

# SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2020

COVID-19 AND P/CVE

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**EDITORIAL**

COVID is a seismic global event that has dramatically changed the world we live in. The impact of the pandemic has been wide-ranging and far-reaching. Beyond the effects of the virus itself, the social and economic consequences have been great. Minority communities across Europe have been some of the hardest hit.

In this edition of Spotlight we take a look at how the COVID pandemic is impacting some of these hardest hit communities and vulnerable individuals within them, at how it is giving new opportunities for terrorist and extremist groups to radicalise and recruit and how it is changing how practitioners do their work.

We hear from a number of practitioners from civil society, the technology industry and from government who share their insights and perspectives on the changing threat and share their stories and experiences from the past several months about what has changed, how they have had to adapt and what we must do next.

We want to hear from you! If you would like to contribute to future editions of Spotlight, or if you have ideas for an article, please get in touch with the RAN communications team at [ran@radarEUROPE.nl](mailto:ran@radarEUROPE.nl). The next edition of Spotlight, which will be published in December 2020, will look at the topic of prisons and rehabilitation.

**The RAN Team**

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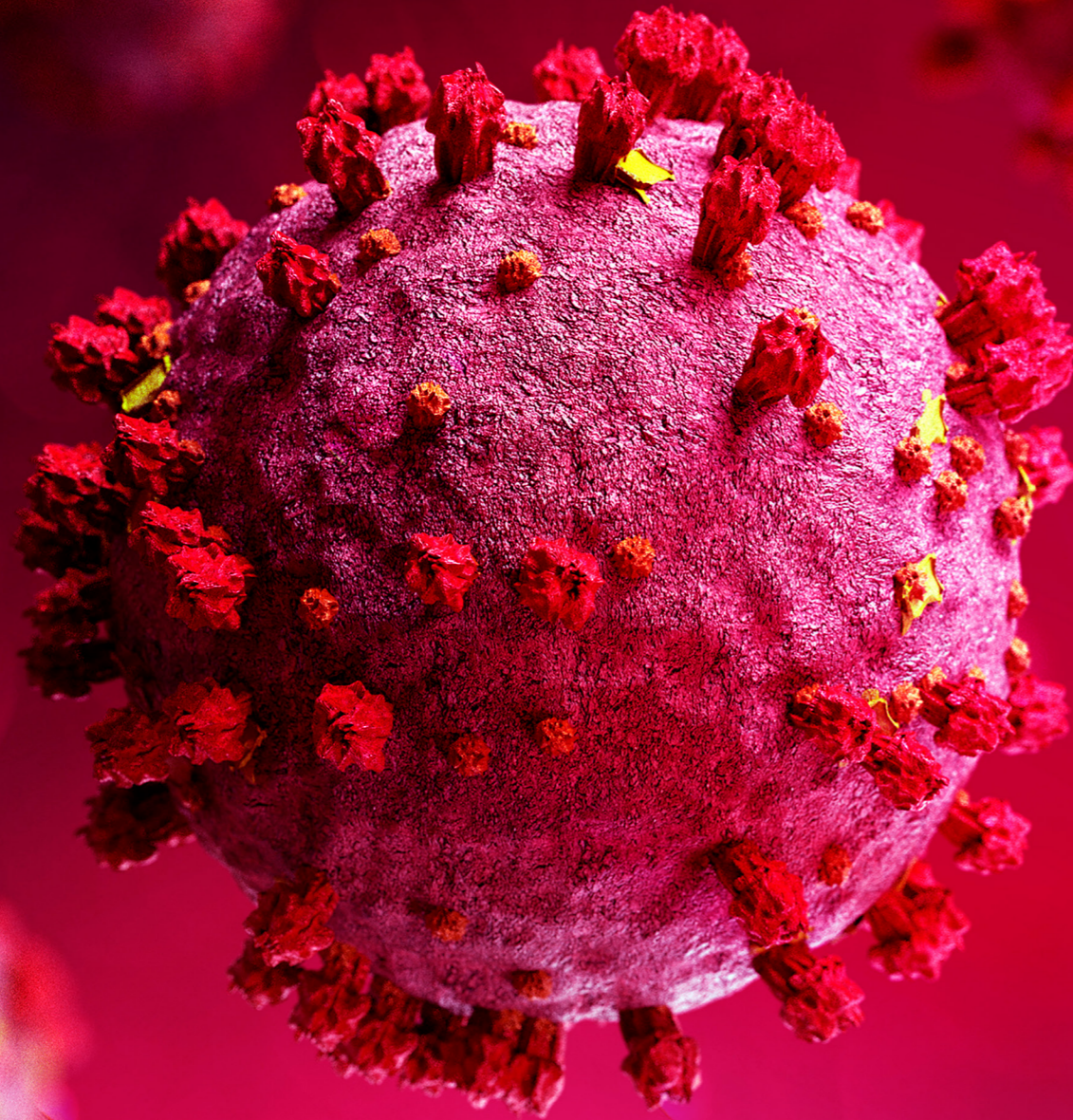
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OPINION

## The View: A more permissive environment

### Dr. Magnus RANSTORP

THE COVID-19 pandemic is a seismic, global, once-in-a-generation event that has irreversibly transformed the world we live in, for everyone. It has transformed not only our use of digital technology, but it has changed how we as a society function and come together and how we as individuals interact and think about ourselves and the world around us.

As with all moments of change we have had to learn to adapt and change too. More of us now work digitally and from home and have found that we are able to function well doing so. Potential vaccines could be developed in months that would have previously taken years. The hope of all of us is that whilst we wait to fully understand how our lives will be changed by the pandemic we will be able to adapt to shorter term challenges.

The challenge that all of us who work in P/CVE are concerned with now is how the extremist landscape has been shifted by Covid-19. There are certainly issues we must think about carefully.

Conspiracy theories and fake news – propagated in large volumes online – about the effects of the virus, how the virus is spread and who is spreading it, government measures to manage it and the credibility of vaccination programmes, have created an atmosphere of fear, uncertainty and distrust. As a result, we are beginning to see an increasing trend across Europe of non-conformity to government instruction and the rule of law.

Meanwhile, messages spread from overseas about Muslim communities in Europe are beginning to resonate and generate responses from violent right-wing groups who have largely laid the blame for the spread of the virus on these communities. This may cause an increase in tensions between communities and neighbours alike and an increase in acts of victimisation, intimidation and abuse.

With resources being diverted to manage the health and economic crisis, civil society organisations (CSOs) who work

**“A seismic, global, once-in-a-generation event that has irreversibly transformed the world we live in, for everyone. It has transformed not only our use of digital technology, but it has changed how we as a society function and come together.”**

at the heart of these communities, who have been reliant on government funding to do their work, no longer have the capacity and resources to respond.

The combined effect of the all of this, including individual hardships, the increase in community tensions and the evisceration of civil society capacity, is creating the fertile ground – in other words a ‘permissive environment’ – for terrorist and violent extremist groups, who themselves are often adept at adopting and adapting to new digital technologies, to radicalise and recruit.

However, while we come to terms with new world we live in today, so too are terrorists and extremists. This is a rare moment of parity that we can use to our advantage if we come together to exchange what we know about the changing threat and explore how we ourselves can adapt to the new digital world to address it.

There is so much expertise and experience to be harnessed in our response to extremism and terrorism, with many practitioners able to share crucial insight now on how we address the Covid-19 effect on P/CVE. Now is the time to pool that collective understanding and strengthen our shared response to the challenge.

*Dr. Magnus Ranstorp is Research Director at the Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies at the Swedish Defense University.*

**The View** is a new panel of some of the leading experts and practitioners working in the field of P/CVE from across Europe. ‘The View’ will be brought together to discuss some of the most important, relevant and timely P/CVE issues, topics or challenges of the day. The panel is made up of three policy makers and three practitioners/ civil society representatives who will, through a lively dialogue, discuss the topic in question and exchange their thoughts, ideas and views. The View will be brought together for this first time this month to discuss the impact of COVID on the P/CVE environment in Europe. The panel will reflect on the insights shared by practitioners in the film ‘The impact of COVID’, see below, and will explore in depth the nature, scale and complexity of the changing threat. A special programme, hosted by a presenter and filmed online, will capture the discussion, and will be published later this month.

THIS summer, RAN conducted a survey of a select group of over 100 practitioners from across Europe to compile the different ways in which they have adapted their work and interventions to the COVID crisis and learn about any new initiatives which have been established to prevent violent extremism within the COVID environment.

# COVID-19

## FACTSHEET



The Covid-19 virus and the measures taken to fight it have had a significant impact on all aspects of people's lives, including health, economy and society, including the relationship between communities and between citizens and government. After a period of confinement Europe now gradually moves towards 'a new normal' in which the long-term consequences of the first outbreak start to be felt, providing fertile ground for terrorist and extremist groups to radicalise and recruit.

### Impact

The virus has impacted people and communities in many different ways and has given new opportunities for terrorist and extremist groups. A number of factors have heightened the risk of terrorist and extremist recruitment:

#### Loss of life

Events such as losing loved ones can disbalance individuals and trigger radical thoughts.

#### Increased unemployment

Socio-economic circumstances are likely to get worse and become risk factors.

#### Increased isolation

Confinement has isolated vulnerable individuals, while safeguarding and monitoring has been difficult.

#### Mistrust in government

The absence of a clear remedy has raised doubts on measures taken by governments.

#### Spread of conspiracy theories

Given the virus is invisible and a lot is yet unknown, conspiracy theories offered solutions.

#### New extremist narratives

Extremist ideologies 'use' the virus to underline their world view and scapegoat their opponents.



### Responses



Since Covid-19 measures came in place, P/CVE practitioners put efforts in continuing their important work by:

- Digitalisation of intervention activities (counselling, training, festivals)
- Face-to-face meetings in safe settings
- Counter-disinformation campaigns
- Engagement with religious institutions
- Engagement with community initiatives
- Digitalisation of multi-agency work



### Future practices



After the confinement further adaption of P/CVE work is needed to mitigate the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and build the resilience of vulnerable individuals to terrorist and extremist influence:

- Assessing the target group on the impact of the confinement
- Increasing the digital literacy of practitioners and vulnerable individuals
- Increase critical thinking among vulnerable individuals
- Assess the need for offline and online activities
- Increase online support for families and parents of vulnerable young people
- Support for positive social activism



### Support needed



#### RAN

- Exchange of information on Covid-19 challenges and responses
- Online activities, including webinars and working group meetings
- Training of frontline practitioners
- Collection of good practices adapted to Covid-19
- Provide toolbox for working online
- Provision of quality standards for online P/CVE work

#### Authorities

- Provide insights on current terrorist and extremist trends
- Making arrangements how to cooperate online (multi-agency work, data protection).
- Provision of funding and grants to adapt to the 'new normal'
- Guidance on how to deal with services not delivered due to Covid-19

FILM:  
**THE IMPACT OF COVID**

IN September 2020, we brought together a group of practitioners, including representatives from civil society and the technology industry, to offer their unique perspectives on how the COVID pandemic is impacting the P/CVE environment in Europe. The first in a short series of programmes on COVID, the programme explores the different ways in which the pandemic has impacted communities and civil society, individuals, and digital technology alike. A second programme, which will bring together a panel of leading experts from both civil society and government to reflect on the changing threat, will be published in the coming weeks.

FILM  
**THE IMPACT OF COVID**

NOV 2020  
**COVID AND P/CVE**

You can watch the film in full [here](#).





# PROFILES: OUR PRACTITIONERS



**Will BALDET**

WILL Baldet is a Policy & Practitioner Fellow at the Centre for the Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR) and is a Senior Advisor to the UK Government on Prevent. He has designed counter-radicalisation workshops on VRWE for delivery in schools, colleges and communities and sits on the UK's national working group for developing and implementing Local Government solutions to VRWE. Will has also been a consultant for the Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), has supported Governments in the development of their P-/CVE programmes and was the UK representative for the 2015 UN General Assembly Youth Summit in New York.



**Michele HASSEN**

MICHELE Hassen is a former school leader and school Inspector in France who developed a multi-agency approach to cooperation between local authorities, families, and diverse social and cultural groups. The purpose of this approach is to protect democratic values, maintain social cohesion and identify early signs of extremist views and behaviour with potentially violent consequences for young people, their family, groups and local communities. Michele was formerly a co-chair of the RAN Working Group on Education and now works as a freelance consultant.



**Veera TUOMALA**

VEERA Tuomala is a member of the national working group on P-CVE and works as a Project Developer at Save the Children Finland. Her primary focus is on RadicalWeb, a project that aims to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism in young people by training youth workers on early detection and dialogue. RadicalWeb is part of the current National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism. Veera holds a Master's degree in Security Studies from University College London and has worked in various international organisations and NGOs – including the UN and OSCE.

# ARTICLE: **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC**



**Pushpa ISLAM**

**The COVID-19 pandemic  
has seen existing social  
disadvantages and  
inequalities increase...**



**The initial restrictions imposed by Government to manage the spread of the virus, even after these having been eased, have particularly affected adolescents and young adults. Also, even after the easing of restrictions, many of these young people are still exposed to cramped living and housing conditions and spatial confinement.**

In Frankfurt am Main where I work, and throughout Germany, all youth work facilities were closed down as a result of decrees issued at the beginning of the pandemic. All offers, consultations, use of public spaces and other measures were cancelled due to health protection.

Adolescents and young adults in particular were, and still are often isolated, cut off from their friends and social networks, due to the current restrictions. Social services, such as social work, outreach work (street work), youth work, contacts to associations, prevention work and schooling have been restricted by the pandemic.

Various factors, such as difficult family structures, lack of exercise, lack of daily routine, lack of orientation, fear of the future at both school and at work, lack of prospects, have a particularly negative impact on adolescents and young adults.

Combined these factors could lead to depression, frustration and aggression, which could if not addressed, spill out onto the street. Meanwhile, it is likely that some, if not many of these young people, who are spending more time online, will be increasingly vulnerable to the radicalising efforts of terrorist and violent extremist groups.

The current situation is therefore placing a great strain on young people and many avenues and opportunities to reduce their frustration, such as associations, clubs, youth centres, bars and (sports) events, are for the time being closed.

We as the City of Frankfurt try to counteract this by continuing to support projects in the field of "Democracy, Prevention and Radicalisation". We do this in various ways. Firstly, we provide advice and information on how associations and projects convert their concepts into digital formats so that they can continue their work under difficult conditions.

**“Most importantly, we continue to support projects financially. Funding is critically important for projects to continue. Because government resources are being diverted to the health sector, P/CVE projects are having a hard time surviving. They lack money, personnel and a lot of space to offer their services satisfactorily.”**

We also offer our premises to various groups for meetings, conferences and events, such as open prayer on Muslim holidays. To do this, we provide face masks for everyone. We have also converted our own conferences to digital events so that important topics can still be discussed.

Most importantly, we continue to support projects financially. Funding is critically important for projects to continue. Because government resources are being diverted to the health sector, P/CVE projects are having a hard time surviving. They lack money, personnel and a lot of space to offer their services satisfactorily.

During times like this, it is therefore important that we make our resources available in whatever way we can. It is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity to create new connections and access to people, groups and support that did not exist or was not possible before.

*Pushpa Islam is a coordinating officer in the Office for Multicultural Affairs of the City of Frankfurt am Main and responsible for the “Coordination Office Antiradicalisation, Preventive Youth Work and Political Education”. As part of her work as coordinator for the federal programme “Live Democracy!”, Pushpa is responsible for the conception, preparation, organisation, implementation, further development of the federal program in Frankfurt am Main.*

FILM:  
**CHILD RETURNEES**

SPOTLIGHT  
COVID AND P/CVE

THE challenge of reintegrating children who have returned with their families from Syria and Iraq back into society in Europe is both complex and requires careful and sensitive handling, particularly during a global pandemic. This film explores the reintegration process for pre-teen children, from assessment and trauma therapy to placement with families and into education. The film touches upon the need to re-socialise the child as quickly as possible and the impact of the COVID pandemic on this work.

*Read more about approaches to reintegrating child returnees in the RAN Manual 'Responses to returnees: Foreign terrorist fighters and their families' [here](#).*

FILM  
CHILD RETURNEES

NOV 2020  
COVID AND P/CVE

You can watch the film in full [here](#).



# ARTICLE: **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN**



**Dr. Edit  
SCHLAFFER**

**THESE** recent months have uncovered how some already existing injustices and inequalities in society have been reinforced more by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic...



**Women in isolated communities have been especially and disproportionately affected in a parallel pandemic of gender-based violence that is looming large over vulnerable homes and neighbourhoods.**

Through Women without Borders' decade-long prevention work with affected and concerned mothers of youths at-risk of recruitment and radicalisation, we have come to understand that domestic violence in particular is among the most overlooked drivers of radicalisation.

In the fight against violent extremism, we are experiencing an opening moment to acknowledge and address how clearly linked violence against women is to violent extremism. We are facing a plenty of evidence that has become increasingly difficult to ignore. A recent study, for example, found that people who support or show tendency towards gender-based violence are three times more likely to show signs of or lead towards violent extremist behaviour. Considering the lack of gender responsive programming in many of the at-risk communities within which we work, we at WwB have been responding to this void through our 'MotherSchools: Parenting for Peace' model.

MotherSchools is a year-long community-based intervention programme that builds the resilience of mothers and harnesses their potential to create supportive networks of likeminded women who stop violence in their homes and networks of radicals in their tracks. Groups of mothers receive confidence and competence training to empower them to become female role models in their families and communities and become the first line of defence against violent extremism in their homes.

To varying degrees, but in all of the MotherSchools that we have implemented across 16 countries to date, including Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, we found that the taboo topic of gender-based violence had not just been overcome, but many of the mothers also managed to end the culture of violence in their homes and by compellingly telling their personal stories increase awareness among the wider community.

**“Our evaluation process drawing on over 2000 graduates of the MotherSchools has shown that mothers, who are equipped with confidence, concepts, skills, and a trusted support network, can take a stand against violence and the threat of violent extremism.”**

Our evaluation process drawing on over 2000 graduates of the MotherSchools has shown that mothers, who are equipped with confidence, concepts, skills, and a trusted support network, can take a stand against violence and the threat of violent extremism. They can teach their sons not to emulate fathers who show tendency to violence, and to raise confident children, both girls and boys, who will challenge norms and expectations, ranging from early marriage to domestic duties.

Women in communities across Europe where there are vulnerable neighbourhoods and individuals play a vital role in ending cycles of violence that lead to radicalisation. For those practitioners working in the fields of preventing violent extremism (P/CVE), in communities and with families, mothers and women, we need to capitalise on the increased awareness of this issue and apply it to the field within which we work. Let us pick up on this moment of awakening to build a more complete gender inclusive security architecture.

*Dr. Edit Schlaffer is the founder of Women without Borders, an international not-for-profit organisation based in Vienna which focuses on female leadership, gender-based dialogue and women empowerment.*



# Interview: Kaan Orhon My Story...

**WE asked Kaan Orhon, a practitioner working with returnee Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and their families in Germany, ten questions about a typical day working for 'HAYAT'.**



## **What does HAYAT do?**

HAYAT is an organisation which principally does two things. We help families and relatives of people who had previously joined radical groups, specifically people who had joined violent Islamist extremist groups, and we also work directly with former radicalised individuals who seek to disengage and build a new life for themselves.

I work for HAYAT as a counsellor, which means I am the person who directly works with concerned relatives, former radicalised individuals, or currently radicalised individuals who want to disengage. I help them to rearrange their lives and make a new existence for themselves.

## **How do you help people to disengage?**

With people wanting to disengage we try to do two things. We talk about certain aspects of their previous lives, specifically in terms of how they practiced their religion and how they perceived the world around them, shaped by their ideology – and how a meaningful life, including practicing their religion, can look in a non-radical context.

We try to repair relationships that have been broken because of radical ideologies and associated actions. We also try to help people very practically, by helping them to get their lives back on track. Seeking a job if you have previously joined or been convicted of belonging to a foreign terrorist organisation is a very, very big hurdle and so we do try to help people to secure an existence for themselves and their families and to become part of society again.

## **How has COVID impacted this work?**

COVID has made this work difficult in a number of different ways. Practically-speaking people are losing jobs at the moment and people who have previously joined or been convicted of belonging to a foreign terrorist organisation are likely to be one of the first ones laid off. Or if you are applying for a job the already small pool of opportunities is getting smaller still, so it creates new difficulties for people looking to build a material

existence. In terms of supporting them, our work is built on trust, many things are only talked about in private meetings, people are reluctant to write things down or to speak on the phone or online for fear that they are being overheard or recorded because they feel ashamed of things they have done or at least insecure. Generally our clients tend to seek close personal relations or direct personal contact. This is of course getting more and more difficult in the current environment.

#### **How have you adapted to this new environment?**

Sometimes one really has to get creative. For example, for some clients who do not wish to discuss matters over the phone but want to meet up and can't do it in the office, we have to meet in open spaces which allow social distancing but at the same time are remote enough that conversations cannot be overheard. So we meet in parks, or rural or wooded areas to take a walk and talk about something that is important for the client. In some instances, I have even gone back to writing letters because the client trusts them more than electronic communications.

#### **What difficulties has COVID-19 created?**

In social terms the impact of COVID-19 has not been that severe because many returnees, for example, tend to keep to themselves. They tend to keep very close company with only certain relatives and close friends. They do not tend to have much contact with new people and often even avoid Mosques or other gatherings for fear of being confronted.

One difficulty for example is definitely in terms of childcare. Many people have children, sometimes quite large families, who cannot go to school, so there is no way of them getting out of the house. We have many single mothers who have returned and for them not to have day care centres, or any form of childcare support, puts additional strain on their already difficult situation.

#### **What is the most challenging aspect of your job?**

A lot of things come to mind. Because the majority of society rejects former radicals, former terrorists even, for understandable reasons, getting them back to work, employment, and any form of social interaction is difficult. Trying to separate people physically and emotionally from relatives who are still actively engaged in radical organisations, particularly when you're working in a small town, where people literally step on each other's' toes, is difficult.

#### **What does a typical day involve?**

Each day is largely governed by the demands of our clients: who needs help, where, when and why. If they have a problem they often tend to call or to drop by at short notice. I work alone,

**“A lot of things come to mind. Because the majority of society rejects former radicals, former terrorists even, for understandable reasons, getting them back to work, employment, and any form of social interaction is difficult.”**

so either I am in the office or I am about the town meeting people. For example, I accompany them for job interviews or to municipal authorities, to help them in daily matters of regular life. I also try to find time for public speaking to highlight the issues of returnees and their families in various surroundings. So I do tend to spend a lot of time on the road.

#### **What is the most challenging aspect of your job?**

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#### **What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

Helping people get on with their lives and participate in society is certainly the most rewarding: every successful job application we wrote together, every successful incidence of someone going back to school and winning a diploma, people participating in political or social causes, things like that.

#### **What does 2021 have in store?**

One of the most pressing and most clearly visible challenges is reintegrating the fairly large number of people that might still come back from Syria, particularly when it comes to children

and adolescents. Young children may well come back with psychological or emotional baggage – because of their early years spent in Syria or in the camps – which they will have for years to come. They will be dealt with identity issues and with being attacked because of real or imagined things their parents did and the threats they theoretically pose. We already have certain cases in Germany so I'm speaking from experience.

We need to be proactive. We have a window now while people are still away, to talk about the problems and to try to formulate plans and concepts to work with these people.

#### **How has RAN been able to help?**

RAN has been extremely helpful. RAN for me is the international version of our local network which I very much depend on for support. RAN is doing the same on the European level and I wouldn't want to miss it honestly, because exchanging with other practitioners, who have faced similar problems but uniquely in their own country or area, gives you a lot of new ideas. I've adopted things, especially regarding children, into my own working practices that I have learned from people presenting at RAN meetings. So RAN is useful to talk about the problem, to share information and to develop as a practitioner, to get better at my job.

#### **Any final thoughts?**

Anyone who goes into this line of work should really try to brace themselves for many moments, unfortunately, of frustration, because it is an uphill battle to help people who have, for example, returned from Syria, to get back into a society which is highly likely to refuse to take them back in. At the same time I don't want to discourage anyone because it's very rewarding work. You get to help people in very difficult circumstances, you get very closely with them and you partake not only in their frustrations and trials but also of course, their successes. I would therefore encourage everyone who is interested in this line of work to get into it because I think it makes an important contribution in a small field that benefits society at large and benefits possibly many people.

*Read more about responses to returnee Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and their families in the RAN Manual [here](#).*

FEATURE

REACH OUT

# Reach Out

**‘Reach Out’ — in this edition’s feature we look at how existing initiatives are responding and evolving through the Covid-19 pandemic.**



**Finn Church Aid (FCA) and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (NETW) have carried out several projects focusing on prevention of violent extremism since 2014. In February 2020, support from the European Union's International Security Fund enabled the launch of the most recent of these initiatives, the Reach Out 3 project.**

The Reach Out project is part of Finland's national action plan for the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism in 2019–2023. In addition to the Ministry of the Interior, the co-operation includes local networks for the prevention of violent radicalism in Helsinki, Turku, Tampere and Oulu, the Erätauko Foundation, the University of Helsinki, Save the Children and the Helsinki Deaconess Foundation.

'Reach Out' is an umbrella safeguarding brand that connects all organisations working on P/CVE in Finland, including authorities, different religious communities and organisations and civil society groups. The overall aim of the project is to build cooperation among these organisations, improve the exchange of information and build trust between public authorities, civil society and communities to prevent violent extremism and radicalisation.

By developing policies and cooperation, young people affected by the phenomenon and their immediate community and family can be reached and supported. Reach Out targets families and young people affected by violent radicalisation and extremism, as well as public authorities (police, social workers and other municipal workers), religious communities and organizations working to prevent national extremism.

In the context of the COVID pandemic, in which the changing threat and the limited resources available is placing undue pressures on P/CVE projects, not only is a network like Reach Out so important to support one another in hard times but the symbolism of working together and taking action can itself address the fear, increase in tensions and frustrations that have resulted from the crisis.

Project activities include a training package to strengthen the capacity of religious communities and authorities, city visits, community dialogue events and a comparative study of the experiences of families and young people affected by violent extremism in Finland and five other EU countries. The study will provide essential information on the ways in which an individual's radicalisation affects those close to them and how local support models and community-based activities reach families and young people.

*Read more about Finn Church Aid and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers [here](#).*

*Find more examples of projects which bring together in the RAN Collection of Inspiring Practices [here](#).*



## Highlights: **RAN activity on COVID**

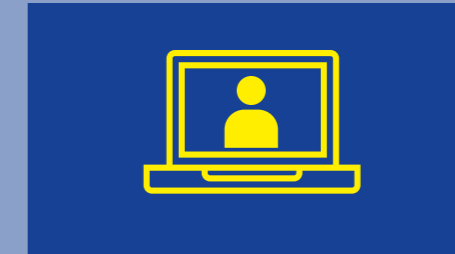
THE RAN will be addressing the topic of violent right-wing extremism in a number of its activities this year. In May and June alone, we will be touching upon the VRWE topic in a Working Group meeting, two webinars and two publications. Further activities are being planned for the remainder of the year.

Stay tuned for updates in the RAN newsletter and on RAN social media channels.

For more information about RAN activities please visit the Calendar on the RAN website [here](#).



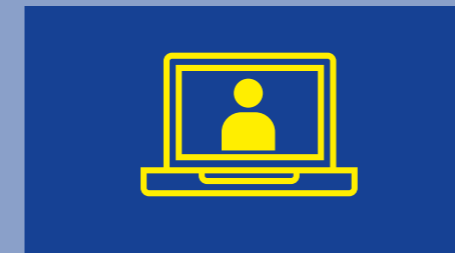
Webinar: What are the effects of COVID-19 in P-CVE?



Webinar: Conspiracy Theories in P-CVE – recent developments.



Working Group meeting: Vademecum on Post-COVID narratives that polarise (RAN Y&E).



Webinar: Post-COVID narratives that polarise.



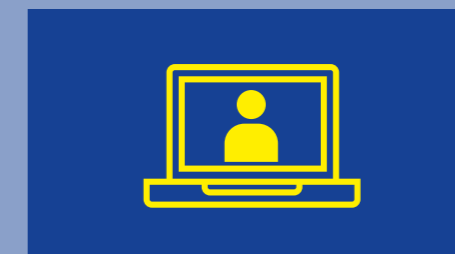
Working Group meeting: Preventing polarisation in communities by creating a shared identity (RAN FC&S).



Webinar: Preventing polarisation in communities.



Paper: Consolidated overview – Capitalising on crises.



Digital Event: RAN Plenary.

# LIBRARY: DISCOVER MORE

IF you would like to discover more about the impact of the COVID pandemic on the P/CVE environment in Europe or any other topic you can get in touch with the RAN Staff, take a look at the [RAN Collection of Inspiring Practices](#) or read through some of the latest [RAN papers](#). We have included some of these papers in a carefully selected collection of interesting and relevant articles below.

UNESCO. (2020) [‘Pandemic focuses attention on investing in youth initiatives to prevent violent extremism’](#)  
13th July 2020.

UNITAR. (2020) [‘Impact of COVID-19 on violent extremism and terrorism’](#)

Politico (2020). [DHS warns of increase in violent extremism amid coronavirus lockdowns](#)

Soufan Centre (2020). [Intel Brief: The Coronavirus will Increase Extremism Across the Ideological Spectrum](#). Soufan Centre

Welby, P. (2020). [What the virus pandemic means for violent extremists](#)

Wilson Centre (2020). [What Islamists Are Doing and Saying on COVID-19 Crisis](#)

Meleagrou-Hitchens, Alexander / Crawford, Blyth (2020): [5G and the Far Right: How Extremists Capitalize on Coronavirus Conspiracies](#)

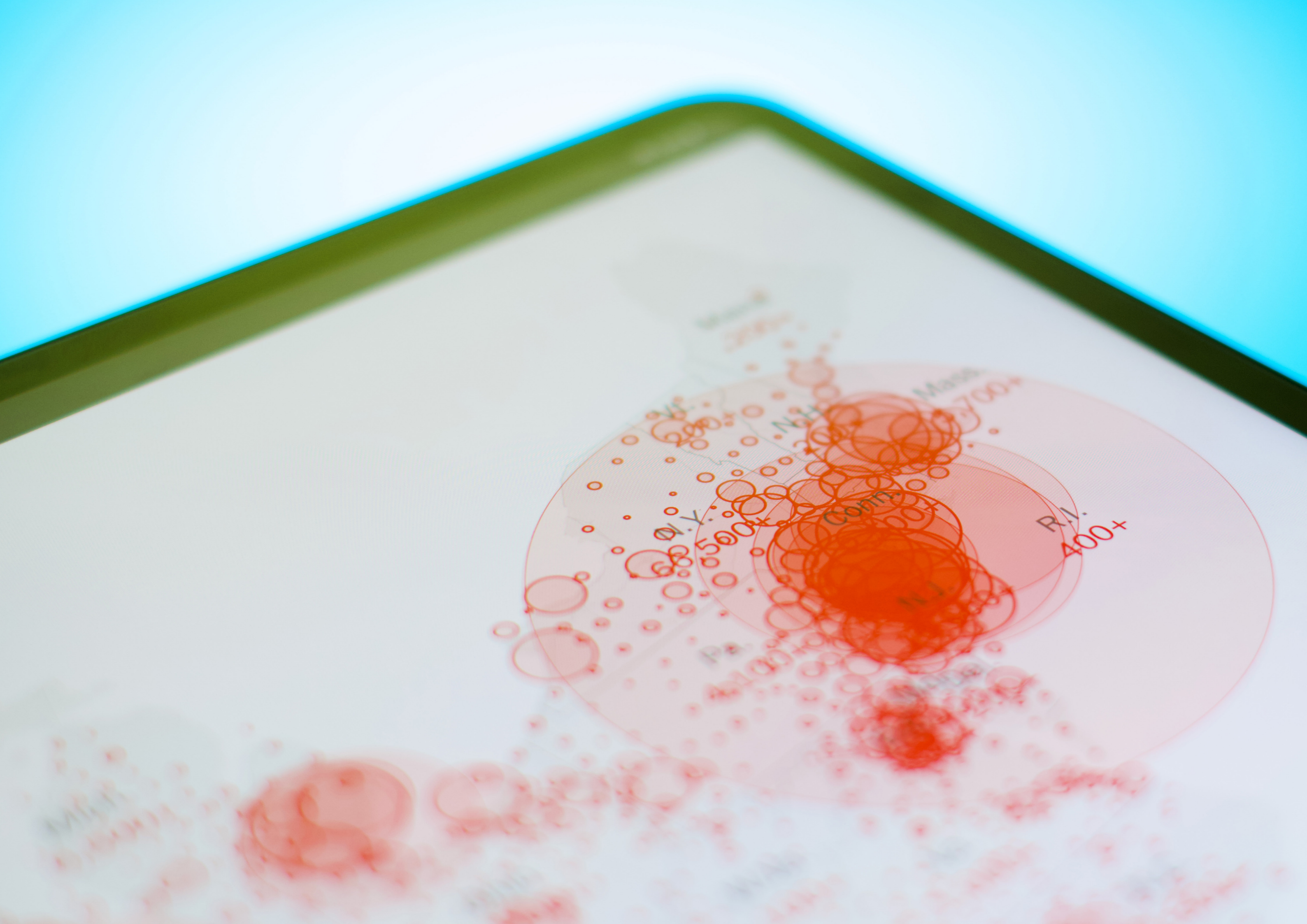
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