

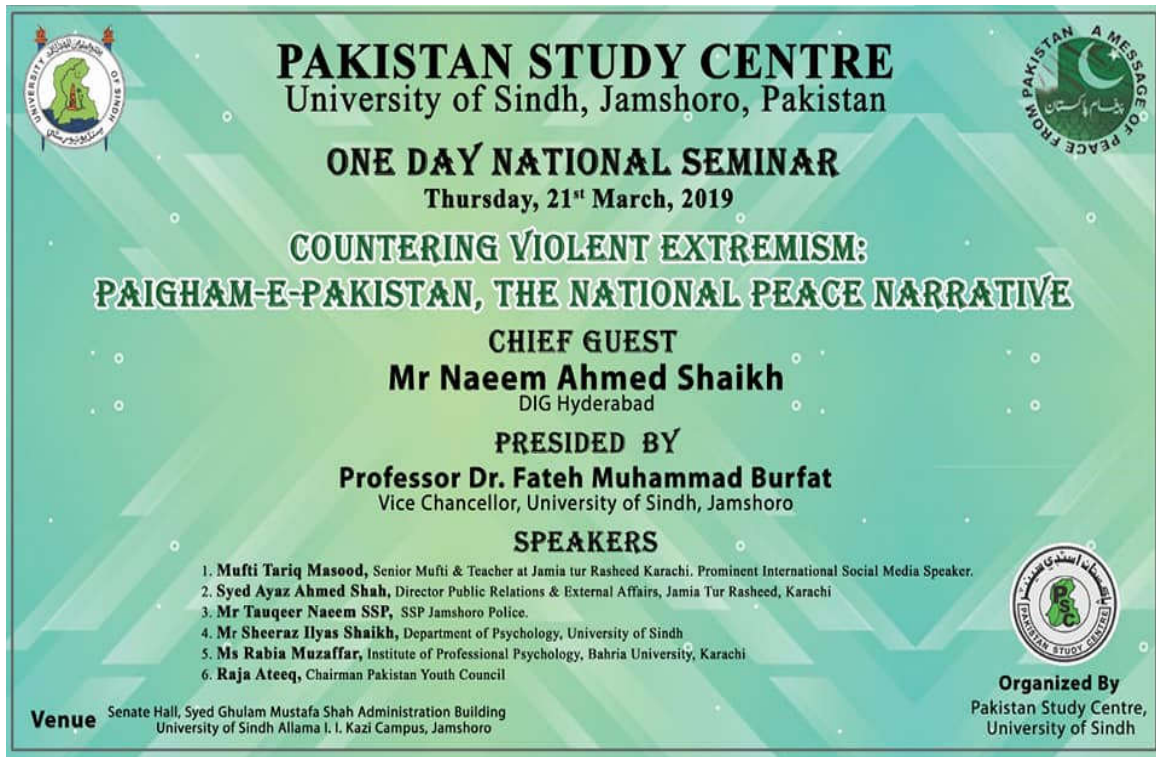


PAKISTAN STUDY CENTRE

University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: PAIGAM-E-PAKISTAN, THE NATIONAL PEACE NARRATIVE

SEMINAR REPORT



PAKISTAN STUDY CENTRE
University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR
Thursday, 21st March, 2019

**COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM:
PAIGHAM-E-PAKISTAN, THE NATIONAL PEACE NARRATIVE**

CHIEF GUEST
Mr Naeem Ahmed Shaikh
DIG Hyderabad

PRESIDED BY
Professor Dr. Fateh Muhammad Burfat
Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh, Jamshoro

SPEAKERS

1. **Mufti Tariq Masood**, Senior Mufti & Teacher at Jamia tur Rasheed Karachi. Prominent International Social Media Speaker.
2. **Syed Ayaz Ahmed Shah**, Director Public Relations & External Affairs, Jamia Tur Rasheed, Karachi
3. **Mr Tauqeer Naeem SSP**, SSP Jamshoro Police.
4. **Mr Sheeraz Ilyas Shaikh**, Department of Psychology, University of Sindh
5. **Ms Rabia Muzaffar**, Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University, Karachi
6. **Raja Ateeq**, Chairman Pakistan Youth Council

Venue Senate Hall, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah Administration Building
University of Sindh Allama I. I. Kazi Campus, Jamshoro

Organized By
Pakistan Study Centre,
University of Sindh

Thursday, 21st March 2018

Topic: **COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM:
PAIGAM-E-PAKISTAN, THE NATIONAL PEACE NARRATIVE**

Welcome Address: **Prof.Dr.Shuja Ahmed Mahesar**
Director Pakistan Study Centre, University of Sindh, Jamshoro

Speakers: **Mufti Tariq Masood**
Senior Mufti & Teacher at Jamia Tur Rasheed, Karachi,
Prominent International Social Media Speaker

Syed Ayaz Ahmed Shah
Director Public Relations & External Affairs, Jamia Tur Rasheed, Karachi

Mr.Tauqeer Naeem, SSP, Jamshoro

Mr.Ateeq Raja
President Youth Council of Pakistan, Hyderabad

Mr.Sheeraz Ilyas Shaikh
Department of Psychology, University of Sindh

Ms Rabia Muzaffar
Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University, Karachi

Organized by: Pakistan Study Centre, University of Sindh, Jamshoro

Presided over by: **Prof.Dr Fateh Muhammad Burfat**
Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh

Chief Guest: **Mr.Naeem Ahmed Shaikh**
DIG Hyderabad

Day / Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019

Participants: PVCs, Deans, Directors, Chairpersons, PhD & M.Phil Scholars and graduate students of the University

Computerized by: **Ayaz Channa**, Publications Officer, Pakistan Study Centre

Edited by: **Professor Dr Shuja Ahmed Mahesar**

PAKISTAN STUDY CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF SINDH, JAMSHORO

PROCEEDINGS

Under the leadership of Professor Dr. Fateh Muhammad Burfat, Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh, Jamshoro; the Pakistan Study Centre has started a series of workshops/seminars and conferences. The Centre organized following national seminars and conferences:



1. *“Quaid’s Vision: Perspective and Prospects for Pakistan”* held on October 3, 2018.
2. *“Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah as a founder of Nation State”* held on 25.12.2018.
3. *“Peace and Resolution of Kashmir Conflict”* held on 5th February 2019.
4. *“CPEC and Its Macro-Economic Linkages to the Economies of China and Pakistan”* held on 14th February 2019.
5. *“Empowerment of Women and Challenges Faced by Women in Society”* held on 08.03.2019.



Violent extremism has become a serious threat to peace and harmony in society. Thus, there was need to discuss and debate about the major sources of extremism and terrorism. Further, in order to counter extremism and to build peace narrative. Pakistan Study Centre, University of Sindh, Jamshoro organized one day national seminar on “*Countering Violent Extremism: Paigam-e-Pakistan, the National Peace Narrative*” held on 21st March 2019. It was presided over by Professor Dr. Fateh Muhammad Burfat, Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.



It commenced by invoking the blessings of Almighty Allah, through recitation from the Holy Quran by Mr. Ayaz Channa and then national Anthem was played which invoked heart-warming feelings of devotion. Mili Nagma (National songs) was sung by Mr. Younis Keerio, student of M.A. Pakistan Studies and Ms Khushboo Chandio.

The Stage Secretary, Dr. Ghulam Ali Buriro and Ms Mifrah Saeed, with the permission of the Chair, started inviting the renowned scholars.



The speakers at a seminar on Paigam-e-Pakistan underlined the need for evolving a comprehensive policy to curb extremism in society and stressed that there was absolutely no space in Islam for any form of extremism.

Mufti Tariq Masood, Senior Mufti & Teacher at Jamia Tur Rasheed, Karachi who is also famous speaker on social media said that Pakistan was on Islamic state with a clear-cut anti-extremism

policy. Islam never permitted use of force for imposition of one's ideology on others because it was a religion of peace and thousand of religious scholars of all sects had given a unanimous verdict to this effect.



Mr.Naeem Ahmed Shaikh, DIG Hyderabad said that people of Pakistan had rendered unprecedented sacrifices for peace. Pakistan earned great respect in the world by sending out a bold message of peace when it released unconditionally the detained Indian pilot, he said.

He further said that Pakistan's responsible attitude spoke of its political maturity, restraint and deepest care for world peace which won it global appreciation and it achieved success.



Professor Dr. Fateh Muhammad Burfat, the Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh Jamshoro said that Pakistan is a peaceful country. Pakistan Movement throughout its course of political struggle for a separate homeland remained a peaceful movement on account of the vision of peace given by the great leader Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said.

Dr. Burfat further said, “We are followers of Islam, a religion which does not allow use of force and violence against any individual, group or nation. We can effectively counter terrorism and extremism by providing quality education and creating awareness through seminars and conferences for youth. We are blessed with an independent, separate and sovereign state that ensures a conducive environment for fully actualizing our potential and helping us to get respectable positions. It would certainly have been impossible if we had been citizens of the un-partitioned sub-continent”, he said.



Professor Dr Shuja Ahmed Mahesar, Director Pakistan Study Center, university of Sindh, Jamshoro in his welcome address said that under the leadership of worthy Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Study Centre is putting forth the best of its efforts and potential to advance knowledge and skills of students at all levels. We are committed to knowledge dissemination through workshops, seminars and conferences.

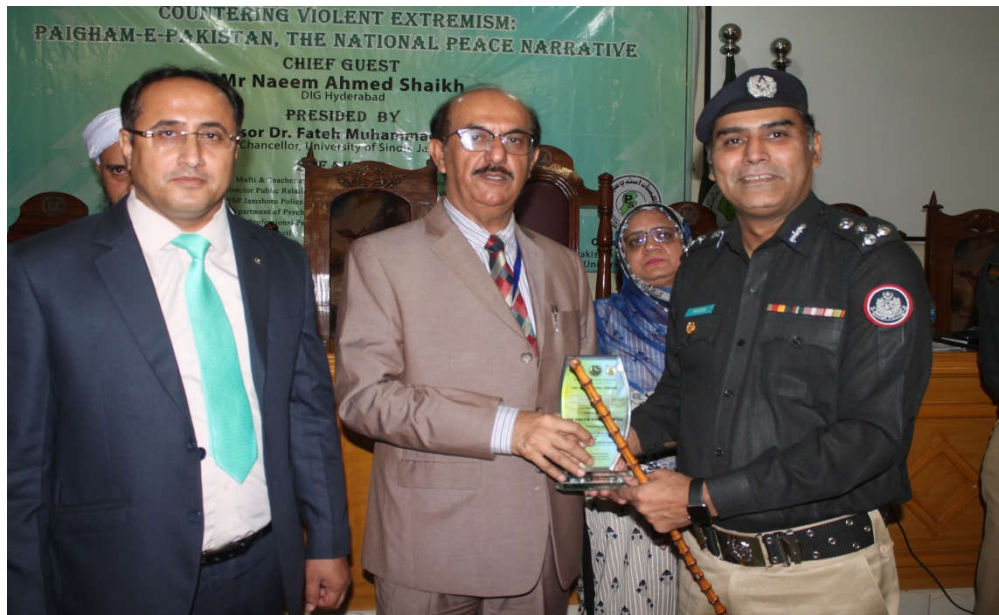
Today's seminar is focussed on very important issue of growing extremism. The aim of this seminar is to discuss about the strategies for elimination of violent extremism and to discuss about how to build a peace narrative for countering the threat of extremism.



Even since 9/11, when Pakistan became United States frontline ally in the war on terror, our country has been doing all it can to curb the terrorism and extremism within its borders. Pakistan endeavours for elimination of terrorism and extremism because it is the pivotal objective of the country. Pakistan's security dimension has significantly improved as a result of the fight against terrorism during the past decade. However, extremism has been on rise, despite tremendous success of our law enforcement agencies in the war on terror. Thus, we still need to root out the extremism which actually breeds the forces which tend to destabilise the peace and harmony in our country.



It is the matter of fact that extremism is a curse and poses threat to the Muslim world as well as world.. It produces an atmosphere of fanaticism, bigotry and narrow mindedness. Unless we eradicate all forms of extremism, our society will remain far behind the rest of the world. Extremism causes intolerance which prevails in all fields of our life including ethnic, religious and political. In the religious sphere, there is intolerance towards the beliefs that fall outside the pale of our religion. Religious intolerance towards other sects and refusal to accommodate even those in our own sect who do not wholly subscribe to our own way of thinking is the mindset and mentality which is infiltrating into our educational institutions. Therefore, we need to educate young population about the actual teachings of Islam.



Islam has a unique role to play being vehemently committed to salvation and reward in both the worlds; it laid the foundation of universalism. For the first time in history of mankind it proclaimed that every great religion came from God, every nation was given warning. If this Quaranic teaching is accepted, there would be mutual understanding and tolerance leading to a spirit of co-existence so essential for peace and prosperity in the world.

Islam is universal in its outlook. It seeks welfare of entire humanity and not of Muslims alone. Tolerance is the essence of Islam and it preaches respect for all religions. It is great factor for unification and its chief object is to create harmony among the discordant and divergent sections of mankind and never has the need for such harmony been more evident

than it is today. Western world should realise that Islam does not believe in clash of civilisations. They should not ignore the fact that tolerance and respect for all humanity are virtues highlighted by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Islam believes in equality of all human beings. Muslims and non-Muslims are absolutely equal in Islamic society. “Their blood is like our blood” said Hazrat Ali, the fourth caliph. The last surah of Holy Quran also reflects God Almighty as the cherisher, nourisher and judge of the whole mankind.



Violence or killing of people is strongly disallowed by all religions. In Islam the murder of one innocent person is considered equal to the killing of entire humanity. Islam further teaches us that Allah will be kind to us if we are kind to others.

To eradicate religious extremism the Government needs to implement National Action Plan and must initiate measures to eradicate poverty and socio-economic disparities. People should have an access to justice, equality, quality education and health facilities. The state has to make policies aimed at engagement of youth in the socio-economic development of

country. Further promoting tolerance, peace and harmony are the only way to curb growing religious extremism and sectarian violence.



Ms Rabia Muzaffar, Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University, Karachi said that one major reason behind spread of extremism was lack of control over one’s emotions. It was a common and tragic practice in the world societies that people had total disregard for active listening, which was the first step towards the making of a tolerant personality, she said.



Prof.Dr.Zareen Abbasi, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sindh, Jamshoro graced the audience with kind remarks and appreciation. She congratulated the Director Pakistan Study Centre for organizing such a important seminar. She also thanked the learned speakers, scholars and guests for their participation in making the national seminar a success. She particularly appreciated the contribution of the staff and students of the Pakistan Study Centre for their dedication and devotion.

