can only live together if they have clear agreed set of values and principles.
- **Statement of fact**
  - There is lack of unified clear understanding of agreed set of values in our society
  - There is no forum and mechanism of dialogue and discussion between various segments of society to resolve dispute. Between the Liberals/ seculars and the fundamentalists/ traditionalist (Right and Left) and even within Liberal/seculars and within fundamentalist / traditionalists.
  - The tradition of rule of law is weak and also inadequate to resolve these disputes and the oppressed thinks that they have legitimate right to use force and violence to pursue their agenda.
  - The current law and order situation in Pakistan may be due to
    - Involvement of hostile foreign elements or
    - Involvement of religiously motivated local elements, or both.
- **Inference**
  - This creates under currents of continuous tension in the society.
  - This cultivates violent radical extremism to be exploited by local and foreign hostile elements.

**The problem in Pakistan therefore is**

- **Political / Ideological Challenge-** There is no consensus on agreed set of values ( liberal vs conservative )and principles creating divisions in the society.

- **Institutional/Traditional Flaw.** The existing law enforcing institutions are weak and the legal framework is inadequate and non-congruent with local culture and traditions resulting in delayed justice and lack of tradition of rule of law.
- **Socioeconomic deprivation.** There is lack of comprehensive socioeconomic system in the state resulting in inequitable distribution of wealth with increasing poor class creating deprivation and frustration.

## Proposed National Policy

### Introduction

In the aftermath of the 9/11 there has been exponential growth of terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. So far no national policy on Counter-Terrorism could be formulated. The recent enactment of NACTA is a step in the right direction but establishment of an authority without any plan of action will be waste of resources, time and effort. CPGS proposes a policy frame work and a plan of action which can be used as policy guide line to start with the effort .

### Dimensions

- What the nation should do
- What the government should do

At this stage we will concentrate on what the government should do

### Title -                    ***“National Policy for Societal Harmony”***

(Note :- Counter terrorism and de-radicalisation are both value loaded terminologies and instigate negativism once used by the government. These words have foreign contexts linked with US war on terror, unnecessarily undermining even the genuine efforts of the governments. These must be avoided (where ever possible) in all governmental policies and statements)

**Preamble of a proposed policy-** Based on the premise of the following common agreed principles:-

- Islamic principal of Human dignity based on equality and justice.
- Set of values already agreed in 1973 constitution.

**Guiding Principles.** The policy may be formulated keeping in view following guiding principles:-

- Recognising the principles of freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, ***as enunciated by Islam***; Wherein adequate provision should be made for all the communities to profess and practise their believes,

- Ensuring **universal human rights**, social, economic and political justice
- Emphasising the need for **peaceful settlement** of all intra societal disputes, provision of adequate platforms to encourage dialogue between all segments of society representing different views,
- Understanding the need for **integration in international system** for peace and harmony on the basis of universal human values, norms principles and traditions,

### **Action plan**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Action Plan( AP) is to reinforce social cohesion, harmony and support the national security imperative of Pakistan by addressing extremism, radicalism and the promotion of violence and intolerance. The framework is based on the guiding principles as given above. The proposed action plan should be implemented in a co-ordinated and co-operative manner keeping in view local demographic, social, cultural, religious and economic factors.

**Objectives**. The action Plan will:

- Deny ideological space to the extremist groups by ensuring state ownership of religion, produce counter narratives and other necessary reforms.
- Advise legal and judicial reforms to ensure speedy justice for all.
- Reduce recruitment grounds of extremists through better education, skill development ,employment programmes and initiatives
- support programmes and projects encouraging loyalty and commitment to the country, especially its legal structures, and the promotion of Pakistani values
- promote and build closer collaboration, liaison, information-sharing and trust between governments and society, encouraging increased participation in national affairs by the disengaged or marginalised.



## **Four Pronged Strategy**

- **Political / Ideological** – Develop national consensus on agreed set of values and national identity. Identify radical appeal being used by the extremist groups and provide unified national counter narrative to safeguard the vulnerable segment of society and force change of radical mind to revert back to the society.
- **Law, Intelligence and Enforcement**. Ensure speedy justice by improving laws and the legal framework and increase awareness through education and mass media to establish tradition of rule of law. Increase operational capacity and transparency within law enforcing agencies' (Intelligence and Police) with focus on increased cooperation and coordination.
- **Education and Socioeconomics**. Improve Socioeconomic conditions through human resource development with focus on professional skills, employment opportunities and self-empowerment.
- **Public Opinion and Media Policy**. National perception management through coordinated and shared control between government and the private sector aimed at preserving national identity and interest.

## **Implementation**

**Step 1- National Commission for Societal Harmony**. Establishment of an independent commission at the federal level, to prepare, publish and submit report to the federal cabinet while working on the core issues within four groups:-

- **Group 1- Political / Ideological**
  - **Composition**. Broad based membership including all segments of society
    - Academic experts
    - Religious scholars
    - Political leaders
    - Retired Government officials of good reputation
    - Community /tribal elders
    - Print and electronic media persons

- **Tasks**

- Explore shared values and principles for a unified national identity
- Identify issues and initiate dialogue between the society
  - Beginning with universities in small groups of intellectuals and academics involving teachers and students simultaneously in all parts of the country
  - Initiating debate Between moderates which can later be expanded to include more conservative elements.
  - Recording and publication of dialogue proceedings using print and electronic media.
- Formulate Policy recommendations to achieve the desired national harmony and promotion of existing national symbols

- **Group 2 Law, Intelligence and Enforcement.**

- **Composition.** Expert level membership including qualified and relevant individuals

- Law and judicial experts
- Experts on Sharia Law
- Community /tribal elders
- Retired government officials from Police and intelligence agencies of good reputation.

- **Tasks**

- Review constitutional and legal framework of the country
- Review the entire judicial process( reporting ,investigation, litigation, prosecution and execution)
- Highlight weaknesses in the system and recommend improvements
- Suggest mechanism to ensure speedy justice by involving civil society and promote culture of tolerance and rule of law.

- **Group 3- Education and Socioeconomics**

- **Composition.** Expert level membership including qualified and relevant individuals

- Education experts both government and private sector,
- Professionals from practical field – skill based professions

- Representatives from Madaris.
- Community /tribal elders
- Retired teachers from universities, schools and educational and vocational institutions.
- **Tasks**
  - Review the education system of the country both government and private sector.
  - Identify the Human resource of the country and suggest its development strategy.
  - Highlight weaknesses in the system and recommend improvement
- **Group 4- Public Opinion and Media Policy**
  - **Composition.** Expert level membership including qualified and relevant individuals
    - Media experts both government and private sector,
    - Representatives of Ministry of information( federal and provincial)
    - Religious scholars.
    - PIMRA representative
    - Members from National censor board
    - Film / drama producers
    - Writers , poets and other experts from print and electronic media.
  - **Tasks**
    - Determine the role of media and public opinion in de-radicalisation and counter terrorism efforts.
    - Review the existing print and electronic media policy
    - Identify major weaknesses and the suggest necessary changes and improvements

**Step 2 - Institutional / Legal Reforms.** In light of the report of the national commission the government may

- Initiate reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of institutions and law enforcing agencies.

- Initiate legal and judicial reforms to improve existing laws and the judicial system for fair and speedy justice.
- Introduce national Media Policy

### **Step 3- Reinstate the Institution of Mosque and Maradis**

- State ownership of religion and religious institutions including Mosque.
- Nominate board of Ulemas representing all religious schools of thoughts to
  - Standardise appropriate selection criteria for Imams and Khateeb.
  - Nominate imams and khateeb in respective Mosques as per the alid down criteria
  - Restore the original sanctity of the Dars-I nizami to pre 1979 status
  - Suggest improvements in the syllabus and mode of teaching in respective Madaris.
  - Organise dialogue and discussion between established schools of Islamic thought to increase understanding and build mutual trust and confidence.

### **Step 4- Increase Employment Opportunities**

- Initiate skill development programme in all parts of the country to build a skilled workforce to be utilised not only locally but abroad.
- Linking job seekers with potential employers, to maximise employment opportunities
- Encouraging industry and major corporations to provide career development opportunities for potential employees from affected or remote areas.
- Assisting communities to contribute in developing local solutions, to address unemployment.

### WORKING GROUPS

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
<b>Political/ Ideological</b>	<b>Law, intelligence&amp; Enforcement</b>	<b>Education-Socioeconomics</b>	<b>Media and Public Opinion</b>
<b>Chair:</b> <b>Amb. Aydin Nurhan</b>	<b>Chair:</b> <b>Gen Ehsan-ulhaq</b>	<b>Chair:</b> <b>Dr. Tahir Amin</b>	<b>Chair :</b> <b>Fahimul hamid-</b>
Sheikh Salih Diyab	Gen. Eshki	Prof.Dr.Mehmat ozcan	Zahid Hussain
Dr. Jamil Qalandar	MO & NACTA	Prof.Dr .Nazir Ahmad	Representative ISPR
Dr.Richard Boinney	Manzar Zaidi	Dr. Sarfaraz Ansari	Zahid malik
Dr Ilyas Khan	Brig Kamran	Amb. Naqvi	Gohar malik
Moderator: Adeela	Adil shareef	Moderator: Saqib	Moderator: Fawad
Secretary: Naeem	Moderater: Sara		

Note:- The members of the working groups will be further augmented by asking volunteers from the audience on the day of the seminar

## Questions

- **Group 1: Political/Ideological**

- Questions

- Who are we? Major contours of our identity? The dominant factor?
    - Is there any contradiction between Pakistani identity and the sub national identities? What are the shared values on which national consensus is possible?
    - Political/ legislative requirements beyond 1973 constitution.
    - what can be done by the government and civil society
    - Any other issue of importance

- **Group 2: Intelligence ,Law enforcement and Legal system**

- Questions

- Is the existing legal framework compatible with Pakistani society and its structure?(colonial heritage)
    - What are the major weaknesses in intelligence and law enforcing agencies and the legal system?
    - What can be done to rectify existing anomalies and ensur effective co-ordination?
    - How tradition of rule of law can be promoted in Pakistani society?
    - Any other issue of importance

- **Group 3: On Education/Socio-economic issues**

- Questions

- What are the major problems in existing education system and how the existing divergent systems can be harmonized?

What is HRD policy of the government and how far it has been successful.

- How to bloc and reduce the recruitment space of extremist groups (Developing National skill development ,employment and empowerment policy)
  - What can be the broad contours of national [policy on education and HRD.
  - Any other issue of importance
- **Group 4: On media and public opinion**
    - Questions
      - The existing public opinion about radicalism and terrorism?
      - What role media is playing in countering terrorism?
      - Major problems and weaknesses
      - What should be the media policy?

The steering committee will collate all the proposals being discussed in the working groups and finalise the final draft policy paper to be issued at the end of the seminar