**Protecting the Innocence of Our Youth**

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In a world where darkness attempts to overshadow the light, our duty to protect the innocence of our young boys has never been more vital. The pride of our nation, and our children, are the very embodiment of hope and promise for a brighter future. Yet, they are being relentlessly targeted by insidious terrorist groups, who seek to lure them into a world of violence and exploitation. The exploitation of innocence by these malicious groups is a grave concern that demands our collective attention. Under the guise of false religious teachings, terrorists manipulate and twist the minds of our children, leading them down a treacherous path that robs them of their innocence and potential. We cannot stand idly by as our nation’s future is threatened by such malevolence.

The message to “Stand united against terrorism” must resound through every corner of our society. Our sons are not pawns to be wielded for destruction; they are the bearers of our hopes and dreams for a peaceful and prosperous future. It is our shared responsibility to shield them from the dark allure of terrorist propaganda and guide them towards a life filled with hope and promise.

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The digital landscape has become a battleground where our children are being targeted for radicalization. Terrorists exploit social media and online platforms to prey on the innocence and curiosity of our youth, leading them astray with toxic propaganda. It falls upon the shoulders of parents and teachers to be vigilant guardians, monitoring our children’s online activities and fostering an environment of openness and security at home.

Teachers, the stewards of knowledge and compassion, play a pivotal role in safeguarding our children from the perils of radicalization. By keenly observing changes in behaviour, educating students about online safety, and promoting youth activism and community engagement, they can fortify the defences against terrorist propaganda in our schools.

As a nation rooted in the values and teachings of Islam, it is incumbent upon us to uphold the true essence of our faith. The Paigham-e-Pakistan Fatwa emphatically asserts that deeming our country, its government, or its forces as infidels is not only unfounded but also a grave transgression. Encouraging our religious scholars to elucidate the true teachings of Islam and empowering our judiciary to discern acts of infidelity can dismantle the misconceptions and misinterpretations that terrorists exploit for their agenda.

Terrorist groups slyly entice and exploit the impressionable minds of our young boys for their nefarious designs. Upholding the true teachings of Islam is not just a duty; it is our shield against the misinterpretations propagated by terrorists. Protecting our children from radicalization is a collective responsibility that rests on the shoulders of parents, teachers, and society as a whole. By standing united against terrorism, we can fortify the innocence of our children and safeguard the future of our nation.

As we embark on this collective journey to shield our youth from the clutches of radicalization, let us remember that our children are the custodians of our dreams and aspirations. Let us unite in our resolve to protect their innocence, nurture their potential, and guide them towards a future filled with peace, promise, and prosperity. To protect our children and protect our future should not only be treated as a call to action for the parents or the teachers, but an unbreakable pledge to safeguard the very essence of our nation.

*The writer is a freelance columnist.*