



## INVITATION

# IS COVID-19 RESPONSIBLE FOR FACILITATING EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM?



Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from 12:00 (CET, Brussels time)

Bussola Institute Webinar

The impact of the COVID-19 throughout the world in 2020 has been profound. Across the globe the day-to-day lives of people have changed dramatically and it is unlikely that these changes will diminish anytime soon. In these difficult times, terrorist attacks have continued as extremist views persist. From the killing of a teacher in France, to Islamic State's attacks on educational institutions in Afghanistan, to the recent massacre in Nigeria, it is clear that extremist ideologies continue to fuel violence around the world. COVID-19 and the extensive measures taken by Governments to minimise the effect of the pandemic have brought a great deal of uncertainty to the world. With uncertainty comes feelings of distrust, dissatisfaction, grievance, and division among and between societies. Together with this, workplaces, shops, public places are being shut and more people are spending more time online. In this sort of environment, extremism is able to thrive.

The pandemic brings new opportunities for extremists to gain further support for their ideologies by exploiting discontent and uncertainty through fostering victimhood narratives, spreading distrust of government, pursuing disinformation campaigns, fuelling exclusionary feelings, and spreading animosity towards "others". Extremists have been able to link elements of the pandemic to their overall ideology and continually amplify their messages. This Bussola Institute webinar will examine how the current circumstances have allowed extremist narratives to thrive and the measures that can be taken to counter the spread of extremism and terrorism.

## PANELLISTS:



Panel Member

**Dr. Orla Lynch**

Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at University College Cork, Ireland, Board member of the European Commission Radicalisation Awareness Network



Panel Member

**Dr. Richard Burchill**

Senior Research Fellow at the Bussola Institute



Panel Member

**Ms. Sara Zeiger**

Programme Manager, Research and Policy, Hedayah International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism



Moderator

**Mr. John Dennehy**

Secretary General, Bussola Institute



**Register here**

### Questions

There will be an opportunity to submit written questions to the panel during the course of the event via Zoom or they can be submitted in advance to: [events@bussolainstitute.org](mailto:events@bussolainstitute.org)

