



## Youth Against Violent Extremism

4 June 2015

The White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in February gave a clear call to action and outlined the direction for our collective efforts in the time ahead. The CVE events in Oslo on 4.-5. June is part of the follow-on Action Agenda from the Washington Summit. It will consist of two separate but linked sessions: *Youth Against Violent Extremism* and *The European Conference on Countering Violent Extremism*.

The role of civil society, including the voice of the youth, is essential in creating greater cohesion across Europe and countering the appeal of violent extremism. Youth initiatives, women's groups, creative professionals, technology experts, and grassroots activists all have significant parts to play in this effort.

Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg will open the Youth Against Violent Extremism Conference. Around 200 European youth leaders are invited to Oslo to discuss how they can work together to counter violent extremism. The concerns, sentiments and suggestions will be presented directly to decision-makers gathered at the European CVE conference held the following day on June 5th.

During the morning session, various speakers will present their approaches to counter violent extremism. These will include presentations by social media companies, as well as by activists and organisations that are working on groundbreaking projects in their communities. Participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions, give comments and share their own experiences. The following break-out sessions will allow smaller groups of participants to engage with topics that resonate with them:

- Effective counter extremism work in-person
- Effective activism and campaigning online
- The role of faith in countering violent extremism
- The role of gender in countering violent extremism

A "marketplace" of ideas will be open in the hotel lobby throughout the day, where various organizations and individuals can showcase their projects. Participants can walk through this area at any point in the day and talk to organisers about what they are doing. They can also follow on-going meetings on monitors and 'tweet' comments and posts. The following institutions will be represented at the marketplace:

- Representatives from the European cities and municipalities
- Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- Against Violent extremism (network for survivors and former extremists)
- Google
- Facebook
- Sports Against extremism - a selection of European groups
- Creative Counter Narratives - cartoons, theater etc.

The conference will end in a plenary session where the participants prepare a final communiqué, as well as tailored input to the various sessions at the European CVE Conference. One of the youth representatives will present the "youth message" during the opening of the Conference on 5 June. The message will also be visualized through a short documentary.

## **The European Youth Network**

In connection with the closing of the conference, Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion Solveig Horne and Minister of EU Affairs Vidar Helgesen, along with a youth representative, will formally launch a **European youth network against violent extremism.**

Facilitating further contact between the participants, the network will be a forum for dialogue and a platform for follow-up of the ideas created at the conference. It will provide a space for civil society participants from across Europe to converse with one and other and explore different initiatives taking place to create community cohesion and counter extremism. The aim is to build a sustainable network for participants to stay connected online.

Following the event, the network will also be a space in which participants can share their activities, receive advice to aid their activism and further develop a Europe-wide network that convenes in regional innovation labs. The network should also be able to work closely with other existing European networks such as the Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN). Hopefully, the community may eventually grow into a global network.

The Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), based in London, has the academic responsibility for the implementation of the conference. ISD has a wide network of both Norwegian and European individuals who have distinguished themselves in anti-radicalization work. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has signed an long term agreement with ISD regarding the set-up of the Youth Network.

## **Agenda**

### **09.00 - 09.30      Opening Speeches**

Opening speeches by Prime Minister Erna Solberg, official representatives and ISD

### **09.30 - 11.00      Morning Session**

Plenary. Speeches by innovative initiatives and civil society activists

*Speakers will include representatives from Facebook, Hijabs and Hat-tricks, Extreme Dialogue, Against Violent Extremism (AVE) and performance artist Luqman Ali.*

### **11.00 - 11.30      Break with Refreshments**

### **11.30 - 13.00      Breakout Sessions**

- Effective counter extremism work within your community
- Effective activism and campaigning online
- The role of faith in countering violent extremism
- The role of gender in countering violent extremism

*Breakout sessions will allow smaller groups of participants to engage with topics that resonate with them.*

*Participants can choose a session to attend based on their interests. In these breakout sessions participants will share ideas, debate solutions and learn from experts.*

### **13.00 - 14.00      Lunch**

### **14.00 - 16.00      Afternoon Session**

The afternoon will consist of a wider group session to discuss the main messages to be passed on to policy makers and politicians. We will deliver a list of suggestions, concerns and ideas to Day 2

### **16.00 - 16.30      Closing Remarks – launch of European youth network against violent extremism.**

Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion Solveig Horne and Minister of EU Affairs Vidar Helgesen