

2026 GIFCT Working Group Principles and Guidelines





Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
Background	3
Mission & Objectives of Working Groups	3
Criteria	3
Terminology and Definitions	4
Roles and Responsibilities	4
GIFCT 2026 Working Groups	4
ORGANIZATIONAL PARAMETERS	5
GIFCT Community Code of Conduct	5
Our Pledge	5
Scope	5
Purpose	5
Reporting Guidelines	6
Enforcement	6
Expected Behavior	6
Enforcement Guidelines	7
OUTPUTS	9
Proposals and Funding	9
Drafting, Deadlines, and Review	9
Output, Launch, and Usage	10



INTRODUCTION

Background

In July 2020, the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) launched a series of multi-stakeholder Working Groups to bring together experts from across sectors, geographies, and disciplines to share expertise and insights on targeted, substantive projects to enhance and evolve counterterrorism and counter-extremism efforts online. Working Group themes and objectives are put forward by GIFCT following consultations with member companies, and aim to align with the [2025 - 2027 Strategic Plan](#) adopted in 2024. Each year, groups are refreshed to update themes, focus areas, and participants. Working Group outputs are publicly available on the GIFCT website as a resource for industry, government, and civil society stakeholders.

Applications to join Working Groups are open to the public and participants are selected for their substantive expertise and experience, and to ensure a global range of stakeholder and sector perspectives. Participation in Working Groups is voluntary, though civil society participants leading Working Group projects and outputs can receive funding support from GIFCT.

Participants may represent a diversity of views and consensus is not necessary for the Groups; unanimity is not the goal but rather the range of perspectives elicited during Working Group discussions provides critical insights that inform ongoing GIFCT activities, tools, and substantive deliberations. Fostering cross-sector understanding, awareness, and knowledge-exchange is a key goal of the Groups.

Mission & Objectives of Working Groups

GIFCT's Working Groups aim to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement to further GIFCT's mission of preventing terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms. Working Group outputs inform GIFCT's capacities to deliver support and solutions to our members and stakeholders.

Criteria

Each Working Group theme has been selected in line with the following criteria:

1. It aligns with GIFCT's Strategic Plan
2. It sits at the intersections of terrorism and technology, and reflects priorities, concerns, and focus areas highlighted by GIFCT members
3. It reflects emerging threats and trends that have surfaced from multistakeholder engagements and regional workshops
4. It proactively highlights threats, trends, and solutions to help platforms and stakeholders identify and counter terrorism and violent extremism online

Terminology and Definitions

Please find below a set of indicative definitions setting out GIFCT's perspectives on the various sectors involved in the Working Groups:

- *Tech*: the technology sector is composed of companies and platforms that research and develop or sell products and services in software, hardware, electronics, artificial intelligence, and other areas related to information and digital technology.
- *Government*: the government sector encompasses national and sub-national representatives or officials of the State, including, for example, policymakers, criminal justice practitioners, local government, or diplomats. This category also includes officials affiliated with international organizations or intergovernmental bodies.
- *Civil Society*: This category includes academics, practitioners, and non-profit organizations with programming and projects relating to CT/PCVE/Tech issues.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following outlines the various roles and responsibilities involved in GIFCT Working Groups:

- *GIFCT Lead*: responsible for the overall management of the Working Group by setting the agenda, inviting speakers, moderating the conversations, following up with participants, supervising the output (publication, event, product) production, and facilitating the associated communications and dissemination.
- *Output Lead*: where appropriate a Working Group might have a non-GIFCT output lead who is responsible for the overall management of a specific output. This is done by submitting a proposal, communicating progress updates to the Working Group participants, soliciting feedback from participants, communicating with co-authors or outsourced production, and dissemination (including presentation of output).
- *Participants*: Working Group participants are expected to join scheduled meetings, contribute their expertise and perspectives to discussions and outputs, and foster a climate of respect and collegiality among the participants.

GIFCT 2026 Working Groups

2026 GIFCT Working Groups will focus on the following themes; additional information is available [here](#):

1. Signals Community of Practice
2. Gaming and Youth Working Group
3. Countering the Financing of Terrorism Online Working Group



ORGANIZATIONAL PARAMETERS

GIFCT Community Code of Conduct 2026

Our Pledge

We pledge to make participation in our community a friendly, safe, and welcoming experience for everyone.

As such, we have developed and adopted the GIFCT Community Code of Conduct and require all those who participate to agree and adhere to it in order to help us create a safe and positive community experience for all.

We pledge to act and interact in ways that contribute to an open, welcoming, diverse, inclusive, and healthy community.

Scope

The GIFCT Community Code of Conduct applies within all community spaces provided by GIFCT. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in GIFCT Working Group meetings and participation with affiliated documents and chat threads. It applies when a Working Group participant is officially representing a GIFCT Working Group or GIFCT-related efforts and outputs in public spaces. Examples of representing our community include acting as an appointed representative at an online or offline event, posting via an official social media account or using an official email address, or circulating a GIFCT Working Group-sponsored output.

Purpose

We invite all those who participate in the GIFCT community to help us create safe and positive experiences for everyone. These guidelines aim to foster a community where all participants feel safe to participate, introduce new ideas, and inspire others. This code of conduct outlines our expectations for all those who participate in our community, as well as the consequences for unacceptable behavior.

Engaging with a wide array of voices and perspectives from across the globe is a core organizational value, and we are always seeking to expand and diversify our multi-stakeholder community. GIFCT strives to always recognize, appreciate, and respect the diversity of our global contributors. Openness, collaboration, and participation are core aspects of our work.



We are committed to providing a collegial, safe, and welcoming environment for all participants, regardless of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ability, race or ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, religion, or age. Participants are chosen based on their subject matter expertise pertaining to the given working group topic, alongside ensuring that each group has a diversity of perspective, geographic scope, and sector. We welcome a range of perspectives and encourage critical debate and discussion to advance a comprehensive approach to the Working Group's goals.

By joining GIFCT's Working Groups community, you agree that you have read and will follow these rules and guidelines. In order to preserve an environment that encourages both respectful and fruitful dialogue, we reserve the right to suspend or terminate participation in this community for anyone who violates this Code of Conduct.

Reporting Guidelines

Instances of abusive, harassing, or otherwise unacceptable behavior may be reported to outreach@gifct.org, along with the particular GIFCT staff member managing your Working Group or to GIFCT's Director of Operations (lisa@gifct.org). All complaints will be reviewed and investigated promptly and fairly. GIFCT is obligated to respect the privacy and security of the reporter of any incident. Once final action has been determined, GIFCT will contact the original reporter to let them know what action (if any) will be taken.¹ When submitting a report, please include contact information, names of individuals involved, an account of what occurred, and any additional context that may be relevant.

Enforcement

GIFCT leadership is responsible for clarifying and enforcing our standards of acceptable behavior and will take appropriate and fair corrective action in response to any behavior that they deem inappropriate, offensive, threatening, or harmful. GIFCT has the right and responsibility to remove, edit, or reject comments and other contributions that are not aligned with this Code of Conduct, or fall beyond the scope of any work agreements or contracts, and will communicate reasons for moderation decisions as and when appropriate. Appeals to the enforcement decisions may be made to GIFCT leadership directly.

¹ If you are unsure whether the incident is a violation, or whether the space where it happened is covered by this Code of Conduct, we encourage you to report it. We would much rather have a few extra reports where we decide to take no action, than miss a report of an actual violation. We do not look negatively on you if we find the incident is not a violation; knowing about incidents that are not violations, or happen outside our spaces, can also help us to improve the Code of Conduct or the processes surrounding it.



Expected Behavior

- **Treat others with respect, inclusivity, and consideration.** These meetings are a place for diversity of thought, experience, and opinion.
- **Observe the Chatham House Rule.** You may use or report information from the discussions, but cannot share information about the speaker; no content can be attributed unless there is prior agreement with the speaker or GIFCT. For more information on the Chatham House Rule, click [here](#).
- **Social media.** You are welcome to share your Working Group affiliation on your personal social media platforms, but please do not reveal the identities of other participants who may wish to preserve their anonymity. The Chatham House Rule applies to all Working Group activity, including related social media posts.
- **Respect participants' privacy and boundaries.** Keep front-of-mind the sensitivity of the subjects discussed in GIFCT Working Groups and respect requests for anonymity.
- **Communicate openly with respect for others.** Personal attacks will not be tolerated.
- **Be mindful of your surroundings and others.** Alert GIFCT staff if you have any concerns about conduct that violates these guidelines.

Enforcement Guidelines

GIFCT leadership will follow these Enforcement Guidelines in determining the consequences for any action they deem in violation of this Code of Conduct:

1. Correction

Community Impact: Use of inappropriate language or other behavior deemed unprofessional or unwelcome in the community.

Consequence: A private, written notice from GIFCT, providing clarity around the nature of the violation and an explanation of why the behavior was inappropriate.

2. Warning

Community Impact: A violation through a single reported incident.

Consequence: A warning for a single incident, with further consequences for continued behavior. This may include a notice to refrain from interaction with the party(ies) involved, including unsolicited interaction with those enforcing the Code of Conduct, for a specified period of time. This includes barred interactions in GIFCT community spaces as well as external channels, like social media. Violating these terms may lead to a temporary or permanent ban.

3. Temporary Ban

Community Impact: A serious violation of the Code of Conduct, including sustained violative behavior.

Consequence: A time-bound ban from any sort of interaction or public communication with the GIFCT community for a specified period of time. No public or private interaction with the party(ies) involved, including unsolicited interaction with those enforcing the Code of Conduct, is allowed during this period. Violating these terms may lead to a permanent ban.

4. Permanent Ban

Community Impact: Demonstrating a pattern of violation of previously outlined expected behaviors, including sustained inappropriate behavior, harassment of an individual, or aggression toward individuals.

Consequence: A permanent ban from engagement within Working Groups and other GIFCT workstreams.



OUTPUTS

Working Groups will be expected, and funded, to produce an output or series of outputs to be shared at the conclusion of the Working Group cycle, unless an otherwise determined format has been set out.

Proposals and Funding

- If the Working Group decides on an output led by non-GIFCT Working Group participants, then the output lead(s) will be required to submit a proposal to GIFCT outlining the project.
- Proposals need to include a summary of the project, a timeline, a checklist of deliverables and related criteria, a budget, and who will be responsible for the output.
- Funding specifications:
 - GIFCT funding is only available to civil society organizations (individuals who are part of government bodies or tech companies are not eligible for funding).
 - Each Working Group can receive up to \$10,000 in total to fund multiple outputs to completion.
- Output leads will be contracted and paid half of the funding up front and the other half upon delivery of the output. Our Director of Operations will be the point of contact for contracting and funding.
- All contracts are formatted similarly and have gone through our legal review. If output leads need to flag something particular for discussion due to how your organization operates please reach out to your GIFCT Working Group lead.
- In the case that an output is a GNET insight guidance can be found [here](#) and payment will come through the GNET payment process.

Drafting, Deadlines, and Review

- Working Group output leads must follow GIFCT's style guide for reference for formatting. Output authors will be sent this style guide by GIFCT once an output proposal has been approved by GIFCT.
- In terms of the submission process, the output will be reviewed as follows:
 - Submission of the final output(s) to GIFCT
 - Output leads should include their full title and affiliation. The affiliations of fellow participants will be listed in an introduction.
 - If there are one to three aspects of the output that output leads would like to have visually enhanced through light graphic design work (statistics, metrics, a complex point that would benefit from a visual) then highlight up to three areas for our web formatter to address.



- GIFCT reviews outputs
 - A GIFCT copy editor will review for spelling, grammar, and clarity.
 - GIFCT will make grammar and spelling edits, but may return the content to the output leads if any sections are unclear or need further explanation.
 - GIFCT has final editorial authority on GIFCT-sponsored publications.
 - Authors need to include a caveat that publications do not reflect the views of GIFCT or its Board.
- Publication
 - GIFCT ensures formatting and publication of outputs on GIFCT's website and its managed sites, where applicable, to further the impact of Working Group outputs. This takes different forms depending on the output and in coordination with the Working Group participants.
- Carryover projects
 - If there is a piece of output that does not meet Working Group cycles or deadlines that are already underway, we may support the output through to completion either by launching it asynchronously or by rolling it over to the next cycle of GIFCT Working Groups.

Output, Launch, and Usage

- All outputs will be formatted and made live on the GIFCT Working Group webpage in a virtual PDF form or in the format relevant to the output (e.g., video, microsite, interactive engagement space).
- Outputs are open to public access and can be shared widely.
- GIFCT may host virtual and/or in-person events to highlight outputs, inviting output leads to speak about this work.
- If output leads would like to feature their work on their organization's website or personal website, please inform GIFCT. No changes may be made to finalized Working Group publications; they must be presented in the agreed-upon format and context.