



COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BY YOUNG PEOPLE



Extremely
TOGETHER

A Kofi Annan Foundation Initiative

EXTREMELY TOGETHER

The project *Extremely Together* is managed by the Kofi Annan Foundation with the support of the European Commission, One Young World, and the Amersi Foundation. It brings together exceptional young leaders to prevent violent extremism. In this Guide, ten young leaders pool their experience for the benefit of young people who want to take action against violent extremism of all kinds.

Acknowledgements and credits

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FOREWORD BY KOFI ANNAN



‘Each of you is a potential leader. To lead means to take responsibility and to set the example. As I often say: You are never too young to lead or too old to act.’

Kofi Annan
Kirchentag speech
2015

The rise of violent extremism has become a global challenge. Around the world, groups or movements increasingly reject the ties that bind all of us across religious, national, racial, and class divides. Populist and xenophobic movements are demonising migrants and other minorities in the name of protecting their own identities, while religious extremists are denying humanity not only to those of different faiths, but even to those of their own faith who do not share their convictions. Violent extremism has also become a generational struggle. With more than half the world’s population under 30, violent extremism counts a disproportionate number of young people amongst its victims or perpetrators.

It was to address such concerns and identify possible solutions that in April 2016 the Kofi Annan Foundation, with the support of the European Commission and in partnership with One Young World, established *Extremely Together*, an initiative for young people led by young people. I firmly believe that young people are uniquely placed to contribute to counter extremism efforts within their communities as role models, teachers, family members, friends or mentors, and I have no doubt as to their capacity to positively shape the world they will inherit.

Through *Extremely Together*, ten young activists from across the world, each with a track record of working with grassroots communities and effectively challenging intolerance and extremist voices, have come

together to encourage, mobilise and inspire other young people to follow their lead.

Drawing on the resources and experiences of these impressive leaders, this guide provides recommendations and advice to assist their peers in responding to violent extremism and becoming leaders in their own communities. It reminds us that mutual respect and tolerance have to be fostered and passed on to each successive generation. It encourages us to learn from each other, and to see the diversity of our traditions and cultures as a source of harmony and strength that empowers us all rather than a threat that undermines our society. I hope the example and messages of the young leaders will inspire and encourage others to work together against violent extremism and to make their voices heard.

I wish to thank our funding partners, the European Commission and Mohamed Amersi for their support and encouragement of this initiative as well as our partner One Young World whose valuable contributions have ensured that the messages of *Extremely Together* reach young people over the world.

You are never too young to lead, nor too old to learn, so I urge us all to join *Extremely Together* and unite for this common cause to build a safer, more peaceful world that is free of divisive and fearful voices.

Kofi Annan

INTRODUCTION

Young people join violent extremist groups far more frequently than other age groups.¹ However, this is no more a reliable indicator of vulnerability to recruitment than being male, Muslim, a petty criminal, or having mental health problems. Violent radicalisation occurs when grievances, ideology, potent narratives and charismatic recruiters collide. To tackle it, each of these must be challenged as part of a full spectrum approach.

Extremely Together considers youth to be an opportunity not a threat. Its approach to countering violent extremism (CVE) mobilises the power of young people who refuse to join violent extremist organisations and refute the simplistic stories and divisive values they promote.

We agree with the United Nations' Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015), which states that young people are invaluable members of civil society who play a critical role in the struggle against violent extremism.²

In this Guide, ten young leaders share their ideas across differences of nationality, religion, gender, politics, and professional background, in the hope of helping 1.8 billion young people to build a future, free of violent extremism, that is rooted in shared values and a commitment to cooperation and tolerance.

Extremely Together hopes to inspire young people around the world to make a positive difference. We work together to help young people in their struggles to resist extremism of all kinds, promote peace and security locally and regionally, and make their voices heard in mainstream and social media.

The Guide names some of the elements that underlie the problem of violent extremism, highlights key areas of need that must be addressed, and suggests practical actions that every young person can take to protect his or her friends and community and help build a foundation for long term solutions.

1 Mia Chin, S. Gharaibeh et al (2016), 'A National Strategic Framework for Countering Violent Extremism in Jordan', *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol.69(2), pp.115-XIII.

2 United Nations (2015), Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism, Report of the UN Secretary General, pp.17-18. At: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

‘We must avoid the trap set by extremists of limiting human beings to one identity. We all have multiple identities which enrich us as individuals.’

Kofi Annan
Bali Democracy Forum 2016

In the last 15 years, violent extremism has emerged as one of the biggest threats to global peace and security. The proliferation of terrorist attacks since 11 September 2001 and the rise of ISIS are only the most visible manifestations of this threat.

The number of foreign terrorist fighters sharply increased after the civil war in Syria started and over 27,000 are believed to have joined ISIS since 2011.³ Jihadist groups competing for attention and prominence in the Middle East, such as the Al-Nusra Front, were responsible for violent attacks on Syrian security forces and civilians.⁴ Anti-Muslim attacks rose by 326 per cent in the UK in 2015,⁵ a trend mirrored across Europe. Violent extremists' ability to communicate effectively, especially through social media, became clear. ISIS used encrypted messaging services to perpetrate the Paris attacks⁶ and 90,000-200,000 pro-ISIS messages were posted daily in 2015.⁷ Local conflicts, such as in the Philippines, have continued to have a violent extremist dimension, and lone actor terrorist attacks, like that by Anders Breivik in Norway in 2011, have inflicted thousands of casualties in the last decade.⁸

In response, States have passed laws and introduced security regulations that have sharply curtailed freedoms in many societies. The near-constant coverage of terrorism in the media has had a profound impact on social attitudes and cohesion. The return of the far-right, seemingly in response to jihadism but most often directed toward Muslim communities, presents a further troubling trend. Consideration of these three secondary challenges must therefore be built into approaches to tackle the primary threat posed by violent extremists.

A rich literature describes the causes and nature of violent extremism, and numerous policies address it. Major disagreements remain but at least four areas of consensus have emerged.

- It is essential to clearly uphold values when tackling violent extremism of all kinds.
- Policies to counter violent extremism (CVE) should adopt a full spectrum approach.
- We need to tackle acts of violence but also the narratives of violent extremists, because these are central to their ability to attract new followers.
- It is vital to involve a wide variety of people and professions in CVE work, because governments can have only a limited impact in some areas, and the best solutions are often local ones.

Extremely Together builds on these four areas of consensus. It affirms a strong set of human rights values; tackles all forms of violent extremism and confronts secondary challenges that entrench them; recognises that active communications make other approaches more effective; and promotes leadership by young people.

3 A. Kirk (2016), 'Iraq and Syria: How many foreign fighters are fighting for Isis?' The Telegraph [online], 24 March. At: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/03/29/iraq-and-syria-how-many-foreign-fighters-are-fighting-for-isis/>.

4 T. John (2016), 'Everything you need to know about the New Al-Nusra Front', Time [online], 28 July. At: <http://time.com/4428696/nusra-front-syria-terror-al-qaeda/>.

5 T. Jeory (2016), 'UK entering "unchartered territory" of Islamophobia after Brexit vote', The Independent [online], 27 June. At: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-muslim-racism-hate-crime-islamophobia-eu-referendum-leave-latest-a7106326.html>.

6 'How social media was key to Islamic State's attacks on Paris', The Conversation [online], 17 November. At: <https://theconversation.com/how-social-media-was-key-to-islamic-states-attacks-on-paris-50743>.

7 'The Islamic State's use of online social media', Military Cyber Affairs, 1(1). At: <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/mca/vol1/iss1/4>.

8 Lone Actor Terrorism Literature Review. At: http://www.strategicdialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Literature_Review.pdf.

WHAT'S NEEDED?

‘We can love
what we are,
without hating
what – and who
– we are not.’

Kofi Annan
2001 Nobel lecture



ARIZZA NOCUM PHILIPPINES

Arizza Nocum runs KRIS, a non-profit organisation that promotes peace through education by building libraries, providing scholarships, and supplying educational materials for communities in the Philippines affected by conflict and terrorism. The six KRIS libraries are centres of peace for young Filipinos from different backgrounds and religions. KRIS has provided more than 400 scholarship grants and distributed 50,000 books and computers.

Arizza's commitment to peace is rooted in her multi-religious upbringing as the daughter of a Catholic father and Muslim mother. She seeks to use carefully designed, sustainable, educational and youth-focused initiatives to expand public tolerance and peace.

She is currently studying for an engineering degree at the University of the Philippines.

TACKLE GRIEVANCES AND INSTABILITY

It is tempting to believe that violent extremism will gradually disappear if we can end national and international conflicts. Unfortunately, this is unlikely. Violent extremist organisations thrive on and exploit grievances and instability to advance their aims. Measures to prevent violent extremism and the radicalisation of young people will continue to be necessary.

Young people play a vital and irreplaceable role in efforts to build social resilience, bring societies together, generate prosperity and employment, and resolve personal, community and larger-scale conflicts and grievances, many of which drive radicalisation.

We feel we have a duty to improve the world we have inherited. We have been entrusted with the future, and believe our efforts and vision can recreate it.

Grievances

Local militant groups and transnational radicalised networks like ISIS exploit grievances and instability by saying that they alone bring solutions. In societies shattered by conflict, they attract recruits by offering income and employment. In countries such as Iraq or the Central African Republic, they exploit religious tensions to divide society and attract support. Most disturbingly, they have learned to exploit grievances at a personal level: the most sophisticated organisations tailor their propaganda to the specific vulnerabilities of those they approach.

Both ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors attract young people to violent extremism.⁹ Push factors include religious, cultural, economic, political, and ethnic grievances that influence individuals and groups to commit acts of terror or political violence. Pull factors include the desire for money, power, adventure, change, or sympathy for a particular political, cultural or religious ideology. Grievances, whether real or perceived, are insufficient to turn radicalisation into violent extremism. They must be framed by extremists in binary narratives that fit personal feelings and experiences into larger political frameworks. Those who join violent extremist groups may have widely differing motivations for doing so, but may be united by a higher purpose (such as building a caliphate in the case of ISIS).

PUSH AND PULL FACTORS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Economic, political and social marginalisation and discrimination | • Influence of public or social media |
| • Failures of government | • Attraction of extremist narratives |
| • Corruption | • Charismatic Ideologues |
| • Injustice | • Personal identity crisis |
| • Experience of violence | • Feelings of victimhood |
| | • Lack of access to education |

⁹ At: <http://www.hedayahcenter.org/Admin/Content/File-2792016102253.pdf>.

**TAKE
ACTION**

Actions to counter radicalisation need to:

- Create conditions for peace and stability and
- Address the grievances of young people who are on a path to radicalisation.

WE SAY

- *Identify and understand grievances.* The first step in any effective CVE programme is to identify and analyse the grievances and drivers that encourage radicalisation.
- *Separate out actors and grievances.* Different actors may have different grievances.
- *Localise solutions.* The best solutions are anchored in local communities. Consult and involve local practitioners and beneficiaries when you design, plan, and implement solutions, because local people understand the specific needs of their communities.
- *Create networks of support.* Even strong communities and actors need networks of support. Multi-stakeholder networks can complement local initiatives by providing resources, knowledge, publicity, communications capacity, and complementary approaches.
- *Engage debate and dialogue.* Violent extremists are able to manipulate grievances when these are not discussed. Talking issues through, working together to find compromises and other ways to solve problems, and debating with those of different perspectives, generate better solutions than violence.
- *Prioritise young people.* Young people can be attracted to violent extremism and action by young people is the best way to prevent it. Encourage young people to take action; raising awareness may not be enough on its own.

The most inspiring young public speaker I ever met is a girl from a suspected Abu Sayyaf hide-out area in the outskirts of Zamboanga City. She was one of our first scholars in KRIS Library.

On the day I first met her, we were celebrating another successful year of our scholarship program for children affected by conflict. I had asked the scholars to thank our donors, and she shyly raised her hand. Shorter and quieter than most of the other girls, she wore a bright white hijab that distinguished her from the crowd. As I handed her the microphone, I worried for a moment that she might not be able to get the audience's attention.

She was suddenly transformed. Her first words were loud, decisive, and clear. For a 10-year old girl studying in one of the most ill-equipped public schools in the region, her flawless, articulate English and sharp wit surprised us all. She thanked our donors, remarked on the importance of education, and said how her scholarship will bring her closer to her dream of becoming a lawyer and public servant. In her speech, she even described her idol, the late Philippine Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago – an outspoken and brave woman and admired politician.

A few months later, I heard about her again, but this time it was not good news. Her father had been killed in a shooting incident allegedly involving the terrorist organisation whose presence haunted her town. In the same incident, her mother had been shot and paralyzed from the neck down. The motives were not clear but – fearing for their lives – the children had clearly decided to go into hiding.

We did our best to reach out to her. We believed in her potential and knew we had to make an effort so that it would not go to waste. We confirmed her scholarship, which guaranteed financial assistance, school supplies, and free use of KRIS Library's facilities and computers, but this time we realised she also needed emotional support. When she resurfaced from hiding, she enthusiastically went back to school. Though she missed a few months, she still managed to graduate at the top of her batch. Now at university, she holds on to the dream of becoming a lawyer and public servant, and her fervour is stronger than ever.

Her story is a common one in many areas affected by conflict in the Philippines. Often violence is met with violence, which creates a cruel cycle where both sides lose. Though the mission of KRIS Library promises libraries, scholarships and other forms of support to young people, what we truly give is hope and courage. Hope that a good future is possible. Courage to break the cycle of violence and hatred.



JONAH OBAJEUN **NIGERIA**

Jonah Ayodele Obajeun founded the Tolerance Academy, a flagship project of the Youth Tolerance for Peace Development Initiative (YTFPDI).

He leads YTFPDI's advocacy for cross-cultural and cross-religious approaches to peacebuilding, promotes human rights-based strategies for youth development and political participation, and participates in educational CVE programmes.

He has a B.sc in chemical engineering and a degree in business administration.

PEACE AND TRUST

Violent extremism thrives when social trust collapses. To prevent the radicalisation of young people, it is therefore vital to promote social cohesion and inclusion.

Social cohesion and inclusion

Economic development can promote social cohesion, but does not always do so. In Sri Lanka, Kenya and Nigeria, for example, growth has coexisted with protracted inter-group conflict, partly because large-scale infrastructural development has generated new patterns of social exclusion. Unequal or inequitable development can deepen conflicts and grievances, especially among young people.

Efforts to reinforce social cohesion and inclusion therefore need to work across a range of dimensions. Local and community mechanisms are particularly important. They provide vital avenues for cooperation.

Young people are redefining key elements of social cohesion. For many, employment and formal education are less important than distance communication, travel in search of better opportunities, and participation in peer networks and social movements that offer new forms of reciprocity and recognition.

Cohesion and inclusion can be broken down into five main components.

Material conditions. The quality of employment, income, health, education and housing are crucial elements of social cohesion, which is undermined by unemployment, hardship, debt, anxiety, low self-esteem, ill-health, lack of skills and poor living conditions. A society's ability to meet the basic needs of its members is the foundation of its resilience and an important indicator of social progress.

Social order. For people of all ages, including children and young people, security and freedom from fear, as well as tolerance and respect for others, are hallmarks of stable and harmonious societies.

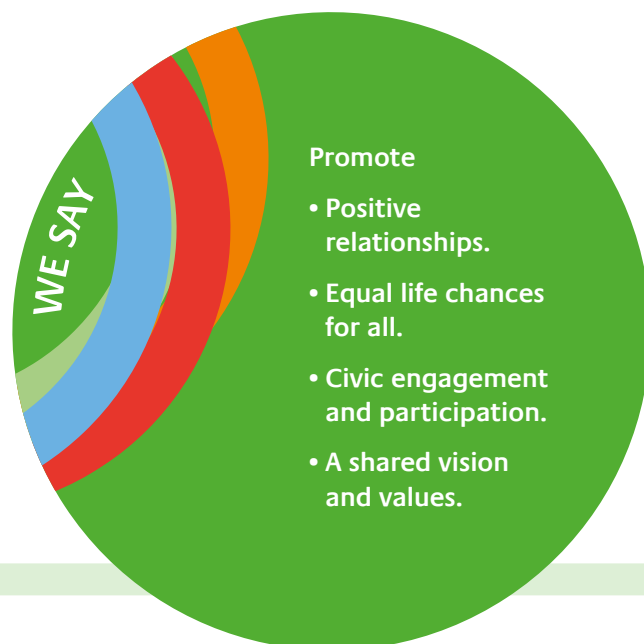
Active social relationships. Positive relationships between individuals and communities are another vital indicator. They increase mutual support and exchange of information, and underpin trust.

Social inclusion. People like to feel included by mainstream institutions and civil society, and to belong in their city or community, especially in societies that are diverse. In urban and complex societies, the degree to which people trust and make use of social institutions (schools, government agencies, the criminal justice system) strongly influences public confidence.

Social equality. A society is not cohesive if its members have unfair or unequal access to resources or opportunities, including income, health, quality of life, or future life chances.

TAKE ACTION

The skills and assets of young people put them in a uniquely strong position to use information and communication to neutralise violent narratives and confront violent extremism. They can transfer knowledge and awareness, identify desirable and undesirable behaviour, encourage one another to participate in activities that build trust, draw in people who are isolated, and reframe negative perceptions.





HAJER SHARIEF **LIBYA**

Hajer Sharief co-founded 'Together We Build It' when she was 19. Since September 2011 it has worked on the democratic transition in Libya, emphasising women and youth participation in peacebuilding.

Hajer has long advocated for women's political participation and the empowerment of women and youth at the grassroots level. She has called on Libyans to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women peace and security, and include women in peace negotiations, security sector reform and conflict prevention.

She provides CVE training to women and youth.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Promoting respect for human rights is at the heart of efforts to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism.

Young people and human rights

Young people should be familiar with human rights instruments because these can be used to protect and defend people at risk, and their norms challenge the logic of violent extremist narratives. UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security recognises the role of youth in countering violent extremism. It declares that young people are entitled to participate in peace and security discussions in their countries.

Indeed, young people are often better placed than adults to prevent radicalisation, and mediate between those who are radicalised and the larger community, because they know young people and can identify those at risk, understand why some young people join violent groups, and can influence both their elders and those who radicalise.

Extremism is attractive to millennials because it offers a simple, value-based narrative that appears to answer their concerns about the world. While counter arguments may unpick that narrative, the best way to challenge extremism is to present more powerful and attractive values. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN human rights standards provide widely agreed principles for preventing injustice, discrimination, inequality, violence and poverty. They address the grievances that extremists exploit, and establish high standards of conduct for those who counter them,

TAKE ACTION

Young people are naturally innovative. Youth-led organisations and networks have encouraged young people to respect human rights. They have used new online and offline methodologies to increase public awareness of human rights. They have monitored the implementation of human rights in their communities, ensuring that institutions are accountable and that marginalised young people do not suffer discrimination or abuse. They have promoted inter-generational dialogue and partnerships based on human rights principles of justice and equity.

‘Upholding human rights is not merely compatible with a successful counter-terrorism strategy. It is an essential element of it.’

Kofi Annan, launching a global strategy against terrorism, Madrid, 2005.

When women’s rights advocates argue that women should participate in peace building and CVE, critics say: “But women don’t know anything about security issues”. Or perhaps: “if men can’t solve the problem, then including women won’t change anything”. So women and young girls are excluded.

However, a project of *Together We Build It* in Libya recently proved them wrong. Called Peace and Security from Libyan women’s perspective, it reached out to women and young girls in conservative local communities whose voices and security concerns are not often heard. Its online quiz created a safe space in which women could share their concerns and personal stories.

In less than three days, more than 1,000 women took the quiz. The women, from different age groups and backgrounds, said what security means to them, described their security priorities, and identified early symptoms of violent extremism in their communities. This was invaluable information for security stakeholders in Libya.

WE SAY

It is up to our generation to rally behind human rights, popularise them through our peer-to-peer networks, and respect them when we oppose violent extremist language and conduct.

All CVE approaches ought to be underpinned by human rights. Violent extremists often seek to deprive others of rights. By adopting a values-based approach to CVE, we set moral standards, apply them to ourselves, and reduce the likelihood that we will do harm unintentionally.

WHAT I CAN DO?

‘We must stress the basic values that are common to all religions: compassion; solidarity and respect for the human person.’

Kofi Annan
Speech at the Bali
Democracy Forum, 2016



FATIMA ZAMAN
UK

Fatima is currently directing a multi-agency effort to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism or support for violent extremism through PREVENT, a programme of the UK Government's counter terrorism strategy.

She trains institutions and communities in resilience and in how to develop a robust safeguarding framework for tackling radicalisation, and advises key stakeholders on countering violent extremism, focusing on the education sector and gender. On the basis of her previous policy work on CVE, terrorism and faith, she strongly advocates engagement and dialogue on matters of faith and integration, and is keenly interested in alternative narratives that discredit or disrupt extremist narratives.

EDUCATION AND CRITICAL THINKING

Making young people more aware through education and critical thinking is the first defence against violent extremism. Education should prepare young people for life in the modern world; this means it should also equip young people to identify and ultimately reject online and offline extremist propaganda.

Education

Education should equip young people with the skills they need to detect extremist propaganda, make informed decisions, and question the legitimacy of extremist content. Education:

- Promotes dialogue by developing the ability to think and discuss.
- Nurtures critical thinking, digital literacy, and the skills required to challenge violent extremist propaganda.
- Enables young people to question the legitimacy and appeal of extremist beliefs.
- Builds confidence and increases emotional intelligence.
- Cultivates resilience in the face of extremist messages.
- Acts as a mass inoculation device.
- Creates global citizens by instilling a strong sense of moral and civic duty.

TAKE ACTION

Education is a form of primary prevention. To counter violent extremism, it needs to be:

- *Practitioner-led.* Involve people who have de-radicalised, as well as frontline workers such as the police, prison officers, teachers, youth workers, and religious leaders.
- *Targeted and specific.* Address the specific factors that radicalise individuals, taking account of gender, location and, of course, age.
- *Proportionate to the risk identified.* Recognise the symptoms of violent extremism, avoid discrimination against specific groups, protect privacy to the extent possible, etc.
- *Youth-led.* Young people can build trust with people their own age, and are in the best position to support prevention and prevent the radicalisation of their peers.

WE SAY

- Continue to use educational resources as a primary tool to prevent violent extremism.
- Empower educators to understand and spot the signs of emerging violent extremism.
- Incorporate nuanced, gender-sensitive learning in primary prevention initiatives.
- Recognise the key role of young people in safeguarding other vulnerable young people.



NDUGWA HASSAN

UGANDA

Ndugwa Hassan is programme coordinator for the Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum, which he co-founded in 2011.

The Forum runs youth leadership camps and has trained over 700 Muslim youth leaders to counter violent extremism through religious engagement and ideological refutation. Its youth radio programmes have reached millions of young Muslim and non-Muslim listeners in Uganda. Hassan also manages a volunteer programme for imams as well as Teachers for Peace, a well-known regional imam exchange programme.

He holds a bachelor's degree in social science from Makerere University and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in local governance and human rights in Uganda Martyrs University Nkozi.

HOLD TO WHAT I BELIEVE

Extremist organisations exploit religion to attract new followers. In many cases, a narrow and conservative religious interpretation informs their ideology and organisational structure.

Affirm religious values

The world's major faiths have developed profound commitments to tolerance and peace. They advocate social justice and restraint of ego and acquisitiveness, and place a very high value on empathy, openness and love for strangers, human dignity, unilateral gestures of forgiveness and humility, and reconciliation through interpersonal repentance and assumption of responsibility. Young people can draw on these values, including the acceptance of other cultures and religious beliefs, to reduce the spread of violent extremism and resist extremist religious narratives.

In short, religious values can discredit violent religious propaganda. Respected religious leaders who are prepared to take on bigoted expressions of their faith can have a considerable influence on public opinion; and young people, who are especially targeted by extremist groups, can do a great deal to prevent the spread of violent religious extremism if they hold to the core values of their religion and learn how to discern intolerant misreadings of religious teachings.

In this context, religious values are also a social and emotional resource. They can help young people to overcome doubts and locate a strong and generous vision of their role in the world.

Women and young people are important shapers of religious narratives that support or oppose violence. Women have been particularly effective peacebuilders, through interfaith and inter-communal initiatives. Efforts to promote peacebuilding and religious tolerance should therefore mainstream both groups, even if senior male religious leaders are reluctant to do so. Such initiatives must also address sexual violence, education, and jobs, which are important to women and young people as well as to the wider society. To make sure they can speak freely, women and young people may need to meet in their own spaces.

‘To counter religious radicalisation, reach out to vulnerable people in all types of institutions, including schools, universities, hospitals, barracks and especially prisons.’

Ndugwa Hassan

TAKE ACTION

Our advice to religious leaders

- Reach out to youth. Speak to them in a language they understand, mentor young faith leaders, and embrace new forms of communication such as social media.
- Create safe spaces for youth peer-learning initiatives.
- Develop a systematic and proactive approach to peacebuilding. Cooperate with other faiths and religious youth structures.
- Build moral authority in the community by affirming non-sectarian objectives and mobilising communities to support peace.
- Challenge religious narratives that advocate intolerance and violence. Promote values of reconciliation and tolerance even if you are subjected to threats or ridicule.

Our advice to young people

- Think deeply about the values of your faith and develop faith-based arguments and resources in support of peace and tolerance.
- Make a conscious effort to understand and appreciate the values and faiths of others.
- Encourage others to become peace builders. Get involved in interfaith activities in your school or community.
- Do not judge other faiths by the acts of individual extremists.
- Compare and integrate the values of your faith with human rights principles.



WE SAY

- Include young people who do not hold religious beliefs. Atheists are very often not included in religious initiatives for youth.
- Include followers of traditional religions. Especially in Africa, they too are often ignored by CVE initiatives.
- Bridge the generation gap by encouraging religious leaders to engage with young people.
- Train young people to think critically and engage with those of different opinions.
- Involve religious actors in efforts to debunk conspiracy theories.
- Involve women religious leaders. Invite them to speak about diversity, harmony, inclusion, mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance, as well as about halting violent extremism.
- Encourage and assist educational institutions to cease rote learning.
- Teach religious scholars and educational institutions how to use social media and other online platforms to challenge violent extremism.
- Empower religious leaders who want to promote religious views that are compatible with human rights norms.
- Evaluate regularly the success of interfaith initiatives.



MIMOUN BERRISSOUN GERMANY

A social activist of Moroccan origin, Mimoun Berrissoun coordinates 180° Wende (180° Turn), an NGO that helps young people turn their lives around and prevents youth crime and radicalisation using peer-to-peer networking.

Its services include counselling, school programmes to counter antisemitism and islamophobia, and training courses run in cooperation with city councils and the police.

Mimoun also developed the Hikmah Concept, which creates positive narratives through story-telling, and a jail project to counter violent extremism among prisoners with migrant backgrounds.

He studied social science at the University of Cologne.

ACT EFFECTIVELY

A mother calls your organisation or youth group because she is afraid that her son is about to travel abroad to join an extremist organisation. Your friend starts to spend his nights consuming extremist media on the internet. What can you do?

Targeted interventions

Intervening to help people who are on a path towards radicalisation but are not yet involved in violent attacks is an important dimension of CVE. Interventions can prevent individuals from joining dangerous groups and doing harm to themselves or others. They are most likely to succeed when they occur early and involve friends, parents or relatives who are close to the person at risk.

Where possible, train interveners. Trainings should tell interveners what they need to know, how to proceed, and what to avoid. It is often effective to discuss examples of successful intervention.

What do interveners need to know? First, many kinds of people become radicalised and it is vital to understand the personality and situation of those at risk as well as the depth of their engagement. Are they sympathisers, followers, or hardcore supporters?

180° Wende came across Mustafa on the German subway. He was invited to participate in counselling groups and when he met other young people with similar problems he realised he was not alone. Older coaches helped him prepare a CV that he used for job applications. At his request, 180° Wende helped him to obtain his high school diploma and complete a technical training course. Today, Mustafa is pursuing his education and helps other young people in the network.

A programme in Tajikistan teaches mothers to combat radicalisation in their families. The Mothers' School Model trains mothers to identify and respond to early signs of radicalisation.

Second, why are they attracted to the extreme movement in question? Motives are numerous: broken family relationships, solitude, low self-confidence, lack of direction, experience of marginalisation or discrimination, or having friends who are radicalised.

Interventions must be carefully managed, because inappropriate approaches may push young people further towards radicalisation. In the worst cases, those at risk may cut their ties with friends and family, making it almost impossible to assist them or even stay in contact.

WE SAY

- Remember that the person you want to deter from radicalisation is a victim, not the guilty party. Show empathy and sympathy while remaining clear about what is right and wrong.
- Make sure that your intervention strategy fits the profile of the beneficiary, and addresses his or her motives for radicalisation.
- Communication is crucial. Be humble; talk at the same level; be careful of the language you use.
- Offer exit strategies, different world views, alternative activities.
- Oppose every form of violent extremism. Treat all people equally. Young people who are radicalised are highly sensitive to injustice, even if they only talk about it when they are treated unjustly.
- Never include extremists as partners in your intervention work.
- Analyse the situation in your area. Can you identify unjust or discriminatory conditions that are creating hatred or grievances?
- Try to develop a reputation for integrity and credibility in your community. Build strong contacts with its key members.
- Participate in support networks. Encourage people at risk to do the same, because networks are stabilizing and help to prevent backsliding. Prepare a list or database of institutions that can help you work effectively with young people at risk. Meet with interveners or NGOs in your country who have professional experience of intervening.



BJØRN IHLER **NORWAY**

Bjørn Ihler is an activist, writer, designer and filmmaker. He is interested in the influence that narratives and storytelling have on our societies and how, by transforming our narratives, we can create more peaceful societies. His work is influenced by his experience as a survivor of the attack on Utøya Island in Norway in July 2011.

He uses conflict dynamics, peace work and interdisciplinary research to identify intervention points that can effectively counter and prevent violent extremism.

He has a degree in theatre and performance design and technology from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

MAKE MY VOICE HEARD

The stories we hear shape who we are. The emergence of mass media (cinema, radio, newspapers, photography) made it possible to influence ideas on a broad scale. The advent of the internet and social media further accelerated that process. Violent extremist movements exploit the power of modern communications to spread their ideas. Whether they are ideologically on the far right, the far left, or root themselves in religion, they affirm an ideal and simplistic message, uncluttered by doubt. In this sense, violent extremism is a denial of diversity and complexity. Those who oppose violent extremism must therefore also communicate, to restore diversity and affirm the complex nature of knowledge and the richness of the world we share.

Counterspeech

Young people are targeted every day by violent extremists, directly and through mainstream media. We are targets, but also communicators. We each walk around with equipment we can use to influence those at risk and say no to hate, division, racism, supremacy and discrimination. In this respect, we literally hold in our hands the power to do good.

Counter-extremism approaches tend to condemn extremists and show sympathy to those vulnerable to radicalisation. They less often analyse the components of extremist thinking: its radical narratives, grievances and ideology. Yet it is in these spaces that a counter-narrative must intervene.

When counter-narratives condemn extremist narratives, they in effect recognise them. Alternative narratives are much more powerful. They set a different agenda and lead their audience to different values and ideas. They promote liberal values and diversity, highlight common ground that all religions share with human rights, endorse the rule of law, and advocate practical ways to remove grievances, respond to suffering, protect minorities from discrimination, etc.

Whether counter-narratives offer a positive alternative to extremist propaganda or deconstruct or delegitimise extremist narratives, think of them not as one-off reactions to

extremist propaganda but as processes that influence the ideas of an audience over time.

Counter-narrative campaigns can take many forms and reach many audiences. To be successful, you will need to understand how extremist groups work, the grievances they address, what internal structures support their narratives, and what attracts your audience to them. Remember that extremist narratives that appear absurd still have power over those they influence; arguments that directly contradict them are likely to be dismissed as lies. Counter-narratives need to reshape extremist visions of reality. To do that you have to try to understand the emotional, physical and psychological needs of those to whom the stories appeal. A successful campaign should make clear:

- Its goals and objectives.
- Who it wants to reach.
- The outcome it seeks.

TAKE ACTION

Ask whether you want to

- Plant a seed of doubt, disturbing the house of cards built by an extremist narrative?
- Discourage those who are on the brink from joining an extremist group?
- Introduce a new view of the world that is more attractive than extremist ideologies?
- Reach those who are under the influence of violent movements and encourage them to defect?

The answers to these questions will determine the shape of your campaign. In many cases, you will need to research the extremist narratives you wish to counter as well as your target audiences.

All Together Now combats racism and promotes cultural diversity in Australia. Its *Everyday Racism* mobile phone app challenges players to live for a week the life of a member of an Australian minority group – an Aboriginal man, a Muslim woman, an Indian student. Participants receive texts, tweets, images and videos that challenge assumptions about race and motivate them to speak up against racism.

WE SAY

We recommend a five-step process

1. *Understand your audience.* Think of them as individuals. Speak a language that resonates with them.
2. *Define a form and establish a platform.* This enables you to reach your audience.
3. *Develop content.*
4. *Understand the dynamics of your narrative:* your impact depends on this.
5. *Evaluate.* Measure the effects of your work.

TOWARDS SOLUTIONS

‘Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace.’

Kofi Annan



ILWAD ELMAN **SOMALIA**

Ilwad Elman is Director of Programmes and Development at the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre in Somalia. The Centre's programmes focus on human rights, gender justice, protection of civilians, CVE, and peacebuilding across Somalia and the Horn and East Africa region.

She is interested in how women propagate and counter violent extremism as well as the gendered impact of CVE strategies on women's lives. She believes that policy makers who involve and empower women in CVE initiatives must understand the various roles that women play, including the motives that attract some women to violent extremism.

Ilwad chairs and participates in several bodies working on gender based violence in Somalia and beyond.

HEAL TOGETHER

It is essential to rehabilitate and reintegrate violent extremists or terrorist fighters who return from abroad. To do so, we can borrow from Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) procedures that UN agencies, governments, and civil society have developed for combatants who surrender or are captured in war.

Disengagement, deradicalisation, rehabilitation

Traditional DDR assists ex-combatants to rebuild their livelihoods and support networks at the end of conflicts. Returning violent extremists face a similarly difficult transition. Disengagement, deradicalisation and rehabilitation programmes (D²R) can assist former extremists to rebuild trust, reintegrate with family and friends, and recover economic and personal security.

The political grievances of ex-combatants do not simply dissipate when they disarm or return. Left alone, many will continue to sympathise with the cause they joined, even if they cease to be violent. Programmes that address why they engaged in violent behaviour are therefore essential.

Like traditional DDR, D²R programmes focus on the needs of combatants who have demobilised or surrendered, taking into account their longer term socio-economic integration as well as the security concerns they may create. Both also assist combatants to rejoin civilian life. Their goal is to prevent the recurrence of violence and promote the reintegration of former combatants into society.

A youth-led peer-to-peer approach to D²R can be especially effective because so many extremist fighters are young. At the same time, it requires resources and expertise. Those who undertake D²R need to recognise that it is a complex process and should prepare accordingly.



The Elman Peace Centre's *Drop the Gun, Pick Up the Pen* (EPHRC) successfully disarmed, rehabilitated and reintegrated thousands of young women and men co-opted into clan militias by warlords, enabling them to peacefully rejoin their communities and enjoy alternative livelihoods. Decades later, conflict in Somalia continues to rage and young Somalis are being co-opted by new hybrid armed actors and the transnational network of Al-Shabaab. EPHRC responded by designing a community-based approach to D²R for Al-Shabaab combatants that takes account of the highly asymmetrical nature of Somalia's conflict and is potentially relevant to conflicts elsewhere.

The Elman Peace Approach meets DDR standards and is consistent with the principles and standards of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law. The Approach:

1. Provides individual support to disengaged combatants in interim care centres. Services include psychosocial care, vocational training, and training in life skills.
2. Uses focused advocacy to build the awareness of communities, government and security actors.
3. Strengthens the capacity and commitment of communities to prevent recruitment and radicalisation.

The programme operates in areas of continuing conflict where control over communities may shift frequently between the Federal Republic of Somalia and Al-Shabaab, as well as areas that are now calm. Working with ex-combatants, 'active' combatants and 'at risk' populations, EPHRC has rescued child soldiers, kept communities affected by violent extremism together, and helped thousands of disillusioned young Somalis who want to stop fighting but are unable to see any opportunities outside if they do. To these young people, EPHRC offers practical life skills, religious literacy, vocational training, psychosocial support, peer-to-peer mentorship, training in business and financial skills, and startup grants.

TAKE ACTION

Practical questions you should ask:

- Has research been done that will help you understand the context in which you are working?
- Has research been done that will help you design your programme or measure its impact?
- Can you obtain all the information you need about the those who are returning to their countries?
- What is their current commitment to violent extremism? Are they dangerous, disenfranchised, disturbed or something else?
- Can you obtain the information you need about the resources available to assist them to reintegrate?
- Do you know enough about the societies that will receive them, their institutional capacity, and the laws that are relevant to returning combatants?

WE SAY

When preparing a D²R programme, consider

- **Outcomes.** What desirable and undesirable outcomes will the programme's interventions generate?
- **Mechanisms.** Which elements of the interventions will secure desirable *outcomes*?
- **Context.** What contextual factors will influence the impact of interventions?



SYED ALI ABBAS ZAIDI **PAKISTAN**

Syed Ali Abbas Zaidi is an aeronautical engineer who, as an activist, challenges the complex religious, economic and social divisions that threaten Pakistan. He has set up three foundations dedicated to tackling violent extremism: the Pakistan Youth Alliance, Khudi Pakistan, and HIVE. Each engages with a different section of society.

WORK TOGETHER

Young people join together in associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for many reasons, but above all to give themselves support and add strength to their efforts to achieve shared objectives. These are vital dimensions of youth-led efforts to prevent radicalisation, resist the spread of false and intolerant ideas, and help young people who have been radicalised to reintegrate successfully and peacefully in their societies. It is critically important to create and strengthen civil society organisations that do these things.

Build the capacity of civil society

Extremist movements all over the world seek to recruit members of civil society organisations because they are so dynamic. To extend their influence, acquire moral credibility, and gain supporters, extremist movements create and support voluntary associations, and often give them money. Equally, of course, they condemn, attack and try to destroy independent associations that criticise their extremist values, politics or conduct.

To survive and play their role as catalysts of change and defenders of justice, civil society organisations must remain independent, trusted by the public, and organisationally sound. Community mobilisation is particularly critical, because extremist thinking can be stopped only when the public in general oppose it. In addition, without public support, civil society organisations are vulnerable to physical attacks and efforts to discredit them by extremist organisations or governments.

Activism can take any number of forms, from community organising to parliamentary advocacy and passive resistance. What matters are its integrity and its relevance. Young activists who work together with many others have more credibility and a stronger voice. They can also protect themselves better against intimidation and violence.

Project Exit creates networks of support for parents in Norway whose children join racist or violent groups. It also helps young people to disengage from such groups and provides advice to professionals working with young people. Set up by the Norwegian government, the project collaborates with parents, social services, police, teachers and local youth workers.

TAKE ACTION

Through civil society associations, young people can:

- Lead development programmes that address grievances by delivering services to communities.
- Engage with and create partnerships with local and national governments, the international community, and the private sector.
- Engage with policymakers, and pressure them to address violent extremism holistically.
- Participate in conflict mediation and peace advocacy.
- Highlight the rights and needs of disenfranchised groups.
- Counter extremist ideas using mainstream media, social media and digital platforms.
- Promote cultural events that celebrate pluralism, tolerance, and inter-faith values.
- Give a voice to victims and survivors of extremist violence.
- Obtain training on sensitivity and operational security to mitigate the risks of working in CVE.
- Hold law enforcement and official authorities accountable, including for their human rights conduct and their policies on violent extremism.
- Research violent extremism and develop new approaches to assist organisations working in the field.

The value of civil society organisations is recognised by international actors, who understand that they often have the trust of key audiences that international agencies and NGOs cannot reach.

Private sector organisations may also sponsor youth volunteer efforts, offer in kind contributions (such as computers and software licenses), technical support, or other forms of support.



WE SAY

- *Work together.* Collaborate in every dimension because violent extremism can only be challenged effectively by strong, multi-generational and inter-sectoral collaboration.
- *Innovate.* Extremist organisations frequently change their approach and propaganda. You must be at least as innovative if you want to attract young people away from violent extremism.
- *Contextualise.* In some countries you can lobby publicly against extremist ideas but in others you cannot. Set your strategy after analysing your society and political system.
- *Empower through technology.* Initiatives to counter violent extremism should make good use of technology. Violent extremists use online communication to recruit, spread their ideas, and connect their sympathisers: we need to use technology just as effectively to oppose them.



ZAID AL RAYES **SYRIA**

Zaid Al Rayes is the founder and CEO of the Al Rayes Group which has created more than 500 new jobs for young people. The group organises cultural events and workshops to promote dialogue among Arab youth, oppose extremist ideas, and help Syrian refugees.

Believing that ideas can only be changed by other ideas, not by force, Zaid promotes initiatives that protect young people from extreme ideas through peer-to-peer negotiation and discussions, and the provision of better economic opportunities.

He holds a degree in mechanical engineering from The American University of Sharjah, where he has been a teaching and research assistant since 2013.

REINVENT THE FUTURE

Previous chapters have highlighted the special contributions that young people can make because of their ability to work together and innovate.

Social and entrepreneurial innovation

Extremists are skilled at adapting their propaganda and recruitment activities to sidestep legislation, surveillance, and prosecution. Young people who work to counter violent extremism must innovate as imaginatively, making full use of their ability to employ social media creatively. As we have seen, the challenge is not just to oppose violent extremism but to develop better alternatives for people who are drawn to radical propaganda. This is where social innovation meets entrepreneurship: together they can create new spaces for promoting integration, tolerance, inclusion and prosperity.

Children and young people are typically viewed only as victims of conflict. However, recent research has shown that children and young people who are recruited by armed groups and exposed to violence often become more active politically. Ex-combatants can be agents of positive social change who can assist households and communities to respond resiliently after war and violence.

In regions that have experienced conflict, it is particularly necessary to create livelihoods. Employment provides young people with much more than an income: it gives status, and offers young people the chance to be independent, to marry, to travel and learn new skills, and build their future. Young entrepreneurs who create new economic activities and decent jobs therefore play a critical role. They simultaneously inspire hope, promote stability, reduce aid dependency, and generate economic development. Overall, one third of the world's 1.8 billion young people are unemployed, educating themselves or training. One billion young adults will enter the job market in the next decade, but only 40 per cent of the jobs they need already exist. This indicates the scale of the task that confronts the next generation of social and economic entrepreneurs.

Giving one Syrian a job can benefit a whole family. Zaid met Halid in a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan, where he was living with 23 members of his family. He had lost a sister and a brother in the war and was tempted to join jihadists to fight the Al Assad regime. When Halid found a job in Dubai as an assistant chef, however, he could provide for his family and his niece could go back to school. "When people are in extreme poverty, not allowed to work, and have no source of funds, they turn to violent extremism as it provides a future," Zaid said. "To counter this, we need to show people that they have a future and will be able to provide for themselves and the family, elsewhere."

Multi-stakeholder collaboration is an important dimension of CVE. It works when the public sector and business community trust one another, and there is active engagement with civil society. Young people must push for improved communication between all three sectors.

Every technology can be exploited by violent extremists as well as by those who promote tolerance. The Internet creates opportunities for everyone to prosper economically. It was developed as a tool to share and collect information, foster democratic participation, and promote development. Yet it has also been used by violent extremists to spread their propaganda. CVE activists must use technology innovatively to prevent radicalisation and terrorism.

While the most successful CVE solutions are often local and targeted, we can always learn from best practice. Some of the best forms of innovation have adapted successful initiatives from a different context. Increasing communication and collaboration across borders is essential if we are to counter violent extremism more effectively.

WHAT I CAN DO

‘Any improvement you can make in your local community, no matter how small it may seem, is valuable.’

Kofi Annan, *One Young World*, 2016

Violent extremism threatens us all, but young people are uniquely placed to counter its terrible appeal and create an inclusive vision of the future.

Across the world, much excellent work is already being done. It demonstrates that violent extremism can be countered in many ways – by addressing the root causes of violent extremism, by recognising and preventing radicalisation, and by working to strengthen civil society.

Every young person can find some way to make a contribution. This Guide can help you to get started.

If you want to learn more about CVE, have a look at the additional resources we have listed at the end of the Guide.

To hear more from the ten young leaders profiled in the Guide, watch their videos at www.ExtremelyTogether-TheGuide.org

To learn more about the *Extremely Together* project, see www.kofiannanfoundation.org/extremely-together



- Young people should be perceived as leaders in countering violent extremism – rather than extremists, victims of violent extremism, or beneficiaries of CVE programmes. To do this, we must start leading in all CVE domains. Young people bring unique knowledge and insight, and are often more credible and accessible to their peers than others. Don't sit back and complain about not being listened to: get involved in CVE work and make a difference.
- All CVE approaches should be guided by certain principles: deep commitment to human rights; respect for community and regional dynamics; intelligent use of communications and technology to improve targeting, reach, and evaluation; and willingness to adopt successful approaches from elsewhere. If these are in place, young people should be free to collaborate and innovate.
- Remember that CVE requires a spectrum of approaches and that effective work is unlikely to focus on only one issue. Some of the best CVE does not tackle violent extremism head on but works through education, community cohesion, and promotion of alternative narratives. Understand the work of others and support your peers. This will help to build a more powerful movement for positive change.

KEY INTERNATIONAL TEXTS

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250

In 2015 world leaders formally recognised for the first time the contributions young people make to CVE. The resolution “encourages Member States to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including by empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, and all other concerned groups of civil society and adopt tailored approaches to countering recruitment to this kind of violent extremism and promoting social inclusion and cohesion”. It advocates:

- *Participation.* Young people should participate in decision-making at all levels.
- *Protection.* Civilians require protection from all forms of gender-based and sexual violence.
- *Prevention.* All actors should create mechanisms to promote a culture of peace and discourage young people from acting violently.
- *Partnerships.* States should partner with relevant actors to ensure that young people can participate in peacebuilding activities, and involve local communities in efforts to counter violent extremism.
- *Disengagement and reintegration.* States should involve young people in their DDR programmes.

Security Council Resolution 1325

Adopted in 2000, this landmark resolution addresses the role of women in conflict, the impact of conflict on women’s lives and security, and women’s participation in peacebuilding. Many elements of Resolution 2250 borrowed from it.

UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE)

Maps how different stakeholders can engage in efforts to prevent violent extremism. It calls on states and other organisations to support women, girls and youth in their efforts to prevent violent extremism by including them in decision making at all levels.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially the Youth Goal.

The Youth Goal states: The SDGs acknowledge the importance of addressing challenges facing young people and of empowering them to ensure the effective implementation of the SDGs. See for example Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, and Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

The Amman Youth Declaration

11,000 young people contributed to this policy framework for young people working to resolve conflicts, counter violent extremism, and promote peace. The declaration also addresses gender equality and socioeconomic empowerment.

USEFUL RESOURCES

NAME	AREA	DESCRIPTION	LINK
UK Department for Education	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	A UK government study of youth and community cohesion.	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181542/DFE-RR033.pdf
Margaret Williams	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	A research paper on the importance of inclusive environments in youth-led peacebuilding.	https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/youth-peace-security-new-agenda-middle-east-north-africa
Zenaida Ravanera, Rajulton Fernando et al	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	A discussion paper on youth integration in relation to social cohesion and social capital.	https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1087&context=pscpapers
UNESCO	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	A full-spectrum framework for building peacebuilding skills among youth.	http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002341/234140e.pdf
USAID	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	Youth engagement in development: effective approaches and action-oriented recommendations for the field	http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00JP6S.pdf
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	An international NGO that brings together women from around the world to work for peace and justice by non-violent means.	http://wilpf.org/wilpf/who-we-are
Pakistan Youth Alliance	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	A youth-led NGO that works on counter violent extremism, peace-building, conflict resolution, and the social welfare of the under-privileged.	http://www.pya.org.pk
YTFPDI – Tolerance Academy	Social cohesion, integration and peacebuilding.	A mobile peace-building academy that gives young people tools and skills to propagate messages of peace.	http://tolerance-academy.org/home

NAME	AREA	DESCRIPTION	LINK
The United Nations General Assembly	Upholding universal human rights.	A report on how to promote human rights while countering terrorism and violent extremism.	http://www.statewatch.org/news/2015/oct/un-special-rapporteur-hr-civil-society-ct-report-10-2015.pdf
Human Rights First	Upholding universal human rights.	A compilation on how human rights can be used to counter violent extremism.	http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/Human-Rights-CVE-compilation.pdf
Right2Debate	Upholding universal human rights.	A student-led initiative to counter violent extremism by encouraging open debate.	http://www.right2debate.org
Youth for Human Rights	Upholding universal human rights.	An initiative to educate youth about human rights.	http://www.youthforhumanrights.org/about-us.html
Sister Somalia and Elman Peace and Human Rights Center	Upholding universal human rights.	A Somalia-based NGO that supports victims of gender-based violence and vulnerable members of society.	http://www.sistersomalia.org
Connect Futures	Education and primary prevention.	Teaches critical thinking and debating skills to prevent violent extremism.	http://connectfutures.org/can-education-prevent-violent-extremism
Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)	Education and primary prevention.	The findings of a conference on the role of education in countering violent extremism and building resilience.	http://www.strategicdialogue.org/countering-extremism-and-building-resilience-through-education
Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)	Education and primary prevention.	A manifesto setting out what education can do to counter violent extremism.	http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/docs/manifesto-for-education-empowering-educators-and-schools_en.pdf
KRIS Library	Education and primary prevention.	A Philippine project that builds libraries and promotes interfaith initiatives to counter violent extremism.	http://www.krislibrary.com

NAME	AREA	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Mark Brennan, Pat Dolan et al.	Civil society capacity building and activism.	A UNESCO White Paper on how to promote youth input into government efforts to counter violent extremism.	https://www.quilliamfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/publications/free/white-paper-youth-led-pathways-from-extremism.pdf
Anne Aly, Anne-Marie Balbi et al.	Civil society capacity building and activism.	A study of how civil society can fulfil its role in countering violent extremism.	http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/18335330.2015.1028772?journalCode=rpic20
International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT)	Civil society capacity building and activism.	An 18-month project to counter the appeal of terrorism in Nigeria and build community resilience.	https://icct.nl/update/cve-and-community-resilience-in-nigeria
Africa Centre for Strategic Studies	Civil society capacity building and activism.	Recommendations of a workshop on preventing youth radicalisation in East Africa.	http://africacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Preventing-Youth-Radicalization-in-East-Africa-Program-Summary-ACSS.pdf
Families Against Terrorism and Extremism (FATE)	Civil society capacity building and activism.	A global civil society-led initiative to counter violent extremism.	http://www.findfate.org/en/home
RAND	Religious engagement, ideological refutation and interfaith action.	A study of the role of ideology in disengagement and deradicalisation.	http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND_MG1053.sum.pdf
Andrew Silke	Religious engagement, ideological refutation and interfaith action.	A psychological study of jihadi radicalisation.	http://archives.cerium.ca/IMG/pdf/SILKE_2008_Holy_Warriors_-_Exploring_the_psychological_Processes_of_Jihadi_Radicalization.pdf
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales	Religious engagement, ideological refutation and interfaith action.	Collates information on interventions to prevent religious radicalisation and violent extremism.	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396030/preventing-violent-extremism-systematic-review.pdf

NAME	AREA	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum	Religious engagement, ideological refutation and interfaith action.	A nonpartisan, youth-led and faith-based development organisation that promotes dialogue and development.	http://umydf.org
#MyIslam	Religious engagement, ideological refutation and interfaith action.	A theological initiative to refute extremist interpretations of Islam.	http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/blog/quilliams-theology-team-launches-myislam-campaign
#NotinMyName	Religious engagement, ideological refutation and interfaith action.	A project led by British Muslims to denounce ISIS and refute its ideology and narratives.	http://isisnotinmyname.com
The Channel Programme	Targeted intervention.	A best practice referral programme to disrupt radicalisation processes.	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf
Hayat Germany	Targeted intervention.	A German counselling programme for persons involved in radical Salafist groups.	http://hayat-deutschland.de/english
180° Wende	Targeted intervention.	A Cologne-based initiative that intervenes to prevent violent extremism and radicalisation.	http://180gradwende.de/de_DE
Quilliam	Online and offline communications solutions.	A strategic briefing on how to develop effective counter-narratives.	https://www.quilliamfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/publications/free/countering-islamist-extremist-narratives.pdf
Institute for Strategic Dialogue	Online and offline communications solutions.	A handbook on how to plan, create and run counter-narrative campaigns.	http://www.strategicdialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Counter-narrative-Handbook_1.pdf
Hedayah	Online and offline communications solutions.	A guide on how to counter extremist narratives in South East Asia.	http://www.hedayahcenter.org/activites/80/activities/511/2016/622/launch-of-the-counter-narratives-in-south-east-asia-how-to-guide

NAME	AREA	DESCRIPTION	LINK
#NotAnotherBrother	Online and offline communications solutions.	A crowd-funded counter-narrative campaign to prevent youth from joining ISIS.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljIQ0ctzyZE
International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR)	Addressing grievances and instability.	A study of what drives recruitment and mobilisation of Islamist extremists in Europe.	http://icsr.info/2008/10/recruitment-and-mobilisation-for-the-islamist-militant-movement-in-europe
Organisation for Security and Co-operation (OSCE)	Addressing grievances and instability.	An assessment of community-policing approaches to prevent terrorism and counter violent extremism.	http://www.osce.org/atu/111438?download=true
Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police	Addressing grievances and instability.	A Norwegian action plan to prevent violent extremism by tackling underlying grievances and social instability.	https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/JD/Vedlegg/Handlingsplaner/Radikalisering_engelsk.pdf
Khudi	Addressing grievances and instability	A Pakistani social movement that promotes a democratic culture to counter terrorism.	https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/pakistan/peacebuilding-organisations/khudi
John Horgan and Kurt Braddock	Disengagement, deradicalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration	An assessment of the effectiveness of current de-radicalisation and rehabilitation programmes.	https://www.start.umd.edu/sites/default/files/publications/local_attachments/De-radicalization%20Programs%20Final%20Report.pdf
The City of Aarhus	Disengagement, deradicaliation, rehabilitation and reintegration.	A Danish approach to deradicalising and reintegrating returning fighters	https://www.aarhus.dk/sitecore/content/Subsites/Antiradikaliseringsindsats/Home.aspx?sc_lang=en
EXIT Germany	Disengagement, deradicalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration.	A German deradicalisation, disengagement and reintegration programme.	http://www.exit-deutschland.de
UNESCO	Social innovation and entrepreneurship.	Innovative youth-centric initiatives to challenge extremism and promote digital literacy.	http://en.unesco.org/news/empowering-youth-build-peace

NAME	AREA	DESCRIPTION	LINK
EdVenture Partners	Social innovation and entrepreneurship.	Innovative peer-to-peer approaches to challenging violent extremism.	www.edventurepartners.com
Zoomaal	Social innovation and entrepreneurship.	Crowdsourcing projects to 'make Lebanon a better place'.	http://www.zoomaal.com/projects/a-better-lebanon-crowdsourcing-ideas-to-make-lebanon-a-better-place1?ref=82296413
The Global Partnership Week	social Innovation and entrepreneurship.	Innovative, cross-sectoral approaches to counter violent extremism.	http://www.p3.co/blog/2016/3/11/innovative-cross-sector-approaches-in-counteracting-violent-extremism
Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)	Social innovation and entrepreneurship.	An initiative by Youth Innovation Labs to prevent and counter violent extremism.	http://www.strategicdialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/YouthCAN-Labs.pdf
International Youth Action Against Terrorism	Social innovation and entrepreneurship.	A youth-firm that counters violent extremism in East Africa.	http://iyaat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CVE-Youth-Firm-Phase-1.pdf



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Violent extremism has become both a global and generational struggle. More than half the world's population is under the age of 30 and violent extremism affects a disproportionately high number amongst them. Despite their large demographic, young peoples' voices often go unheard.

The Kofi Annan Foundation believes young people are uniquely placed to make an invaluable contribution to counter-extremism efforts within their communities as role models, teachers, family members, friends, mentors, colleagues and partners.

The Kofi Annan Foundation's *Extremely Together* initiative has convened ten young leaders with diverse experience in countering and preventing violent extremism to join forces against this threat. *Extremely Together* aims to equip young people in communities around the world with tools, methods, and inspiration to turn the tide in the fight against extremism.



Extremely
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