

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN]

A

BILL

to provide for the establishment of National Centre for Countering Violent Extremism

WHEREAS it is expedient to ensure pragmatic national security, to accomplish the core objectives of the National Action Plan and to promote peaceful conflict management at the grass root level by establishing the National Centre for Countering Extremism;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extend and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the National Centre for Countering Violent Extremism Act, 2017.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.- (1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "Board" means the Board of Governors;

(b) "Center" means National Center for Countering Violent Extremism;

(c) "Centers of Excellence" means Centers of Excellence for Peace and Conflict Management Studies establish in public universities;

(d) "Counter Violent Extremism" means to identify indigenous and foreign factors contributing towards ideological radicalization and use of force incidental to it;

(e) "Data" means and includes primary or secondary source information about any field of study in a soft, transferable or printable form,

(i) "Primary source data" means surveys, numerical numbers at digital information about any subject;

(ii) "Secondary source data" means analytical, comparative and critical studies on any subject;

(f) "regulations" means regulations made under section 12;

(g) "rules" means rules made under section 13;

(h) "University" means any of the degree-awarding institutions recognized by the Higher Education Commission;

3. Establishment of the Center.- (1) There shall be established a Center to be known as the National Center for Countering Violent Extremism.

(2) The Center shall be a body corporate by the name of the National Center for Countering Violent Extremism having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire and hold property, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The Center shall be located at Islamabad and may establish its branches in the provinces.

4. Responsibilities.- (1) Director General of the National Center for Countering Violent Extremism shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Coordinating the center's efforts to counter violent extremism across all the components and offices of the Department that conduct strategic and supportive efforts to counter violent extremism. Such efforts shall include the following:

(a) Identifying risk factors that contribute to violent extremism in communities" in Pakistan and potential remedies for public and private institutions.

(b) Identifying populations targeted by violent extremist propaganda, messaging, or recruitment.

(c) Managing the outreach and engagement efforts directed toward communities and areas at risk for radicalization and recruitment for violent extremist activities.

(d) Ensuring relevant information, research, and products inform efforts to counter violent extremism.

(e) Developing and maintaining a Department wide strategy guiding policies and programs to counter violent extremism. Such strategy shall, at a minimum, address each of the following:

(i) The Department's counter-messaging program pursuant to paragraph to leverage new and existing Internet and other technologies and social media platforms to counter violent extremism,

(ii) The use of cooperative agreements with Provincial, local, tribal, and other Federal departments responsible for efforts relating to countering violent extremism; and

(iii) Ensuring all activities related to countering violent extremism to fully respect the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of all citizens of Pakistan.

(f) Identifying and recommending new research and analysis requirements to ensure the dissemination of information and methods for Federal, Provincial, local, and tribal

countering violent extremism practitioners, officials, law enforcement, and non-governmental partners to utilize such research and analysis.

- (g) Assessing the methods used by violent extremists to disseminate propaganda and messaging to communities at risk for radicalization and recruitment.

5. Establishment of the Centers of Excellence for Peace and Conflict Management Studies.- (1)

The Centers of Excellence for Peace and Conflict Management Studies shall have following purposes and powers, namely:-

- a) to establish under-graduate, graduate, post-graduate degree and other programmes in the relevant discipline in accordance with the standard and requirements of the University in which these Centers are established;
- b) to arrange conferences, seminars and refresher courses for the development of teaching and research;
- c) to promote teaching and research in particular subjects as assigned to it by the Federal Government in consultation with the University in which these Center are established;
- d) to provide for education and scholarship in such branches of knowledge as it may deem fit, and to make provision for research service to society and for the application, advancement and dissemination of knowledge in such manner as it may determine;
- e) to prescribe courses of studies to be conducted by affiliated educational institutes;
- f) to affiliate and disaffiliate educational institutions under prescribed conditions;
- g) to maintain linkages with alumni;
- h) to provide and support the academic development of the faculty of affiliated educational institutions;
- i) to inspect universities and other educational institutions affiliated or seeking affiliation with it;
- j) to co-operate with other Universities or public authorities, inside as well as outside Pakistan, in such manner and for such purposes as it may prescribe;
- k) to recognize selected members of the teaching staff of affiliated educational institutions or such other persons as it may deem fit, as Centre fellows;
- l) to award fellowships, scholarships, grants, and prizes to students of affiliated educational institutions who are in need financial assistance under prescribed conditions;

- m) to provide assistance to affiliated educational institutions to establish specialized departments, colleges, faculties, institutes, workshops and other Centers of learning for the development of research as it may prescribe;
- n) to make provision for research, advisory or consultancy services and with these objects to enter into arrangements with other institutions, public or private bodies, commercial and industrial enterprises under prescribed conditions;
- o) to enter into, carry out, vary or cancel contracts;
- p) to receive and manage property transferred and grants, bequests, trusts, gifts, donations, endowments or contributions in such manner as it may deem fit;
- q) to provide for the printing and publication of research and other works; and
- r) to do all such other acts and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as maybe requisite or expedient in order to further the objectives of the Center as a place of learning and research.

6. **Board of Governors.**- The overall control, direction and the superintendence of the affairs of the Center shall vest in the Board of Governor which may exercise all powers, perform all functions and do all acts which may be exercised, performed or done by the Center.

7. **Composition of the Board of Governors.**- (1) The Board of Governors shall consist of following members, namely:-

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| (i) | Minister for Defence; | Chairman |
| (ii) | three MNAs, nominated by the Speaker, National Assembly; | Members |
| (iii) | three Senators, nominated by the Chairman Senate; | Members |
| (iv) | Director General of Inter Services Intelligence; | Members |
| (v) | representative from Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training; | Members |
| (vi) | representative from Ministry of Interior; | Members |
| (vii) | representative from Higher Education Commission; | Members |
| (viii) | two experts in the relevant discipline to be nominated by the Federal Government on the recommendation of the Chairman; and | Members |
| (ix) | Director General of Center. | Ex-officio Member |

(2) The Director General shall also act as Secretary of the Board.

8. Meetings.- (1) The meetings of the Board of Governors may be convened by the Chairman either in his discretion or on the advice of a Member.

(2) A meeting of the Board may be called notwithstanding a vacancy in the office of one or more members of the Council.

(3) A meeting of the Board, once called, may not be postponed due to the absence of any one or more of its members.

(4) The Board may invite any person to attend any of its meetings, by special invitation.

9. Director General.- (1) The Director General (not the less than the BPS-21), shall be appointed by the Board on such remuneration and other terms and conditions of service as may be determined by the Board.

(2) The Director General shall be the executive head of the Center, and shall be responsible to the Board for carrying out the objectives of the Center.

(3) The Director General shall perform such other functions and exercise such powers as may be assigned or delegated to him by the Board.

(4) The Director General may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman, resign his office.

10. Appointment of officers and staff.- The Centre, with approval of the Board, may create posts and appoint such officers, employees, experts and consultants, as it may consider necessary, for the performance of its functions in the prescribed manner. The criteria for recruitment and selection of employees and officers shall be determined by the Board according to the rules as prescribed.

11. Fund.-(1) The Center shall have a fund to which shall be Fund Credited.-

(a) grants made by the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments;

(b) contributions and donations from individuals local bodies, corporations, institutions, organizations and agencies; and

(c) income from fees.

12. Audit and accounts, etc.- (1) The accounts of the Center shall be maintained in such form and manner as may be prescribed by rules.

(2) The accounts of the Center shall be audited once in every year by an auditor appointed by the Government on such remuneration, if any, to be paid by the Center, as the Government may fix.

(3) The Center shall submit, through the Board, to the Federal Government a copy of its audited annual accounts, together with the observations of the Director General, if any thereon, and report on the activities of the Center during the preceding year.

(4) The Center shall furnish to the Federal Government such information relating to its activities as may be asked for by the Federal Government from time to time.

13. Power to make regulations.- The Center may, with the approval of the universities, make such regulations concerning academic matters, not inconsistent with the rules, as it may consider necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

14. Power to make rules.- The Federal Government may by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

15. Saving.- The provision of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In order to accomplish the objectives of the National Action Plan, 2015 and to comprehend the menace of violent extremism, ethnic polarization and religious fragmentation or intolerance, this Bill intends to enhance national integration and inclusion through coordinated efforts.

Sd/-
Romina Khusheed Alam,
Member, National Assembly