



## **International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime**

*Event Report - November 15, 2024*

### **Executive Summary**

The roundtable event held on November 15, 2024, at Universal College Lahore, Pakistan, marked the first International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime. Organized by the Centre for Governance Research (CGR), Centre for Human Rights (CFHR), and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC). The 2-hour event aimed to strengthen partnerships among civil society, government, academia, and international organizations in the fight against transnational organized crime.

The event began with introductory remarks from Mr. Tariq Khosa, Director of CGR, who highlighted the importance of partnerships and the success of Pakistan's pioneering efforts in launching a global conference on transnational organized crimes. Mr. Mark Shaw, Director of GI-TOC, discussed the global impacts of organized crime, such as its threats to security, violence, and the rule of law.

Keynote speakers included Mr. John Collins, Director of Academic Engagement at GI-TOC, focused on transnational crime and Pakistan's role as a focal point for Central South Asia. Mr. Tariq Parvez, President of NIOC, stressed the importance of international cooperation and education in tackling organized crime.

In the roundtable discussion, Ambassador Mansoor, emphasized the necessity of synchronized efforts between government, civil society, and international actors to combat organized crime. Ms. Sevim Saadat and Mr. Umar Khan from CFHR highlighted the role of civil society in combating organized crime, citing research on trafficking's economic impact on Pakistan. The event concluded with the unveiling of the Civil Society Declaration 2024, marking a collective commitment to combat transnational organized crime.





## **Event Overview**

**Title:** International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime

**Duration:** 2-hours

**Date:** November 15, 2024

**Venue:** Universal College Lahore, Pakistan

**Organizers and Partners:** Centre for Governance Research (CGR), Centre for Human Rights (CFHR) and Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC)

**Purpose:** The event aimed to strengthen partnerships between civil society, government, academia, and international organizations to combat transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, drug smuggling, and arms trafficking. It sought to:

1. Facilitate dialogue among stakeholders.
2. Highlight Pakistan's role as a regional leader in addressing organized crime.
3. Share insights and strategies to enhance prevention and resilience

*[A copy of the concept note is attached as Annexure 1]*

**Participants:** The event brought together high-level representatives from government, law enforcement, academia and civil society. These included:

- 31 in-person participants
- 86 online participants

*[The complete participant list is attached as Annexure 2]*





## **Event Breakdown:**

### ***Introductory Remarks***

**Mr. Tariq Khosa** (Director, CGR) highlighted the journey of Pakistan's initiatives against transnational organized crime, beginning with the formation of a civil society alliance in Islamabad in September 2022 and its representation at the 11th Conference of the Parties in Vienna in October 2022. The alliance now includes 35 civil society organizations and 65 international experts. He emphasized the importance of partnerships in fostering collective action and referred to Pakistan's pioneering efforts as the first Asian country to launch a global conference on transnational organized crimes. He also mentioned the annual reports of 2022 and 2023, which reflect civil society perspectives on this critical issue.



**Mr. Mark Shaw** (Director, GI-TOC) underscored the global impacts of transnational organized crime, including its threats to security, high levels of violence, undermining of democracy and the rule of law, environmental destruction, and economic distortion. He stressed the need for data-driven analysis, strategic interventions, and enhanced international cooperation. Reflecting on Pakistan's initiatives, he lauded its leadership in fostering resilience and partnerships, making it a model for other countries. Mr. Shaw also called for greater attention to prevention efforts, emphasizing the importance of frameworks for the rule of law and the need for comprehensive data collection and strategic implementation.

**Mr. Ian Tennant** (Chair, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), emphasized the vital role of NGOs in combating transnational crime, highlighting Vienna's example of community and NGO collaboration under the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. He noted the Alliance's recent milestone: a declaration signed by over 200 NGOs in October addressing trafficking and other crimes. Tennant stressed the need to shift from a narrow security-focused approach to one that incorporates civil society's research and expertise. He celebrated the Alliance's achievements, including





record civil society participation and the inclusion of indigenous representatives, while commending Pakistan's leadership as a model for others to replicate.

**Mr. Billy Batware** (UNODC-Civil Society Unit) emphasized the crucial role of civil society in engaging with stakeholders to address transnational organized crime (TOC) and corruption. He highlighted the UN General Committee's March resolution recognizing civil society's contributions. On the first International Day, he called for collective action, urging governments, academia, and other actors to collaborate on joint solutions. Batware commended Pakistan's initiative in fostering international dialogue, showcasing its leadership in promoting cooperation and progress against TOC.

**Ms. Lisa Hartevelt** (Board Member, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) highlighted new crime trends and the role of civil society in providing technical support and advancing resolutions adopted at the 12th session of the UN Convention against Transnational Crime. **Ms. Anna Alvazzi** (Board Member, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) championed the adoption of the first Civil Society Declaration. Representing her NGO, she advanced initiatives under the Firearms Protocol, emphasizing collective responsibility and actionable efforts. She highlighted the October resolution on firearms as a key step, particularly for its focus on deterrence and the importance of civil society engagement.





### ***Keynote Speakers***

**Mr. John Collins** (Director of Academic Engagement, GI-TOC) discussed the establishment of a new observatory aimed at fostering strategic partnerships and advancing discussions on transnational crime. He highlighted the Global Initiative's commitment to Pakistan, noting the successful international collaborations over the past four years, particularly focusing on human trafficking and drug-related issues in Afghanistan. He emphasized the need to expand this reach, positioning Pakistan as a focal point for a Central South Asia observatory. Collins also introduced a project aimed at enhancing community resilience, addressing trafficking, and forming smaller civil society networks for the prevention of human trafficking.

**Mr. Tariq Parvez** (President, National Initiative against Organized Crime) launched the National Initiative in 2019 and as an expert on terrorism, emphasized the importance of raising awareness about organized crime and the need for international cooperation. He stressed the necessity of having resourceful individuals who can assess the scope of organized crime and expand preventive measures. Parvez called for the development of online courses to address organized crime and for a focused approach to specific areas in different countries. He pointed out that Pakistan's high ranking on the terrorism index is closely linked to organized crime, an issue that requires deeper analysis.

**Mr. Muhammad Tahir Rai** (Director General, National Police Bureau) highlighted the dual significance of organized crime, not only as a threat but also as a force that undermines the societal fabric. He stressed the need for better coordination among police sectors, the updating of criminal laws, and enhanced accountability. Tahir pointed out the high impact of trafficking, child labor, and illegal migration, with over 5,000 cases in 2023. He also identified cybercrime, illicit arms trafficking, and drug smuggling as pressing challenges. Tahir called for a unified approach involving both government and civil society, emphasizing the need for educational campaigns to curb organized crime.





## ***Roundtable***

**Mr. Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan** (Director, Beaconhouse Center for Policy Research) acknowledged Pakistan's challenges with organized crime, particularly at the borders. He stressed the importance of a synchronized approach between the government, civil society, and international partners to tackle these issues. Mansoor emphasized the role of civil society and the critical need for strong partnerships with institutions in the UK, Vienna, and Geneva. He noted that academia, especially the youth, plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges and shaping the future.

**Dr. Ehsan Sadiq** (Director General, National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Authority) emphasized that organized crime is a global challenge requiring collective action. He stressed the obligation of the international community to fight this menace through collaborative forums, as it cannot be tackled in isolation.



**Ms. Sevim Saadat** (Director Policy & Advocacy, CFHR) and **Mr. Umar Khan** (Executive Director, CFHR) emphasized the crucial role of civil society, academia, and society in combating organized crime, particularly through the generation of ideas. They referenced a recent study in Malaysia, highlighting how trafficking significantly impacts Pakistan's economy, with substantial financial losses to traffickers and smugglers. They noted that Pakistan's civil society is actively launching initiatives to address this issue within the country.

Participants such as **Ms. Mechthild Geyer** (Lecturer, Minhaj University) and **Ms. Saba Sheikh** (Executive Director, Dastak Society) shared insights on the socio-economic impacts of organized crime. Ms. Mechthild emphasized the role of poverty and corruption in perpetuating migrant smuggling, while Ms. Sheikh highlighted the trafficking of women and children, stressing the need for legal reforms, counseling, and coordinated efforts between state bodies and civil society.





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**Ms. Shahzia Rafiq** (Counsellor-Lahore, Migrant Resource Center) highlighted that this issue primarily affects the underprivileged, but it also stems from a lack of awareness. In Punjab and KPK, many trafficking victims are not necessarily impoverished, as they pay to leave Pakistan; however, they lack knowledge of legal migration pathways. The key suggestion is that prevention should be the focus, with a state-wide approach that emphasizes providing opportunities and security, rather than solely combating crime. **Ms. Aliza Masood** (Legal Officer-Punjab, National Commission on Human Rights-Punjab) called for the establishment of migration units, legal clarity, and education campaigns to reduce human smuggling.

**Mr. Imran Keshwar** (Deputy Inspector-General, Organized Crime Unit - Punjab Police) highlighted several systemic weaknesses, including flaws in laws and prosecution. A recent investigation into contract killings, such as the Lala Shabaz case in Lahore, revealed that international cooperation is lacking, and existing laws are insufficient to secure convictions. Perpetrators often evade justice due to weak legal provisions and the involvement of overseas beneficiaries. Additionally, the reliance on witness testimony, without proper forensic evidence, leads to acquittals. There is a lack of victim and witness protection, which should be addressed through a formal protection program. Strengthened international cooperation is essential, particularly for asset freezing and combating money laundering. Furthermore, there is a need to expand the monitoring of drug cartels, especially those operating through courier networks for narcotics trafficking.

**Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam** (Chief Coordinator, CGR) emphasized that developing countries bear the brunt of organized crime due to their geographic location and limited resources. He called for more than just domestic laws, advocating for sophisticated criminal legislation and coordinated international action to address the issue effectively.

**Syed Zulfaqar Hussain** (Director, Drug Advisory Training Hub), highlighted the increasing consumption of narcotics, with 10 million people now affected, up from 6.7 million in 2012 and 2013. He stressed the need for training programs and youth involvement to combat human trafficking, drug trafficking, and oil smuggling from Iran.

**Mr. Azwar Shakeel** (Consultant, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan) pointed out that human smuggling is often viewed solely as a law enforcement issue, neglecting its human rights implications. He argued that trafficking is seen as non-consensual, while smuggling is perceived as consensual. This narrative needs to be changed to bring to light the abuse, extortion, and torture faced by victims, which would help people recognize that smuggling often involves rights violations, not voluntary participation.



### *Closing Remarks*

Mr. Tariq Khosa called for strengthened partnerships among government, civil society, academia, and international actors. He emphasized the importance of governance, the rule of law, and collective action to combat transnational organized crime effectively. Looking ahead, he outlined plans for key projects and initiatives over the next six to eight years, aiming to further civil society's role in fostering resilience and addressing this global challenge.

### *Unveiling of the Civil Society Declaration 2024*

The event concluded with the unveiling of the Civil Society Declaration by Mr. Tariq Khosa, Mr. Sarmad Saeed (Deputy Director, NIOC), Mr. John Colling, Ms. Sevim Saadat, and Mr. Umar Khan, in the presence of all participants. The unveiling of this declaration underscores the collaborative nature of the event and sets the stage for future initiatives and continued engagement in advancing the cause.







## Annexure 1: Concept Note

### Concept Note: International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime

#### Context:

The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution 78/267 designating 15 November as the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime. The resolution, adopted by consensus on March 21, 2024, is part of the lead-up to the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in 2025.

The establishment of this day aims to underscore the profound harms caused by organised crime while shining a spotlight on the ongoing global and national efforts to prevent and combat these threats. This year's TOC day theme is: *Organised crime steals, corrupts and kills. It's time we pull together to push back.* #StopOrganizedCrime. As part of this effort, this year's observance of the International Day is a call to action to raise awareness, empower communities, promote knowledge sharing, and support policy development, with a special focus on leveraging technology for effective intervention. It also serves as an opportunity and a reminder for Pakistan to turn its attention towards the pressing issue of organised crime within its borders.

#### About the Roundtable:

In this context, on November 15, 2024, **Centre for Governance Research (CGR)**, **Centre for Human Rights (CFHR)** and **Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC)** are jointly hosting a Roundtable in Lahore, Pakistan at Universal College Lahore to convene key government and non-government stakeholders and sector experts.

**CGR, CFHR and GI-TOC** join hands this TOC day with the broader goal of initiating a dialogue and discourse on serious organised crimes across the region, and particularly within Pakistan. The roundtable will feature a moderated roundtable discussion on critical topics such as the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, Pakistan's existing infrastructure to combat organised crime, and strategies to address the broader challenge of transnational organised crimes. This event will serve as a platform for stakeholders to share insights, engage in capacity-building, and foster greater collaboration to build a more robust response to organised crime in Pakistan.

The 2024 TOC day roundtable will be a **hybrid** event with both in-person and online participation. This hybrid format is designed to ensure the inclusion of partners from the GI-TOC, UNODC Civil Society Unit and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.



### **About the Roundtable Organizers:**

**Centre for Governance Research (CGR)** is a forum for studies and debate on strategic and tactical issues related with good governance and the rule of law. It is a non-governmental civil society advocacy centre dedicated to reforms in the justice and governance sectors. For more details please visit: <https://cgr.com.pk/#>

**The Centre for Human Rights (CFHR)**, housed in Universal College Lahore (UCL), is an independent legal research organisation that supports action-oriented research on human rights issues, rule of law and criminal justice reform in Pakistan. For more details please visit: <https://cfhr.com.pk/>

**Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC)** is an independent civil-society organisation, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, dedicated to seeking new and innovative strategies and responses to organised crime. CGR and CFHR have coordinated with GI-TOC for multiple initiatives to build research on counter-strategies against serious and organised crime (SOC) in Pakistan, including CGR's landmark report titled, 'Pakistan UNTOC Review Process 2022: Civil Society Perspective'. For more details please visit: <https://globalinitiative.net/>



## Annexure 2: Agenda

### AGENDA

**Date:** 15 November 2024

**Venue:** Universal College Lahore

- 2:00 - 2:25 pm      **Introductory Remarks**  
*Mr. Tariq Khosa, Director CGR*  
*Mr. Mark Shaw, Director GI-TOC*  
*Mr. Ian Tennant, Chair Alliance of NGOs*  
*Ms. Mirella Dummar/Billy Batware, UNODC Civil Society Unit*  
*Ms. Anna Alvazzi, Alliance Board Member*  
*Ms. Lisa Hartevelt, Alliance Board Member*
- 2:25 - 2:45 pm      **Keynote Speakers**  
*Mr. John Collins, GI-TOC*  
*Mr. Tariq Parvez, President NIOC*  
*Mr. Ishaque Jehangir, Director-General FIA*  
*Mr. Rai Tahir, Director-General NPB*
- 2:45 - 3:30 pm      **Moderated Roundtable**  
*Centre for Human Rights*
  - Identifying issues and unpacking progress in combating TOC
  - Exploring pathways to build a whole-of-society approach in combating TOC
- 3:40 - 3:50 pm      **Closing Remarks**  
*Dr. Ehsan Sadiq, National Focal Person on UNTOC Review*
- 3:50 - 4:00 pm      **Unveiling of the Civil Society Declaration 2024**

### Group Photo & High-Tea





### Annexure 3: Participant List

In-person		
Sr. No.	Name	Designation & Organization
1.	Abubakar Nauman Ul Haq	Deputy Prosecutor General, Center for Professional Development of Public Prosecutors
2.	Ali Imtinan	Sr. Research Associate, CFHR
3.	Aliza Masood	Legal Officer, NCHR
4.	Ammara Sherazi	Assistant Inspector General, Welfare, Punjab Police
5.	Asma Nasir	Project Provincial Coordinator, SSDO
6.	Azwar Shakeel	Consultant, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
7.	Beenish Zia	Gender & Social Inclusion, CFHR
8.	Dr. Farhad	Professor, Punjab University
9.	Farhan Mehmood	Counsellor, MRC
10.	Imran Kishwar	Deputy Inspector General, Organized Crime Unit
11.	John Collins	Academic Director, GITOC
12.	Mansoor Ahmed Khan	Director, Centre for Policy Research, BNU
13.	Mechthild Geyer	Coordinator, Lecturer, Minhaj University Lahore
14.	Mohammad Vaqas Ali	Associate Professor, FCCU
15.	M. Rehan Safdar	Sr. Researcher & M&E Officer, Musawi
16.	Muhammad Tahir Rai	Director General, National Police Bureau
17.	Nadeem Hussain	Senior Superintendent Police, Counter Terrorism Department
18.	Nikhil Lakhanpal	Political-Eco Specialist, US Consulate, Lahore
19.	Saba Sheikh	Executive Director, Dastak



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20.	Sabahat Riaz	Manager Crisis Center, Dastak
21.	Sadaf Saad	Political-Eco Specialist, US Consulate, Lahore
22.	Sajal Khan	Communications Specialist, CFHR
23.	Sarmad Saeed	Deputy Director, NIOC
24.	Dr. Sayyed Asad Hussain	Director, UCL
25.	Sevim Saadat	Director Policy & Advocacy, CFHR
26.	Seher Aftab	Gender Justice Officer, CFHR
27.	Shahzia Rafique	Senior Counsellor, MRC
28.	Syed Zulfiqar Hussain	Director, Drug Advisory Training Hub (DATH)
29.	Tariq Khosa	Director, CGR
30.	Umar Khan	Executive Director, CFHR
31.	Waqas Saif	Deputy Director, FIA

Online <sup>1</sup>	
Sr. No.	Name
1.	Abdullah Awan, FCC
2.	Adil Daud, FCC
3.	Ahmed Tariq
4.	Ahtasham Hannan, FCC
5.	Agha (North South Initiative)
6.	Akash, FCC
7.	Alishba Anjum

<sup>1</sup> Please note the following list is reproduced based on the data collected by Zoom, accuracy in name and details of participants cannot be guaranteed.



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8.	Ali Qamber, FCC
9.	Alizey
10.	Alliance
11.	AML-CFT Authority
12.	Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
13.	Aqeel Shahid, FCC
14.	Arsal Aumir, FCC
15.	Azmon Dilshad Sheriff, FCC
16.	Ayan Adil
17.	Baitullah Khan, UNODC
18.	Benu Maya Gurung, AATWIN Nepal
19.	Billy Batware, UNODC
20.	Dell
21.	Dr. Dimple Raval
22.	Duaa Syed
23.	Elester George
24.	Elizaphan James, FCC
25.	Elizabeth Javaid
26.	Fajar, FCC
27.	Fatima
28.	Fatima Alvi, FCC
29.	Fatima Kaleem
30.	Fatima Saif, CGR
31.	Fatima Tanvir, FCC





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32.	Faraz Hassan
33.	Fareed Kamal, FCC
34.	FCCU Crim 360
35.	FCCU - Criminology 110
36.	Ghania Pervaiz, FCC.
37.	Hamza Zahoor, FCC
38.	Hassan Sardar, CGR
39.	Hassan Tahir Gillani
40.	Hira Sheraz
41.	Ian Tennant, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
42.	Ibrahim Raja
43.	IPhone (48)as me on
44.	Jolanta Redo
45.	Kaushani Dey
46.	Khurram
47.	Konrad Gertz, UNODC
48.	Laila Khan
49.	Laraib Fatima, FCC
50.	Lisa Hartevelt, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
51.	Malka Mehreen, FCC
52.	Mariana Mora-Gomez, UNODC
53.	Mark Shaw, GITOC
54.	Minahil Khan, CLPD
55.	Minal Naveed, FCC



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56.	Moeza's iPhone
57.	Muhammad A Gillani
58.	Muhammad Hamza, FCC
59.	M. Younas, FCC
60.	Nabeeha Asad, FCC
61.	Nadeem S. Khan, Blue Heart International
62.	Noor Fatima, Research Society of International Law
63.	Nawaz Nadeem, CGR
64.	Rameen Badar
65.	Roha, FCC
66.	Rubam Ranndhawa
67.	Paddy Ginn
68.	Sajjad Nekokara, Musawi
69.	Salaar Abbas
70.	Samia Aamir, FCC
71.	Sarah Samuel
72.	Sarah Malik
73.	Saud Ahmad
74.	Suleman Sadiq, FCC
75.	Suraya Pakzad
76.	Syeda Filzah Batool, FCC
77.	Syed Kaleem Imam, CGR
78.	Syeda Rubab Rashid Ali
79.	Syed Qasim Hassan, FCC



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80.	Talha Manzoor, FCC
81.	Tara Bhandari AATWIN \ Biswas Nepal
82.	Usman Khan
83.	Zara Abbas
84.	Zarbab, FCC
85.	Zurriya Rehan, FCC
86.	Ali Qamber, FCC