

Possible workshops according to the modular principle

Workshop 1 Awareness - access to the group
Identity, ideologies

Workshop 2 Extension of knowledge - awareness
Extremist scene, argumentation structures, recruiting strategies

Workshop 3 Extension of knowledge - positioning
Pluralistic society, religion, inter-religiosity

Workshop 4 Ability to take action
Strategies to deal with religious extremism

Target group

The workshops are aimed at students from the 9th year and participants from the age of 14 and older. Depending on the respective needs, the work can involve religiously heterogeneous or homogeneous groups (e.g. in religious instruction). The amount of time ideally comprises three to four appointments of at least two full hours each, with these dates being as close to each other as possible (6 - 8 week distance). In the school context, this can either be adapted to the teaching (e.g. two double lessons in ethics, politics, etc.) or worked on in project weeks.

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Patrick Möller, Hakan Çelik, Raphael Zikesch, Thomas Mücke, Verena Ben Neticha

Violence Prevention Network is a group of experienced specialists who have been successfully engaged in the prevention of extremism, as well as in the deradicalisation of extremist-motivated criminals, for a number of years. Since 2001, the Violence Prevention Network team has been working successfully in reducing ideologically and religiously motivated serious crime and extreme acts of violence committed by adolescents and young adults.

ADVICE CENTRE Hesse

"Demystify extremism!" project team

Leipziger Strasse 67

60487 Frankfurt am Main

 Tel.: +49 (0)69 27 29 99 97

Fax: +49 (0)69 269 18 729

 E-mail: hessen@violence-prevention-network.de

www.violence-prevention-network.de

Project Manager: Thomas Mücke

If you are interested in a workshop or training program, give us a call or send us an e-mail. The offers are free of charge.

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ADVICE CENTRE

Hesse

Demystify extremism

Preventive educational work with young people

A project of

 Violence
Prevention Network



"DEMYSTIFY EXTREMISM!" – PREVENTIVE EDUCATIONAL WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The model project "**Demystify extremism!**" is an answer to the growing need to use preventative political education in order to address the phenomenon of religious extremism. The goal is to provide education about extremism and recruitment strategies as well as to develop strategies for youth when signs of radicalisation arise in peer groups. Other objectives are to demystify the phenomenon of jihadism and to increase the ability of young people to distance themselves from extremism.

Young people are no longer powerless when faced with the recruiting efforts of the extremist scene; through a series of measures that are tailored to the specific context of the particular institution, young people can instead respond critically. The limits that the friends, teachers and social environment of a possibly radicalised individual have with regard to action are addressed, and mention is made of the Advice Centre Hesse staff members, who are available at all times. They can take immediate action in recognisable individual cases that require more intensive support.

In addition to the measures for young people in the areas of school and youth welfare, the qualification of multipliers and employees in the respective institutions is also an objective, in order to ensure sustainability of the preventive education and change processes.

Workshops according to the modular principle

The prevention work takes place in the form of workshops which are designed according to demand. This means that instead of a previously prepared offer having to be accepted, the particular situation and needs are analysed cooperatively with the institution in an initial exploratory talk. On this basis, a plan is established which is matched to the particular context of the institution. To ensure sustainability and to accompany change processes, several workshops are designed and conducted over a longer period of time. The individual modules are selected according to the modular principle, so as to achieve the following educational objectives:

1. Extending the **knowledge** of inter-religiousness, identity and religious extremism.
2. Achieving an **awareness** of the recruitment strategies of extremists and the stigmatisation of groups.
3. Enabling **positioning** in a pluralistic society (limits of tolerance, recognition of a foundation of common values, etc.).
4. Strengthening **skills** such as media literacy and awareness of tolerance.
5. Developing **action strategies** for dealing with recruitment attempts and religious extremism. At this point, the intervention team of the advice centre may be called in as a partner at any time.



Content

The different modules of the workshops build upon one another in terms of content. The ideal sequence of the individual workshop modules looks as follows:

The first workshop serves the purpose of approaching religious extremism as an issue via content such as identity and ideology, thereby enabling the team to find a point of access to the group. In the second workshop, education is provided regarding religious extremism through insights into the scene, the argument structures and the recruitment strategies. Based on the experience in the second workshop, education is deepened in the third workshop by addressing questions about society, religion and inter-religiosity. The fourth workshop deals exhaustively with the development of strategies for action in dealing with religious extremism. The following thematic clusters can be addressed:

Awareness of religious extremism:

- + role of one's own identity, origin and culture
- + life in a pluralistic society (human rights, fundamental rights, democracy)
- + dealing with other religions and world views (tolerance of ambiguity)
- + religious life practices and beliefs of the various religions (excursions)
- + shared value-basis of the three monotheistic religions
- + inter-religiosity as an opportunity of social cohesion

Education about and dealing with religious extremism:

- + context of ideologies and their circular reasoning structure
- + insight into the scene of religious extremism (with a focus on Germany)
- + recruitment attempts by extremists in the media (social networks, etc.)
- + strategies to deal with religious extremism