



Press Release

PR180594

21.03.2018

PRESS RELEASE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Deputy Speaker opens the IIJ workshop ‘The Nexus of Parliamentarians and Criminal Justice Actors in Counter-Terrorism’

Deputy Speaker Claudette Buttigieg opened the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law’s workshop, entitled the ‘Nexus of Parliamentarians and Criminal Justice Actors in Counter-Terrorism: Implementing the GCTF Valletta Recommendations’, which is taking place in Malta between 21 and 22 March 2018.

The Deputy Speaker welcomed the work and diplomatic commitment of the IIJ to establish a network of professional partners and members of parliament closely cooperating on issues of common concern. Buttigieg highlighted the centrality of the recommendations included in the Valletta Document, which have also been presented to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) in New York. The development and the consolidation of this document is proof that inter-parliamentary diplomacy and close cooperation with key stakeholders are crucial when discussing ways to counter extremism, violence, and terrorism. More specifically, the Deputy Speaker explained that through a holistic approach to prevent and counter terrorism, the Valletta Recommendations created the right equilibrium between legislative, judicial, and social tools.

In her opening address Buttigieg also spoke about the nexus between members of parliaments and criminal justice actors, and explained that this is a perfect example of a symbiotic relationship aimed at providing communities with efficient, tangible, and transparent counter-terrorism policies. Furthermore, Buttigieg also highlighted the importance of including in the discussion other key figures such as religious leaders, civil society organisations and internet service providers. Together with members of parliament, they have the necessary implementing tools to transform words into action and be proponents of positive and inclusive change. Concluding, Deputy Speaker Buttigieg echoed Mahatma Gandhi’s words, that ‘non-violence is the weapon of the strong’, and members of parliament should further promote prevention and non-violent measures to counter-terrorism.

Robert Abela and Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi participated in this workshop on behalf of the Maltese Parliament.

Established in Malta in 2014, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) provides rule of law-based training to lawmakers, police, prosecutors, judges, corrections officials, and other justice sector stakeholders on how to address terrorism and related transnational criminal activities within a rule of law framework. More broadly, it works to strengthen criminal justice systems and build regional judicial, police and other criminal justice practitioner networks to promote justice, security, and human rights.

Attachments: photo

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