

# The approaches of Violence Prevention Network

## Prevention

- > „Basic immunisation“ through prevention of radicalisation in workshops
- > Sensitisation of specialists in child and youth services by vocational training

## Intervention

- > Triggering of distancing processes through single and group trainings in prison, detention centres and ambulant


## Deradicalisation


- > Disengagement assistance through direct work with radicalised people, wannabe djihadis and returnees and through involvement of relatives


Violence Prevention Network is a group of experienced specialists who have been successfully engaged in the prevention of extremism, as well as in the de-radicalisation of criminals motivated by extremism. Since 2001, the Violence Prevention Network team has been working successfully to reduce ideologically- and religiously-motivated, serious crime and extreme acts of violence committed by youths. By way of its long-standing work with right-wing extremist youth and those in danger of joining Islamism, the Violence Prevention Network team has acquired expertise in the field of working with ideologically motivated criminal offenders that is recognised throughout Europe. In the method of Verantwortungspädagogik® (Education of Responsibility), Violence Prevention Network has identified a way to address people who have affiliated themselves with anti-democratic structures without humiliating them, thus facilitating their re-integration into the democratic community.


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# Deradicalisation Intervention Prevention



Violence  
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### Taking responsibility

The concept of responsibility is core to the work of Violence Prevention Network. The call to take responsibility for one's actions, however, is not only aimed at the young people Violence Prevention Network has been working with for more than ten years. Rather, it is a broader call to action that equally addresses parents, teachers, professionals in the police force and in the justice system, and above all, policy makers. The taking of responsibility – on an individual and social level – is a central momentum without which a society is unable to exist within the framework of democratic and pluralistic structures. In the long run, a society whose individual members and political representatives are not able to take responsibility will encourage ideas and ideologies over which it will, sooner or later, lose control.

Violence Prevention Network began its work at a time when ideologically motivated violence became increasingly more prevalent. Burning asylum seeker homes and murdered takeaway place owners cannot be tolerated. Neither can bombs at railway stations or young people leaving for Syria as holy warriors. Hatred coupled with violence, radicalisation, and extremism are phenomena that have been with us for years. They are a threat to each of us and to society as a whole. They shake the very foundations of democracy and pluralism, as they seek to force us into a one-dimensional world, to which the majority of people object. We must guard against hatred and violence wherever we can and challenge them where they arise. We must not tire of defending ourselves against ideologies that seek to reverse the societal progress we have achieved over the past 70 years in the name of a falsely interpreted religion or an inhumane worldview.



### Talking to people

The work of Violence Prevention Network is directed at many people. Students, teachers, social workers, and professionals benefit from our offerings as well as parents seeking advice. But our trainers also speak directly with offenders. To curtail hatred and violence, radicalisation and extremism, in the long run, it is absolutely indispensable to speak with the people who are themselves violent in the name of a religion or an ideology. If we want to tackle the phenomenon of extremist violence, the protagonists must not be ignored. We regularly hear calls to „lock them up“ as soon as a particular hate crime is uncovered. Then, too often, an authoritarian demonstration of power is mistaken for political responsibility. But a humanist approach takes responsibility. Every individual can change his or her behaviour if he or she learns the necessary skills: the ability to maintain relationships, empathy, a sense of responsibility and self-reflection. This approach contains within it the clear and unambiguous rejection of violence, and at the same time, the unconditional recognition of the human dignity of the perpetrators. Without making light of the perpetrators' actions or the suffering of their victims. This attitude is our responsibility.



### Breaking away from hate and violence