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**Deterrence and Denial:
The Impact of Sanctions and Designations on Violent Far-Right Groups**

**Virtual Roundtable Discussion
Event Summary
June 29, 2022**

On June 29, 2022, The Soufan Center (TSC) hosted a virtual roundtable discussion on responding to violent far-right groups through sanctions and proscriptions, as part of an [ongoing TSC project](#), supported by the Airey Neave Trust in London. Through research, interviews, and consultations with key stakeholders, the project examines whether and how the measures taken by several states—in particular, the U.K., Canada, and other Five Eyes (FVEY) partners—have had the desired impacts, whether on a legal, political, or operational level, drawing also on lessons learned from other countries with similar experiences. Participants included key stakeholders representing the U.K. government, the United Nations, academics and experts, and the private sector. The discussion will inform the analyses and recommendations developed as part of this project.

The Soufan Center Executive Director Naureen Chowdhury Fink and Airey Neave Trust Vice Chair and Board Member Hugh Tilney opened the session, introducing the project and the history behind the Airey Neave Trust, followed by TSC briefings to share initial findings and draft policy recommendations for discussion and feedback from participants

Below is a summary of key discussion points. It is not a transcript of the event and does not necessarily reflect the views of The Soufan Center or the Airey Neave Trust. This roundtable event was hosted under the Chatham House Rule.

The roundtable discussion allowed for participants representing government, the UN, the private sector, academics, and practitioners to share insights on the evolution of the U.K.'s approaches to extreme right-wing terrorism, as well as that of its "Five Eyes" partners. The U.K. was the first to proscribe a group like *National Action* as terrorists, and others have since done so. Speakers discussed the range of measures, including proscriptions and designations, and reflected on lessons learned from UN sanctions measures targeting transnational groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda, which may have some application when considering other ideologically motivated groups. Participants reaffirmed the importance of adapting in order to address the rising threat posed by racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism (REMVE), while also acknowledging that little official data was available at this time regarding the impacts of the measures taken. The acknowledgment in recent UN resolutions that terrorism is a tool used by groups across the ideological spectrum was cited as a positive example of the UN's change in attitude towards addressing violent extremism, though questions were also raised about whether an international sanctions regime would be the best fit for extreme right-wing groups, or whether more tailored approaches through other multilateral bodies would be the best way to address transnational dimensions of the REMVE threat. Although many attendees acknowledged the overall effectiveness of traditional CT measures like travel bans and asset freezes, some questioned whether these tools can effectively deter and contain REMVE individuals and groups.



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The need for international cooperation and inclusivity were recurrent themes in the roundtable discussion. Attendees agreed that international partners must work closely in order to counter the growing threat posed by REMVE and that the Five Eyes grouping provided a valuable platform for information sharing and cooperation, which could be extended to likeminded states facing similar challenges.