

## Focus on deradicalisation/disengagement assistance

Our work focusses on facilitating access to the people at risk, addressing them, developing working relations and implementing concrete deradicalisation strategies. The latter are based on an individual, resource-oriented and solution-oriented coaching process that includes the following topics:

- consistent dialogue that encourages questioning the own perspective and creates interest in new points of view
- recognition of the specific risk situation for the young person concerned
- promotion of autonomous insights on the present life course, biographical understanding of the own history of violence, militancy and extremism with a specific focus on the emergence of ideologies based on the construction of stereotypical enemy concepts
- assumption of responsibility for independent living – creating conditions and planning the future
- low-threshold political education
- support and counselling in difficult life situations
- work with families and supporters (e.g. circle of friends, teachers)

The services offered by CROSSROADS are available throughout Berlin.



**Violence Prevention Network** is an association of experienced specialists who have been active in the prevention of extremism and the deradicalisation of extremist violent offenders with great success for many years. Since 2001, the Violence Prevention Network team has been successfully working to reduce the number of ideologically and religiously motivated acts of serious crime and extreme violence committed by teenagers and young adults.

### Contact

#### CROSSROADS

Counselling • Prevention • Deradicalisation

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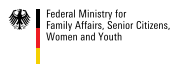
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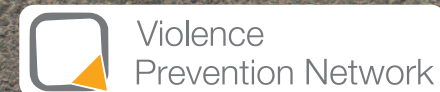
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# CROSSROADS

Counselling • Prevention • Deradicalisation



## Who is **CROSSROADS** for?

CROSSROADS is a counselling and intervention project run by Violence Prevention Network for the purpose of preventing radicalisation and deradicalising young people. Its goal is to address young people who are at risk of radicalising or who have already undergone a process of radicalisation and initiate disengagement processes.

### The project addresses:

- Teenagers and young adults who are **at risk** of undergoing a process of radicalisation
- Teenagers and young adults who are **noticeably undergoing a process of radicalisation in the far-right extremist scene** and have yet to express motivation for breaking away from it
- Teenagers and young adults who wish to **exit** the far-right extremist scene
- Young people with an **affinity for far-right ideologies and/or scenes**
- **Family and supporters** of teenagers and young people who wish or do not wish to disengage from far-right ideologies and/or scenes
- Teachers, youth workers, sports clubs and other persons in contact with young extremists or young people at risk of radicalisation

## Range of services

### Counselling

Communal working environments in which the target group is likely to be present, are e.g. schools, youth clubs, sports clubs and youth welfare offices. Colleagues who work in these environments and may be confronted with young people following far-right ideologies have access to counselling on the topic of “youths at risk of far-right influence”.

### Workshops for youth, young adults and school children

The workshops are offered to all grades (primary school to sixth form) and educational institutions and can be adapted flexibly to the relevant topics and general needs of the individual institution. They normally take several hours up to a whole day and can be held either in the client institution or on the **CROSSROADS** facilities.

The workshops raise awareness of the respective topic among participants and encourage reflection. Their objective is for the participants to develop insights.

Possible topics can include: “People fleeing their homeland”, “Identity in the context of social change”, “Violence and far-right extremism” and “What does it mean to be German?” Further workshops, e.g. on the topics of symbolism or music, are available upon request.



### Workshops for teachers and pedagogues

Those working with young people are likely to experience situations in which they are confronted with far-right extremist attitudes and behaviours. It is usually difficult to respond to such situations in an appropriately pedagogical, constructive and confident manner. The overarching goal of the workshops is to teach participants to recognise far-right tendencies and lines of argument and develop possible response strategies. The workshops are aimed at participants in dialogue with young people who may be at risk of developing far-right ideologies. Possible topics can include:

“Responding to people with far-right tendencies in a pedagogically constructive way”, “Modern far-right extremism”, “The music of the far-right extremist scene”.

### How we work

Those wishing to work with young people in the far-right scene must expect resistance. Violence Prevention Network has developed a low-threshold concept for gaining access to the target group and dispersing radicalised attitudes based on the following principles:

- Concrete access • Voluntary participation •
- Establishment of trust •
- Development of a tolerance of ambiguity •
- Questioning approach • Long-term orientation •
- Respectful, appreciative method(s) •

Violence Prevention Network aims to identify radicalisation as early as possible and classify it into stages in order to reverse radicalisation processes with appropriate (preventive) measures and initiate a process of deradicalisation.

The pedagogical concept is based on an explicitly non-confrontational approach that facilitates the acceptance of new perspectives. Acceptance and a respectful approach that preserves the dignity of the target group facilitate understanding – but not sympathy – and explains actions – but does not justify them. Explanations are a crucial requirement for change.