



**Leaving extremist and criminal groups:  
Scandinavian experiences on disengagement and reintegration  
into society**

**22nd-23rd March 2012, Fryshuset, Stockholm**

This conference will explore Scandinavian experiences on how young people disengage from various types of extremist and criminal groups and what has been done and can be done to support their reintegration into society. The conference will be a meeting place for practitioners, policy makers and academics engaged in this field. Former extremists will be invited to share their personal experiences.

The purpose of this meeting is to explore the experiences and best practices from a comparative perspective, benefitting from the variety of practical initiatives and research. What have we learned from our past and present experiences and what are the challenges ahead? The Scandinavian countries have a wide field of different programs, NGOs and governmental initiatives in this field. It is about time that they meet and share their insights and methods.

The conference will be a two day event hosted by the Fryshuset (Exit, Passus and CIDES), the Norwegian Police University College (Politihøgskolen), and the City of Copenhagen (Center for Safe City, Exit Copenhagen, VINK and the Social Services Department).

The conference will take place at Fryshuset Stockholm. The conference language is English. Participation is free of charge and includes lunch/refreshments on both days.

Registration is required (number of places are limited). Please register by clicking at this link:

<https://response.questback.com/politihgskolen/pfd7klux71/>

Participants representing an organisation are expected to cover their own expenses for travelling and accommodation. Participants without financial backing may apply for such support from the conference organisers. Please register no later than March 7, 2012. Once you have received confirmation of your registration it is binding. No shows or cancellations later than March 19 will be subject to a fee of 500 kr.

## **Programme (preliminary, subject to change)**

### **DAY 1**

- 11:00 – 11:30      Arrival and registration
- 11:30 – 12:00      Lunch
- 12:00 – 12:10      **Welcome and introduction** - Robert Örell
- 12:10 – 13:10      **Processes of disengagement from different types of extremist and criminal groups** - Tore Bjørgo
- 13:10 – 13:30      Coffee & fruit
- 13:30 – 15:00      **Workshop 1a,b,c. Comparing exit and reintegration programmes** (parallel sessions)
- 1A – Programmes targeting (ex-)gang participants
- Passus (Fryshuset)
  - Copenhagen Exit
  - Stockholm Gang Intervention and Prevention Project
  - Norwegian police gang project in Kristiansand
- 1B – Prison and post-prison programmes: reintegration of (ex-)criminals
- WayBack (Norway)
  - Nettverk etter soning (Norway)
  - EXIT - fra innsatt til værdsatt og Kriminalforsorgen (DK)
- 1C – Programmes targeting (ex-)participants of extremist political groups
- Norwegian Exit
  - Swedish Exit
  - Vink (Denmark)
- 15:00 – 15:25      Refreshments
- 15:25 – 16:50      **Workshop 1a,b,c repeated** (with different speakers to allow everyone to take part in two of the three sessions)
- 16:50 – 17:00      Summary. By Yngve Carlsson
- 18:00 – 20:00      Dinner and theatre performance

## DAY 2

09.00 – 10.30 **Panel – former activists from extremist groups**

- Ex- islamist militant
- Former militant left-wing activist
- Ex-nazist
- Religious Cult (Jehova's Witnesses)
- Ex-gang member

10.30 – 10.50 Coffee & fruit

10.50 – 12.15 **Workshop 2a, b, c: Methods and approaches** (parallel)

**2A – Successful reintegration in society – what works, and what are barriers?**

Reintegration in society is a key for successful disengagement from criminal and extremist environments. The workshop will explore effective methods for integration of youngsters:

- How to integrate youngsters through realistic education plans, labour market etc.
- How to support education and employment institutions in meeting the needs and retaining the youngster
- How to engage civil society (NGOs, volunteer organizations) and the private sector
- How to organize a holistic cooperation across sectors in the engagement with marginalized youths

Presenters (more to be included):

- EXIT Copenhagen on aspect of job and education (confirmed)
- Tom Olsen, social worker, former neo-Nazi activist (confirmed)

**2B – Building relationships in one-on-one contact**

The workshop explores experiences and methods on the one-to-one contact with youngsters: How to approach youngsters, methods for building relations in the one-to-one contact, the ideological aspect of extremism in the one-to-contact, how to motivate youngsters for disengagement?

Presenters:

- Bjørn Øvrum: Preventive dialogues with youths and their parents ("Bekymringsamtalen")
- Politiets Efterretningstjeneste (PET) on their use of preventive dialogues.
- Pelle Candal, Exit Sverige: Building trust and relationships with Nazi dropouts

**2C – Involving and engaging family and social networks**

The workshops explore methods and approaches in mobilizing family resources, how to promote a pro-social network, how to deal with the security aspect for the youngster.

Presenters:

- Randi Talseth and Jan Steneby, Organisasjonen Voksne for Barn (confirmed): Working with families and family network groups to facilitate disengagement from extremist groups
- Ingvild Magnæs Gjelsvik & Tore Bjørgo (confirmed): The roles of family and community in reintegrating ex-pirates in Somalia

12.15 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.30 **Workshop 2a, b, c** (repeated parallel sessions)

14.30 – 14.50 Coffee & fruit

14.50 – 15.50 Panel on challenges and ways ahead

15.50 – 16.00 Summery and ways forward - Tore Bjørgo

The conference is sponsored by:



**PALMESTIPENDIET**

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**KØBENHAVNS KOMMUNE**