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Role of youth-led civil society in preventing violent extremism

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Coalition, solidarity, inspiration
Exchange, peer-to-peer learning, collaboration
Shaping policy & practice

Transition, waitinghood, “leaders of tomorrow”
Risks, personal security, restricted civic space
Slow-moving processes
Countering violent extremism and youth radicalisation

- “Radicalisation”
- Countering violent extremism (CVE) or preventing violent extremism (PVE)?
- Peacebuilding ≠ P/CVE
Countering violent extremism and youth radicalisation

- Gendered stereotypes of youth:
  - young men = perpetrators
  - young women = victims

- Positive role of young people in preventing violent extremism!
P/CVE policies

- Council of Europe’s Action Plan on The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism (May 2015)
- European Union’s European Agenda on Security and the EU Commission (April 2015)
- United Nations Secretary General’s Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism (January 2016)
Youth participation in PVE
local examples

- Critical thinking in Afghanistan
- Arts-based peacebuilding in Northern Ireland
- Peer-to-peer approaches in the Netherlands & Tunisia
Youth participation in PVE
regional example

- No Hate Speech movement in Europe
Youth participation in PVE

global example

- Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security adopted by the United Nations Security Council (December 2015)
Do’s & Dont’s for youth participation in PVE

● **Don’t** reinforce the narrative of youth as perpetrators or victims of radicalisation and violent extremism

● **Don’t** put youth’s fundamental human rights (e.g. right to travel, freedom of expression and right to mobilise) at risk through hard security measures

● **Don’t** only focus on socioeconomic empowerment of young people
Do’s & Don’t’s for youth participation in PVE

- **Do** acknowledge and support youth-led initiatives
- **Do** conduct contextual research in collaboration with youth organizations to understand root causes
- **Do** create opportunities for young people’s participation in decision-making processes at all levels
More resources?

● Youth Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace

● 10 Guiding Practices for Countering Violent Extremism from a Human Security and Young Peacebuilder’s Perspective

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