



*Two-Day Training
on
Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism
(CVE)*



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Training Report

Two-Day Training on Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

1. Executive Summary

A two-day training on Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) was organized to strengthen participants' understanding of conflict, peacebuilding, violent extremism, and prevention-focused approaches to building peaceful and resilient communities. The training brought together participants from diverse educational, professional, and community backgrounds and provided a platform for critical reflection, learning, and dialogue on contemporary peace and security challenges.

Through interactive presentations, group discussions, conflict analysis exercises, case studies, and reflection sessions, participants explored the root causes of conflict and violent extremism, examined national and international prevention frameworks, and identified practical strategies for promoting peace, tolerance, and social cohesion within their communities. The training enhanced participants' analytical capacities and strengthened their commitment to becoming active agents of peace and positive social change.

2. Background and Rationale

The increasing complexity of social, political, and ideological conflicts requires approaches that go beyond traditional security responses and address the underlying drivers of violence and extremism. Communities, particularly young people, play a critical role in preventing radicalization and promoting peaceful coexistence. Strengthening local capacities for peacebuilding and prevention is therefore essential for fostering resilient societies capable of responding constructively to conflict and polarization.

Against this backdrop, the training was designed to equip participants with conceptual knowledge, practical tools, and analytical skills to understand conflict dynamics, recognize the factors contributing to violent extremism, and contribute to community-led peacebuilding initiatives.

3. Training Objectives

The training sought to:

- Enhance participants' understanding of peacebuilding and conflict transformation.
- Strengthen knowledge of violent extremism and its drivers.
- Introduce practical approaches to Countering Violent Extremism (CVE).
- Encourage participants to play an active role in promoting social cohesion, tolerance, and peaceful conflict resolution within their communities.

4. Training Methodology

The training adopted a participatory and learner-centered methodology that encouraged active engagement and critical reflection. Rather than relying solely on lectures, the facilitators employed a combination of interactive presentations, group discussions, brainstorming exercises, case studies, conflict mapping activities, and experience-sharing sessions. This approach enabled participants to connect theoretical concepts with real-life experiences and local contexts while fostering collaborative learning among participants from diverse backgrounds.

5. Training Proceedings



5.1 Opening and Introduction

The training began with opening remarks by Dr Saira Farooqi, Chairperson of the RDF, and the rest of the training was conducted by Ms Saima Jasam, Executive Director – RDF. It commenced with an interactive introductory session aimed at creating a collaborative and inclusive learning environment. Participants introduced themselves, shared their organisational affiliations and professional experiences, and reflected on their motivations for participating in the training. Through an engaging ice-breaking exercise, participants developed familiarity with one another and established a foundation of trust and openness that facilitated meaningful dialogue throughout the two days.

The facilitators provided an overview of the training objectives, agenda, and expected outcomes while jointly developing ground rules to encourage respectful participation and constructive engagement.



5.2 Exploring Peace and Conflict

The first thematic segment of the training focused on developing a deeper understanding of peace and conflict. Participants examined peace not merely as the absence of violence but as a broader condition characterized by justice, inclusion, democratic participation, and social harmony. Different theoretical perspectives on peace were introduced, enabling participants to appreciate the multidimensional nature of sustainable peace.

Particular attention was given to the framework of the **Civilizing Hexagon**, developed by **Dieter Senghaas**, which identifies six interrelated pillars necessary for peaceful societies: the monopoly of the legitimate use of force, rule of law, democratic participation, social justice, constructive conflict management, and emotional self-restraint. Participants reflected on these principles in relation to their own communities and the national context.

The discussion then shifted toward understanding conflict as a natural aspect of human interaction. Through conflict mapping exercises, participants analyzed real-world conflict situations, identified key stakeholders, explored root causes, and discussed possible interventions for conflict transformation and resolution.



5.3 Understanding Violence, Radicalization and Extremism

Building on the discussion of conflict, the training explored the concepts of violence, radicalism, extremism, violent extremism, terrorism, and counter-terrorism. The facilitators highlighted important distinctions among these concepts and examined the pathways through which individuals may become vulnerable to radicalization.

Participants analyzed factors contributing to violent extremism, including social exclusion, political grievances, identity crises, economic marginalization, ideological influences, and psychological vulnerabilities. Discussions were contextualized within Pakistan's evolving security environment, enabling participants to examine local manifestations of extremism and reflect on community-level responses.

The session generated rich discussions on the importance of prevention and early intervention, emphasizing that violent extremism often results from multiple interconnected factors rather than a single cause.



5.4 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): Approaches and Strategies

The training introduced Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) as a comprehensive and prevention-oriented framework. Participants examined how CVE differs from traditional counter-terrorism approaches by focusing on addressing the conditions that contribute to violent extremism rather than solely responding to acts of violence.

A range of preventive, rehabilitative, educational, community-based, media, communication, and governance-focused interventions were presented. Through group discussions and practical exercises, participants explored how government institutions, civil society organizations, educational institutions, media outlets, religious leaders, and community actors can contribute to preventing violent extremism.

Participants also identified locally relevant interventions that could strengthen resilience, promote social cohesion, and provide constructive alternatives for individuals and groups vulnerable to extremist narratives.



5.5 Prevention Frameworks and Community-Based Interventions

The final technical segment of the training focused on international and national frameworks for preventing violent extremism. Participants were introduced to the provisions of **United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178** and discussed its relevance to prevention efforts, community resilience, and international cooperation.

The session also examined Pakistan's National Action Plan (NAP), providing participants with an overview of its objectives, key pillars, achievements, and implementation challenges. Discussions emphasized the role of civil society organizations in supporting prevention efforts through peace education, youth engagement, dialogue initiatives, community mobilization, and social cohesion programming.

Case studies of successful interventions implemented by Pakistani civil society organizations provided practical examples of how local actors can contribute to reducing vulnerabilities to violent extremism and strengthening community resilience.



6. Participant Reflections and Closing Session

The training concluded with a reflection session facilitated by **Ms. Neelam Hussain**, Director of Simorgh and Board Member of RDF. Participants shared their experiences, key learnings, and reflections from the two-day programme.

Participants expressed appreciation for the participatory nature of the training and highlighted the relevance of the topics discussed. Many noted that the programme broadened their understanding of peacebuilding and strengthened their ability to analyze conflict and recognize factors contributing to violent extremism. Several participants also expressed their commitment to applying the knowledge and skills gained through the training within their organizations, educational institutions, and communities.

Feedback gathered during the evaluation process indicated a high level of satisfaction with the quality of facilitation, relevance of content, and opportunities provided for practical learning and peer exchange.

7. Outcomes and Achievements

The training contributed significantly to enhancing participants' knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding, conflict analysis, violent extremism, and prevention strategies. Participants demonstrated improved conceptual clarity regarding the interconnected nature of conflict, violence, and extremism while strengthening their analytical skills through practical exercises and discussions.

The programme fostered greater awareness of national and international policy frameworks related to peacebuilding and CVE and encouraged participants to view prevention as a collective responsibility involving governments, civil society, educational institutions, community leaders, media actors, and citizens.

Equally important, the training created opportunities for networking and collaboration among participants, laying the foundation for future peacebuilding initiatives and partnerships.



8. Conclusion and Way Forward

Ms Saima Jasam in the end thanked the team which included Mr Rana Waleed and Mr Mazher Zaheer without their hard work the training would not have been possible, The two-day training successfully achieved its objectives by providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism. Through a combination of conceptual learning and practical application, participants strengthened their capacity to analyze conflict, understand the drivers of violent extremism, and identify context-specific prevention strategies.

The training reaffirmed that sustainable peace cannot be achieved through security measures alone. Rather, it requires inclusive governance, social justice, community engagement, constructive dialogue, and collaborative action across all sectors of society. Participants concluded the programme with enhanced knowledge, practical tools, and renewed commitment to promoting peace, tolerance, social cohesion, and resilience within their communities.

Going forward, continued investment in capacity-building initiatives, youth engagement programmes, community dialogue platforms, and locally led peacebuilding interventions will be essential for sustaining the positive outcomes generated through this training and contributing to long-term peace and stability. In the end the certificates were distributed amongst the students.



Annex-I

Training Title: - Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Date: - 23-24 May-2026

Venue: RDF office, Lahore

DAY 1 - (23rd May 2026)

Time	Activity
09:30 – 09:45	Registration
09:45 – 10:00	Introduction RDF / Training Expectation
10:00 – 11:30	Session 1: Introduction to the 2 days Training
11:30 – 11:45	Tea
11:45 – 13:30	Session 2: Understanding the Concepts of Peace and Conflict
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 17:00	Session 3: Understanding Violence, Violent Extremism, Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism
17:00	Closing of Day 1 + Tea

DAY 2 - (24th May 2026)

Time	Activity
09:30 – 09:45	Recap of Day 1
09:45 – 11:30	Session 4: Concept of CVE (Approaches, Strategies, Scope, and Challenges)
11:30 – 11:45	Tea
11:45 – 13:30	Continue with Session 4
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 17:00	Session 5: Scope of CVE Prevention and Interventions
17:00 – 17:30	Closing Session:- Certificate Distribution / Closing Remarks / Group Phot



Annex-II

Expectation Form (Before Training)

Training Title: Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Training Dates: 23rd –24th May-2026

Participant Name: _____

Institute/Organization/Department: _____

1. What are your main expectations from this training?

- ☐ Gain practical skills
- ☐ Improve knowledge
- ☐ Career development
- ☐ Certification
- ☐ Other: _____

2. What specific skills or knowledge do you want to gain?

3. How relevant do you think this training is to your work/studies?

- ☐ Very Relevant
- ☐ Relevant
- ☐ Somewhat Relevant
- ☐ Not Relevant

4. What challenges do you currently face related to this topic?

5. What would make this training successful for you?

6. Any additional comments or suggestions?



Annex-II

Training Feedback Form (After Training)

Training Title: Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Training Dates: 23rd –24th May-2026

Participant Name: _____

Institute/Organization/Department: _____

Trainer Name: _____

1. Overall, how would you rate the training?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

2. The training content was:

- ☐ Very Useful
- ☐ Useful
- ☐ Somewhat Useful
- ☐ Not Useful

3. The trainer's knowledge and delivery were:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

4. The training met my expectations:

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

5. What did you like most about the training?

6. What areas need improvement?

7. Would you recommend this training to others?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8. Any additional comments or suggestions?



Annex III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Training on Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

23-24 May 2026 | Lahore

Sr. No.	Participant Name	Institution / University / College / Organization
1.	Arooj Anmol	UCP
2.	Maryam Shahid	PU
3.	Sehrish Imtiaz	LCWU
4.	Zunera Hussain	LCWU
5.	Binish Imtiaz	Degree College
6.	Maida Razzaq	AIMC
7.	Eisha Sattar	AIMC
8.	Fizza Abaid	King Edward Medical University
9.	Maryam Ateeq	Queen Mary College

10.	Komal Butt	Queen Mary College
11.	Mahum Nasir	LCWU
12.	Mahnoor Nasir	Punjab University
13.	Aliza Bahzad	UOE
14.	Bariya Ayat	UGMI
15.	Hira Bahzad	GCU
16.	Arooba Waseem	UOE
17.	Ammara Waseem	UOE