

# GLOBAL INTERNET FORUM TO COUNTER TERRORISM

2025 Annual and Transparency Report



**GIFCT**  
Global Internet Forum  
to Counter Terrorism

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“From the critical role of the hash-sharing database and the Incident Response Framework to the multi-stakeholder-informed findings of the Working Groups, GIFCT’s resources continue to provide tangible value, empowering its diverse member community to prevent terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital spaces.”

*Leslie Miller*, VP of Government Affairs & Public Policy, YouTube

 YouTube

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# INTRODUCTION

# About GIFCT

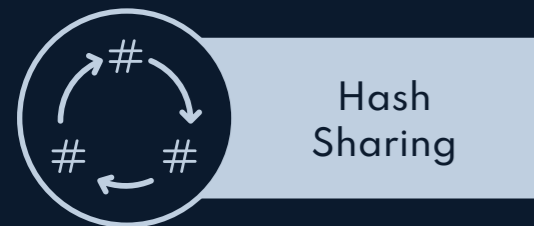
## Preventing terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms

The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) is a non profit organization with diverse industry members. It brings together the technology industry, government,

civil society, and academia to foster collaboration and information sharing to counter terrorist and violent extremist activity online.

## 4 Key Tools

GIFCT supports member technology companies and works closely with its global multi-stakeholder community to advance collective counterterrorism efforts. Its work helps tech platforms prevent, respond, and adapt to online threats through the use of four key tools:



Hash Sharing

### The hash-sharing database

- allows member platforms to share “digital fingerprints” of known terrorist and violent extremist content in a secure, efficient, and privacy-protecting manner, and action content in line with their respective policies and terms of service



Research & Analysis

### Global Network on Extremism and Technology

- GIFCT’s academic research arm

### GIFCT Knowledge Products

- research and analysis tailored to the diverse needs of GIFCT members



Incident Response

### The Incident Response Framework

- is the mechanism that helps member companies respond to online dimensions of offline violence and address related digital content



Knowledge Exchange & Collaboration

### Events and Partnerships

- deepen GIFCT’s understanding of regional threats and trends

### Working Groups

- convene diverse stakeholders to explore themes at the intersections of technology and counterterrorism

### Cross Platform Dialogue

- frameworks for cross-platform collaboration and dialogue between GIFCT members

# GIFCT’s Impact in 2025

In 2025, GIFCT expanded its community of industry member companies, strengthened its connections with global multi-stakeholders, and improved its technical solutions, tools, and resources. GIFCT launched the new, in-house **Membership Advisory Program (MAP)** to support current and prospective members. MAP ensures continued alignment with GIFCT’s membership criteria and provides tailored support designed to meet each company’s unique needs. GIFCT also welcomed a record **seven new members**, further diversifying its network.

GIFCT launched a revised and updated **Incident Response Framework (IRF)** in 2025 to reflect contemporary threats and trends and help member companies respond to the online dimensions of offline violence in more streamlined, flexible ways. Terrorist and violent extremist activity, both on and offline, prompted GIFCT to **activate the IRF 14 times** in 2025, and GIFCT members added approximately 123,500 hashes to the **hash-sharing database**. To further support member trust and safety efforts, GIFCT also developed and launched **Compass**, a member portal that houses a full suite of curated resources.

GIFCT’s academic research arm, the **Global Network on Extremism and Technology**, kept members and stakeholders informed of the most timely and relevant findings at the intersections of technology and counterterrorism with

its **120 Insights** and events spanning topics and regions across the globe.

GIFCT’s 2025 events and partnerships facilitated knowledge exchange, promoted collaboration, and supported members in adapting to the ever-evolving threat landscape. GIFCT hosted **four signature events** and partnered with global organizations, governments, and other stakeholders to foster discussion and an exchange of experiences on key issues, including child and youth exploitation, emerging technologies, and regional threats and trends.

GIFCT’s **2025 Working Groups’** publications and outputs reflected members’ needs and priorities and strengthened efforts to build resilience among young people online and advance AI safety. GIFCT deepened its **commitment to human rights** by delivering a series of human rights trainings for members and publishing a Human Rights booklet. In addition, GIFCT welcomed the **expansion of the Operating Board** to include two elected members, reflecting the recommendations of GIFCT’s early **Human Rights Impact Assessment**, and welcomed a **new Independent Advisory Committee chair**.



Grew to **39 members** by welcoming **7 new platforms**



Engaged stakeholders in **45 countries** across **6 continents**



Activated the IRF **14 times** across **7 countries**



**5+ billion net** monthly active user base across all GIFCT members



≈ **2.4 million hashes** in the hash-sharing database

## Letter from Executive Director Naureen C. Fink



2025 has been a year of continued growth and impact for GIFCT. We expanded and diversified our industry membership, welcomed new leadership to our governing bodies, strengthened global connections, and revamped key GIFCT technical solutions, tools, and resources.

Important achievements from the year include the first full year of our in-house Membership Advisory Program, which gives current and prospective members direct access to tailored support to align with our membership criteria. We have had a record number of seven new member companies join GIFCT in 2025, bringing the total number of members to 39, and highlighting the successes of the new program.

We revised the Incident Response Framework (IRF) to better reflect the contemporary threat landscape and needs of our members. The updated IRF introduces enhanced public notification protocols and expanded outreach mechanisms, and has been widely welcomed by our membership.

Also reflecting member feedback and requests, GIFCT launched *Compass*, a new member portal providing a “one-stop shop” for resources, tools, and support. With an expanded and global membership, *Compass* ensures that member companies can easily access all the resources, information, and events that GIFCT makes available.

We were delighted to welcome two new Board Members, Discord and Twitch, elected to join for 2026, diversifying the tech stack represented on the Board and the experiences and needs of a wider range of member companies. Additionally, we were pleased to welcome new members in the Independent Advisory Committee, and its new Chair and Vice-Chairs.

In 2025, GIFCT contributed its expertise in key international forums and processes, including the United Nations, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Aqaba Process, and TrustCon, among others. Through these international engagements, we connected with prospective members, industry associations, senior policymakers, practitioners, and experts to support the diversification of GIFCT’s membership and deepen our understanding of regional threats and trends. We continued to support the focus on human rights throughout our work and developed practical guidance and resources for our members.

Throughout 2025, GIFCT continued to strengthen its engagement with its multi-stakeholder community through its global partnerships and Working Groups. We convened four major multi-stakeholder events:

- a workshop on West Africa organized with the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta;
- an event co-hosted with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) on the margins of the 80th UN General Assembly in New York;
- a roundtable event co-hosted with Public Safety Canada and CTED, also concurrent with the 80th UN General Assembly in New York; and
- GIFCT’s Annual Member Forum, hosted in partnership with our Operating Board Chair, YouTube.

These events brought together industry leaders, experts, policymakers, and practitioners, creating important opportunities for cross-sector

collaboration. Finally, GIFCT’s 2025 Working Groups on AI, youth radicalization, and the Investigators Community of Practice, published findings on key themes at the intersections of technology and counterterrorism, ensuring we receive critical feedback on our work and the tools and resources we provide.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to YouTube, our 2025 Operating Board Chair, for their leadership and for the trust and support they have provided throughout the year. This included hosting GIFCT’s Annual Member Forum, bringing members together for a day of shared insights, collaboration, and forward planning.

We look forward to working closely with Meta as our 2026 Board Chair in advancing GIFCT’s strategic priorities. I also wish to thank our Independent Advisory Committee members and its Chair, Jonathan Russell, for their advice and contributions that have shaped our workstreams and efforts throughout the year.

As we look ahead, we are focused on delivering on the goals set in our 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. This will require deeper collaboration, continued learning and enhancement to our tools and processes, and support that responds to the real-time needs of our global community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our shared mission of building safer digital spaces for all.

**Naureen Chowdhury Fink**  
Executive Director  
Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism

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We believe that feeling safe is key to a thriving and creative TikTok community. That's why we robustly defend our platform against violent extremism by countering emerging threats, empowering our community with educational resources, and partnering with experts around the world. As members of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, we'll continue to build on our long-standing work by further strengthening our defenses through expert insights, intelligence-sharing, and additional support for our teams. Together, we can make the online world safer for communities everywhere.

*Valiant Richey, Global Head of Partnerships, Elections & Market Integrity, TikTok*

 TikTok

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# MEMBERSHIP

# GIFCT Membership

GIFCT's **membership** spans the full spectrum of the tech stack, including social media, gaming, artificial intelligence, file sharing, marketplace, and more. Any platform or service committed to improving online safety for all is welcome in GIFCT's member community.

Each member who joins GIFCT brings new technology, experience, and expertise to the table, expanding and strengthening the collective capacity of GIFCT's member community. Diversifying GIFCT's membership ensures representation of a range of voices and global perspectives and provides additional opportunities to address threats across more platforms and technologies.



## 2025 Membership Updates

At its inception in 2017, GIFCT had four founding members. At the end of 2025, GIFCT members included 39 platforms from various geographic regions, offering a diverse array of digital solutions.

A record **seven** platforms became GIFCT members in 2025: Anthropic, SoundCloud, Roblox, TikTok, GitHub, Snap Inc., and 4D Hype. These new members strengthen GIFCT's reach in notable areas, including audio streaming, AI, gaming, and software development.

X (formerly Twitter), a founding member of GIFCT, concluded its GIFCT membership in 2025 to focus on its internal trust and safety efforts. GIFCT appreciates its cross-platform contributions and looks forward to future collaboration through multi-stakeholder initiatives and events.

## GIFCT members provide different types of services, including:



# Membership Advisory Program

In 2025, GIFCT launched its new, in-house **Membership Advisory Program (MAP)**, which assists prospective members in meeting GIFCT's membership criteria in ways that suit their needs and timing.

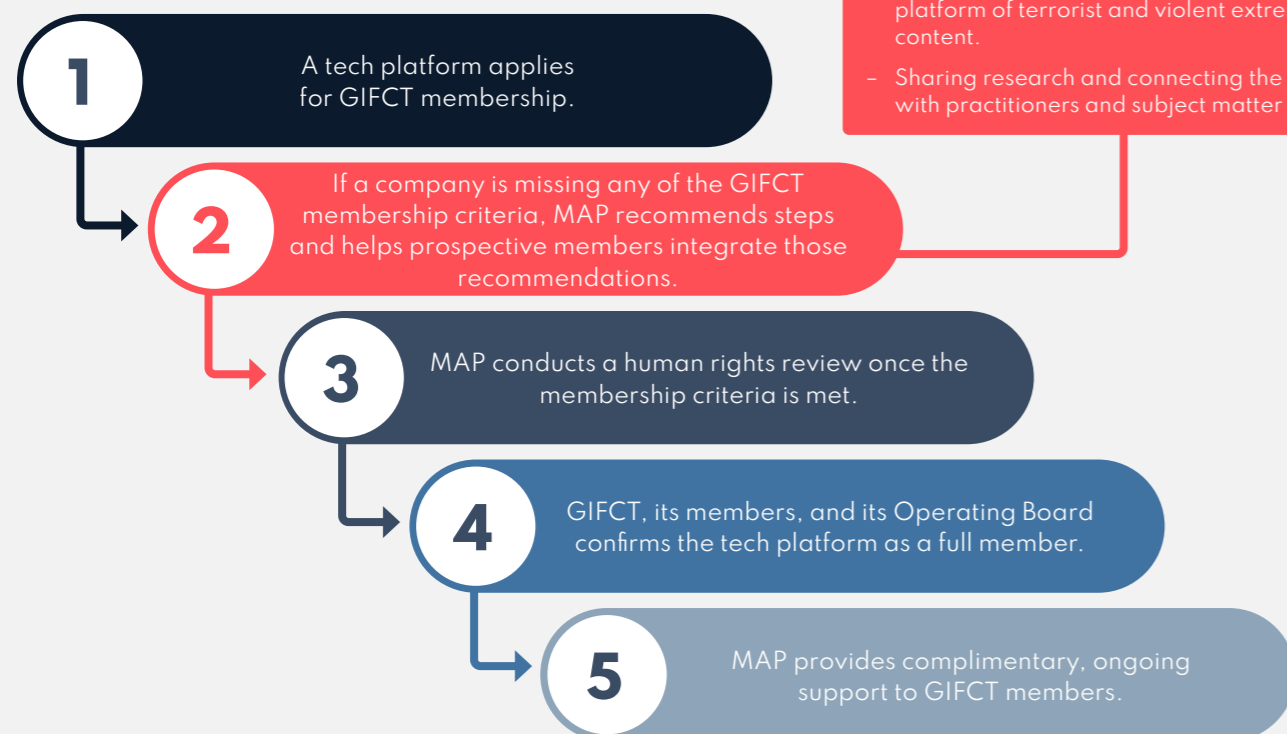
MAP also supports current GIFCT members, helping ensure continued alignment with the criteria and providing tech platforms with tailored, complimentary support designed to meet each company's unique needs, including:

- crafting and revising policies and/or community guidelines;
- providing platform-specific OSINT threat assessments;
- helping improve human rights commitments; and
- strengthening commitments to transparency reporting.

MAP represents the evolution of GIFCT's membership program from a partner-based model to one that enables ownership of all membership activities. To facilitate the growth and success of this new program, GIFCT developed comprehensive support structures and new policies—informed by member and multi-stakeholder feedback—to guide MAP's forward direction.

These policies include GIFCT's work to expand its human rights support by bringing these services in-house, starting in 2026. In 2025, GIFCT, in collaboration with Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), supported five companies with human rights reviews and delivered a series of **human rights trainings and resources** to empower members' human rights work.

MAP supports prospective member companies as they work towards full membership, as well as current GIFCT members in ensuring continued alignment with the membership criteria.



The launch of MAP means that GIFCT members now have greater direct access to technical solutions, expertise, resources, and support for their trust and safety efforts. As GIFCT continues to grow and diversify its membership, MAP will

play a critical role in supporting platforms throughout their GIFCT candidacy and membership.

GIFCT greatly values the commitment of members and applicants to the membership criteria. Through the course of working with MAP in 2025, companies advanced in several key ways:



**6 platforms** made a public commitment to uphold human rights



**3 platforms** produced a transparency report for the first time



**7 companies** joined GIFCT

GIFCT's membership criteria include:

- 1. Terms of service, community guidelines, or other publicly available policies that explicitly prohibit terrorist and/or violent extremist activity.**  
The platform explicitly states their prohibition of terrorism or violent extremism in a public policy.
- 2. The ability to receive, review, and act on both reports of activity that is illegal and/or violated terms of service and user appeals.**  
The platform explains how users have the ability to report content and appeal moderation decisions.
- 3. A desire to explore new technical solutions to counter terrorist and violent extremist activity online.**  
The platform outlines how it uses automated tools for content moderation or expresses interest in engaging with GIFCT's hash-sharing database or other technical tools.
- 4. Regular, public data transparency reports.**  
The platform publishes a regular transparency report that includes numbers of takedowns in general.
- 5. A public commitment to respecting human rights in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).**  
The platform makes an explicit commitment to upholding human rights in a public policy, with an explanation of how this applies to its content moderation efforts and references the UNGPs.
- 6. Support for expanding the capacity of civil society organizations to challenge terrorism and violent extremism.**  
Platforms should be able to articulate how they are actively seeking to collaborate with civil society including consultations on policies and enforcement against harms from terrorism and violent extremism.

## Member Benefits

GIFCT connects member platforms with a suite of resources to strengthen their efforts against terrorist and violent extremist activity online.

### A Trusted Global Community

Being a GIFCT member signals **a strong commitment to online safety** and willingness to work with other platforms and partners, enhancing a company's credibility with policymakers, users, and civil society. Members join **a trusted global community** of industry leaders, subject-matter experts, and practitioners in a unique collaborative network.



### Technical Solutions

GIFCT members have access to the **hash-sharing database**, which allows companies to quickly identify and share "hashes" (or "digital fingerprints") of known terrorist and violent extremist content in a secure, efficient, and privacy-protecting manner, and action content in line with their respective policies and terms of service.



### Coordinated Incident Response

The **Incident Response Framework** is the mechanism that helps GIFCT member companies respond efficiently and collaboratively to online dimensions of offline violence. Members gain from real-time, cross-platform dialogue, supporting timely and informed incident responses.



### Subject Matter Expertise

GIFCT membership provides access to global experts and a suite of resources, trainings, and tailored research to empower member trust and safety efforts. Benefits include the **members-only portal, Compass**, for access to bespoke resources, as well as platform-specific analysis from the **Global Network on Extremism and Technology**, GIFCT's academic research arm.



### Knowledge Exchange & Collaboration

Regional workshops, multi-stakeholder Working Groups, and international events provide GIFCT members with opportunities to **collaborate with a global multi-stakeholder community**, deepen their understanding of regional trends and threats, and shape the future of online safety.



## Become A GIFCT Member

**Are you a tech company interested in strengthening your capacity to counter terrorist and violent extremist activity online?**



Join here

Apply for GIFCT membership to join over 35 diverse tech platforms working together to prevent terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting online platforms by leveraging technology, expertise, and cross-sector partnerships.

GIFCT's membership spans companies large and small and includes the full spectrum of the tech stack, demonstrating that all platforms can play a role in keeping the internet free from terrorist and violent extremist activity.



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At Discord, user safety is one of our top priorities, and we're committed to creating a trusted environment where communities can thrive. GIFCT's collaborative network is an essential part of that work. Sharing real-time signals with peers, policymakers, and law enforcement — and discussing the trends we're seeing on our platform — accelerates our collective ability to identify and disrupt violent extremism and the exploitation of vulnerable communities. We're proud to be part of a network that turns shared knowledge into action.

*Jud Hoffman, VP of Trust & Safety, Discord*



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# HASH SHARING

# The Hash-Sharing Database

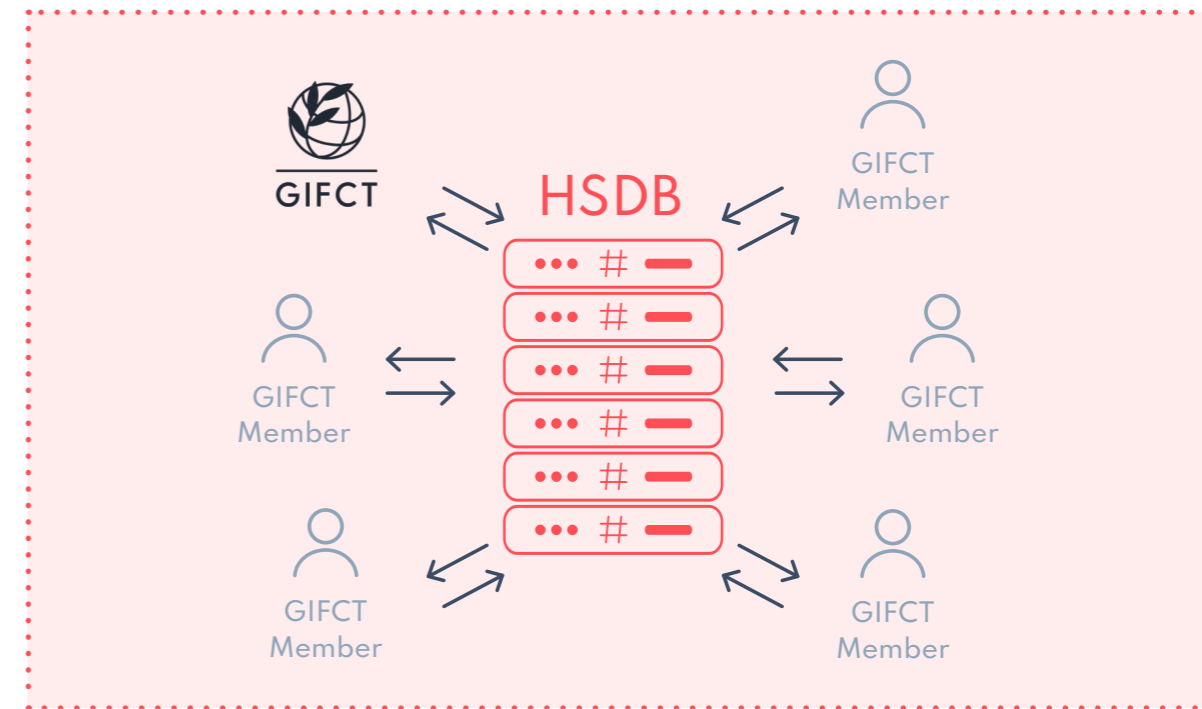
GIFCT's **hash-sharing database (HSDB)** is a cross-platform database that enables the sharing of “hashes” (or “digital fingerprints”) of known terrorist and violent extremist content between member platforms in a secure, efficient, and privacy-protecting manner.

The HSDB allows GIFCT members to identify and action terrorist and violent extremist content quickly, in accordance with their respective policies and terms of service.

Each platform that is part of the HSDB determines its use of and engagement with the database based on its own terms of service, how it operates, and how it uses technical and human resources (among other factors).

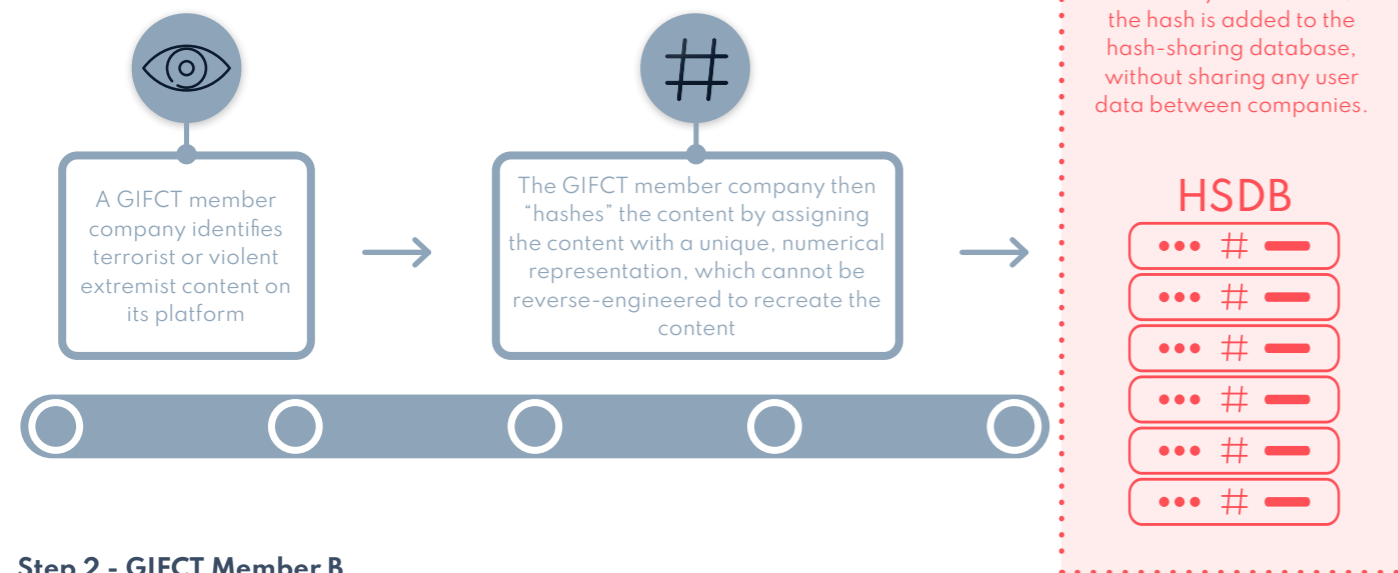
GIFCT members can use the hashes provided through the HSDB to identify content on their platforms that matches known terrorist and violent extremist content. After identifying a match, members make an independent determination as to what action to take regarding that specific content. Adding hashes does not prompt any direct or automatic action on another member's platform, such as removing content.

# Who uses the HSDB

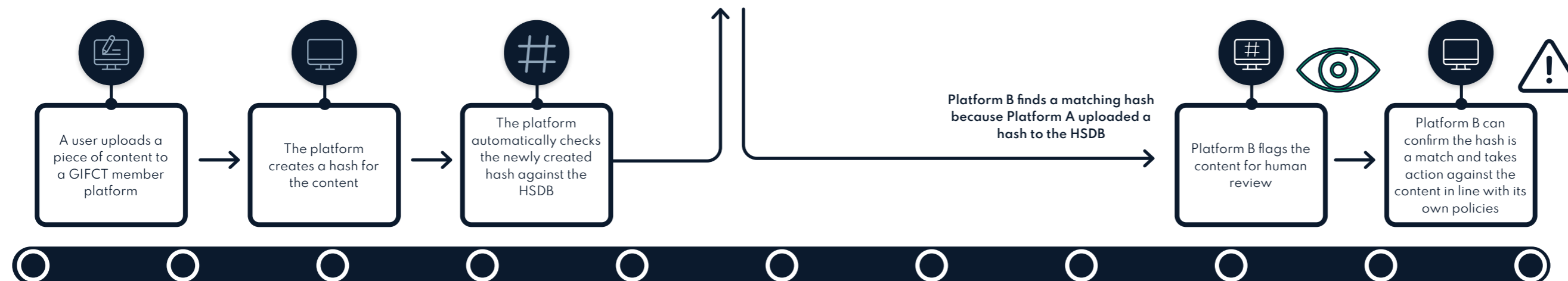


## How the HSDB works

### Step 1 - GIFCT Member A



### Step 2 - GIFCT Member B



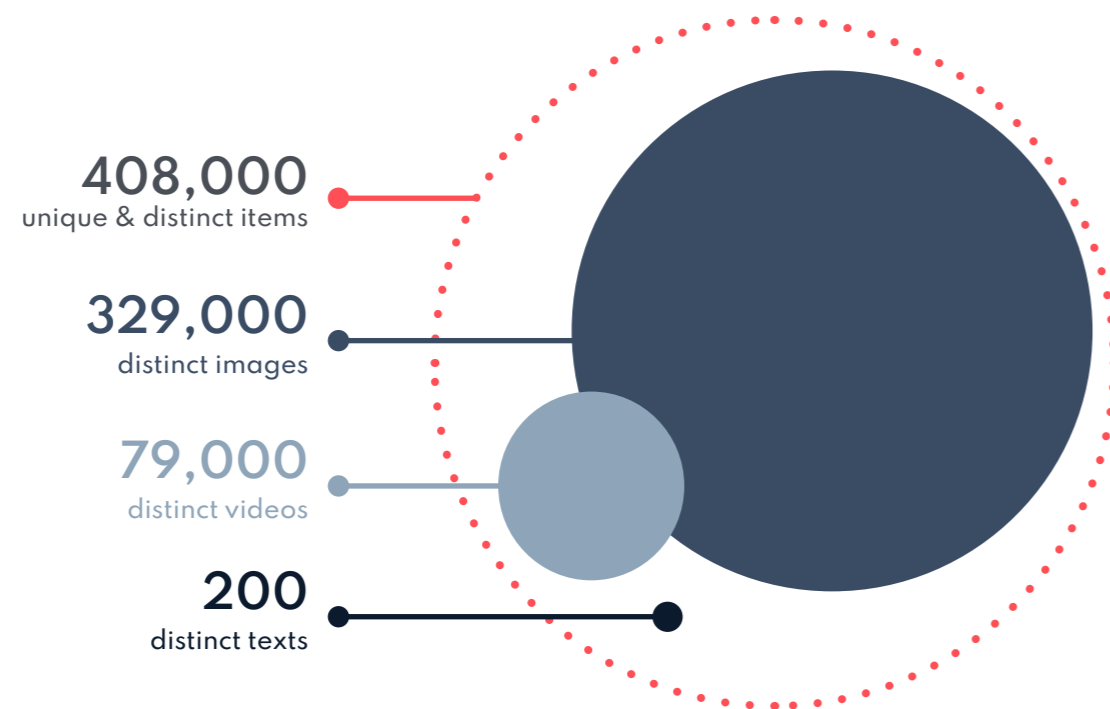
GIFCT members integrated into the HSDB (or in the process of integrating) focus primarily on user-generated content. These members include Bitly, Dailymotion, Discord, Dropbox, Facebook, Instagram, Giphy, Google, JustPaste.it, LinkedIn, Mailchimp, MEGA, Meta, Microsoft, Niantic, Patreon, Pinterest, Twitch, Vimeo, Yahoo, YouTube, Yubo, and Zoom. GIFCT can also create hashes for HSDB inclusion.

Only GIFCT and GIFCT member tech companies that have completed the information-sharing agreement have access to the HSDB, and member use of the database must comply with GIFCT's **HSDB Code of Conduct**

## Composition of the Hash-Sharing Database

As of the end of 2025, the HSDB contained approximately **2.4 million hashes**, an increase of approximately 123,500 hashes since the 2024 Transparency Report.

Currently, the HSDB contains approximately **408,000 unique and distinct items**, comprising approximately 329,000 visually distinct images, 79,000 visually distinct videos, and 200 textually distinct items related to PDFs.



## Taxonomy for the Hash-Sharing Database

To facilitate hash sharing, GIFCT provides a **taxonomy** that serves as formal guidance for HSDB inclusion. Although member companies may have slightly different operational definitions of “terrorism” or “terrorist content,” GIFCT’s taxonomy is deliberately designed to capture high-severity content produced by TVE actors. The thresholds within the taxonomy are based on areas of broad consensus amongst members, and were made with input from multi-stakeholder partners.

GIFCT’s taxonomy has evolved from a narrow list-based focus to a more flexible, behavior-based framework. Originally, the taxonomy—and the content in the HSDB—focused strictly on

images and videos from entities listed on the **UN Security Council Resolution 1267** (Al-Qaida and ISIL) Sanctions List. In 2019, it expanded to include content from perpetrators of offline attacks who live-streamed or recorded their violence, aligning with the IRF criteria.

Following the **2021 Taxonomy Report**, the taxonomy’s scope expanded to include attacker manifestos and branded propaganda materials such as PDFs. Rather than following any single government list, GIFCT now uses a set of criteria that allows for labels referencing designated entities on the 1267 Sanctions List, behavioral labels that categorize content by type, and incident labels created from IRF activations.

## Labels for the Hash-Sharing Database

In addition to content linked to a framework based on the 1267 Sanctions List, pathways for adding hashes include the following labels:

**Behavioral labels** categorize hashes by the type of terrorist or violent extremist behavior associated with the content.

**Incident labels** correspond to offline terrorist or mass violence attacks that activated the IRF, prompting hashing of identified perpetrator-produced content.

### Behavioral labels

At the end of 2025, approximately **92%** of the total number of hashes in the HSDB included behavioral labels. The majority (75.62%) focused on glorification of terrorist acts, followed by graphic violence related to offline terrorist or violent extremist events (16.02%), terrorist recruitment and instruction (6.29%), and imminent credible terrorist threats (2.07%).

### Incident labels

**GIFCT’s IRF includes activation types that enable hash sharing of content produced by an event’s perpetrator(s). Since the IRF’s creation in 2019, GIFCT has enabled IRF-related hash sharing for the following attacks:**

**Christchurch, New Zealand:** On March 15, 2019, the need for a separate hash label was declared after an attacker live-streamed his attack on two mosques.

**Halle, Germany:** On October 9, 2019, the Content Incident Protocol (CIP) was activated after an attacker live-streamed his attack on a synagogue.

**Glendale, Arizona, United States:** On May 20, 2020, the CIP was activated after an attacker live-streamed his attack on the Westgate Entertainment District.

**Buffalo, New York, United States:** On May 14, 2022, the CIP was activated after an attacker live-streamed his attack on a supermarket.

**Udaipur, India:** On June 28, 2022, a Content Incident (CI) was activated after the release of a video by attackers showing the killing of an individual.

**Memphis, Tennessee, United States:** On September 7, 2022, the CIP was activated after an attacker live-streamed his attack on a store as part of a series of attacks throughout Memphis.

**Louisville, Kentucky, United States:** On April 10, 2023, the CIP was activated after an attacker live-streamed his attack at a bank.

**Perry, Iowa, United States:** On January 4, 2024, the CIP was activated after an attacker live-streamed his attack on a high school.

**Levittown, Pennsylvania, United States:** On January 30, 2024, the CIP was activated after a perpetrator live-streamed a violent extremist event.

**Eskişehir, Türkiye:** On August 12, 2024, the CIP was activated after an attacker live-streamed the stabbing of multiple individuals.

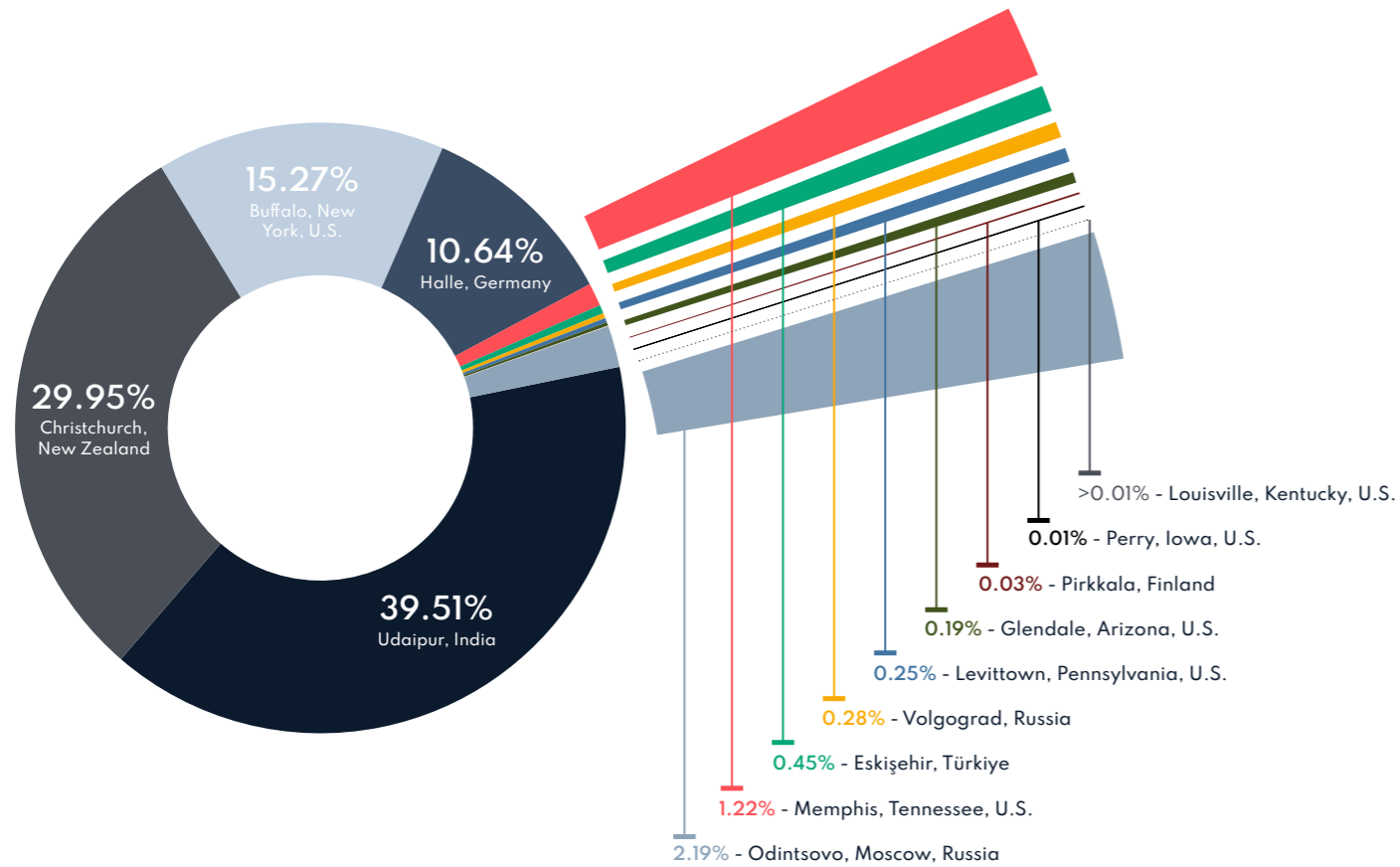
**Volgograd, Russia:** On August 23, 2024, a CI was activated in response to an ISIS-affiliated killing and hostage incident, and the perpetrator released videos depicting violence associated with the incident.

**Pirkkala, Finland:** On May 20, 2025, the CIP was activated after an attacker live-streamed the stabbing of multiple individuals.

**Odintsovo, Moscow, Russia:** On December 16, 2025, a Perpetrator Content Incident (PCI) was activated after an attacker live-streamed the stabbing of an individual.

Of the total number of hashes in the HSDB at the end of 2025, approximately **13%** included IRF activation-related labels.

## Hash Taxonomy Incident Label Distribution



Incident Label	Hashes per label	Percent of hashes with incident label
Udaipur, India	119,764	39.51%
Christchurch, New Zealand	90,772	29.95%
Buffalo, New York, U.S.	46,280	15.27%
Halle, Germany	32,258	10.64%
Odintsovo, Moscow, Russia	6,652	2.19%
Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.	3,703	1.22%
Eskişehir, Türkiye	1,378	0.45%
Volgograd, Russia	840	0.28%
Levittown, Pennsylvania, U.S.	757	0.25%
Glendale, Arizona, U.S.	572	0.19%
Pirkkala, Finland	99	0.03%
Perry, Iowa, U.S.	41	0.01%
Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.	3	>0.01%

## Refining the Hash-Sharing Database

GIFCT remains committed to gathering input from members and the broader multi-stakeholder community to continue refining the HSDB and improving the overall quality and impact of all member programs and solutions. Ongoing feedback is essential to ensuring GIFCT’s responsiveness to the practical challenges and priorities of its membership.

GIFCT is actively working to improve the quality of the data in the HSDB through member collaboration. Providing feedback on hashes is one way for members to add valuable context for individual enforcement decisions. As of the end of 2025, approximately **2%** of hashes had feedback. The vast majority of that feedback indicated agreement with the hash’s labels and inclusion criteria.

Looking ahead, GIFCT will convene the **Signals Community of Practice** in 2026 to further explore members’ needs regarding cross-platform signal sharing and opportunities to refine the HSDB. Specific group focuses will include audio content analysis, URL-sharing protocols, and user journey mapping.

In some instances, member companies may choose to remove specific hashes from the HSDB. Members may remove hashes for a variety of reasons:

- **Individual Platform Review:** Members may periodically review and, if necessary, remove previously submitted hashes to ensure they align with GIFCT’s taxonomy.
- **Member Feedback:** Members may choose to review and remove hashes from the HSDB in response to another GIFCT member providing feedback on a hash.
- **New Information or Evolving Context:** Members may reassess hashed content against GIFCT’s inclusion criteria in response to changes in how terrorist or violent extremist groups use or reappropriate content.
- **Data Availability:** Members may choose to remove hashes if they no longer retain the content corresponding to the hash. Each member platform has a different content retention policy, but after the retention period expires, the original content is no longer retained, in compliance with relevant privacy laws.

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GIFCT is a critical driver in ensuring effective counterterrorism strategies. Through cross-functional coordination and information sharing, GIFCT enables its members to respond quickly and confidently to the ever-evolving tactics of bad actors and bolster the safety of online communities.

*Kristen Murdock, Head of Customer Trust, Twitch*

The Twitch logo, featuring the word "Twitch" in a white, stylized font with a blue outline, set against a dark blue background.

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# INCIDENT RESPONSE

# The Incident Response Framework

The [Incident Response Framework \(IRF\)](#) is the mechanism that helps member companies respond to online dimensions of offline violence. Developed in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders across diverse regions and platforms, including an independent review of GIFCT's incident response policies and a multi-stakeholder Working Group, the IRF improves information-sharing, streamlines communication, and provides tailored support for members during terrorist and mass-violence events.

## IRF Activation Types

**The IRF is composed of three non-hierarchical activation types designed to counter various methods terrorists or violent extremists may use to exploit digital platforms. Its goal is to prevent the spread of content that graphically depicts or explicitly glorifies their violence.**

Activating the IRF indicates the heightened threat a situation may pose to GIFCT members, including potential exploitation of their digital platforms, and GIFCT's urgency in supporting them in stemming the spread of content associated with the incident. Activating the IRF facilitates the following goals:

- **increasing the speed** at which platforms become aware of and respond to terrorist and violent extremist content circulating online that relates to an offline terrorist event;
- **decreasing terrorist and violent extremist content** circulating on digital platforms; and
- **enhancing communications** between industry, government, and civil society in response to a terrorist or violent extremist event.

Following IRF activations, GIFCT members receive post-incident intelligence bulletins that provide insights into the incident, the associated ideology or movement, and (when applicable) actionable information for moderation and investigation teams. In addition to actively engaging with members during IRF activations, GIFCT also collaborates with relevant governments and civil society organizations to understand how their insights can further inform GIFCT's continued response. GIFCT hosts multi-stakeholder debriefs when a PCI is activated, ensuring that stakeholders—including government and civil society actors—are informed of the context and events that prompted the PCI, as well as the actions taken in response.

# Global IRF Activations



### Perpetrator Content Incident (PCI)

The Perpetrator Content Incident is designed to coordinate a response to online, perpetrator-produced content directly related to a terrorist or violent extremist event and support members in identifying and preventing the spread of this content.

### Digital Footprint Incident (DFI)

The Digital Footprint Incident can facilitate information sharing and cross-platform support when the perpetrator of an attack had a significant online presence, but did not produce media as part of the attack.

### Incident Advisory (IA)

The Incident Advisory is a flexible framework designed to respond to terrorist or violent extremist events that occur in highly unclear information environments or are not obviously time-bound. This framework allows GIFCT to support members in adapting to complex incidents as they unfold, with the possibility of transitioning to a different IRF protocol once additional information becomes available.

What’s shared?

IRF Activation Types	PCI	DFI	IA
OSINT	●	●	●
Member Updates	●	●	●
Bespoke Research	●	●	●
Situational Awareness	●	●	
Perpetrator Content Hashes	●		
Updated Resources	●	●	●
Targeted Support	●	●	●
Threat Briefings	●	●	●

## 2025 Activations and Information Sharing

Throughout 2025, GIFCT and its members shared awareness of 113 incidents of offline violence. In response to incidents meeting

the IRF criteria, **GIFCT activated the IRF 14 times**. Since its creation in 2019, **GIFCT has activated the IRF 35 times**.

## Overlaps with Hash Sharing

When a PCI is activated, GIFCT members can contribute hashes of associated content to the HSDB. This content may include the live stream of murder or attempted murder produced by the attack’s perpetrator or an accomplice. In previous IRF iterations, this overlap was a feature of the now-retired Content Incident Protocol (CIP) and Content Incident (CI).

The PCI can only be activated after a multi-step process that includes a formal decision by GIFCT’s Operating Board and, as needed, the Executive Director. Following that decision, GIFCT works to communicate the decision, review content assets, and inform GIFCT member companies and relevant governments that content from the offline violent incident is manifesting online.

## Refining the Incident Response Framework

In 2025, GIFCT launched an **updated version of the IRF** during an event alongside the opening of the UN General Assembly session in New York. The new IRF creates a more streamlined process that better responds to the current threat landscape and the needs of its member companies. GIFCT developed the new IRF in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders across various industries, including an independent review of GIFCT’s incident response policies and recommendations from the **2024 Incident Response Working Group**.

Following the launch of the updated IRF, GIFCT hosted a tabletop exercise during the 2025 Annual Member Forum, providing members with an opportunity to engage with the new framework in a real-time setting.

Throughout the year, GIFCT provided tailored support for members’ trust and safety efforts, including language and translation services for terrorist and violent extremist content—specifically for slogans and slurs. Looking ahead, GIFCT aims to continue refining and adapting the incident response support and resources available to members by integrating member and multi-stakeholder feedback from its Working Groups, IRF debriefs, events, and engagements.

By making the framework more efficient and expanding its scope to address a broader range of harms, it equips member companies to keep pace with ever-evolving threats and trends online.

## Global IRF Activations

Activation Location	Date	Type
Christchurch, New Zealand	March 15, 2019	CIP (Prototype)
Halle, Germany	October 9, 2019	CIP
Glendale, AZ, USA	May 20, 2020	CIP
Amsterdam, Netherlands	July 6, 2021	Incident
Kabul, Afghanistan	August 27, 2021	Incident
Kunduz, Afghanistan	October 8, 2021	Incident
Colleyville, TX, USA	January 15, 2022	Incident
Washington, DC, USA	April 22, 2022	Incident
Buffalo, NY, USA	May 14, 2022	CIP
Udaipur, India	June 28, 2022	CI
Mogadishu, Somalia	August 19, 2022	Incident
Memphis, TN, USA	September 7, 2022	CIP
Bratislava, Slovakia	October 12, 2022	Incident
Michigan, USA	February 13, 2023	Incident
Louisville, KY, USA	April 10, 2023	CIP
Sderot, Israel	October 7, 2023	Incident
Perry, IA, USA	January 4, 2024	CIP
Levittown, PA, USA	January 30, 2024	CIP
Moscow, Russia	March 22, 2024	Incident
Eskişehir, Türkiye	August 21, 2024	CIP
Volgograd, Russia	August 23, 2024	CI
New Orleans, LA, USA	January 1, 2025	Incident
Nashville, TN, USA	January 22, 2025	Incident
Palm Springs, CA, USA	May 18, 2025	Incident
Pirkkala, Finland	May 20, 2025	CIP
Washington, DC, USA	May 22, 2025	Incident
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	August 27, 2025	Incident
Orem, UT, USA	September 10, 2025	Incident Advisory*
Evergreen, CO, USA	September 10, 2025	DFI
Dallas, TX, USA	September 24, 2025	Incident Advisory
Crumpsall, UK	October 2, 2025	Incident Advisory
Jakarta, Indonesia	November 7, 2025	Incident Advisory
Delhi, India	November 10, 2025	Incident Advisory
Sydney, Australia	December 14, 2025	Incident Advisory
Odintsovo, Moscow, Russia	December 16, 2025	PCI

\*GIFCT launched the revised version of the IRF in September 2025. All IRF activations after that date are classified using the updated activation types.

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GNET's partnership with GIFCT continues to demonstrate the essential role of rigorous research in strengthening how platforms understand and respond to evolving terrorist and extremist exploitation of digital technologies. Over the past year, our work has shed light on frontier issues, including the influence of generative AI, the increased challenges of nihilistic violent extremism and the moderation challenges posed by diverse content ecosystems. Informing industry on these emerging themes, often across understudied regions such as Southeast Asia and South America, enables us to translate academic insight into operationally relevant guidance.

By working within GIFCT's multi-stakeholder framework, we ensure that scholarly analysis not only advances understanding of complex threats but also supports practical, evidence-based interventions that help member platforms adapt their responses and measure impact in a rapidly changing online environment.

*Dr. Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens, Co-Director of the Centre for Statecraft & National Security and Principal Investigator of GNET*



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# RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

## Global Network on Extremism and Technology

GIFCT connects industry members to global expertise and research through its academic research arm, the [Global Network on Extremism and Technology](#) (GNET). This initiative, funded and supported by GIFCT, is housed within the Centre for Statecraft and National Security at King's College London.

GNET brings together an international consortium of leading academic institutions and experts to provide GIFCT members and partners with research and analysis on emerging threats and trends, including ongoing crises and conflicts, while connecting them to a global network of experts and scholars.



Published **120 Insights** from **101 authors** representing **25 different countries**



Highlighted terrorist and violent extremist attempts to exploit **18 GIFCT members across 65 Insights**



Flagged **48 violative accounts and/or content** to GIFCT members

## GNET and GIFCT

In addition to its expansive library of public research, GNET provides GIFCT members with exclusive, tailored research to address their needs and support trust and safety efforts.

In 2025, GNET produced a series of **six regional Significant Date calendars** to inform GIFCT members of key dates associated with terrorist or violent extremist narratives and activities. GNET also **produced a guidebook** on the tactics, techniques, and procedures used by members of the Soyjack Attacker Video Fandom (SAVF). The guidebook included keywords, images, memes, and phrases commonly used in SAVF to help GIFCT members navigate the aesthetic and memetic landscape of this online community. Following the development of these resources, GIFCT partnered with the researchers to present the findings to GIFCT members during monthly member meetings and members-only webinars throughout 2025.

In addition to creating resources for GIFCT and its members, GNET authors work with GIFCT member companies to flag potentially violative content, deliver theme-specific briefings, and provide feedback and findings during the policy development process.

GNET also regularly publishes work in response to IRF activations. In 2025, that included research on the attacks in Pirkkala (Finland), New Orleans (USA), Palm Springs (USA), and Jakarta (Indonesia).

## 2025 GNET Updates

**GNET reports and Insights offer practical analyses of terrorists' and violent extremists' exploitation of digital platforms worldwide. In 2025, GNET Insights explored themes at the intersections of technology, terrorism, and violent extremism—including artificial intelligence, terrorist financing, and hard-tech innovation. GNET also published Insights as part of five focused series:**

- Combating Islamic State Finance ([three Insights](#));
- Climate Change, Technology, and Extremism ([five Insights](#) coinciding with Earth Day);
- PhD Researcher Series ([three Insights](#));
- Addressing Youth Radicalization and Mobilization ([six Insights](#) as part of GIFCT's Working Group on Addressing Youth Radicalization and Mobilization); and
- Gender and Online Violent Extremism ([five Insights](#) coinciding with the UN's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence).

Additionally, GNET produced **two Special Extended Insights** offering more detailed briefing reports to give experts greater flexibility and opportunity to expand on analyses central to GNET's core themes and overall interests:

[Beyond the FGC-9: How the Urutau Redefines the Global 3D-Printed Firearm Movement](#) by Yannick Veilleux-Lepage and Zoltán Füredi, January 8; and [Attack at the Pear Tree Inn: An Analysis of a British Terrorist's Manifesto](#) by Duncan Gardham, April 15.

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Our collaboration with GIFCT on *Artificial Intelligence: Threats, Opportunities, and Policy Frameworks for Countering VNSAs* was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and understanding of the intersections of AI and non-state actor, terrorist, and violent extremist exploitation online. As AI rapidly evolves, so too are the techniques for its misuse. Our joint policy brief provided much-needed analysis on the scope and scale of AI-enhanced threats of violent non-state actors, and importantly, the ways in which AI can block and mitigate these harms. Together with GIFCT, we were honored to also organize a launch event in New York, sparking a multi-stakeholder exchange on the importance of international and industry-wide standards to address AI-related challenges and ensure safety by design. Through a combination of analysis and convening power, we look forward to our continued partnership with GIFCT and advancing multilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism.

*Thomas Tödtling*, Executive Director,  
Konrad Adenauer Foundation New York Office

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## GIFCT Knowledge Products

To ensure that members stay informed about significant threats posed by terrorists' and violent extremists' exploitation of digital platforms, GIFCT delivers assessments, insights, and bespoke analyses of specific dynamics

of the online threat landscape, tailored to its diverse members' needs. In 2025, GIFCT also developed its members-only *Compass* portal, which provides access to a full suite of resources to empower members' trust and safety efforts.

## GIFCT Reports and Publications

**Knowledge products deliver actionable insights and recommendations; some are exclusively for GIFCT members, while others are available to the wider public. In 2025, GIFCT produced a series of post-IRF activation intelligence products for members.**

It also published several staff insights and post-event briefings, following the conclusion of GIFCT-hosted events and workshops. Notable knowledge products produced in 2025 include the following:

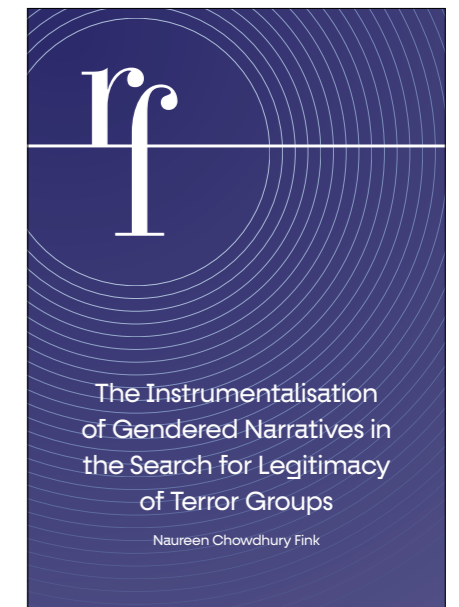
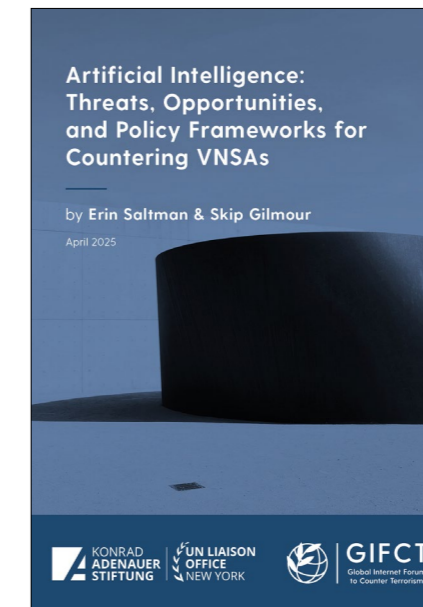
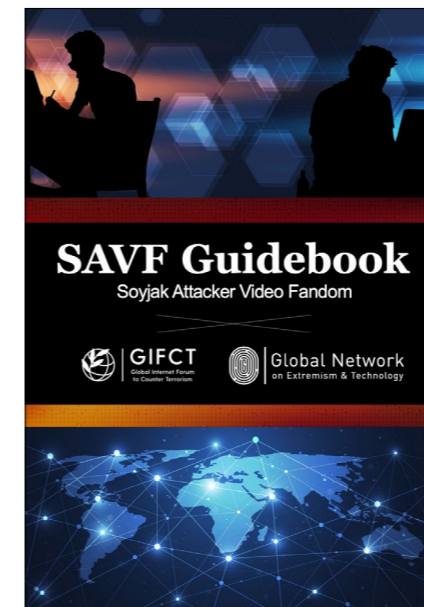
- **[“The Instrumentalization of Gendered Narratives in the Search for Legitimacy of Terror Groups”](#)** by Naureen Chowdhury Fink, published as an essay that first appeared in the Raisina Files 2025 journal, *The Reckoning: Regression or Renaissance?* produced by the Observer Research Foundation;
- **[“Fighting Terror with Tech: The Evolution of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism”](#)** by Naureen Chowdhury Fink and Dr. Erin Saltman, published as an insight from their co-authored chapter in the 2025 edited volume from the Trust and Safety Foundation, *Trust, Safety, and the Internet We Share: Multistakeholder Insights*;
- **[“White Nationalist ‘Youth Clubs’ Targeting Young Men Have Expanded Beyond US”](#)** by Jessa Mellea in partnership with Open Measures; and
- **[“Artificial Intelligence: Threats, Opportunities, and Policy Frameworks for Countering VNSAs”](#)** by Dr. Erin Saltman and Skip Gilmour, published as a policy report in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

In addition to relevant threat- and trend-related knowledge products, reports, GNET *Insights*, and Working Group publications, GIFCT provides members with exclusive access to events and activations customized to their specific needs.

In 2025, GIFCT's **monthly member meetings** included briefings from government and intergovernmental organizations, intelligence consultants, researchers, member trust and safety teams, and other subject-matter experts from across the global counterterrorism community. Presenters shared research on specific terror and violent extremist groups, terrorist financing, and the nexus between terrorism and violent extremism online and other threat types (e.g., criminal organizations and 3D-printed weapons). They also provided analyses of the threat landscape from government and industry perspectives.

GIFCT also regularly engages with global partners on topics at the intersections of technology and counterterrorism. In 2025, GIFCT was pleased to provide input for the UN Secretary-General's Report on the implementation of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy, contribute to a survey on the impact and activities of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, and participate in consultations with the UK Office of Communications, among other contributions.

## Publications



## Compass

GIFCT launched *Compass*, its members-only portal tool, in response to key findings from its 2024 and 2025 Working Groups. *Compass* provides members with a comprehensive repository of more than **160 resources**, produced internally and in partnership with GIFCT's multi-stakeholder network. These curated resources include bespoke knowledge products, intel bulletins, guidebooks, and a Wiki of material relating to IRF-activation events and actors. *Compass* also houses member policy information and key documents.

*Compass* will allow GIFCT to better synthesize findings and resources from expert researchers into formats that intuitively slot into existing member needs. This workflow aims to consolidate GIFCT's existing suite of support tools and reduce friction in the knowledge exchange between GIFCT and its members.



“

The impact GIFCT provides to Dropbox and industry members in countering terrorism and violent extremism online is invaluable. By connecting technology platforms, civil society, and policymakers, GIFCT fosters meaningful knowledge sharing, collaboration, and thoughtful dialogue on complex challenges and solutions.

Through initiatives such as GNET resources, the Annual Member Forum, and regular engagement opportunities, GIFCT continues to deliver significant value and serve as a strong partner in Dropbox's efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism online. We are proud to be a GIFCT member and active participant, and we look forward to continuing to learn from and help shape the evolving efforts to deter TVE online.

*Tobi Wulff, Senior Manager, Safety Legal, Dropbox*



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# KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE & COLLABORATION

## 2025 Events and Partnerships

Convening stakeholders from industry, government, and civil society through events such as workshops, conferences, and roundtables allows GIFCT to foster a deeper understanding of global trends and dynamics. In 2025, GIFCT **sponsored four events** to facilitate knowledge exchange, promote collaboration, and support members in adapting to the threats and trends they face. These interactions informed the knowledge products and resources GIFCT produced to advance collective understanding and equip members to navigate the

complexities of their respective trust and safety efforts.

GIFCT also supported GNET's Fifth Annual Conference and webinars, which bring together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share new analyses and findings at the intersections of tech, terrorism, and global security. Panels feature contributors to GNET *Insights*, GIFCT experts, and senior practitioners, whose combined experiences help shape the research agenda and member resources for the coming year.

### Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Countering Tech-Related Terrorism in West Africa

In April, GIFCT convened government officials, civil society, and industry representatives for [a workshop](#) in Valletta, Malta, at the International Institute for Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law. This workshop focused on the intersections of tech, terrorism, and counterterrorism in West Africa. Representatives from Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Malta, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo shared insights on regional threats and trends and identified collaborative solutions and lessons learned to help prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism online and across the continent.

### GIFCT Partners with KAS on AI Report for Countering Violent Non-State Actors

Later in the month, GIFCT partnered with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) on a [policy paper](#), *Artificial Intelligence: Threats, Opportunities, and Policy Frameworks for Countering VNSAs*. GIFCT presented the report's findings at [an event](#) co-hosted by the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism at the KAS office in New York, and, later in the year, GIFCT provided a briefing to the broader Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung network in Berlin, Germany.



Our partnership with GIFCT, exemplified by the April 2025 multi-sector workshop in Malta, demonstrated the critical importance of bringing justice practitioners, policymakers, civil society, academia, and technology companies together to address the growing threat of technology-enabled terrorism. By connecting legal and policy actors with industry and community voices in a trusted setting, this collaboration strengthened practical cooperation, improved understanding of the West Africa threat landscape, and helped build the foundations for more effective, coordinated responses both online and offline.

*Steven Hill, former Executive Secretary of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law*



## GIFCT's Global Reach in 2025



Hosted  
**4 multi-stakeholder events**



Participated in more  
than **35 engagements worldwide**



Engaged with **450+ new stakeholders** across the global multi-stakeholder community

### GIFCT and Tech Coalition Co-Host Webinar Exploring the Intersections of Harm Types

In May, GIFCT and the Tech Coalition [co-hosted a webinar](#) on the intersections of terrorist and violent extremist content online and child harms. The webinar called attention to the evolution of hybridized threat networks and terrorist and violent extremist movements targeting children and youth. It highlighted lessons learned and cross-sector solutions developed to address these risks.

### Memorandum of Understanding Signed By GIFCT and CTED

In June, GIFCT Executive Director Naureen Chowdhury Fink and Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman, Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that provides for close cooperation between CTED and GIFCT in the technical areas outlined in UN Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism.



### Online Subcultures, Child Exploitation, and the Shifting Landscape of Terrorism

In September, GIFCT, in coordination with CTED, co-hosted [an event on the margins of the 80th UN General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) to strengthen collective efforts to address the evolving ways terrorists and violent extremists target children and youth, online and offline. The event fostered an exchange of insights, lessons learned, and good practices from diverse fields, including safeguarding children online, trust and safety, counterterrorism, and protecting children in armed conflict.

### Developing Prevention and Countering Radicalization to Violent Extremism Approaches for Youth Radicalization and Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online

Also on the margins of UNGA, [GIFCT co-hosted a roundtable](#) with Public Safety Canada and CTED to inspire discussion and an exchange of experiences among frontline practitioners, industry, and government representatives working to address, prevent, and counter terrorist and violent extremist content online. Building on GIFCT’s earlier UNGA event, the roundtable focused on the unique challenges—and opportunities—associated with protecting young people in digital spaces.

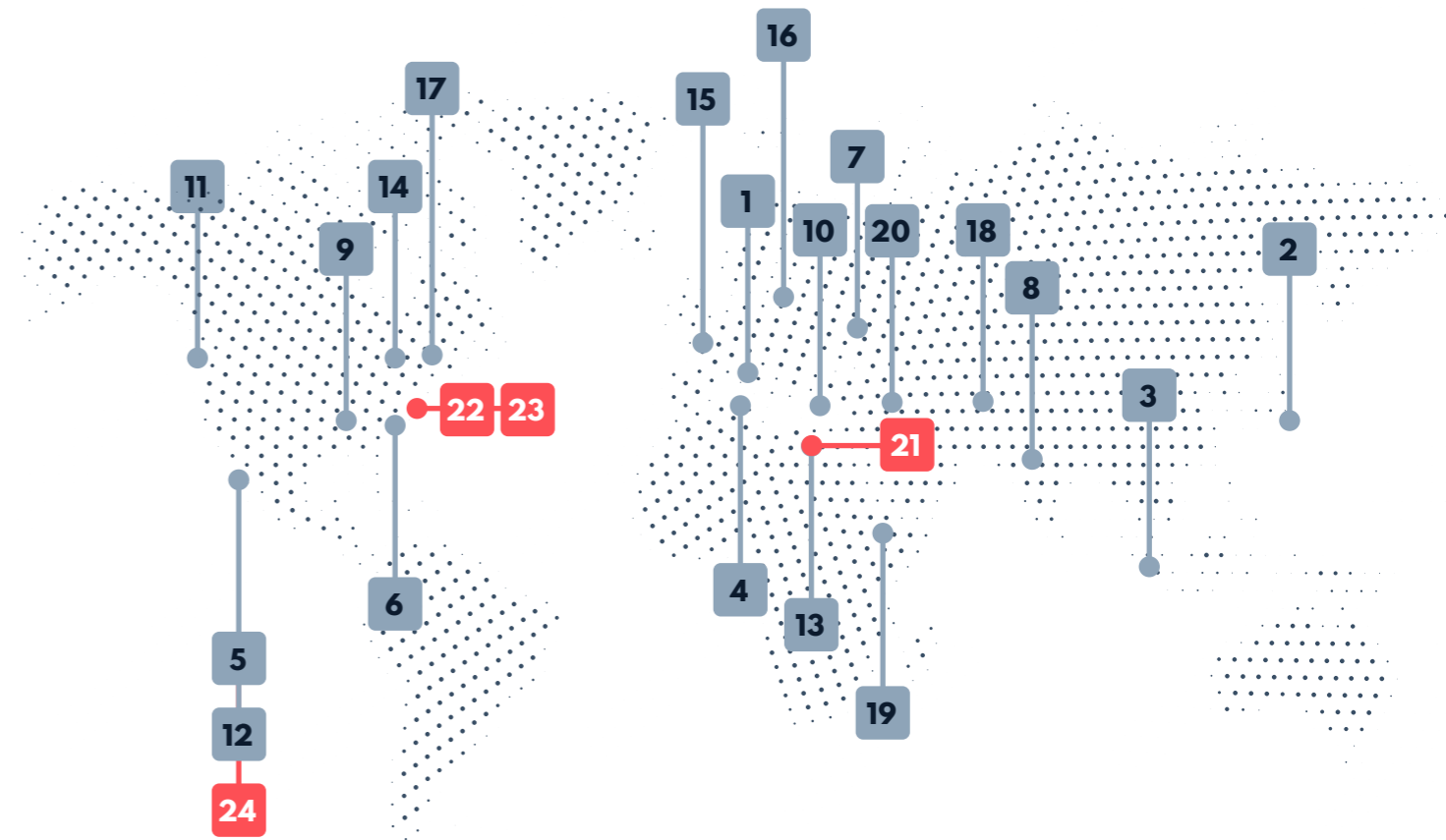
### 2025 Annual Member Forum

The year concluded with [GIFCT’s Annual Member Forum](#), hosted in partnership with its Operating Board Chair, YouTube. The Annual Member Forum brings together representatives from GIFCT’s member companies, the Operating Board, and the Independent Advisory Committee to share insights, collaborate on shared projects and priorities, and plan future GIFCT initiatives.

### GNET Events and Webinars

In 2025, GNET hosted five webinars and convened its [Fifth Annual Conference](#) in London. The webinars focused on countering hate and discrimination in tech and gaming policy, the future of hard-tech innovation, AI exploitation and opportunities for P/CVE efforts, trends and countermeasures for terrorist financing, and a roundup of 2025 trends with a look toward 2026. The conference highlighted key findings in contemporary counterterrorism research—including the need to adapt rapidly to evolving trends; the importance of improving collective readiness; and the critical role of cross-sector collaboration in countering the threats of terrorism and violent extremism online.

## 2025 Events



Credit: UN Photo/Milton Grant



### External

1	Vienna, Austria
2	Tokyo, Japan
3	Singapore
4	Rome, Italy
5	San Francisco, USA
6	Washington D.C., USA
7	Warsaw, Poland
8	Delhi, India
9	Pittsburgh, USA
10	Sofia, Bulgaria
11	Bellevue, USA
12	San Francisco, USA
13	Valletta, Malta
14	Toronto, Canada
15	London, England
16	Brussels, Belgium
17	Ottawa, Canada
18	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
19	Nairobi, Kenya
20	Ankara, Türkiye

### GIFCT Hosted

21	Valletta, Malta
22	New York, USA
23	New York, USA
24	San Francisco, USA



Microsoft  
Global Nonprofit Leaders Summit

## 2025 External Engagements

In addition to GIFCT-hosted events, GIFCT experts regularly participate in international workshops and events to foster knowledge exchange and engagement with GIFCT resources and to identify potential new members and partners.

In 2025, external engagements included GIFCT Executive Director Naureen Chowdhury Fink's participation in a meeting on AI, youth, and education, organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna, Austria. Executive Director Fink also briefed European Union representatives at the Informal Meeting of the Working Party on Terrorism, COTER, hosted by the EU and the Polish Presidency in Warsaw, Poland.

2025 also saw GIFCT Senior Director of Memberships and Programs, Dr. Erin Saltman, brief heads of state and senior officials at the Aqaba Process Heads of State and Government Meeting on West Africa, co-chaired by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Other notable engagements include GIFCT's participation in TrustCon, led by GIFCT Director of Trust and Safety Solutions Skip Gilmour; the Raisina Dialogue conference in New Delhi, India; the Eradicate Hate Global Summit; MegaWeek; and the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and Singapore Ministry of Home Affairs workshop, *Preventing and Countering the Spread of Violent Extremism on Gaming, Gaming-adjacent, and other Online Platforms in South-East Asia*.



As online threats increasingly converge across traditional vectors, the most effective solutions come from cross-sector and cross-functional collaboration. That's why GIFCT and the Tech Coalition's joint webinar last year was so important: it highlighted the growing overlap between terrorism and violent extremism and online child sexual exploitation, including the deeply concerning trend of sadistic online exploitation. Addressing these evolving threats requires coordinated action, shared learning, and sustained partnership to build safer digital spaces. We remain committed to this work so our member companies have the threat intelligence and practical insights they need to identify and disrupt these emerging threats to children.

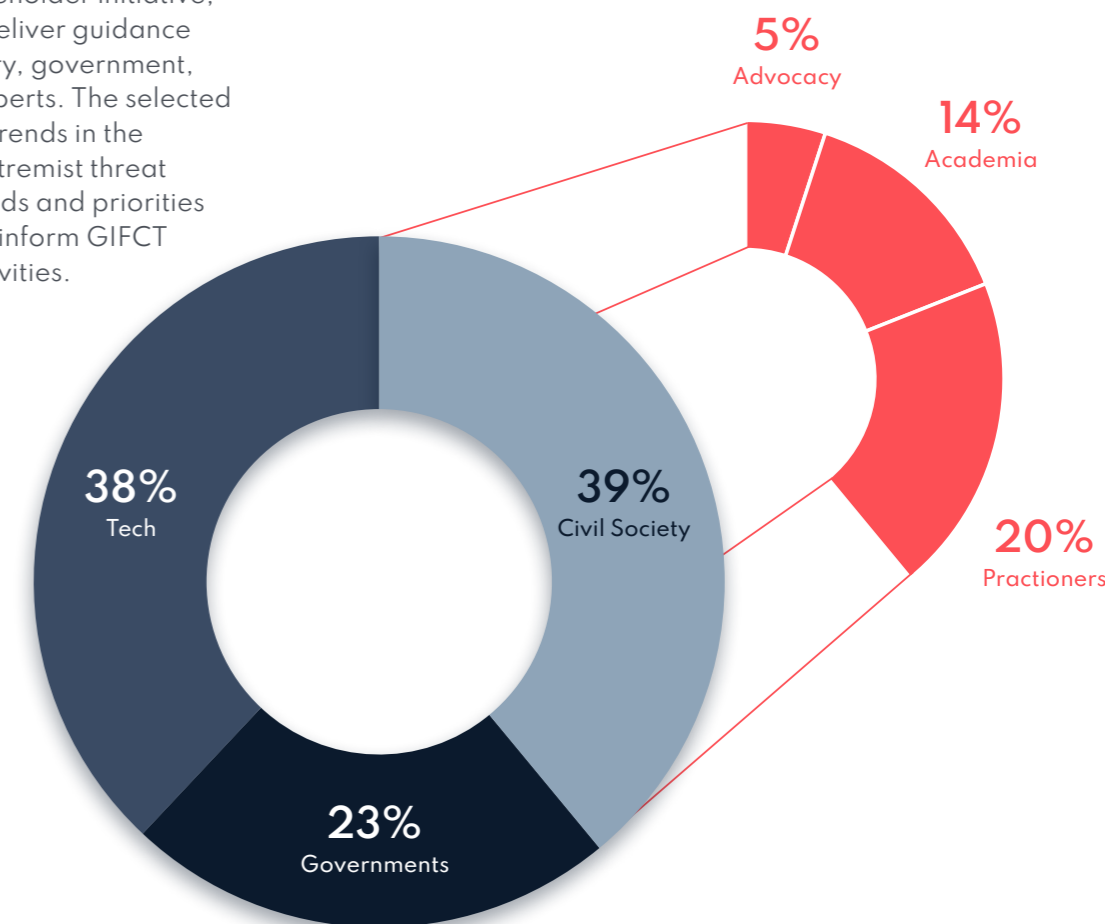
Sean Litton, President and CEO, Tech Coalition



## 2025 Working Groups

**GIFCT Working Groups** launched in 2020 to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue, foster understanding, and produce outputs to directly support GIFCT's mission of preventing terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms. Working Groups remain GIFCT's key multi-stakeholder initiative, and, each year, they deliver guidance and solutions to industry, government, and subject-matter experts. The selected annual themes reflect trends in the terrorist and violent extremist threat landscape and the needs and priorities of the tech sector, and inform GIFCT programming and activities.

**2025 Working Groups convened 178 participants from 40 countries across 6 continents.**



ISD is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the GIFCT Working Group on addressing youth radicalisation and mobilisation, which allowed participants to share best practices, lessons learned, and knowledge developed across sectors. The collaboration with GIFCT and GNET on an output analyzing subcultures of nihilistic violence - a highly concerning trend targeting and exploiting children online - aims to support platforms with countering new evolutions of exploitation, including the importance of knowledge-sharing and cross-sector collaboration; the exact partnerships that GIFCT's Working Groups help facilitate.

Hannah Rose, Senior Research and Policy Manager, Institute for Strategic Dialogue





## Investigators Community of Practice

GIFCT's Investigators Community of Practice (ICOP) is an evolution of GIFCT's traditional Working Group structure focused on trust and safety practitioners at member companies. In 2025, ICOP brought together a network of professionals from GIFCT member companies to learn from one another, brainstorm new solutions, and discuss emerging trends. The group identified the need to supplement GIFCT's hash-sharing work with non-hashed signal sharing to account for the increasingly cross-

platform nature of the threat landscape and opportunities for more cross-platform knowledge exchange. As a result, ICOP developed [new information-sharing solutions](#), including the members' portal, *Compass*, and GIFCT's new Information Sharing Non-Disclosure Agreement (ISNDA). The ISNDA aims to enhance investigators' capabilities, in line with legal and policy frameworks, to counter terrorist and violent extremist activity while upholding human rights.

## Artificial Intelligence: Threats and Opportunities

GIFCT's AI Working Group brought together a diverse range of participants to map how terrorists and violent extremists currently exploit AI technologies across the spectrum of recruitment, radicalization, and mobilization to violence. The AI Working Group built on the themes of GIFCT's [AI report](#) published in early 2025 in partnership with KAS.

The group also consolidated and identified good practices and standards for AI safety products. Based on this mapping, the group presented potential ways forward to counter terrorist and violent extremist exploitation of AI technologies in its [output report](#), *Artificial Intelligence: Threats and Opportunities*.

## Addressing Youth Radicalization and Mobilization

The Working Group on Addressing Youth Radicalization and Mobilization brought together tech company representatives working on safety and positive-intervention tools, policymakers, and practitioners, many of whom are managing youth resilience or intervention programs. The group produced three outputs facilitated by thematic sessions focused on mapping trends and good practices, deepening multi-stakeholder understanding of adversarial shifts in youth radicalization and mobilization, and identifying tools and solutions to support the development and delivery of effective interventions online.

Themes highlighted by the Working Group informed an [anthology of trends and Insights](#), produced by GNET. The issue of nihilistic violent extremism also emerged as a key focus for the group, resulting in a [policy paper](#), *Beyond Extremism: Platform Responses to Online Subcultures of Nihilistic Violence*, written by the

Institute for Strategic Dialogue. This paper provides an overview of the specific online threat landscape of nihilistic violence subcultures and outlines the implications for platform measures to protect users. GIFCT also partnered with Mythos Labs to deliver an overhaul and update of GIFCT's [Campaign Toolkit](#): a website (available in five languages) designed to be a one-stop shop for resources and tools to help activists of all types take action against terrorism and violent extremism online.

These multi-stakeholder engagements and the findings they produce are crucial to helping GIFCT improve the resources, tools, and solutions it provides to its members and ensuring that global expertise and experience inform its work. GIFCT is grateful to all participants for their valuable contributions.



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As GIFCT grows and diversifies its membership, our partnership continues to evolve in support of the organization’s long-term human rights goals. In 2025, we collaborated to expand the suite of human rights resources for GIFCT members, including new training modules and a practical guide to equip them with actionable human rights guidance to inform their policies and practices. We also began assisting GIFCT in building its in-house human rights capacity so that the team can fully take on the human rights components of new member onboarding in 2026. We look forward to see GIFCT continue to strengthen its capacity to implement its human rights commitments.

*Lindsey Andersen, Associate Director, Responsible Technology, Business for Social Responsibility*

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# HUMAN RIGHTS

## Human Rights

Promoting and protecting human rights is central to GIFCT's mission. In 2020, its first year operating as an independent organization, GIFCT sought advice from a diverse range of global stakeholders on how best to proactively incorporate human rights considerations into its work. In 2021, GIFCT undertook a [Human Rights Impact Assessment](#) (HRIA) to help establish a transparent set of guidelines that ground GIFCT's work in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

The subsequent [Human Rights Policy](#) adopted by GIFCT notes that "[t]he participation of both governments and companies in GIFCT programs and activities means that both the state duty to protect human rights and the corporate

responsibility to respect human rights have direct relevance to our work." The assessment remains a valuable resource that informs GIFCT's ongoing dialogue with current and incoming members as well as stakeholders in industry, government, and civil society.

This Human Rights Policy exists alongside the [GIFCT membership criteria](#) that apply to all member companies. GIFCT requires all member companies to publish a public statement committing to respect human rights, in accordance with the UNGPs. GIFCT supports companies in meeting this criterion through targeted training and guidance.

## 2025 Developments

GIFCT partnered with BSR to deliver a [series of human rights training sessions](#) for GIFCT member companies and prospective members in 2025 and published a [Training Modules Booklet](#) containing practical tools and lessons companies can use. The initiative brought together industry practitioners and human rights experts to translate human rights norms into operational guidance for trust and safety work. Across numerous convenings, participants explored how human rights obligations intersect with content moderation, product design, takedown and escalation processes, and preventive programming. Overall, the

sessions showcased how clearer, rights-respecting processes improve decision-making, reduce harms to vulnerable groups, and strengthen transparency and accountability across platforms.

2025 also saw GIFCT broaden its engagement with UN actors, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights, and the human rights experts at CTED. GIFCT also provided human rights guidance to member companies during MAP's first year of ownership of the entire GIFCT membership process.

## Human Rights Roadmap

As GIFCT approaches the fifth anniversary of its HRIA, it remains committed to supporting its diverse and growing membership with streamlined human rights guidance. To further this goal, GIFCT will strengthen its internal human rights capacities and transition human-

rights-related services, previously delivered in partnership with BSR, in-house, to MAP. It will also continue to collaborate with members and the multi-stakeholder community to identify ways to further human rights policies and practices.

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GIFCT plays a critical role as a convener of tech, government, and civil society, which is essential to building safer online spaces, resilient to terrorists and violent extremists. As Chair of the Independent Advisory Committee, we want to empower GIFCT to fully leverage the collective capacity of all its members. GIFCT's greatest opportunity is to be a framework that can enable innovation in preventing and countering harm, empowering its members to develop approaches that keep pace with the ever-evolving threat landscape.

*Jonathan Russell, Violence Prevention Network and Chair of GIFCT's Independent Advisory Committee*

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# GOVERNANCE

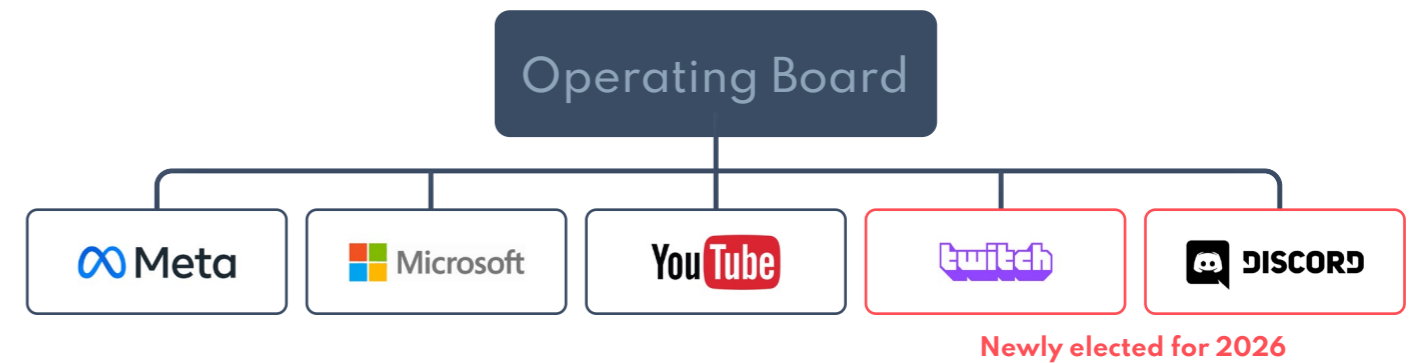
## Operating Board

GIFCT's **Operating Board** is made up of members from its founding companies—Meta (formerly Facebook), Microsoft, and YouTube—and up to two “At-Large,” general GIFCT members, elected by GIFCT members on an annual basis. This governing body provides GIFCT's operational budget and ensures that overall GIFCT operations align with its mission.

In late 2025, GIFCT was pleased to welcome **Discord and Twitch** as newly elected, “At-Large” members of its Operating Board for 2026. Their appointments reflect the confidence of

the broader membership in the expertise, experience, and commitment both companies bring to the GIFCT community.

The election of these new board members shows GIFCT's continued efforts to shape its governance in ways that better serve its members while also strengthening its human rights framework. The change supports the board's decision to expand beyond the founding organizations and reflects recommendations in the HRIA. This governance structure, updated in 2024, paves the way for more flexible and inclusive pathways to board membership.



## Independent Advisory Committee

In 2025, GIFCT saw the appointment of **Jonathan Russell** as the new Chair of the **Independent Advisory Committee** (IAC), replacing Ghayda Hassan. The IAC provides strategic, substantive advice in support of GIFCT's mission to prevent terrorists and violent extremists from

exploiting digital platforms. It plays a vital role in promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration, providing strategic and substantive advice, and deepening understanding of terrorism and violent extremism, and their ongoing evolution.

“

4D Hype allows users to experience the latest news and information in our own unique ecosystem. As a new user-to-user platform, we quickly recognised the importance of securing our community against threats from terrorists and violent extremists seeking to exploit our space. To strengthen our systems and leverage the tech industry’s collective capacity, we decided to join the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism. We feel strongly that our GIFCT membership will help us improve our internal efforts against terrorism and violent extremism, and help us build a safer and more welcoming community.

4D Hype

**4D**  
HYPE

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# FINANCIALS

## 2025 Financial Updates

In an effort to establish a more sustainable and equitable financial model, GIFCT revised its membership framework in 2025 to include mandated membership dues. GIFCT continues to work with its Operating Board to identify other financial diversification opportunities and implement agreed-upon principles for new development efforts.

GIFCT is grateful to its Operating Board members for their longstanding support and contributions, and to its community of members for their commitment to its

mission and continued support. These contributions enable GIFCT to sustain, grow, and enhance the technical solutions, tools, and resources it provides to its members and partners, thereby deepening engagement and support within its global, multi-stakeholder community.

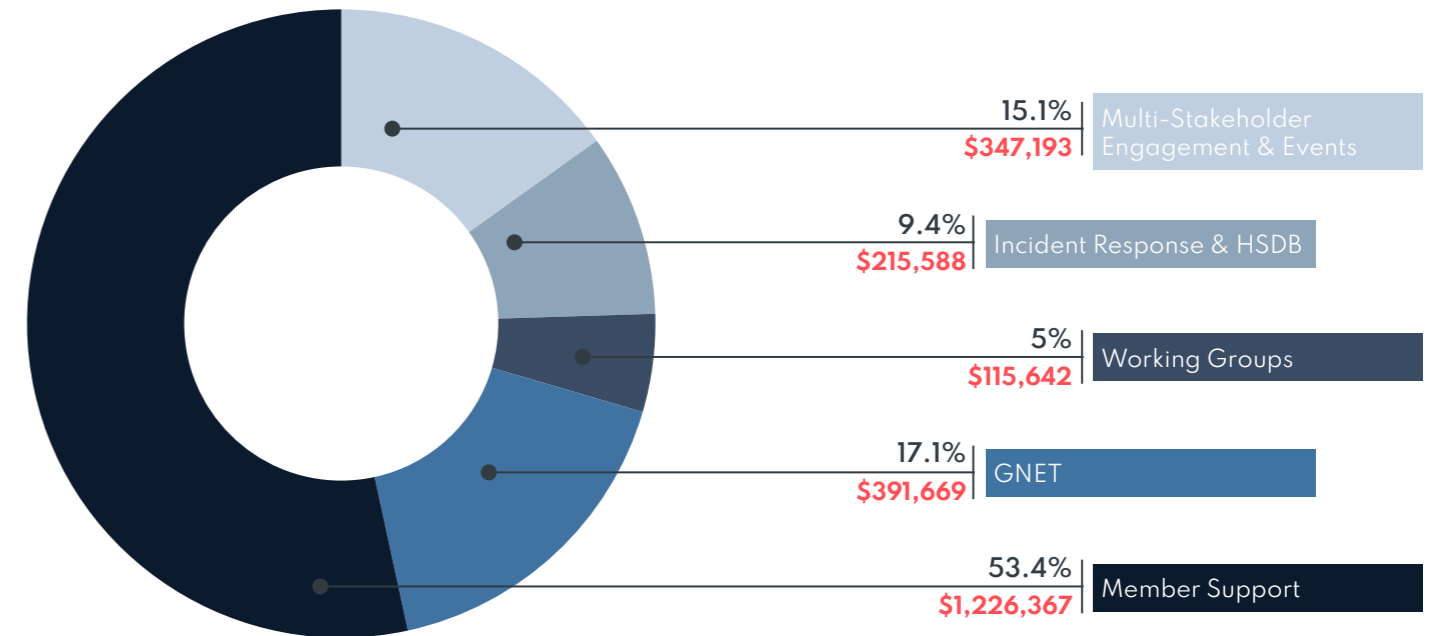
In 2025, GIFCT's member and external contributions totaled **\$3,760,921**.

## 2025 Expenses

GIFCT 2025 expenses, totaling **\$3,239,223**, break down as follows:

Category	Total
Administration and Operations	\$879,937
Programming and Delivery	\$2,296,459
Fundraising and Development	\$62,827

## 2025 Programming and Delivery Expenses



The technical solutions, tools, and resources that GIFCT provides to members and develops in partnership with its multi-stakeholder network play an especially critical role in the organization's operations. In 2025, GIFCT facilitated its Working Groups, produced two events alongside the UN General Assembly, hosted a regional workshop, supported GNET, and launched MAP, *Compass*, and the revised IRF. These activities empower GIFCT to continue to grow its membership, deepen its understanding of regional trends and dynamics, both online and offline, improve its suite of member resources, and strengthen its engagement with global partners.

The figure above represents the various member programs and solutions that GIFCT provides within the Programming and Delivery budget category.

In addition to investing in programming and delivery, GIFCT remains committed to sustainable growth by actively pursuing diverse fundraising opportunities to support its long-term mission. To ensure a strong foundation for its work, GIFCT allocates resources to cover essential administrative and operational costs: supporting staff, maintaining effective systems, building the organizational capacity needed to deliver impact at scale, and identifying and cultivating strategic development opportunities.

## Reflections on the Year

### Letter from 2025 GIFCT Operating Board Chair, Leslie Miller

As outgoing chairperson of GIFCT's Operating Board, I'm grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the meaningful evolution of GIFCT that we saw in 2025. This was a landmark year for the organization, defined by operational maturity, deeper collaboration, and growth.

For example, with the launch of the updated Incident Response Framework and several activations throughout the year, GIFCT has further enhanced our ability to coordinate cross-platform efforts with speed, discipline, and transparency. I'm also proud of the launch of the member portal, *Compass*, which represents a major milestone—one I know my fellow Board members have long awaited. This key piece of infrastructure allows all members to access real-time insights through a shared operational environment.

We also recently welcomed two new members to the Operating Board, an important milestone that broadens the perspective guiding our governance. I am excited to see the board expand to reflect a wider range of member platforms!

I want to thank the Independent Advisory Committee and its new leader, Jonathan Russell, for continuing to provide rigorous, forward-looking analysis. I look forward to our continued partnership and the valuable insight that the IAC brings to GIFCT and the Operating Board on the issues that demand our attention and diligence.

Finally, I want to extend my gratitude to Naureen for her leadership and to my fellow Board members. Your engagement and commitment have been instrumental in advancing the work, strengthening our governance, and reinforcing the values that define GIFCT.

Thank you for your service and dedication this year. I look forward to all we will accomplish in the year to come!

With appreciation,



**Leslie Miller**  
VP of Government Affairs & Public Policy,  
YouTube

### Letter from GIFCT Independent Advisory Committee Chair, Jonathan Russell



2025 saw the rapid rise of new forms of terrorism and violent extremist threats. Nihilistic violent extremism emerged to typify a trend towards threats that are post-ideological and post-organisational. The target audiences for this phenomenon are ever younger, and ever more online; and its manifestation in online sub-cultures bring violent terrorist and violent extremist use of the internet into the realms of other online harms such as child sexual abuse, sextortion, and suicide. These new threats added to the existing landscape, with significant and deadly jihadist and far right terrorist attacks across the USA at the beginning of the year, Australia at the end of the year and countless other incidents in other countries in between.

This complex global threat landscape reinforces the importance of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, and underscores the value that its Independent Advisory Committee can bring to help GIFCT fulfil its mandate. As such, I was proud to take over the mantle of chairing the IAC after my predecessor Ghayda Hassan's three year tenure. And I'm pleased to welcome Dr Gavin Sullivan and the Government of Australia as my Vice-Chairs, and Sarah Bollinger as our Secretariat, to help lead a committee of 18 civil society and governmental experts, that together reflect the geographic, intellectual and other diversities necessary to provide robust advice to GIFCT and its Operating Board. I thank the incoming members, including the Government of the Netherlands and the Government of Germany, who will continue to strengthen the support IAC provides toward holistic

prevention of terrorism and violent extremism in online spaces.

Amid this threat landscape, there is an unprecedented rate of technological change, leading to a diversification of platforms used by terrorists and violent extremists, including those that have fewer trust and safety capabilities. There's less international consensus than in previous years when it comes to defining the problem. And there is reduced commitment to multi-stakeholderism and global cooperation when it comes to tackling the problem. Indeed, we see online safety becoming more contested, a fracturing of the internet, shrinking space for civil society, and in some cases a dismantling of counter-terrorism and counter violent extremism institutions and structures. All of this makes GIFCT's work more difficult.

It would be tempting to go back to basics; to more narrowly define GIFCT's remit; or to slow down product development. But all three of these approaches would constitute an abrogation of responsibility at a time when GIFCT is needed more than ever. Holistic Trust & Safety, providing a playbook of proactive and reactive responses, will help mitigate serious harms. As we embark on 2026, GIFCT must provide a forum for its current and future members to develop their policies, evolve their CT-CVE solutions, working together to keep users safe from terrorist and violent extremist threats, with an unwavering values-based grounding in human rights.

The IAC remains steadfast in support of this, and is unanimous in its call for more dynamic and collaborative exchanges with GIFCT and the Operating Board, on all of these important aspects.

Yours sincerely,



**Jonathan Russell**  
Chair, IAC



Moving into 2026, GIFCT remains focused on strengthening its efforts to deliver on its mission of preventing terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms. The year ahead will mark yet another period of strategic growth, operational enhancements, and deeper global collaboration.

In alignment with the **2025–2027 Strategic Plan**, GIFCT will continue to enhance its support structures, refine its tools, and strengthen its multi-stakeholder model to ensure that its community is equipped to respond to an increasingly dynamic threat environment.

The anticipated adoption of the new ISNDA will be central to GIFCT's success, helping to facilitate non-hashed signal sharing—a critical resource for trust and safety efforts working to address increasingly cross-platform threats. GIFCT will balance this additional sharing with appropriate guardrails, in consultation with a community of human-rights-oriented multi-stakeholder partners, to ensure GIFCT and its members continue to prioritize rights-respecting practices.

GIFCT will deepen its focus on enhancing the collective capacity of the tech industry and its partners by fostering a broader, more diverse community of member companies that reflects the evolving threat landscape. As GIFCT grows its

membership, it remains committed to inclusivity across company size, geography, and technological focus. Similarly, the Operating Board, with the appointment of Discord and Twitch, will now better represent the diversity of GIFCT's membership and will be empowered by new perspectives to guide the organization's direction in the year ahead.

GIFCT also recognizes the ongoing importance of integrating human rights considerations into all aspects of its work and of implementing the recommendations from the 2021 HRIA. In 2026, GIFCT will further strengthen its human rights efforts by expanding its support to members and integrating it in-house. These shifts will further streamline and improve GIFCT's ability to support current and prospective members with rights-respecting policies and practices.

In 2026, GIFCT will continue to leverage industry innovations and solutions, cross-sector collaboration, stakeholder feedback, opportunities for improvement, and an unwavering commitment to upholding human rights to guide its work.

Together with its members and partners, GIFCT remains dedicated to improving online safety for all.

# LOOKING AHEAD

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**Recommended citation: 2025 GIFCT Annual and Transparency Report.  
Washington, D.C.: Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, 2026.**

GIFCT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and tech-led initiative with over 35 member tech companies offering unique settings for diverse stakeholders to identify and solve the most complex global challenges at the intersection of terrorism and technology. GIFCT's mission is to prevent terrorists and violent extremists (TVEs) from exploiting digital platforms through our vision of a world in which the technology sector leverages its collective creativity and capacity to render TVEs ineffective online. In every aspect of our work, we aim to be transparent, inclusive, and respectful of the fundamental and universal human rights that TVEs seek to undermine.

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 | **GIFCT**  
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to Counter Terrorism