

RAN Collection practice template

Name of the practice

Please note that by practice we mean an activity/method/tool that has been used or is in use by professionals and/or community members.

Mediated Dialogue: Framework and toolkit, Practitioner Training

Description

(max. 300 words)

Short description of the aim and working method of the practice. Please note that in this description, it must be clear that there is an explicit connection to preventing and/or countering radicalisation and/or violent extremism. This means that in the aims and/or the activities/methods/tools of the practice, there is a link to preventing and countering radicalisation and/or violent extremism. Practices without this link cannot be included in the RAN Collection.

Mediated dialogue is an inter-group contact-based practice where groups who may be polarised or who need to repair relationships are brought together and facilitated through a dialogue process. It is an effective group facilitation and intergroup contact process to help reduce prejudice and improve social cohesion. It can be adapted for use within a wide variety of settings and target groups, either as a distinct intervention or as part of ongoing work with groups and individuals. For example, it can be applied to work with communities in dispute over use of space or anti-social behaviour issues, youth gangs, interfaith dialogues or where tensions exist between different ethnic groups. It is further applicable in situations where an existing relationship has broken down and repair or sensitive reengagement may be needed.

The practice of mediated dialogue is situated within the wider social-psychology practice of intergroup contact theory, which states that creating space for meaningful contact between experiencing conflict can improve relations, reduce anxieties and fears of the 'other' and challenge prejudice (¹) between the in-group and outgroup.

The process of mediated dialogue is one of creating meaningful contact through a series of dialogues. Dialogue gives space to neither confirm nor refute 'prejudice' but to move beyond the negative impressions

^{(1) &#}x27;Prejudice' is defined by Allport (1979: 9) as 'an antipathy based upon a faulty and inflexible generalization'.





forged from little or no meaningful contact. Dialogue desires for, and commits to, openness, movement and critical enquiry, all of which speaks to the potential for such interventions to prevent the solidifying of extremist attitudes/behaviour and thus the usefulness among the tools of CVE and youth work practice.

The toolkit, training and additional one-to-one practitioner training and implementation support is offered to ensure that the resources are not used out of context or by those without sufficient training whilst allowing legitimate community practitioners to access valuable tools for use in community-based counter-extremism and community cohesion.

The framework outlines a multi-stage engagement and delivery process, supported by safeguarding guidance, facilitation instructions and planning materials.

The toolkit and training are for youth and community professionals and practitioners who have access to and work with groups and communities.

Key themes

Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.

Training

Social cohesion and polarisation

Target audience

Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.

First responders or practitioners

Local Community Organisations / NGOs

Educators / Academics

Geographical scope

Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).

UK wide

Start of the practice

Please indicate when (year) the practice was developed and implemented to indicate the maturity of the practice. In case the practice is no longer active, please indicate when it ended.

Starting year: 2019

Ending year: Select ending year of practice in case practice has ended.



Deliverables

Please indicate if the practice has led to concrete deliverables, such as (links to) handbooks, training modules, videos.

- Framework and toolkit Practitioner Guide
- Training
- 1:1 Personal Practice Development and implementation support

Evidence and evaluation

Short description on <u>performance</u> <u>measures</u> of the practice, including

- 1. <u>qualitative views and</u> <u>quantitative (statistical) data</u> e.g. measure of the success of your project or intervention.
- 2. evaluation and feedback, including surveys and/or anecdotal evidence e.g. have you done either an internal or external evaluation, have you encouraged any feedback from your target group?
- peer review which feedback did the practice receive in the RAN working group and/or study visit where the practice was discussed.

Please elaborate on the outcomes of your monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Mediated dialogue: framework, toolkit and training, is a process based on a research-practitioner collaboration with academics at the University of Manchester and consolidates the practice of 'mediated dialogue' into a framework and set of tools. The framework, toolkit and training were developed after conducting a 'mediated dialogue' between young people from an 'Islamist' milieu and from an 'extreme right' milieu.

The practice was presented and very well received at a RAN FC&S meeting on 'Preventing polarisation on a local level: bringing communities together', exploring the approach of dialogue in helping prevent polarisation.

Additionally, the practice was reviewed as part of the UK Government Commission for Countering Extremism call for evidence of effective approaches to counter extremism. The paper produced, situates the intervention in the literature on the effectiveness of intergroup contact in reducing prejudice and on social cohesion and suggests how it might be developed for use in community led counter extremism practice. Read the paper at the link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/talkingour-way-out-of-conflict

Sustainability and transferability

(maximum of 200 words)

Short description on the sustainability and transferability of the practice, including e.g. information on the costs of the practice. Please elaborate on which elements are transferrable and how.

The cost of a Mediated Dialogue process is highly variable based on precise tailoring. The guide, training and one-to-one practice development and implementation support offer a highly flexible and adaptable approach, in addition to the practice of mediated dialogue being applicable to a range of groups and polarised issues.

Presented and discussed in RAN meeting

Please note that to be included in the Collection, the practice is

Name: Families, Communities & Social care working group (RAN FC&S)

Date: 10/04/2022



preferably nominated through one of the RAN meetings. Add name of the RAN Working Group/event, date, place and subject of meeting.

Place: Stockholm, Sweden

Subject: Preventing polarisation on a local level:

bringing communities together

Linked to other EU initiatives or EU funding

(maximum of 100 words)

Please indicate how your project was funded, if your practice is linked to other EU initiatives or projects, AND explicitly note if it is (co-) funded by the EU, and if so, by which funds? Such as Erasmus +, Internal Security Funds (ISF), European Social Fund (ESF), Horizon 2020, etc.

The Talking our way out of Conflict (TOWOC) process was inspired by young people participating in the Dialogue About Radicalisation and Equality (DARE) project. This toolkit extends the original TOWOC project, broadening its potential application and uses within and between communities.

The development of the Mediated Dialogue toolkit was funded by an ESRC Impact Accelerator Account award (via the University of Manchester,01.01.2021-31.07.2022). The mediated dialogue events were funded by an ESRC Impact Accelerator Account award (via the University of Manchester, 01.10.2018-31.03.2019) and by the Commission for Countering Extremism (22.03-03.05.2019). Funding for the original DARE project was received from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 725349. The views reflected in this document reflect only those of the authors; the European Commission and Research Executive Agency are not responsible for any information it contains.

Organisation

(enter maximum of 100 words and select organisation type)

Please briefly describe the organisation behind the practice including the legal status e.g. NGO, governmental, limited company, charity etc.

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation

Peace and Conflict Resolution Non-governmental organisation registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales (1048990)

Type of Organisation: NGO.

Country of origin

Country in which the practice is based.

EU or EEA country: Sweden

or:

Non-EU country: United Kingdom

Contact details

Address: The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Centre Peace Drive

Great Sankey



Please provide contact details of who can be contacted within the organisation, with name and email address.

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Last update text (year)