



# Report

# Introduction and Background:

Youth are at increasing risk for being exploited by recruiters for fanatic and extremist organizations through online and digital indoctrination. Even otherwise, the online media is being increasingly used to spread misinformation to affect disaffection between different communities across the world- especially in the Asian countries. There are many persons from youth, civil society, journalism, religious groups and computer professional etc. who are concerned by this growing phenomenon of misuse of social media spaces for fanatic indoctrination but are unable to respond appropriately due to their technical limitations in using social media and absence of a platform for action.

#### **COFI- Networks Program**

The COFI- Networks(Countering Online Fanatic Indoctrination- Networks) Program of COVA in collaboration with US Consulate Hyderabad- India, aims to provide technical skills and ability in handling a range of social media platforms and tools to persons from different fields like religion, media, civil society and social media etc and who are well versed in religious and social issues and who can therefore effectively counter online fanatic propaganda (against different religious groups and communities) in social and mainstream media spaces both as individuals and also through organised groups.

Under the theme of "Countering Online Radicalisation in Digital Age", COFI Networks program was launched through a TechCamp jointly organised from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 by COVA





and US Consulate General, Hyderabad in association with the Bureau of International Information Programs of The U.S. State Department.

**TechCamp Hyderabad** was designed as a Three-Day, interactive and fun experience to bring together civil society organizations, religious leaders, social media experts, and journalists from seven countries (representatives from nine countries were invited, but all could not come) with leading international/local technology experts to co-create social media solutions & strategies to the most pressing challenges faced by the participants in their work.

Countries represented at the TechCamp were Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Maldives, Philippines, Singapore & Sri Lanka will be represented at TechCamp Hyderabad to determine the biggest challenges that need to be addressed in the area of online radicalization and recruitment.

In all 33 foreign participants from seven countries and 16 participants from 6 cities of India attended the program. 5 foreign Resource Persons from 4 countries and 6 Indian Resource Persons conducted the program with great expertise.

# **Programs**

# 27th Nov, 2016: Day 0

# Buddy Up Over Lunch:

Participants of the TechCamp Hyderabad had started arriving from 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at the Leonia Resorts near the city of Hyderabad in Telangana State of India.

The first program started from Lunch on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016 with Buddy Up when participants from different countries were teamed up at random in twos and fours as they arrived with a view to generate bonding for the conference and create relationships that could last beyond the Event.

Each participant was asked to share with their partners an interesting experience with social media, a memorable experience from their professional field along with their personal backgrounds including education, profession, hobbies, strengths, weaknesses and vision and aspirations. After this interaction over lunch, all participants were invited to make brief write ups of their Buddies and paste on the "Wall of Fame" in the Grand hall, the main venue for the TeachCamp and remained there through the Conference. These write ups provided a very good introduction of each participant to all other participants.

In Post lunch session, participanst were divided into 4 Groups namely 1) Journalists, 2)Civil society/NGOs 3) Religious leaders 4) social media practitioners for informal interactions on issues and challenges being faced by them in their fields, the situation in their respective countries and explore possibilities of cross border partnerships and collaborations.

# TechCamp Inauguration:





As scheduled, the Inaugural Program of TechCamp Hyderabad started at 7.15 pm with a Welcome address by Bro. Varghese Techanath, Joint Secretary of COVA and Mr.Salil Kader, Advisor, Public Affairs- US Consulate Hyderabad moderated the event.

Thought Leaders Mr. K.R. Vengopal IAS (Rtd) and Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor of NALSAR addressed the gathering.

Mr. K.R. Venugopal stated that the illogicality of extremism and terrorism is thriving with support of Social media and the same science & technology being used to spread hate and foster violence should be used to counter it. He said by birth all are equal and all the acquired identities should not become reasons for hatred and violence.

Prof Faizan Mustafa in his address opined that where there are human rights violation, there will be counter violence be it in the form of terrorism or other manifestations. In just and equitable societies there won't be any scope for such menace.

Gabriel Hons- Oliver of US Consulate General, Hyderabad and Ms. Jamie Findlater from US Department of State, Washington explained about the commitment of the US Government to counter radicalization in all forms and to equip people to use social media to combat violence and promote amity by organizing TechCamps. It was also mentioned that TechCamps on different themes have been organized in 110 countries reaching out to over 2300 participants.

Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA stated that the onslaught of identity politics and marginalization of ideology politics across the world is resulting in greater alienation between different communities. This is being further exacerbated by misuse of social media to spread disaffection, hatred and violence between communities. An important strategy to check the spiraling violence could be through informed and effective interventions in social media to prevent spread of hate and promote better understanding to secure justice and peace.

Ms. Linda Roth, Trainer and formerly of CNN and Muhammad Ferdauz of Participant from Bangladesh delivered their messages about their expectations from the TechCamp and plans for future engagement with the process. Dr. Anand Raj Varma, Member of Advisory Committee of COVA proposed Vote of Thanks.

The Inaugural Function was followed by Dinner and concluded with Qawwali, a traditional form of Sufi Music.





# 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2016: Day One

The day started with an overview of the Concept of TechCamps and an Ice Breaker Session where each participant shared with two other participants the first thought that came to them and this led to the creation of a very interesting narrative of the thoughts, issues and concerns of the participants.

This was followed by a Session very unique to TechCamps called Speed Geeking where the Trainers presented their Fast Paced presentations for 5 minutes to small groups who moved from one Trainer to the next quickly, covering 11 trainer's and a range of topics as illustrated. This method allowed all trainees to get to know all topics that are to be covered and select any two for the detailed Interactive Training Sessions.

The Topics and Trainers for the Speeding Geeking and Interactive Training Sessions are listed below:

<b>Topic</b> 1 Online/Offline Engagement	<b>Trainer Vishwarath Reddy</b> , Recruiterbox, India
2. Storytelling via Digital & Mobile Tools	Linda Roth, Formerly CNN, USA
<ol> <li>Social Media         Marketing/Engagement/Creating         Compelling Content     </li> </ol>	AmmarKanchwala, Accenture/Google, India
4Hero's Journey: Narratives in Countering Online Radicalization in Digital Age	VenkataramanRamachandran, Cognizant Digital Engagement Practice, India
5. Data Visualization, Mobile Apps	Harish Kotra, Deep Red Ink, India
6. Online Learning	AigerimKhafizova, Kazakistan working with Amal Academy, Pakistan
7. Online/Offline Campaigns	Katie Parsons, 270 Strategies, USA
8. Online Campaign Against Violence	CameliaNistor, NoHateSpeech Campaign, Romania
<ol><li>Reaching Rural Populations using SMS or Voice Messages.</li></ol>	Rohit Singh, OnionDev, India
10. Identifying Real News from Fake news	AyesheaPerera, BBC, Sri lanka
11. Preventing Violent Extremism through Online Learning techniques	Sayeed MA, Swift Software, India

Each Participant could select any two of the Topics for the Interactive Training Sessions. Each Interactive Training Session lasted 1 hour and 20 Minutes









# Framing of Challenge Statement:

Post Evening Tea Session on Day 1 was devoted to framing of Challenge Statements. Participants were formed into groups and worked with Trainers to come up with two challenge statements faced by them in their fields of work that technology might be able to address both by looking at options available and by focusing on specific topic areas.

The 7 groups that were formed discussed for an hour and came out with the following 20 Challenge Statements in consultation with the Trainers listed below:

# Linda & Ayeshea:

- 1. How do we come up with a system to alert people that a news item/social post is fake?
- 2. How can we create a resource of personal stories to bridge differences and connect people on a human level?
- 3. How can we facilitate people to speak out against abuses perpetrated by members of their Communities ?
- 4. How do we create an online media literacy course?

#### Harish:

- 5. How do we add alternative perspectives to people's social media feeds in order to expose them to ideas different from their own?
- 6. How do we create a resource to help access specific terms and topics across different religious scriptures and their different translations?

#### Venkataraman

- 7. How do we engage members of GMB community to increase collaboration between them?
- 8. How do we use digital storytelling to bring awareness among young voters aged 17-25 yrs to become responsible voters during the upcoming election campaign in Indonesia?

#### Sayeed & Aigerim

- 9. How to optimize de-radicalization content during web search to encourage alternative content to appear?
- 10. How to develop a counter narrative against fanaticism through online and offline tools?
- 11. How to educate K-12 illiterate communities using technology in rural India?
- 12. How do we build a community using elearning tools for the purpose of de-radicalization?
- 13. How to create a strategy to highlight the gender aspect in radicalization and recruitment?

#### Camelia & Ammar

- 14. How can we develop alternative narratives responding to hate speech/hate content in news reporting/storytelling/social media?
- 15. How can I implement "No Hate Speech Campaign" in my country?

### Vish & Katie

- 16. How can we create and sustain an online & offline network of school dropouts?
- 17. How can we create a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of going online for traditional communities?





18. How can we coexist with and use technology to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions?

#### Rohit

19. How to design Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) to impact the perceptions and actions of target groups?

20. How to globally propagate all apps, tools and platforms to be developed by all partners of the COFI networks through all relevant tech innovations?

# Town Hall: Understanding Trolling:

An open discussion took place with the three member panel of Venkat, Ayeshea and Mazher Hussain for 40 minutes followed by discussion.

Ayeshea commented that when one posts a message, opponents who don't like or disagree with it label the commenter as biased and often retort in abusive language including threats of rape or killing with the objective of demoralizing the writer and cause acute mental agony to discourage from further writing and engagement with social media.

Mazher explained in detail how trolling has come of age with full time professionals employed to bombard target persons on social media with negative and abusive content using multiple identities. One person can create and post messages from 50 different identities and even if 10 such persons are engaged in trolling, the receiver would think over 500 different people are attacking him and could easily get demoralized. The objective of trolling is to intimidate and force into silence anyone with whom you differ and the only solution is to realize the hollowness and ill intentions behind trolls, develop a thick skin and continue with our posts and writings to propagate correct perspectives and counter negative ideologies.

Venkey explained in detail the options available to victims of trolling. First is to initiate action against trolls by requesting owners of Social Media platforms where the abuse is taking place. Second is to lodge a complaint with the police and in most countries appropriate and effective action is being taken though there are still some issues of anonymity and off shore operations. And finally, he also reiterated that the best bet is to just ignore and develop a thick skin.

The floor was open for discussion and a lively and informative discussion followed for over 30 minutes where the participants shared their experiences and proposed creative solutions.



# 29th Nov, 2016: Day Two,



Jamie and Mazher began the day with a positive note that this group should continue to bond beyond this TechCamp and should usher in new era tin fighting against online indoctrination by carrying forward the work in their 7-12-cingOverwite the 12-16-orts and local resources.

# Developing Solutions for the Challenge Statements:

Agenda for the morning of Day Two was to develop workable solutions for the Challenge Statements identified on Day One. Participants divided into groups, teamed with Trainers and spend time till evening Tea to select issues / Challenge Statements, evolve strategies, develop solutions and identify appropriate social media platforms for workable solutions.

Post Evening Tea, all the Groups made brief presentations

# 1) Projects to be developed:

### #CheckMateHate

# #CommunityConnect

#### Issues Addressed:

- How can we facilitate people to speak out against abuses perpetrated by members of their communities?
- How can we create a resource of personal stories to bridge differences and connect people on a human level?
- How do we engage members of GMB community to increase collaboration between them?

#### Trainers:

Linda Roth (USA, Ex-CNN)

Venkataraman Ramachandran (India, Cognizant)

### Platforms Adopted:

Twitter

Facebook

YouTube

Instagram

#### **Projects Timeline**

3 months

#### 2) Projects to be developed:

# #BustingFakeNews

# #InformedVoter

# Issues Addressed:

- How do we come up with a system to alert people that a news item/social post is fake?
- How do we use digital storytelling to bring awareness among young voters aged 17-25 yrs to become responsible voters during the upcoming election campaign in Indonesia?

#### Trainer:





AyesheaPerera (Sri Lanka, BBC)

# Platform Adopted:

Twitter

Facebook

Blogger

### **Project Timeline:**

2 months

# 3) Projects to be developed:

#TheOtherview

# AppofApps

#ScripturesMaster

#### **Issues Addressed:**

- How do we add alternative perspectives to people's social media feeds in order to expose them to ideas different from their own?
- How do we create a platform or strategy to showcase all the apps, tools and platforms to be developed by all partners of the COFI networks?
- How do we create a resource to help access specific terms and topics across different religious scriptures and their different translations?

#### Trainers:

Harish Kotra (India, DRI Consulting)

## Platform Adopted:

Web Development

Mobile - Android/iOS Development

### Project Timeline:

3 months

#### 4) Projects to be developed:

# #FanaticCounter

# #ePerspectives

#### Issues Addressed:

- How to optimize de-radicalization content during web search to encourage alternative content to appear?
- How to develop a counter narrative against fanaticism through online and offline tools?
- How to educate K-12 illiterate communities using technology in rural India?
- How do we build a community using elearning tools for the purpose of de-radicalization?
- How to create a strategy to highlight the gender aspect in radicalization and recruitment?

#### Trainers:

M.A. Sayeed (India, eSwiftSoftware)

AigerimKhafizova (Uzbekistan, Amal Academy)

# Platform Adopted:





eSwift

# **Project Timeline:**

3 months

# 5) Projects to be developed:

# #DropoutUniv

# #TraditionsOnline

#### Issues Addressed:

- How can we create and sustain an online & offline network of school dropouts?
- How can we create a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of going online for traditional communities?
- How can we coexist with and use technology to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions?

#### Trainers:

Vishwarath Reddy (India, StudentLive) Katherine Parsons (USA, 270 Strategies)

# Platform Adopted:

Facebook

Twitter

LinkedIn

YouTube

Instagram

# **Project Timeline:**

3 months

### 6) Project Developed:

# #ReachingRuralCommunities

#### Issue Addressed:

- How to design Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) to impact the perceptions and actions of target groups?

### Trainer:

Rohit Singh (India, OnionDev)

### Platform Adopted:

Mobile-SMS

# **Project Timeline:**

2 months

After the presentations on the Projects to be developed by different Groups, an online survey of feedback from all participants was taken and the TechCamp concluded as scheduled at 5.15 pm with presentation of Mementos to all Participants, Trainers and organizers.





#### Annexure I

# Feedback from Participants and Trainers: Glimpses

Note: Survey Monkey does not reveal names

- Absolutely loved the TechCamp. COVA has done a great job organizing it. Since we organize camps and workshops, I have already gotten many pointers. It would have been great if we got the chance to choose more than just 2 training sessions. 11/29/2016 6:26 PM
- I cannot ask for more as the trainers, organizers were awesome in arranging the event and the event changed my perspective towards tech and humanity. 11/29/2016 5:21 PM
- Thank you for a wonderful event. It was the first event in which I saw effective products being developed by the end of the program instead of just coming up with ideas. 11/29/2016 5:19 PM
- I loved the overall concept and the approach. Learned so many things which I can implement back home. I can confidently say that I have become so techsavy after attending this tech camp. Probably the best camp/conference that I have attended so far. Thank you COVA and other organizers for this amazing opportunity. 11/29/2016 5:06 PM
- Everything was greatly organised. Trainers were experts of their areas. 11/29/2016 5:05 PM
- The TechCamp provides me an opportunity of extending my network beyond South East Asia. Aside from that, I gained additional knowledge in terms of different tools that can be used in my work back home. Thank you for this opportunity. 11/29/2016 5:04 PM
- I love the hospitality. That makes me think good things of India! 11/29/2016 5:02 PM
- I suggest that you may create zones in various cities and thereby assigning mentors to us so that we can take this forward to a great extent 11/29/2016 5:01 PM
- More information prior to topic would be of help. It would also be helpful if we can have more time with a certain trainers. 11/29/2016 5:00 PM
- The whole TechCamp HYD is great! I would love to see this fantastic initiative create greater ripples of change and betterment in more countries across the globe. 11/29/2016 5:00 PM

#### Feed Back from Trainers

- Great effort, folks!! Can't adequately appreciate the amount of energy all of you put into making these TechCamps a huge success!!! 11/29/2016 5:09 PM
- The logistics and support for this conference were amongst the best I have experienced. Incredibly well done! Thank you for making it easy and fun! 11/29/2016 5:05 PM
- It was a good event and refreshing one to work with people from different countries. Having done 35+ events in India, this format is brand new and very interesting. Cheers to both IIP and COVA teams for organizing it and making it hassle free for me. 11/29/2016 5:00 PM

#### Feedback: On Facebook and Emails

- Thank you very much for the wonderful event, which is the need of the hour. We're back home safe and already much exited to carry the momentum/ knowledge we've got at the conference.

  Nuzaik Huzny Najimudeen, Participant, Sri Lanka
- Amazing opportunity to participate in the TechCamp and meet so many awesome ppl. Time management was awesome! Probably one of the first/only trainings I've been for that has worked





so well to time! Kudos! Pls consider the environment and DON'T have water bottles in future! There was so much wastage and so MANY plastic bottles :( It was terribly sad to see). **Marisa De Silva,** Participant, Sri Lanka

• Miss my COFI family, **Farhana Sharmin Ali**, Participant, Bangladesh

# Annexure II

# TechCamp Hyderabad: Countering Radicalization in the Digital Age

# **Agenda**

	Day 0   Nov 27 (Sunday)
12 noon	Partners & Trainers Complete Registration at Leonia Resort
12:30 PM - 1:45 PM <b>Venue:</b> <i>Central Buffet</i>	Informal Outreach over Lunch Activity 1: Buddy Up 2 Partners Team up with members of other countries / cities and break-the-ice over lunch
1:45 PM - 2:15 PM <b>Venue:</b> <i>Grand Hall</i>	Activity 2: Wall of Fame  Partners will write notes/appreciation/gratitude about their fellow Partners on post-its and stick it on the 'Wall of Fame'.
	<ul> <li>TechCamp Hyderabad Overview</li> <li>Overview of the 2 Day Program: Schedule and Topics</li> <li>Intro of TechCamp Organizers</li> <li>Announcements: Logistics and Guidelines</li> </ul>
2:45 PM - 3:30 PM  Venues:  • Grand Hall  • Meeting Room 2  • Meeting Room 3	Huddle for Partners  Partners break out into following groups for informal interactions:  NGOs - Journalists  Religious Leaders - Social Media practitioners
3:30 PM Venue: Grand Hall	Break for Tea
6:00 PM - 7:00PM <b>Venue:</b> <i>Grand Hall</i>	<b>Huddle for Trainers</b> Quick catch-up with the Trainers- Introductions followed by the roadmap for the next 2 days of TechCamp.
7:15 PM - 8:00 PM Venue: Party Lawns	TechCamp Inauguration Master of Ceremonies; Mr. Salil Kader, US Consulate, Hyderabad  - Welcome Address: Bro. Varghese Theckanath, Jt. Secretary, COVA Messages:  - Prof. Faizan Mustafa, V.C. NALSAR  - Mr. K.R. Venugopal, I.A.S
	<ul> <li>Mr. Gabriel Hons-Olivier ,US Consulate General, Hyderabad</li> <li>Ms. Jamie Findlater, TechCamp, US Dept. of State -</li> <li>Ms. Linda Roth, TechCamp Trainer, Ex-CNN, USA</li> <li>Mr. Muhammad Ferdaus, TechCamp Partner from Bangladesh</li> <li>- Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director, COVA</li> <li>Vote of Thanks: Dr. Anand Raj Varma, Advisory Council, COVA</li> </ul>
8:15 PM - 10:00 PM	Dinner & Sufi Night
Venue: Party Lawns	(Qawaali performance by Warsi Brothers)





<b>Day 1   Nov 28</b> (Monday)		
7 am onwards	Breakfast	
Venue:Grand Hall		
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Sign-in, Networking, Coffee & Tea	
Venue:Grand Hall		
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Welcome Address & What is TechCamp	
Venue: Grand Hall	- Jamie Findlater, U.S. State Department Team	
9:15 AM – 9:45 AM	Spectrogram	
Venue: Grand Hall	Partners take their position on a spectrum based on a set of statements to measure level of tech literacy	
9:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Speed Geeking   Fast-paced Project Presentations	
Venue: Grand Hall	Trainers present Fast paced presentations that last for 5 mins where small Partner groups move from one Trainer to the next quickly, to learn about a range of opportunities and applications of technology, to advance their missions.  (Details listed in Appendix-1: appended below)	
11:00 AM - 11:20 AM	Coffee Break	
Venue: Grand Hall 11:20 AM - 11:30 AM	Explanation of Interactive Training/ Breakout	
Venue: Grand Hall	Sessions  Partners can choose only 2 sessions:- Attend one in the morning and one after Lunch	
11:30 AM – 12:50 PM	Partners can attend the same session twice	
Venues:  • Grand Hall • Meeting Room 2 • Meeting Room 3 • Board Room	Interactive Training Sessions-1  Interactive small group training on low-cost, easy to implement tech based tools and approaches (Details listed in Appendix-2: appended below)	
12:50 PM – 1:00 PM	Group Photo	
1:10 PM – 2:15 PM  Venue: Grand Hall  2:15 PM – 3:15 PM  Venues:  • Grand Hall  • Meeting Room 2  • Meeting Room 3  • Board Room	Lunch  Interactive Training Sessions-2  Trainers to continue in the same rooms  Interactive small group training on low-cost, easy to implement tech based tools and approaches  (Details listed in Appendix-2: appended below)	
3:15 PM – 3:35 PM	Coffee Break	
Venue: Grand Hall  3:35 PM – 3:55 PM  Venue: Grand Hall	Framing 'Challenge' statements- Explanation  IIP Team	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Trainers & Partners Frame Challenge	





Venues:  ● Grand Hall  ● Meeting Room 2	statements  Small group discussions to identify specific challenges faced by Partners in their fields of work that technology might be		
<ul><li>Meeting Room 3</li><li>Board Room</li></ul>	able to address, both by looking at options available, and by focusing on specific topic areas.  Trainers to continue in the same rooms		
5:00 PM – 5:10 PM	Discussion on Follow on activities and Strategies		
Venue: Grand Hall	for development of solutions to Challenge		
	Statements- IIP Team		
5:10 PM - 6:00 PM	Townhall: Understanding Trolling		
Venue: Grand Hall	Panelists: Venkataraman Ramachandran, Ayeshea		
	Perera, Mazher Hussain		
End of Sessions for Partners			
6:00 PM - 6:15 PM	Trainer Debrief		
Venue:	Catch-up for Trainers to understand what support they would		
Meeting Room 3	need to address the Challenge Statements that were framed.  To be facilitated by IIP		
Close for Day 1			

Day 2   Nov 29 (Tuesday)		
7 am Onwards	Breakfast, Coffee & Tea	
Venue: Grand Hall		
8:15 AM-8:30 AM	Announcements	
Venue: Grand Hall		
8:30AM -9:00 AM	Partners Choose a Challenge statement from Day 1 to solve	
Venue: Grand Hall		
9:00AM-10:30 AM	Small Group Work on Identifying Solutions- Session 1	
Venues: Grand Hall		
10:30 AM-10:50 AM	Coffee Break	
Venue: Grand Hall		
10:50 AM-12:50 PM	Small Group Work on Identifying Solutions- Session 2	
Venues: Grand Hall		
12:50 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch	
Venue: Grand Hall		
1:30 PM - 1:40 PM	Videos- Presentations from previous TechCamps	
Venues: Grand Hall		
1:40 PM - 1:50 PM	Mannequin Challenge!	
Venues: Grand Hall		
1:50 PM - 2:45 PM	Developing Project Solutions & Making Presentations	
Venues: Grand Hall		
2:45 PM – 4:20 PM	Final Presentations	
Venues: Grand Hall	- 4 min per team	
	- 8-10 teams (min. 3 per team)	
	- Presentations should be creative –	
	Explain the challenge & the solution developed at TechCamp)	
4:20 PM – 4:30 PM	Coffee Break	
4:30 PM – 4:45 PM	TechCamp Survey	





Venue: Grand Hall	• IIP Team	
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	
Venue: Grand Hall	• 1 Trainer + 1 Partner to be invited beforehand	
	Vote of Thanks by Organizer (COVA/IIP/US Consulate)	
5:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Mementos	
Venue: Grand Hall		



# Annexure III

# **INTERACTIVE TRAINING/BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Торіс	Trainer
1. Distinguishing Real News from Fake news-	Ayeshea Perera, BBC
2. Reaching Rural Populations using SMS or Voice Messages. (SMS/IVR)	Rohit Singh, OnionDev
3. Digital Storytelling tools.	Linda Roth, Formerly CNN &
4. Hero's Journey: Narratives in Countering Online Radicalization in Digital Age	Venkataraman Ramachandran, Cognizant Digital Engagement Practice
5. Online to Offline Engagement -	Katie Parsons, 270 Strategies &Vishwarath Reddy, Recruiterbox
6. Online Campaigning as a Tool-	Ammar Kanchwala, Accenture/Google&Camelia Nistor, NoHateSpeech Movement
7. Data Visualization, Mobile Apps	Harish Kotra, Deep Red Ink
8. Online Learning Tools & Techniques-	Aigerim Khafizova, Amal Academy &Sayeed MA, Swift Software





# Annexure IV Solutions Developed





# Annexure V List of Participants, Trainers and Organisers

# **Organizers**

# **Gabriel Hons-Olivier (India)**

Mr. Gabriel Hons-Olivier is the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad. He is acareer member of the U.S. Foreign Service. Prior to serving in India, Gabriel served in Malawi, Washington D.C., Iraq, Angola, Guyana and Libya. Gabriel received a master's degree in International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management, in Arizona. He speaks French and Portuguese, and has studied German and Russian.

# Jamie Findlater (United States of America)

Jamie Findlater is a Senior Program Manager with the U.S. Department of State TechCamp Program. Sheworks in partnership with U.S. diplomatic missions abroad to design programming that addresses keypolicy goals. She has led over 50 initiatives in 120 countries, with topics ranging from women'sempowerment, to investigative journalism, to countering violent extremism through economicempowerment. She has been associated with the US State Department for a very long time.

# Mazher Hussian (India)

Founder and Executive Director of COVA, he has a doctorate in Philosophy, started career in computerfield and is engaged in social activism from 1997. Has served on Boards of many national and internationals organisations including the State Bank of Hyderabad. Specialisations include conflictmanagement, Track II, participatory governance, financial inclusion, disaster management and policyadvocacy. Is a recipient of South Asia Star Peace Award.

#### Salil Kader (India)

Cultural Affairs Advisor Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad Salil Kader has beenworking as the Cultural Affairs Advisor at the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad since2009. Prior to joining the State Department, he taught history to undergraduate and postgraduate studentsfor eight years. He has an M. Phil. in History from the University of Hyderabad. His interests lie in history, politics, music, sports and religion.

# **Resource Persons Profiles – International**

#### Aigerim Khafizova (Kazakhstan)

AigerimKhafizova is a Fulbright Fellow from Kazakhstan, passionateabout education technology and youth empowerment. She was working ondesigning youth employment and professional development programs inKazakhstan, conducted international learning research at leading elearningplatform Udemy in the U.S. Aigerim joined the Amal Academy inLahore as a Global Academic Fellow in February 2016 and has developed24 online courses.





### CameliaNistor (Romania)

Originally from Romania, she works on the learning of individuals, groupsand organizations across the world using non-formal education. Her workis with young people & policy-makers on questions of racism, intolerance, social inclusion and hate. Since 1998 she has been involved with humanrights organizations doing advocacy, campaigns and was recently involved in an online campaign against Hate Speech.

# AyesheaPerera (Sri Lanka)

AyesheaPerera is the digital editor of the BBC India news website. A SriLankan, Ayeshea has lived and worked in India since 2007. She ispassionate about digital media and is particularly interested in the impact of social media on journalism. Food is another of her passions.

# Jamila Fagge (United States of America)

Jamila Fagge is host and executive producer of Voice of America's Yau daGobe, a radio program that is using radio and social media to educatedisenfranchised youth and population vulnerable to recruitment byextremist groups. Jamila is a strategic thinker and problem solver with over5 years of inland and overseas experience as an expert in shaping communications strategy for the Voice of America, the U.S. StateDepartment, the Federal Government of Nigeria, nonprofits, and theprivate sector.

# **Katie Parsons (United States of America)**

Katie Parsons is a Senior Project Manager at 270 Strategies. She hasbeen senior advisor to campaigns in the U.K., Albania, Hungary, Romania, Israel and Palestine, South Africa, Canada. Previously, Katie wasInternational Program Director at The Climate Reality Project. Katie holds a Master's degree in International Public Management and a Bachelor'sdegree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

# **Linda Roth (United States Of America)**

Linda Roth is a strategic communications executive and award winningjournalist. She was Wolf Blitzer's producer at CNN for more than a decade, relied upon to manage nearly every aspect of his editorial projects, tripsand top newsmaker interviews. Roth counts Emmy, Peabody and Headliner awards among her journalistic honors.

#### Resource Persons Profiles – India

#### AmmarKanchwala (India)

AmmarKanchwala is an award-winning Digital Marketing professional with4+ years of experience in digital marketing. Stays on top of the Indian socialmedia scene and is up-to-date with relevant insights, by focusing largely onbut not limited to – Indian social media news and case studies, campaignsand articles. Was awarded "Power Digital User" of India 2016 Title.





#### Harish Kotra (India)

Harish Kotra is a Software Architect. He has powered startups, nonprofitsand educational institutions by building tools, apps and websites for them. He has been associated with AngelHack, Geeklist, Weekend Ventures, and Pioneers, to name a few. He has also mentored students from premierIndian engineering institutions like IIT and BITS by conducting summerinternship programs.

# Rohit Singh (India)

Rohit Singh has now been working in the social development sector forover a decade. A Certified CSR Assessor by URS Worldwide (USA), hehas worked in NGOs, funding agencies and social enterprises. His role hasbeen around managing large scale development/disaster management programs, fostering partnerships and strengthening communicationplatforms. Over the last couple of years, Rohit has been working with theTechnology Development, Content Innovation and CommunityMobilization teams of OnionDev (previously Gram Vaani), innovatingsocial media platforms for diverse groups.

# SayeedM.A(India)

12 years of experience in managing Software Projects. Designed &conceived the idea of Software tool, Swift HCM (www.swifthcm.com) toempower Human Capital for organizations. A speaker on ThoughtLeadership & Social activities. My passion as a leader is to create systemsthat empower organizations to the highest level of performance.

### Venkataraman Ramachandran (India)

Venkataraman Ramachandran works as a consultant on Social Media and Brand Storytelling. He has worked with startups and large corporations, playing various roles in strategy and marketing functions. He has taught Social Media in India's leading educational institutions. He is an avid blogger and digital storyteller across diverse web mediums.

#### Vishwarath Reddy (India)

New Media Entrepreneur and Product Manager. Has a keen interest in entrepreneurship, UI/UX & dreams of building an organization with a lasting impact. At 21, he co-founded, Student Live, a platform for students to publish content and connect with fellow students. The team managed to build a 100+ college network and 5000+ student base.

# **Profiles of Partners-International**

# Ayesha BinteTowhid (Bangladesh)

She is a Journalist, Social Activist and independent documentary filmmaker, Feature Writer @ New Age. She has served as the Campus Ambassador of BRAC Social Innovation Lab. Founded Ongkuron, a community service organization aimed to engage youth in social work. Ongkuran has impacted 3500 people since 2010.

# FahadIbnaWahab (Bangladesh)





Phadisrunninga Video Content Creation Platformcalled Movians.com based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In Movians they trainthe unskilled youth generation to become skilled and make their living bymaking videos. They are already working with some of the top brands of Bangladesh and have trained more than 25 people who have already benefitted from this training.

# FarhanaSharmin (Bangladesh)

Student, Independent University, Bangladesh. Has experience in EventManagement and Youth Leadership Training.

# Marilyn Thipthorpe (Bangladesh)

She has worked as a teacher at Sacred Heart Tutorial. Has held theposition of Feature Editor at the Daily Our Time a local daily which has ajoint venture with The New York Times. Currently I hold the post of Sub-Editor at the Dhaka Tribune at the Central News Desk.

# Muhammad Ferdaus (Bangladesh)

Muhammad Ferdaus is a Research Associate in Disaster Management in BRAC University, Bangladesh in partnership with the European Union. Hehas received advanced training in Disaster Management from the University of Huddersfield, UK. As one of the '199 Global Young Leaders Fellow on Women Deliver', he participated in the youth leadership and advocacy training in Denmark.

### NewazMd Akbar Hossain (Bangladesh)

Empowered youth and developed innovative tech solutions for the past 3years. Has strong knowledge in Business, leadership, entrepreneurship &psychology.

### **Swadesh Chandra Mandol (Bangladesh)**

Associated with SatyadharmaMahamandal since 1992 to propagatehumanity, integrity and equality and to change our society's valuespositively based on human rights issues, protection and prevention asagainst violence.

# Mr. AdjiePratama (Indonesia)

I am a Muslim who loves Allah, Prophet Muhammad and wanted to createpeace in the world. I like the development of cutting-edge technology and Iwork as a teacher of Natural Science and an Android ApplicationDeveloper.

#### Ni Kadek Diana Pramesti (Indonesia)

Ni Kadek Diana Pramesti from West Java, Indonesia loves to write, readand travel. She is a student of Padjadjaran University majoring inJournalism Studies. On campus, she is actively involved in the movieand press community. Along with her studies and on campus activitiesshe actively volunteers with Gerakan Mari Berbagi and TurunTangan, both organisations based in Jakarta.

### NurDjumadillman (Indonesia)





Nur works at the Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperationamong Civilisations. Theorganisation works to bridge gaps betweencommunities, promote dialogue and establish rapport with members ofdiverse groups and promote team cohesiveness.

Afnan Ibrahim (Maldives)

Afnan is the Project Coordinator at Transparency Maldives for the JudicialWatch Project. She has conducted research on lawyers perception of Judicial Issues. Has worked on Maldivian Democracy Network and their recommendations on the Gender Equality Bill were accepted by the Parliament of Maldives

# **Ahmed Naeem (Maldives)**

Ahmed Naeem is a Political Science student and has been working with CSOs since 2012. He has taken part in many human rights campaignsincluding the ones organized by Transparency Maldives. This includes the RTI campaign, Asset Declaration campaign and campaign of the missing journalist Ahmed Rilwan.

# Bona Dea Mendoza (Philippines)

Bona has been working for the Asian Bridge Philippines for 11 years, firstas a Program Coordinator and then as Director since 2012. She has doneher Master's at Sungkonghoe University in South Korea majoring in Inter-Asia NGO Studies.

# Karen Vina S. Abellana (Philippines)

Karen is a Project Officer at Al Qalam Institute for Islamic Identities and Dialogue in Southeast Asia, Ateneo de Davao University. The University is committed to conduct inter faith and intra faith dialogue within the Ateneocommunity in Mindanao. The end goal of dialogue is for them to define their commonalities of values and principles as a true Mindanaon.

# Natashya Gutierrez (Philippines)

Bureau Chief, Rappiers First International Bureau in Indonesia since 2015. Has experience of 5 years in Multi Media Reporter

# **Muhammad Solyh Bin Ahmad (Singapore)**

Solyh Ahmed from Singapore has done Management with Major inInternational Business from Royal Holloway, University of London. He isworking as an Instructional Designer and is an Educator, working with youth. He is involved in both domestic and foreign initiatives, for example, a refugeeaid project in Istanbul with İnsana Yardım Dernegi.

# **NurDiyanahBinte Anwar (Singapore)**

Diyanah is an analyst with the Centre of Excellence for National Security atthe S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). She attained herMSc(Asian Studies) from RSIS, and her BSocSci(Hons) in PoliticalScience from the National University of Singapore. Her research revolvesaround identity, multiculturalism, social policies, inequality, and therelations between state and society.





### Dr. AboobackerRameez (Sri Lanka)

Dr. AboobackerRameez is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology, from theDepartment of Social Sciences, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Hehas completed his doctorate (Ph.D) at National University of Singapore(NUS). His area of work is conflict resolution. His interest includes ethnicity, social issues, social change, and issues related to Sri Lankan Muslims. Heis social media savvy

# Marisa Florence De Silva (Sri Lanka)

Marisa is a journalist at The Sunday Times. She is an activist and works ongrievances faced by war affected communities of the North and East of SriLanka She also uses social media channels to carry out campaigns, disseminate information, mobilize support and engage in constructive debate and discussion.

# Mikal MirudhulaThambiah (Sri Lanka)

She has been a professional Journalist for the past 7 years. She has beenmainly reporting on religious and communal reconciliation, post warscenario in Sri Lanka- mainly on issues faced by minority communities in the current political- economic – social and cultural context.

# Mohamed Fairooz (Sri Lanka)

Media Trainer & Editor of a National Tamil daily, and weekly Newspaperand Online publication (www.vidivelli.lk) for the last 5 years. Hasparticipated in a program conducted by United States Department of Stateon 'Media Literacy Promoting Civil Society through New Media'. Hasconducted around 60 workshops and media seminars for school anduniversity students and Journalists around the country.

### NuzaikHuznyNajimudeen (Sri Lanka)

NuzaikHuznyNajimudeen is an enthusiastic social worker, working for over5 years with many social service organizations in the areas of Developmentand Justice. He is the founder and leader of the research activities forCenter for Awareness and Social Obligations, in Sri Lanka, which focuseson educating the public in selective areas of attention.

## R.M. MadhubhashiniRangikaRathnayaka (Sri Lanka)

Madhubashini is producer of a short film 'The Wind and Silence' on post warpsychological trauma of war affected women. Did P.G. research onUtilizing Digital Media for effective diplomacy in post conflict anddeveloping scenario' from 2009-2013. Did New Media and Journalismfrom University of Oklahoma USA. Worked as Spokesperson for Save the Children.

### **Profiles of Partners – India**

#### **Abdul Muntagim Syed**

I specialize in teaching Arabic language and Islamic studies. I have bachelordegree in Islamic studies and master degree in modern Arabic and have 10 years experience in education field.





Working with Sheriff Foundation, dedicated to the service of the deprived-from children to the aged and the disabled.

#### **Ashutosh Shukla**

I work with the dnanews paper as a special correspondent now, I have been assigned communities, RTI and AamAadmi Party to report on. Stories by meinclude those that talk about demands of communities, their grouse and complains, their aspirations, what they want to do and what their opinions areon subjects into which they get drawn into.

#### AditiBhaduri

AditiBhaduri is a journalist and researcher, specialising on strategic affairs, foreign policy and gender. She writes for the Indian and international media, has contributed to numerous volumes, and translated literary and archival works from Russian to English.

# **Ankita Gupta**

Ankita Gupta is a development professional, passionately driven to workover issues pertaining to rights of children and women especially in ethnicand armed conflict affected regions. As a budding researcher, author andwriter she likes penning her field observations on effects of conflict on youth &children.

#### Deepa AG

She is presently working for an organisation called EFSA - Eco foundation forsustainable alternatives. She started her work with the organisation as avolunteer and now coordinates programs and takes care of theiradministration. Her work has been primarily with children, women and communities in urban and rural Bangalore.

# Ibrahim RizwaNadwi

Myself Ibrahim RizwaNadwi, I did my schooling from MahadNadwatulUlama and graduated thereafter from DarulUloomNadwatulUlama.Presently I am a lecturer at a religious college (JamiatulMominat al-IslamiaLKO) & connected to an N.G.O which promotes education for women.

#### GhulamRasoolDehlvi

GhulamRasoolDehlvi is writer and columnist with The Asian Age, DeccanChronicle, News18, DainikJagran, Firstpost, CNN, Voice of America etc.He is well-versed in classical Arabic & Islamic Studies and ComparativeReligion. He has extensively researched and written on countering OnlineFanatic Indoctrination, for example "Tweeting Jihadism: How the onlineonslaught of Islamic State can be countered".

#### **Mohammed Abdul Khuddus**

His BE from Osmania University, completed his Masters in ElectricalEngineering & Computer Science from University of Illinois, Chicago, USA.He worked for AT&T Bell Labs, USA for 15 years. He has worked for over 25 years as a Telecom Professional. He is also very active in social work





andhas set up an NGO called Student Development Association & MuslimProfessional Network. He is a recipient of Global Award for Social Serviceby Motorola in 2007.

#### Mufti Zubair

Associated with madrasa e Rahamania at Talabkatta, Hyderabad. MaulanaZubair has been working against fanatic indoctrination in association withmany religious groups and ducational institutions

# MaqboolSiraj

Been a journalist since 1978 and worked with Indian Express, "The WorldReview" UK in India and BBC World Service in Bangalore Currently writesfor 'The Hindu', Bangalore edition, 'Deccan Herald', Bangalore; and workas a researcher with National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

## Ranjan K Baruah

Social entrepreneur and independent journalist focusing on youth anddevelopment issues. Have been working with young people in differentparts of north east for more than a decadefor vibrant civil society. Recipientof National Youth Award from Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2014. Founder of North East Youth Foundation

# **Sabir Jamal Sayed**

Sabir Jamal Sayed has done his Engineering from BITS, Pilani and MBA inMarketing and is currently pursuing his PhD in Digital Marketing fromMumbai University. He is also Director Information Technology at twodifferent organisations. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of ITSoftware, Development and Education.

### SagarGangurde

Sagar is the Director of Indian Programs at Seeds of Peace. In this role, hedesigns and implements programs and activities that focus on the coreleadership capacities needed to advance peace. Sagar has a backgroundof Mechanical Engineering and is a former Teach ForIndia Fellow. He alsoholds a Master's in Human Resources from JBIMS, Mumbai.

#### Sangamitra Malik

I have great respect for the diversity of India. I believe that in India weshould appreciate the difference that is there in languages, cultures, rituals, food habits, clothes, caste, community and religion. I have beenworking to spread the message of peace and harmony betweencommunities through approaching school and college students and people of all ages..

#### **Syed Mohammed**

He is the principal correspondent and columnist with the Times of India, Hyderabad. Covers Minority Affairs with a special focus on issues of the Muslim community. He has covered incidents of communal violence, interviewed families of those alleged to have links with the so-





called IslamicState. His work also involves study of several socio-political groups andreligious organisations.

#### ShahiuzZaman Ahmed

Dr. ShahiuzZaman Ahmed is an Assistant Professor in History, SPPCollege, Sivasagar, Assam. A recipient of Peace Fellowship of IPSCR, Mumbai is one of the experts of Fact Finding Teams of CSSS, Mumbai and All India Secular Forum on various social issues. Dr. Ahmed is a part of Peace Movement initiated by IIPDS, Thailand and AISF.

## Tirath Raj Maudgil

Tirath Raj is a senior citizen whose present and future thrust is to start aCentre for abandoned elders, work on a project to depict True IslamicPrinciples. He has lived his life in an open manner and believes in thefollowing philosophy: "Anyone can achieve their fullest potential, who we aremight be predetermined. Destiny cant be changed but it can be challenged. Every man is born as many men and dies as a single one.

#### **Linto Emmanuel**

Being part of Centre for Human Rights and Sustainable Developmentand Good Governance have given me a great opportunity o work for the rights of the poor. After joining Montfort Brothers of St.Gabriel .II workedas a teacher in India and at Lima in Peru. My interests are learning and developing new skills and sensitivity to the poor and marginalized.

# **Profiles of Organizers – International**

# Jessica McCue (United States of America)

Jessica McCue is a Program Manager with the U.S. Department of State's TechCamp Program. In partnership with U.S. Embassies and Consulates and organizations abroad, she plans and implements TechCamps. She ensures the program addresses the mission's policygoals and connects participants with the best tech tools and resources available.

### Meredith Gloger (United States of America)

Meredith Glogeris a Regional Policy Officer in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs, where shecoordinates follow-on and evaluation efforts for the TechCamp Program. She served previously as an Acting Unit Chief and Public Diplomacy DeskOfficer in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs' Office of Press and Public Diplomacy. In this capacity she was managing diplomacy efforts in 13 countries.

#### Sam Gordon (United States of America)

Sam Gordon is a Program Manager with the U.S. Department of State's Tech Camp Program. Prior to working on this initiative he managed global health programs to combat pandemics with





USAID, designed internationaleducation exchanges, and wrote travel and culture articles for Lonely Planetand other publications. Sam actively serves as a Fulbright Alumni Ambassador.

# **Profiles of Organizers – India**

# Ajay M (India)

Senior Accounts and Finance officer of COVA, always works behind the scenesto ensure the show goes on smoothly!

#### D.R Vinod

Worked for a Public sector bank for 38years. Is now associated with theRefugee program of COVA. Is dedicated to philosophy of peace and communal harmony, respect for diverse cultures and religions. Contributingarticles for different newspaper. Special interest in Urdu & Hindi Literature

#### Israr Ahmed-India

A Technical Writer by profession, Israr has diverse experience in the IT, Ecommerce, oil & gas and manufacturing industries. He holds a degree inMechanical Engineering from JNTU. Israr is a voracious reader, profoundlearner, Mixed Martial Arts aficionado and animal enthusiast. He has a long list ofhobbies.

#### Nabeel . K Adeni - India

My business cards say things such as Digital Strategist, Head of Operations, Founder, Program Manager and Changemaker. I'm passionate about building platforms- for intellectual discourse and designing systems- for efficiency & user-friendliness. I've organized TEDxSecunderabad, FailFests and Twestival. And, spoke at various conferences in India, U.S.A, Pakistan & Sri Lanka.

### Naseer Siddiqui- India

State Coordinator of COVA. He is in social activism since 18 years and specializes in community mobilization, networking and advocacy. Is also engaged in working with refugees from 12 countries living in Hyderabad.

#### Varsha Rajan Berry- India

A professional based in Mumbai, with 17 years of experience in the field of research, activism and network building in the social sector on the issues of peace and justice, democracy and human rights with a vision to facilitate aconflict free world. Has played a key role in setting up various peace networksat local, national and regional level. Brought out and presented papers atnational and international forums. Currently she is associated with COVA & Mrinal Gore Interactive Centre for Social Justice and Peace in South Asia and working on the politics of South Asian Masculinity and how it plays out in every sector and issue of society.





