Global Tolerance Conference 2020:

Critical Perspectives on Diversity, Tolerance and Pluralism

Background

Bangladesh, founded on secular principles in 1971, has faced its share of struggles with violent extremism, starting with blogger killings in 2013 and culminating with the macabre Holey Artisan Bakery attack in 2016. Since then, counter terrorism efforts by the Government of Bangladesh have successfully checked violent extremist attacks. However, threats of radicalization remain; research and newspaper reports suggest that extremists continue to lurk, recruit, and brainwash citizens online and offline. Meanwhile, beyond Bangladesh, xenophobic ideologies proliferate, from Christchurch to Colombo.

In this context, it is increasingly important for academics, policy makers and researchers, who are troubled by this shrinking space for tolerance, to engage in dialogue, knowledge-sharing and collaboration and try to stem the tide. With this objective, the ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society (CES), a Bangladeshi university-based research center, in conjunction with Chatham House, an esteemed international think tank, has organized the Global Tolerance Conference 2020.

This is an international conference that will aim to offer critical perspectives on the role of education in promoting tolerance, diversity and pluralism; tolerance in the age of social media; and shed light on new approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism.

Conference Objectives

1. To facilitate a global space for the ongoing debates to take place on the imperatives of Diversity, Tolerance, and Pluralism in the current times of societal volatility
2. To stir high-level discussions around the contemporary refined knowledge coming directly from the scholars, private-sector actors, policy makers, and other stakeholders working on these issues
3. To facilitate the sharing of best practices and case studies of successful intervention, and thus to seek for opportunities for adaptation across the globe
Conference Themes and Topics

### Panel 1: The Role of Education in Promoting Tolerance, Diversity and Pluralism

**Subthemes:**
1. What is the role of schools and universities in promoting tolerance, diversity and pluralism?
2. Does social and emotional learning (SEL) play a part in promoting tolerance, diversity and pluralism?
3. How do we combat hate speech, fake news, and conspiracy theories online and/or offline?
4. What is the role of curriculum in preventing and countering violent extremism?

### Panel 2: Tolerance in the Age of Social Media

**Subthemes:**
1. What is the role of social media in fostering Islamic radicalization among youth?
2. Are there disruptive technologies that can successfully prevent and/or counter violent extremism?
3. What are workable policy approaches to mitigating the vulnerability of social media to hate speech, fake news, and conspiracy theories?
4. How does the “echo chamber” effect of social media lead to hardening of national, religious, ethnic, gender or other identities?

### Panel 3: New Approaches to Preventing Violent Extremism

**Subthemes:**

**Mysticism:**
1. Can Sufism play a part in promoting tolerance in modern societies?
2. Are there local manifestations of mysticism such as Baulism that can promote tolerance in Bangladesh?

**Violent Extremism and Business:**
1. What sectors in an economy are the most vulnerable to the impact of violent extremism, in different countries?
2. What is the role of the private sector in mitigating radicalization and violent extremism?

**Climate Change and Terrorism**
1. What is the role of climate change in facilitating radicalization and violent extremism?
2. What are the risks of refugee radicalization in the local and global context?

*Other topics pertaining to promotion of diversity, tolerance and pluralism*
Abstract and Full Paper Submission Guidelines

In the below, you will find the guidelines related to the submission of the abstract and the full paper.

How to submit the abstract:

1. The abstract should be informative and must include the paper’s thesis and brief methodology
2. The maximum word limit for the abstract is 250 words
3. Please use the attached Abstract template and kindly follow the same
4. The submission should be strictly in English
5. The manuscripts should be submitted as a MS Word document (not as a PDF)
6. The submission should use font: Times New Roman; size: 12; spacing: double

Please send your abstract to gtc2020@ulab.edu.bd with the email subject Submission GTC2020 - Title of the paper. Once your abstract is accepted, we will communicate with you and request submission of the full paper in due course.

Important Dates

- Abstract Submission: February 05, 2020
- Notification of Acceptance: February 15, 2020
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: March 15, 2020
- Registration Window: February 20, 2020 - March 20, 2020

Contact Information

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