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Photo Credit: Banksy, “Hammer Boy”; This photo credited to the internationally renowned, but anonymous graffiti artist, Banksy appeared at the corner of 78th and Broadway on Manhattan’s Upper East Side on October 19, 2013. The image was chosen as a cover for this report as they both seem to share a critique of global anxieties concerning to youth, violence, and conflict. The image is used under the fair use doctrine.

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Executive Summary & Key Recommendations

Following the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 2550 on “Youth, Peace and Security” in 2015, a global network of development and security actors have sought to more robustly include youth populations in work related to sustainable peace, conflict resolution, and violence prevention. In 2017 and 2018, the British Council along with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and Georgia State University, conducted dialogue-based research to explore how civil society organizations and local municipal government bodies in the United States, MENA, and Europe have dealt with the issue of youth engagement and mobilizations. We sought to identify best practices, untapped opportunities, and obstacles to progress across and between these sectors. Three major themes emerged through these discussions that warrant the attention of policy makers and practitioners: 1) Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism 2), Youth Engagement and Digital Culture, 3) Pathways to Civic Engagement, and 4) Violence Prevention and Intervention. Amongst the themes lies another key policy sector: preventing/countering violent extremism. Key findings and recommendations are as follows:

1. Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)
   A. The policy framework of P/CVE, although broad, nuanced, and variably implemented in different contexts, has negatively impacted the relationship between civil society actors and government practitioners. It has also adversely impacted the relationship between civil society actors themselves.
   B. Despite this finding, civil society actors and government practitioners shared the same view that sustainable peace is only possible through sustainable development. Likewise, they held that conflict prevention and resolution depended on healthy social infrastructures. Acting upon this shared interest depends on political will.
   C. Youth practitioners and those that work closely with them were mostly averse to the notion that P/CVE should be a premise to youth engagement programming.

2. Digital Culture
   A. Digital and online infrastructures allow youth populations around the world to innovate new pathways of civic engagement, organically build resilience in the face of ideological and violent extremism, as well as organize for political change.
   B. Government and civil society practitioners invested in P/CVE should exercise extreme caution in both overt and discrete forms of social media messaging intervention because it can further exacerbate feelings of suspicion and mistrust.
   C. Rather, practitioners should focus on investing in digital infrastructures and building capacity for youth populations to freely access the tools of online communication.

3. Civic Engagement
   A. Traditional pathways for civic engagement among for marginalized and alienated youth populations are narrow, few, and largely due to social, historical, and political dynamics.
   B. Civic engagement programming that does not factor in addressing historical grievance, political demands, and trust building will fail to effectively mobilize youth populations facing fragility.
   C. Civic engagement programming that is designed to fit the global P/CVE agenda are likely to
fail and further exacerbate patterns of social tension and alienation among youth.

4. Violence Reduction and Intervention
   A. Violence prevention programming, such as that modeled by the Gang Reduction and Youth Development program of the city of Los Angeles, has a long history of success in local contexts disconnected with the global or state level policy agendas.
   B. Success depended on formal and informal political actors creating relationships of trust and mutual respect and required a great deal of political risk and compromise on the part of all stakeholders.
   C. Successful programming models framed violence as a public health issue rather than as a political or ideological problem, although criticisms remain that such framing may result in the securitization of the mental health and education sectors.
   D. Violence prevention programming that does not gain the broad support of local constituents will likely result in causing more conflict and raising tension between government and civil society than it will address the core problem of fragility.
Methods

This report is based on dialogue-based focus groups, discussions and interviews with leading experts and practitioners involved in youth engagement programming across government and civil society. An initial meeting was convened in Berlin in December 2017 and another in Los Angeles in April 2018. Follow-up interviews were conducted with some, but not all, participants in the dialogue sessions.

The aim of the initial workshop and follow up interviews was to properly document the range of youth engagement efforts across the various actors in this space, and to survey opinions on a number of questions related to the subject of youth engagement as it relates to digital communication, violence reduction and prevention, and civic engagement more generally.

This report is the final of three produced by the Bridging Transatlantic Voices project, a European Commission funded (2015-2018) collaboration between the British Council, Georgia State University, and Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

Over three years of workshops, interviews, and field work, the British Council team and its researchers have noticed a consistent pattern of a lack of communication and dialogue between government and civil society actors, especially around issues of conflict resolution and violence prevention. If, and when, these two sectors engage one another, relationships seem to be fraught with mistrust, suspicion, and political expediency. While identifying best practices and successful case studies is the primary aim of this research, finding mechanisms to enhance the relationship between policy makers and NGO practitioners has been a corresponding goal since the project’s inception. As such, throughout this report, readers will find suggestions on how government and civil society can overcome shared obstacles to achieve deeper and more lasting cooperation and coordination.

The report unfolds in five sections: 1) Unthinkng P/CVE, 2) Youth Engagement and Digital Culture, 3) The Nuts and Bolts of Civic Engagement, 4) Violence Reduction and Intervention, and 5) Conclusion. Throughout these sections participant feedback is supplemented with profiles of organizations and programs that model successful cases of youth engagement, empowerment and mobilization.
Findings

1. **Unthinking P/CVE: Questioning the Connection between Youth, Resilience and Violence**

In recent years, the intersecting subjects of “youth engagement,” violence prevention, and resilience building have risen to the highest levels of the global policy agenda, appearing in conversations across the development and security spectrum. In 2015 the UN Security Council adopted the Resolution 2550 on Youth, Peace, and Security which “urges Member States to give you a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels and to consider setting mechanisms that would enable young people to participate in meaningfully peace processes.”¹ This resolution accompanied other high level declarations and reports that focused on the relationship between youth and violence such as the Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism, The Amman Youth Declaration, and the Arab Human Development Report.² The Security Council has deepened its commitment to this agenda with the adoption of Resolution 2419 (2018) calling for youth to play an increased role in implementing peace agreements.³ Likewise, in March 2018, the UN General Assembly released an “independent progress study on youth and peace and security,” entitled *The Missing Peace* to evaluate the global trajectory of youth involvement in peace and security efforts.⁴ Indeed, as a recent British Council report argued, there seems to be a broad consensus that long-term peace and security depend directly on the ability of youth populations to build resilience to extremist narratives.⁵

While civil society, academic, and NGO communities have been involved in these conversations as consultants and implementing partners, they have also raised a number of deep critiques of the foundational assumptions and core framing around the question of “youth” as it relates to issues such as violence, economic development, and political governance. These critiques, shared by scholars and practitioners unaffiliated with this project, surfaced repeatedly through the course of our research and impacted both the conceptual and structural dimensions of our work.⁶

The first and most enduring critique raised by experts and practitioners relates to the securitized nature of the global youth agenda. While the subject of youth engagement and mobilization seemingly constitutes a coherent agenda at higher levels of policy planning, stakeholders in our dialogues repeatedly questioned and critiqued the underlying logic that presumes a causal link between youth populations and violence. This is the case even though our stakeholders all accepted the premise that sustainable peace is only achievable by sustainable development. As the UN progress study notes, youth participants recognize “the symbiotic relationship between peace and security, development and human rights, and specifically addressed the interdependence among peace, justice, and inclusive institutions,” it remains the case that they routinely express suspicion of formal channels of civic engagement, whether through government or civil society. This finding poses a paradox. On the one hand, marginalized communities, and youth in particular, agree with the premise that long-term peace and stability is dependent on political inclusion and civic participation. On the other hand, due to fears of instrumentalization and cooptation, many youth populations avoid direct participation in formal political spaces. This aversion to political engagement remains even when there are shared interests and alignments between youth-led initiatives and those operating in government. In one case, a popular transnational youth-led online platform was sought out by a powerful state agency to receive funding to expand its programming. Despite written and verbal assurances that guaranteed the autonomy and creative independence of the youth group, the organization declined to receive the funding due to fears of cooptation and political manipulation.⁷
While these critiques enriched and deepened our understanding of the subject of youth mobilization, they also structurally hindered the very design and implementation of our dialogues. That is, because the global conversation on youth engagement and mobilization is so closely associated with divisive political topics such as countering/preventing violent extremism, it became a challenge to even organize a dialogue on the subject. In fact, several leading scholars and practitioners familiar with these subjects declined our invitations to participate for the express reason that our research scope included discussions about countering violent extremism, which a broad range of stakeholders feel is too closely associated with invasive practices of law enforcement. It was not the case that these experts were averse to discussing these subjects in their own right, but that they were suspicious and weary of the way the information might be used and questioned the intent behind the funding channels that supported our programming. In fact, one would-be participant considered the dialogue itself a form of surveillance. In addition to a series of declined invitations, the dialogue also suffered from several last-minute cancellations.

Throughout our year of research programming, it became clear that civil society actors and municipal government representatives understood issues around youth engagement and violence in ways that differed deeply with the way they were treated at the level of international policy formulation and debate. Most problematic was the discussion of extremist violence prevention and intervention, which was seen by dialogue participants as tangential and peripheral to the routine challenges they faced in their day-to-day work. The testimony of our participant pool often questioned the very premise of the global youth engagement agenda. For example, NGO practitioners working with forcibly displaced migrants in Europe, the Middle East, and North America found it illogical, if not offensive, that the abstract and amorphous concepts of violent extremism and radicalization would take place prior to, or even alongside, discussions concerning the most basic rights of legal protection, mobility, rights to employment, healthcare, and human security. How and where does the issue of online terrorist recruitment and extremist propaganda fit in with youth stuck in refugee camps in Lesbos, Greece, for example? Likewise, for practitioners in both municipal government and in civil society working on preventing so-called “gang violence,” managing public health issues surrounding violence trauma, or building digital infrastructures for youth engagement, the question of ideological radicalization was either entirely foreign and irrelevant or something that needed to be treated with care, caution, and systematic recalibration. To do otherwise could threaten to unravel and destroy fragile social and political relationships central to building healthy societies.

This was particularly apparent in the case of Los Angeles, where collaborative government and community partnerships networks have successfully overcome severe challenges over the last two decades following generations of mistrust and conflict. One participant described certain areas of Los Angeles during the 1990s as a civil war, and equated street organizations (gangs) to militias. While the 1992 Los Angeles riots will be familiar to most readers, they were in fact the culmination of a decades of political fragmentation, economic marginalization, and social discord. However, through a broad based and concerted effort between local community members, social workers, former gang-members, and government officials, including law enforcement, violence intervention and prevention programming began to produce success-
ful results. The most visible and farthest reaching of these efforts is the City of Los Angeles’ Gang Reduction and Youth Development program that has boasted years of successful community engagement and has been replicated across the country. However, in 2017 the mayor’s office of Public Safety was set to receive funding from the Department of Homeland Security’s CVE program to carry out intervention and prevention programs for individuals and communities dealing with the problem of violent extremism. Amidst a series of protests and broad-based community outcry, the Los Angeles City Council repeatedly delayed a vote to accept the grant and eventually declined it, citing misinformation and delays. However, the episode enflamed tensions not only between government and a large section of civil society organizations, but also between community groups themselves. Although the grant was a modest amount and enjoyed the support of a network of experienced and capable community-based organizations, the Los Angeles CVE program became high politicized and controversial. In the end, the Los Angeles CVE program, even without being implemented, detracted from years of positive momentum with community groups the City had enjoyed.

Based upon obstacles faced during our planning for this round of dialogues as well as observations of the community landscape in both Europe and the United States, it can be safely said that P/CVE, as a subject in and of itself, not to mention actual programming, has engendered a toxic political climate that thoroughly blocks the possibility for viable short, medium, and long-term strategic engagement between government and civil society. In our 2016 report, “Civic Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism, we also anticipated that the P/CVE policy agenda was headed in this direction, despite the good faith efforts of various stakeholders. Indeed, in the United States, shortly after the release of our report and upon the inauguration of US President Donald Trump, at least four Muslim organizations returned or rejected P/CVE funding awarded during the Obama administration. Other groups, such as the Muslim Public Affairs Council and Life After Hate actually had their funding rescinded. In the current political moment, policy makers and civil society practitioners will need to take the real and perceived consequences of P/CVE policy into account if they want to be effective at engaging and mobilizing youth populations. For many municipalities and accredited civil society organizations, P/CVE may be deemed too politically risky.

Despite criticisms of the presumption that there is an inherent teleological link between youth populations and conflict, the demographic fact remains that “youth bulges” do indicate a correlation between youth populations and violence. For example, according to the UN Progress Study, “In 2016, an estimated 408 million youth (aged 15–29) resided in settings affected by armed conflict or organized violence. This means that at least one in four young people is affected by violence or armed conflict in some way.” Again, while participants acknowledged the particular vulnerability to conflict faced by youth, they also noted peculiar absence of questions and concerns related to concrete politics and social justice in the global youth agenda.

As one scholar has recently noted, “while demands for a youthful commitment to peace may be found throughout the key global youth, peace and security documents, it is notable that there is limited attention paid to the question of social justice. There is no discussion of how the significance of peace and conflict may be contested in local contexts; nor is there an attempt to ‘distinguish between productive and destructive forms of conflict.’” These critiques and observations raise an important concern: youth activists mobilizing for social justice, economic equality, or democratic participation may be perceived by state actors threatened by their interventions as prone to conflict when in fact, they are aiming to reduce the perpetual and systematic violence of structural injustice. In order for government actors to successfully engage youth populations they must be willing to acknowledge the legitimacy of forms of political activism and social
Vigorous and aggressive youth-led social justice movements must be distinguished from forms of political engagement that reject social cohesion and promote insular, exclusionary views of social organization. Vigorous and aggressive youth-led social justice movements must be distinguished from forms of political engagement that reject social cohesion and promote insular, exclusionary views of social organization. Such distinctions, of course, need to be made on a case to case basis and be grounded in a comprehensive understanding of local contexts. Stakeholders in government and civil society must be willing to engage in a significant amount of political risk by working with non traditional actors to develop long-term relationships of trust and mutual respect.

In light of these observations, we challenge stakeholders in civil society and government to “unthink P/CVE”—to return to the overlapping consensus and shared investment in human security, socio-political development, and sustainable peace as well as avoid the politicization and securitization of the relationship between the two sectors. This will require government actors to listen more carefully to broad based community concerns and recalibrate the scope and nature of their programming to gain the confidence and trust of civil society leaders from a broad range of backgrounds. Likewise, civil society actors critical of violence prevention programming, must take into greater account the nuanced nature of policy development and program implementation to avoid further exacerbating an already polarizing subject. Among the most notable findings in our research is the very irony that P/CVE policy—which is ultimately a conflict resolution initiative—has perhaps exacerbated more conflict and tension than it has concretely impacted the trajectories of extremism it has sought to challenge. Collectively unthinking P/CVE will create significant political will on the part of all actors involved in the conversation about youth, development, and peace.

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Aside from criticisms concerning the connections between the youth agenda and violence prevention, participants also questioned the very conceptual foundations of the category of “youth.” What counts as youth and to whom? Is it a demographic category delimited to a particular age group? If so, is it possible, or necessary, to arrive upon a standard range? More substantively however, is the question of what distinguishes adulthood from youth. This is especially the case when one takes into consideration the wide range of challenges faced by different youth in different contexts. As one participant who works closely with forced migrants in Europe noted, displaced youth often take on social and familial responsibilities at adolescent and teenage ages that would typically be associated with adulthood in normal contexts. Such responsibilities might include child care for extended or immediate family, the responsibility to work and earn income for themselves and their dependents or managing healthcare coordination for family members. To place these individuals in the same category as their demographic counterparts in less economically and politically fragile contexts would seem to be a basic, but gross error. In light of such a critique, is it possible, or even necessary, for stakeholders to come to a consensus on what defines youth? Further, to develop a global policy agenda therefrom?

For practitioners to be effective in youth programming development, they must take into account the fact that the transition into formal adulthood can be delayed or accelerated because of external conditions imposed upon “youth,” especially in contexts of fragility and conflict.

The global youth agenda must engage local experts and practitioners to design and implement context-specific programming that is relevant for the targeted populations, accounting for socio-political dynamics throughout the process.

For practitioners to be effective in youth programming development, they must take into account the fact that the transition into formal adulthood can be delayed or accelerated because of external conditions imposed upon “youth,” especially in contexts of fragility and conflict. This reality, often overlooked in policy planning and program development, makes it unrealistic for practitioners to discuss youth in homogenous terms.

As the drafters of the Progress Study on Youth and Peace and Security note: “Across the globe, young people and analysts alike describe how the transition from youth to adulthood is associated with diverse milestones that signal the acquisition of relative autonomy and adult status, based on evolving capacities and social standing. These milestones vary considerably depending on culture, gender and context and may be associated with diverse events or rites of passage that facilitate young people’s transition into adulthood. Social dislocation produced by violent conflict and criminality is one of many factors that may disrupt this transition, leaving youth in a limbo that has become known as “waithood.””

Echoing the criticisms of stakeholders and experts in our dialogues, the global youth agenda must engage local experts and practitioners to design and implement context-specific programming that is relevant for the targeted populations, accounting for socio-political dynamics throughout the process.
2. Youth Engagement & Digital Culture: Old problems, New Tools

Harnessing the power of internet-based digital culture to foster resilience lies at the center of the global agenda for youth mobilization. As more violent extremists promote their ideology online and attempt to recruit participants to their movements and actions, governments have sought input from private and civil society actors to help counter and mitigate the threat of violent extremism through identification of solutions and successful models. Moreover, because the international conversation on violent extremism prevention has also come to encompass issues like conflict mitigation and social polarization more broadly, stakeholders in civil society and government are becoming increasingly invested in the use of online campaigns to help mitigate a range of shared social and political challenges. It is also the case that while formal political institutions and governing structures remain polarized or stagnant, civil society actors in a variety of contexts have displayed a remarkable ability to innovate and persevere through the use of digital technology, despite the formidable challenges they face. Digital spaces have enabled youth populations and young adults to drive revolutions in communications, business, and politics. This was most apparent in the “Arab Spring” but has also been a central conduit through which youth populations engage in charity, political change, and social impact entrepreneurship. Practitioners eager to provide services to marginalized and underrepresented communities are now forced to operate in the complex online ecosystems of today’s digital environment. The same holds true for traditional charities, humanitarian organizations, and even businesses that seek to draw upon the power of the youth engagement.

In our first report, “Civic Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism,” we observed that stakeholders leveraging digital platforms to address conflict-related issues face a number of obstacles and opportunities. As the UN Progress Study notes,

Social media and communications technologies are increasingly being pioneered by young people as an alternative means to exercise their political agency, demand accountability, amplify their voices, foster connectivity and create new networks. Online platforms are particularly important for those who may be vulnerable, unable to access deliberative political processes or constrained by restrictive institutional politics, even though such spaces may also be used for criminal activity or to propagate hate speech. Governments and political processes can benefit from the innovation and leadership youth demonstrate by embracing these spaces and the transnational connectivity they offer.14

Perhaps the most important finding throughout our dialogues was that for digital youth engagement platforms to be effective they needed to be designed and implemented by organic and local youth leaders. Not only do such leaders understand the context specific nuances of their target audiences and can therefore naturally engineer the most optimal programming solutions, but they also serve as trusted agents and intermediaries between youth populations and civil society institutions. The impression we gained from our participant pool was that the most influential digital engagement programs were also the ones that happened to be the furthest removed from direct government design and support.

*Traditional government and civil-society practitioners interested in engaging digital technologies for the purposes of youth mobilization should recognize their role as multiple steps removed from direct programming.*
In view of this finding, traditional government and civil-society practitioners interested in engaging digital technologies for the purposes of youth mobilization should recognize their role as multiple steps removed from direct programming. Rather, their most effective participation in the youth digital culture landscape is to invest in and support the social, economic, and political infrastructure that is driving the digital revolution. For example, this can include support for public school programming that encourages digital innovation, skills training, and online based entrepreneurship. With a healthy digital ecosystem, alternative narratives promoting organic civic engagement and authentically rejecting extremism can profoundly influence the marketplace of ideas that youth populations increasingly occupy today.

Online platforms also face structural limitations that seem to be difficult and out of reach to mitigate. Given the expansive, circuitous, and cavernous nature of social media communication, it is unrealistic to expect civil society actors to have the financial and technological infrastructure to influence attitudes and opinions on a broad scale. It is also well known that social media communication operates in an “echo-chamber” that amplifies and rewards like-minded thinking in micro-communities, making it difficult to both penetrate and manipulate messages both in terms of depth and breadth. As a way of overcoming these challenges, a number of our civil-society participants encouraged the use of online public service announcements and large-scale messaging campaigns to be carried out through coalitions of government, private-sector, and civil society actors.

Some participants revealed that they engage in covert messaging campaigns whereby they infiltrate hate-group forums and subtly disrupt dangerous patterns of thinking or recruit followers under false premises to change their thinking. Obviously, this technique raises a range of ethical concerns. In a climate of polarization, mistrust, and suspicion of government, such methods, if revealed to the wider public, stand to discredit organizations and further exacerbate patterns of youth alienation and marginalization.

Considering the pervasive nature of digital communication and its rapid transformation of social relations across the globe, a common theme among participants in both dialogues was the greater need for non-utilitarian engagement and organic human interaction for youth. That is, physically mobilizing youth for the purposes of civic engagement should be done in an ideologically neutral zone that allows participants to feel safe and rewards participation in and of itself rather than for an intended social or political outcome. In fact, dialogue participants reported that engaging youth actors for a distinct purpose, especially around themes of violence prevention and conflict resolution, would most likely result in selection bias—and therefore miss the targeted community of vulnerable youth—or worse, such programming could exacerbate tensions and further discourage youth to engage.

Participants also noted that the most successful youth engagement programs were rooted in traditional school settings largely because they provided constant face-to-face human engagement, were typically non-politicized environments, and functioned as a natural space for community engagement. Given the positive and organic role schools can play in addressing issues around conflict and social discord, a number of critics both in and out of our dialogue workshops expressed alarm and dismay at some governments’ approaches to call on school teachers and administrators to monitor students for signs of extremist
behavior or the potential thereof. Participants with experience working in student mentoring or teacher training programs noted that teachers and administrators often found themselves unequipped to address issues of violence, conflict, and extremism. Beyond the question of capacity, critics raised deep concern over the securitization of the public education sector.
LaunchGood

Overview

LaunchGood is a crowdfunding platform focused on the Muslim community worldwide. Created in October 2013, LaunchGood has raised more than $50 million for 4,500+ projects across 116 countries in its first five years. Founded by Chris Blauvelt, Amany Killawi and Omar Hamid, the digital platform targets the global Muslim community with the aim to revive a spirit of creativity and entrepreneurism. Based on Islamic values such as Ihsan (excellence) and Prophetic inclusiveness, the digital platform provides Muslims everywhere with the tools to showcase central values of their faith through power of lending a helping hand and directly investing in others. Although the organization was created by young Muslim entrepreneurs and targets Muslim youth everywhere, the campaigns promoted on the website reach communities of all faiths (see featured campaigns below). LaunchGood’s focus on the Muslim community uses crowdfunding as a storytelling mechanism to showcase Islamic values through action. By focusing on the Muslim community, each campaign has the ability to create change in the global narrative about Islam and Muslims everywhere.

According to the organization’s website, its values are as follows:
- Ecosystem for global good
- Build for sustainability
- Invest in people
- Muslims are incredible
- Prophetic inclusiveness
- Everyone's VIP
- Emotional Ihsan and Excellence
- Be the giving hand
- It starts at home
- Grit

Programming

- **Rebuild with love (Muslims help rebuild black churches that were burnt down)**: This campaign sought to raise funds in order to rebuild 8 African American churches which were the target of hate crimes. Launched as a part of the Ramadan Challenge in summer 2015, the campaign raised $100,470 and worked closely in cooperation with other Muslim organizations such as Muslim ARC, the Arab American Association of New York, and Ummah Wide.

- **Muslims United for Portland heroes**: In May 2017, two men were killed and others injured while protecting two young Muslim women from hate speech and being harassed. This campaign came as a direct response to financially support the grieving families, from medical costs to funeral arrangements. As a part of the Ramadan challenge, the campaign worked closely with the Muslim Educational trust and Celebrate Mercy to ultimately raise $609,724.

- **Muslims Unite to Repair Jewish cemeteries**: In February 2017, a historic Jewish cemetery was vandalized in St Louis. This campaign aimed to help Jewish-American families rebuild this sacred space. The campaign, spearheaded by MPower Change and Celebrate Mercy, raised a total of $162,468.
Conclusion

Launchgood capitalizes on the natural interest of millennial Muslims across the globe to feel connected and lend a helping hand. The online crowdfunding platform provides its audiences with a digital space which focuses on promoting positive messages about the Muslim community globally, and allows them to feel connected through good action. The organization has received multiple awards, including the Islamic Economy Award, Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) and the American Muslim Consumer Conference (AMCC), Entrepreneur Showcase. Launchgood campaigns have also been featured on various media outlets such as CNN, The New Yorker, The Daily Mail, and Al Jazeera.

Online
Website: https://www.launchgood.com/#!
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaunchGood
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/launchgood/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/launchgood
WebRoots Democracy

Overview

WebRoots Democracy is a UK-based voluntary, youth-led think tank focused on the intersection of technology and democratic participation. Founded in 2014 by Areeq Chowdhury, who was 21 at the time, WebRoots aims to help modernize, enhance, and “future-proof” democracy in the United Kingdom by leading research in the fields of online voting and social media. As a think tank, WebRoots Democracy is centered around and lead by youth voices and researchers with the aim to “deliver evidence-based tech policy reports to sustain the future of British democratic participation”

Programming

WebRoots Democracy focuses their work on policy-oriented research. The organization has published reports in the following areas:

- Online voting
  - **Fake News** is WebRoots Democracy’s report submitted to the House of Commons’ Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry into the rise of so-called ‘fake news’. The report highlights the need to equip citizens with the skills to be able to browse the internet intelligently rather than a need for white-listing of news outlets or censorship. The report includes recommendations on mandatory political education, digital literacy education, and critical analysis skills.
  
  - **Cost of Voting** is a report examining the ways in which money is spent on election administration and estimating how much the introduction of online voting would cost to implement. The report is based on the results of more than 400 freedom of information requests, a survey of over 1,600 adults, and a roundtable held on October 11, 2017 in London.
  
  - **E-Balloting** is WebRoots Democracy’s submission to the Knight Review on online voting for industrial action ballots. The report makes the case for the introduction of an online voting option for trade union ballots including the effects it can have on increasing youth participation and civic engagement.
  
  - **Inclusive Voting** is a report exploring barriers in elections for voters with vision impairments and disabilities. In particular, it focuses on barriers to voter registration, information on party policies, and the act of voting.
  
  - **Viral Voting** is a report on the potential of introducing an online voting option in UK elections. It examines the benefits of online voting, the challenges faced for its implementation, and the estimated impact on voter turnout, youth engagement, and on the modern electoral process in general.
Conclusion

As a youth led organization producing research on issues of political engagement and youth civic participation, WebRoots Democracy has been featured by The Guardian\textsuperscript{29}, the International Business Times\textsuperscript{30}, and the BBC\textsuperscript{31} amongst many others.

Online
Website: https://webrootsdemocracy.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WebRootsUK
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/webrootsdemocracy/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/WebRootsUK
3. BACK TO BASICS: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

For youth groups belonging to historically marginalized populations or children of immigrant populations, engagement with formal political processes can seem unviable and out of reach. However, civil society organizations can play a key role in reversing this perception by creating opportunities to educate youth populations about things such as running for public office, advocating for issues concerning their communities, and building the organizational infrastructure to advance their interests. For example, United Voices, an organization centered in Florida but active across the United States, offers its Capital Leadership Academy and Run for Us programs to introduce mostly young American Muslims to the formal workings of US government at the local and national levels. The program stresses that the political process is open, fluid, and inclusive for those that participate and deemphasizes narratives that reinforce ideas of American Muslim otherness.

However, in some contexts the lack of trust is rooted in the sheer absence of democratic institutions altogether. This is the case in many societies transitioning out of socialist or communist models of governance, dictatorships and totalitarian regimes, or in regions marked by prolonged conflict. In these cases, there is an even greater need to build the ethic of civic engagement and principled citizenship from the ground up. Such is the goal of the New Horizons Foundation whose flagship program, IMPACT, is aimed at fostering a sense of community ownership among youth populations by facilitating student-led service learning programming in low-income and underdeveloped communities. Presented as a commonsense approach to community development, the IMPACT program trains adult mentors to guide youth groups as they identify problems in their local communities and local, untapped resources in order to create and implement a solution. The outcome fosters an intergenerational collaborative learning process that yields a wide-spread ethic of community ownership.

While such models may seem basic and mundane, proper implementation in environments where they were previously non-existent presents a range of transformative possibilities. For practitioners concerned with conflict and violence, stakeholders in our meetings noted that breaking down false perceptions and rebuilding a sense of trust and possibility in civic engagement empowers youth groups with an innate sense of resilience against extremist messages that exacerbate preexisting political grievances for malicious purposes. In effect, classic models of community development and civic engagement programming could be seen as a natural deterrent to violence—prevention, without P/CVE, many argued.
New Horizons Foundation

Overview

New Horizons Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Lupeni, Hunedoara County, Romania. Established in 2000, the foundation addresses young women and men under the motto of developing caring citizens who feel empowered to act. New Horizons’ goal is to increase civic engagement by directly working with youth on vocational skills, civic competencies, and responsibility within the communities where they live.

New Horizons’ mission is to inspire youth to lead and to produce social change through innovating and sustaining models of experiential education, thus empowering youth to develop themselves, their communities, and the world in which they live. In order to reach their mission, the NGO works directly with teachers, as well as priests, youth workers, and other educators. Currently, New Horizons Foundation works with local volunteers across Romania along with professionals in the field of education and civic engagement in various partnerships across the globe (trainers, animators, consultants, and policy-makers). Currently, New Horizons Foundation works with approximately 4,000 local volunteers across Romania (over 3500 youth and 400 teachers) and with dozens of professionals in the field of education. The organization is headquartered in Lupeni (Hunedoara), and has operational offices in Cluj-Napoca and Bucharest.

Programming

The VIATA program uses adventure education to promote positive values, self-confidence and team work. Through adventure education, VIATA participants are offered challenging outdoor activities such as rock climbing, hiking, and cave exploration, which are meant to provide practical learning and to set positive values and behaviors.

The IMPACT program develops the service learning component of New Horizons’ activity. Service learning is a tool by which young people learn how to write and implement community service projects. The objectives of service learning focus on encouraging youth participants to meet community needs through service projects and providing them with practical abilities, along with promoting values and norms that are concordant with positive and engaged civic attitudes and mutual respect. The IMPACT program consists of youth initiative clubs in which the fun activities from the adventure education are innovatively combined with the requirements of service learning. In a sense, New Horizons is able to use service learning as a tool to involve youth in community issues, providing them with practical abilities and developing the qualities required by a democratic environment. The IMPACT model is simple and easily replicable. In 2008, New Horizons spread its IMPACT program to its first foreign location (Honduras) and has since expanded into over 20 countries across Europe and Central America. In 2015 a sister program called SKYE (Skills and Knowledge for Youth Economic Empowerment) was developed. It quickly spread to multiple countries around Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Currently, there are over 250 IMPACT and SKYE clubs outside of Romania, benefiting approximately 5,000 additional youth.

Conclusion

The New Horizons Foundation is a case of a grassroots local organization which was able to take its small successful programming in Romania into replicable youth engagement initiatives across the world. At the heart of New Horizons’ programming lies the simple yet powerful concept that when young people are
engaged in their community and in the democratic process, they are more active and successful citizens overall. Furthermore, the organization’s remarkable work has been widely recognized and awarded by the Global Fund for Children along with other EU and Romanian organizations.

**Online**
Website: [http://www.noi-orizonturi.ro/?lang=en](http://www.noi-orizonturi.ro/?lang=en)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/FundatiaNoiOrizonturi/](https://www.facebook.com/FundatiaNoiOrizonturi/)
YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/user/NHFRomania](https://www.youtube.com/user/NHFRomania)
The Hub

Overview

The Hub is the host agency for the planning process of Building Healthy Communities in Sacramento, California. Starting in 2009, South Sacramento was selected as one of 14 cities to become a Building Healthy Community site. The 10-month planning process began with a small group of community residents and organizations and grew quickly, with over 6,500 stakeholders now providing input into the plan, a leadership team of 25 steering committee members and over 300 workgroup/committee members. At the conclusion of the planning process in June 2010, data from some 8,000 surveys revealed the top five outcomes and strategies that residents, including the youth, identified as priorities for making communities healthier and safer. As a part of the 10-year commitment to making the neighborhoods healthy for children, the HUB’s efforts include decreasing childhood obesity and youth violence and to do so by increasing the level of collaborative programming with local public schools. The HUB involves a steering committee, led by community members, to provide governance, guidance and small grants to community groups.

Programming

- The Youth Hub: The youth voice is vital to the success of the Building Healthy Community Initiative. The youth steering committee is one of the many ways youth participants can make a difference in the community with direct help and supervision of the HUB. By participating in the youth steering committee, youth have a say in the funding of local community projects. Young women and men from the community are directly in charge of making recommendations to South Sacramento HUB on issues relevant to youth. They engage in their neighborhoods and are part of local research on policy and other local youth initiatives to help bring change to the South Sacramento Community. They are also trained to be part of the larger committee that oversees funds for local community projects. Committee members have the chance to grow academically, be engaged in critical thinking activities, learn public speaking, develop writing and other skills that boost academic performance, and obtain work force preparation. Youth also have the chance to meet with community organizers, non-profits and local politicians in order to have hands-on training on community work.

Conclusion

To date, over 20 organizations have received funding in the areas of food access, health access, land use, youth development, and more to create that benefits the community. A new steering committee is in place to provide governance, guidance and small grants to community groups. The Hub’s work has been featured in USA Today and Sacramento Business Journal.

Online

Website: https://sacbhc.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoBhc
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sacbhc/
Overview

The American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute (AMCLI) is an organization developing and training American Muslim leaders as a part of the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at the University of Southern California. AMCLI strives to empower these young Muslim leaders through a variety of trainings, network building, and workshops to realize their full potential. AMCLI has graduated and trained 100+ fellows from across the country through the national fellowship and developed comprehensive curriculum to build the capacity of a network of Muslim public and community leaders. Led by Soraya Ahyaudin, AMCLI is centered on Muslim values creating connections between young leaders to inspire and sustain their leadership.

The program focuses on the following goals:

- Identifying leadership needs, human capital gaps, organizational best practices and theological resources on civic engagement in Islam
- Equipping leaders with practical skills in communication, community mobilization, leadership, policy analysis, advocacy, and organizational management
- Connecting to a network of civic leaders (Muslim and non-Muslim) across the country and facilitating a forum for constructive intra-Muslim dialogue
- Guiding the development of projects, partnerships, and resources
- Sustaining the learning with ongoing opportunities to interact with fellows and alumni.

Programming

AMCLI offered a national fellowship from 2008-2013, and now offers regional networking and training programs. The organization is based in a strong belief in the centrality of faith, story-telling, and community-led active citizenship. The AMCLI directly works with leaders to articulate their vision, engage and connect with the community, focus on a healthy sense of identity, and empower others within their diverse communities to also become leaders themselves. The AMCLI also encourages leaders to seek and develop creative partnerships based on shared vision, even when they may not always be in complete alignment with their partners.

Conclusion

The AMCLI’s impact and influence of connections among American Muslim leaders through times of crisis like the Pulse night club shooting was featured by Religion and Politics. Connections between AMCLI leaders allow for balanced media coverage from diverse Muslim voices. The Huffington Post has also featured AMCLI in reference to American Muslims and philanthropy by highlighting female leaders and the work they do for their diverse communities from the Bay Area to NYC and Chicago. The AMCLI’s network emphasizes the role played by young Muslim Americans actively practicing their faith while also finding multiple intersections between their spiritual and social community lives. Furthermore, the WBEZ Chicago and the Center for American Progress have also featured a selection of AMCLI leaders’ work on internal community segregation and ways to solve it through youth exchange programs between mosques in highly diverse Muslim American areas such as Chicago.

Online
Website: https://crcc.usc.edu/events-and-training/amcli/
4. **Violence Reduction, Prevention, and Intervention**

Researchers and practitioners have found a common thread of variables and conditions that lead to the rise of violent extremism, from right-wing white supremacy to gang recruitment to radical Islamist activity. Experts routinely conclude that underlying social and political contexts of polarization and marginalization often fuel these pathological behaviors. On the one hand, the lack of political and economic inclusion creates an environment where pathways to healthy citizenship are few and far between. On the other hand, for example, the anti-immigrant/minority discourses in the public sphere and government surveillance programs deepen the sense of alienation and persecution felt by members of marginalized communities. In this context, street organizations, gangs, and extremist groups often provide members with a sense of empowerment and community that family networks and traditional civil society groups simply can’t match. Grass-roots practitioners have successfully overcome these problems through a variety of methods and practices. During our dialogues we sought to identify successful methods and approaches to cultivate long-term positive relationships between law enforcement, civil society organizations and marginalized youth.

Virtually all civil society and government practitioners consulted for this study noted a disconnection between youth engagement, the traditional operational methods of civil society organizations and formal political institutions. Coupled with the routine alienation that youth populations sense, it is imperative that practitioners pay particularly close attention to the ways in which youth input and engagement is measured, implemented, and rewarded. This is especially important for ethnic, religious, and political minorities that are often seen and see themselves as being outside of mainstream society. Some practitioners, in fact, noted that unhealthy experiences can lead to further alienation and disconnection between youth groups that are increasingly siloed in digital and micro-communities and traditional civil society institutions that are needed to build broad structures of community resilience.

Participants also noted that traditional pathways for youth engagement among ethnic, religious, and political minorities in mainstream civil society and government are often closed or disconnected from targeted populations. In the case of European Muslim communities this was often said to be the result of ethnic and religious insularity and recent immigration patterns. For Turkish youth in some European countries, for example, it was noted that despite being born and raised in European contexts, peer relationships and socialization patterns followed customs and cultures of the familial and ethnic networks established by the parental generation of immigrants who had initially migrated to the countries in question. The limited number of pathways into civil society was also noted as the cause of historical disenfranchisement and structural injustice. This was particularly evident amongst communities in Los Angeles where racial and political tensions as well as uneven socio-economic development have marked the cultural landscape for decades. Practitioners must address these social, historical, and political dimensions when designing and implementing their programs.

As the UN Progress Study reported, “Grievances and frustration associated with experiences of injustice are central issues in the trajectory of young people’s lives in a globalized world. Exposure to violence, especially at a young age, and particularly at the hands of the very institutions that are supposed to protect young people, is a key factor in escalating cycles of violence across generations.” In order to overcome these broad, historical phenomena, civil society and government practitioners must acknowledge and account for deep levels of justifiable mistrust and suspicion that many youth report as a cause for lack of robust civic engagement. One participant who works closely with youth groups of Mexican-American descent noted that their organizations’ mental health counseling integrated traditional methods of cognitive-behavioral
therapy with tools for political awareness-building as a means of both empowering individual clients as well as building trust with civil society institutions. The Los Angeles Gang Reduction and Youth Development program, exemplary across multiple levels, has also firmly centered trust-building and the redressing of historical grievances as a center-piece of its overall programming. Perhaps most importantly, the LA GRYD program engages entire families in the process of prevention and intervention in street violence. This approach is informed by a comprehensive theoretical framework that understands familial dynamics as an essential factor in determining successful or pathological development trajectories for youth.\textsuperscript{43} Participants active in youth mobilization in the UK, several European countries, and Turkey also stressed the importance of working with parents and extended family networks to achieve positive outcomes for youth engagement. A consensus amongst practitioners emerged that youth attitudes towards civic engagement or the aversion thereto were often informed by the peer groups and familial networks in which youth populations were embedded. Therefore, by including larger networks in programming allowed for the rapid expansion of civic engagement opportunities and pathways for otherwise disaffected and alienated youth.
The Office of Youth Violence Prevention was created in 2002 by the Baltimore City Health Department. With homicide being the leading cause of death for African-American males aged 15 to 24, the City of Baltimore engaged in prevention public health programming targeting the youth. The office’s mission is to end the epidemic of violence by using evidence-based, public health and human service models that impact underlying health, social, and economic disparities, through effective advocacy, collaboration, and programming for, and in partnership with youth, families, and citizens of Baltimore. As rolled out in the 2015 Healthy Baltimore policy initiative, the office provides comprehensive programming promoting healthy children and adolescents as part of Healthy Baltimore 2015 policy agenda.

Programming

- **Dating matters**: CDC Dating Matters focuses on promoting healthy relationships as a method to prevent dating violence. Developed as a comprehensive public health approach to the primary prevention of teen dating violence, Dating Matters focuses on 11-14 year old youth in high-risk urban communities. The project serves the Baltimore area and provides a comprehensive community response to reduce youth exposure to dating violence by targeting middle school students in 6th-8th grade and their schools, parents, teachers, and community organizations with violence prevention strategies over a 5 year period.

- **Safe Streets**: Safe Streets is a community organizing and public education program emphasizing the delivery of a unified message that violence is no longer acceptable. Safe Streets includes a street outreach component, with outreach workers canvassing neighborhoods and connecting with high-risk youth and young adults during evenings and weekends to diffuse situations and link them to services. The program is led by community members with first-hand experience allowing them to better engage with the community during the hours when, according to statistics, violence is more likely to be committed. By linking participants and their families to educational opportunities, employment training and assistance, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, etc., outreach workers help to provide individuals with options besides a life of crime and violence.

- **Trauma-Informed Care**: Trauma-informed care is an organizational structure and treatment framework led by Former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Health Commissioner Leana Wen. The approach focuses on understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma in order to help survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment in their lives. The program allows the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) to lead trainings with support from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on trauma-informed care, starting with educating dozens of BCHD’s own employees who work at STD clinics, on the Needle Exchange Program vans, at senior centers, and in-home visiting programs for pregnant women and children. Trauma-informed care involves training first responders and other service providers in behavioral health agencies; the criminal justice system; local, state, and federal agencies; and other institutions in methods that reduce the use of seclusion, restraints, and coercive practices (see National Center for Trauma-Informed Care).
Conclusion

By recognizing youth violence as a public health issue, the Baltimore Office of Youth Violence Prevention complements the more traditional view of the problem as a criminal justice issue and incorporates the social and developmental sciences in addressing the concern. Their work has been recognized and highlighted by news outlets such as the Huffington Post and the Baltimore Sun.

Online
Website: https://health.baltimorecity.gov/programs/violence-prevention
Homeboy Industries

Overview

Homeboy Industries is a non-profit organization directly working with formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated young men and women allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of the LA community. Started by Father Greg Boyle as ‘Jobs for future’ in 1988, and expanded as Homeboy industries in 2001, the organization seeks to provide hope, training, and support to former gang members. Each year, the organization reaches over 10,000 former gang members from across Los Angeles in an effort to make a positive change. Homeboy Industries has grown to become one of the largest and most successful gang intervention and re-entry programs in the world and has become a national model. In 2014, Homeboy Industries expanded internationally through the Global Homeboy Network (GHN)50.

Programming

Education

- Homeboy Industries offers almost forty classes/groups each week, covering a wide range of topics. The academic curriculum provides support in high school equivalency test preparation, college readiness, reading and writing. Currently, over thirty adult students are enrolled in prep classes and individual tutoring to obtain their GED Credential. An additional dozen are working toward receiving their high school diploma. HomeBoy Industries serves more than 300 trainees and community members participate in the classes offered through the Educational Services department every month. Most attend multiple classes each week, filling almost 3000 seats monthly.

Workforce development

- Each year, 80 participants receive solar panel installation training at the Los Angeles Unified School District’s Adult and Career Education Division. Homeboy pays all trainee educational expenses. All trainees and community clients can enroll in a free pre-exam tutoring program.

- Job seeker workshops: Trainees build resumes, search for jobs, practice interviewing, improve computer skills, and study business communication.

- Job placement services: Homeboy staff work with outside employers and businesses to find jobs for trainees and community clients.

- Industrial Safety Training: DOT, Confined Space Training, OSHA, HAZWOPER, Culinary Training Program and ServSafe® Food Handler Certifications

Case management

- A cornerstone of the Homeboy model is case management. All trainees at Homeboy Industries are immediately placed with a case manager who helps them to create a goal-oriented service plan, guides their progress through necessary services, and holds them accountable as they move toward a better life.

- Secure Base is Homeboy’s multi-disciplinary method of monitoring a trainee’s 18-month plan of action as they establish and attain personal, educational and vocational goals. This approach allows the case manager and support teams to respond in a unified way to trainees’ issues and ensure the best possible outcomes, often catching problems before they arise.
Legal Services

- Homeboy's team of volunteer attorneys provides free consultations and referrals pertaining to a number of legal matters, especially criminal law, including bench warrants and post-conviction matters, immigration law, employment law and family law, often addressing such issues as divorce, child custody and visitation, and child support. Petitions for dismissal or expungements are provided as key services that reduce serious barriers to employment.

Mental Health

- Trauma-informed clinical services are available to all of the trainees. In addition to individual psychotherapy, the Mental Health Program offers substance abuse counseling; court-approved domestic violence classes; therapeutic dance; a psycho-educational “Baby and Me” group; and psychiatric evaluation and support. As demand for these services is high, “Homeboy Heals,” a cadre of volunteer licensed psychotherapists, provides additional capacity for counseling.

Conclusion

Seen as one of the most influential intervention programs, HomeBoy Industries was featured in Youth Today, National Catholic Reporter, the Chicago Tribune, and CNN. Princeton University has also awarded Rev. Gregory Boyle who had previously received the California Peace Prize and was inducted into the California Hall of Fame. In 2014, the White House named him a “Champion of Change”. He also received the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the James Beard Foundation and the University of Notre Dame's 2017 Laetare Medal. Princeton University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Furthermore, NPR has highlighted Father Boyle's book Barking to the Choir, discussing the solutions he offers from therapy to job training. More specific programs such as tattoo removal services and community based approaches were emphasized by Forbes, Vice and the New York Times. Finally, The Times, the Harvard Business Review, and Huffington Post recognized the organization's work and their credibility on the ground by featuring their efforts offering gang members a way out.

Online
Website: https://www.homeboyindustries.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HomeboyIndustries
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/homeboyindustries/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/HomeboyInd
The Professional Community Intervention Training Institute

Overview

The Professional Community is a US practitioner-based professional training institute and developmental center focused on instructing, developing and certifying individuals & organizations locally, nationally and internationally. Based in Los Angeles, PCITI was created in late 2006 exclusively as a “practitioner driven" community based gang-outreach intervention, first-responder violence deterrence, and crisis abatement training institute. The organization focuses on hard-core gang intercession, community youth training, and community public safety. PCITI’s applied approach concentrates on providing proactive scenario-based situational training and critical incidence response. The organization specializes in the implementation of holistic, community-based intervention models, multi-disciplinary collaborations, public safety policy and anti-violence legislation. Over the course of a decade, PCITI has trained 15,000 gang intervention specialists, university students, mental health professionals, social service experts, emergency first responders and public safety professionals.

Programming

PCITI provides the following services & trainings:

**Violence Prevention & Intervention**
- Comprehensive beginning, intermediate & advanced gang intercession certification training
- Community violence reduction preparation
- School safety & safe passage instruction
- Train the trainer education

**Public Safety Community Collaboration**
- Law enforcement-community renovation
- Emergency room & hospital securement
- Violence deterrence for emergency responders
- Regional partnership and partnership network

**Community Education and Empowerment**
- Youth specify risk impact guidance
- Safe community advocacy & education
- Tailored technical assistance

**Public Policy, Advocacy & Research**
- Organizational leadership
- Personalized consulting
- Subject matter expertise
- Problem solving assessments & exploration
Conclusion

PCITI has set the standard for providing proper assistance and resolution to complex issues related to comprehensive tactical/strategic guidance, core operational refinement, community advocacy, and practitioner-based gang intervention/prevention. The organization’s work has been recognized and awarded nationally and internationally. Media outlets such as The Guardian\textsuperscript{64} have featured how PCITI’s methods amplify authentic community voices through, for example, ex-gang members advising the police to lead the process of trust building in the current environment of heightened police mistrust. The LA Times\textsuperscript{65} and LA Sentinel\textsuperscript{66} have also featured PCITI’s work due to the significance of their credibility and closeness to the community. Furthermore, their collaborations with academic institutions (Rutgers University and Chicago School of Professional Psychology) were highlighted by Nation Swell\textsuperscript{67} and Rutgers\textsuperscript{68} for their training and actual interventions by students on the streets of LA.

Online
Website: \texttt{http://pciti.net/index.html}
Facebook: \texttt{https://www.facebook.com/aquil.basheer9?fref=ts}
Conclusion: Political Will

Echoing the sentiment expressed at the outset of this report, we encourage stakeholders to invest in the shared consensus that long-term peace depends upon long-term development, neither of which can be achieved without robust cooperation between civil society and government. Although the increasing securitization of development and social services has polarized a broad swatch of youth populations, which are seen as both assets and liabilities to sustainable peace by practitioners, it is still the case that there are multiple trajectories and opportunities for deep cooperation across and between these sectors.

Again, for such potential to be realized, practitioners and stakeholders must “Unthink CVE,” repair damaged relationships, and develop locally designed and implemented programs that address the concrete needs of the communities they intend to serve. This type of cooperation requires substantial political will, political compromise, and sustained trust building efforts not only between practitioners and communities, but between practitioners themselves. This is especially the case in contexts where long-term political and social grievance has led to fragility and low-level conflict.

The City of Los Angeles’ Gang Reduction and Youth Development program is an exemplary model where government actors and local communities overcame substantial political obstacles to develop an innovative community led approach to conflict resolution, violence prevention, and sustainable development. The project team recommends that such models be given greater visibility by global policy makers currently operating in the youth engagement space. Furthermore, we recommend that successful models and cases be reviewed, adapted and implemented in other contexts provided that such processes remain driven by broad community support and local leadership.
Participating Organizations

The organizations listed below were consulted, interviewed, and/or involved in one of the workshops organized in support of this report. **Inclusion below is not an indication of support for any of the report’s findings.**

Alice Salomon Hochschule
American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute, USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture
An-Nisa Society
Coalition for a Better Life
Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-LA)
DIALOGUEE
Homeboy Industries
Housing First Department, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Institute for Social Policy and Understanding
Institute for Strategic Dialogue
Iranian Alliances Across Borders
Johns Hopkins Center for Adolescent Health
Khalifa Ihler Institute
Lahore University
LaunchGood.com
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Mayor’s Office of Public Safety, City of Los Angeles
MPower Change
Muslim Public Affairs Council
New Horizons Foundation
No Hate Speech Movement
Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development, City of Los Angeles
Office of Youth Violence Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department
Peace in the Hood, Inc
Professional Community Intervention Training Institute-International (PCITI)
RAND Corporation
Royal Holloway University of London
Sacramento Building Healthy Communities
Safe Communities Institute and of Homegrown Violent Extremism Studies, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
The Prince’s Trust, Mosaic
Trinity College Dublin
TURKEN Foundation
United Voices Foundation & Capitol Leadership Academy
University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès & Founder, Racial Counter Speech
WebRoots Democracy
Youthwork
Endnotes


16. For more information on this campaign please visit https://www.launchgood.com/project/rebuild_with_love_rebuild_black_churches_support_victims_of_arson_across_the_south#/!

17. For more information on this campaign please visit: https://www.launchgood.com/project/muslims_united_for_portland_heroes#/!

18. For more information on this campaign please visit: https://www.launchgood.com/project/muslims_unite_to_repair_jewish_cemetery#/!


34. For more information on this program, please visit: https://sacbhc.org/youth-hub/


37. For more info please see AMCLI https://crcc.usc.edu/events-and-training/amcli/


44. For more information, please see: https://health.baltimorecity.gov/programs/violence-prevention

45. For more information on this program, please see: https://health.baltimorecity.gov/DatingMatters

46. For more information on this program, please see: https://health.baltimorecity.gov/safestreets

47. For more information on this program, please see: https://health.baltimorecity.gov/trauma-informed-care


63. For more information please visit: http://pciti.net/index.html


