



A global network of mayors, municipal-level policy makers and practitioners united in building social cohesion and community resilience to counter violent extremism in all its forms.

Across the world, cities are on the front-line of building resilience to violent extremism. Local governments, whether cities, municipalities or towns, are uniquely positioned to safeguard their citizens from community polarisation and radicalisation through partnerships with local communities.

Not only are cities and other municipal leaders best placed to recognise the specific risks and threats facing their communities, they have the power to support their citizens to build resilience to violent extremism at the grassroots level.

WHAT IS THE STRONG CITIES NETWORK?

Timeline of Activities

September 2015

SCN Launched at the United Nations

March 2016

US Secretary of State John Kerry addresses SCN members in Washington DC

March 2016

SCN members participate in State Department IVLP

May 2016

Launch of SCN Online Hub

May 2016

First annual Strong Cities Network Global Summit in Antalya, Turkey

The Strong Cities Network (SCN) strengthens strategic planning and practices among municipal-level policy makers and builds the capacity of local practitioners to prevent the spread of violent extremism in all its forms. The network catalyses, inspires and multiplies community-centric approaches and action to counter violent extremism while respecting the fundamental rights of citizens.

The SCN operates from the assumption that communities and cities are both part of the solution to address violent extremism. The SCN is driven by a number of fundamental principles:

1. A commitment to address violent extremism in all of its forms
2. A recognition that violent extremism and prevention efforts should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilisation, or ethnic group
3. A commitment to work in partnership with local communities, on an inclusive, collaborative, and non-discriminatory basis and in compliance with international human rights standards.

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

SCN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs organised a Strong Cities Network IVLP, which took place from 27 February to 19 March. Exchange visitors travelled to Washington, Los Angeles, Denver, Columbus/Indianapolis and Chicago, where they connected with U.S. practitioners and gained insight into local CVE strategies.

DENMARK-MENA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Together with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the SCN has commenced a 2-year in-depth exchange programme between Copenhagen and Aarhus, and Amman (Jordan), Beirut (Lebanon) and Tunis (Tunisia). The project supports these cities in creation of multi-agency prevention and deradicalisation programmes.

THE SCN GLOBAL SUMMIT



The City of Antalya (Turkey), with support from the City of London (United Kingdom), hosted the first SCN Global Summit on 11 and 12 May in Antalya. The Global Summit brought together over 100 local representatives and practitioners and provided an opportunity for SCN members to showcase local projects, participate in local innovation workshops and network with colleagues from across the globe.

MEMBERSHIP

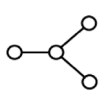
The SCN is made up of 50+ cities and other municipal-level leaders from different regions across the globe.



Steering Committee: Aarhus (Denmark), Antalya (Turkey), Atlanta (United States), Beirut (Lebanon), Copenhagen (Denmark), Dakar (Senegal), Denver (United States), Kaduna (Nigeria), Kano (Nigeria), Kiffa (Mauritania), London (UK), Medellín (Colombia), Minneapolis (United States), Mombasa (Kenya), Montréal (Canada), Mumbai (India), New York (United States), Oslo (Norway), Palermo (Italy), Paris (France), Puno (Peru), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Stockholm (Sweden), Tunis (Tunisia), Victoria (Australia).

PLEASE VISIT WWW.STRONGCITIESNETWORK.ORG TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF MEMBER CITIES

GOALS OF THE NETWORK



CONNECT: Facilitating knowledge-sharing between cities to unite diverse experiences and lessons learned on building resilience to violent extremism across municipalities.



EMPOWER: Support cities to develop strategic frameworks and capabilities to build resilience and safeguard the rights of local communities.



REPRESENT: Voice lessons learned on key thematic issues and inform national and international decision-making.



INFORM: Raise awareness of existing policies, programmes and practices through a dynamic and searchable 'Online Training Information Hub'.



BUILD: Facilitate international partnerships through a dedicated 'City-to-City Exchange Programme'.



INNOVATE: Seed new projects through 'Local Innovation Grants' for cities.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The SCN is establishing partnerships with a number of key stakeholders including the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE), [UN-Habitat](#), the [European Forum for Urban Security](#) (Efus), the [Nordic Council of Ministers](#) and the [Global Center for Cooperative Security](#) to expand the network and programming in priority regions, West Africa, Eastern Africa, Balkans, Central Asia and Southeast Asia.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

The SCN is managed and administered by the [Institute for Strategic Dialogue](#) (ISD), a London-based 'think and do tank' that has pioneered policy and operational responses to the rising challenges of violent extremism and inter-communal conflict.



Who can join the SCN?

The SCN is designed for representatives and/or practitioners operating at the city, municipal or sub-national level. Membership to the network is completely free of charge.

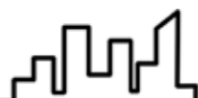


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For more information

- Visit www.strongcitiesnetwork.org or email info@strongcitiesnetwork.org
- Visit www.strategicdialogue.org or email info@strategicdialogue.org



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The Strong Cities Network is run by the **Institute for Strategic Dialogue**,
a UK registered charity with charity number 1076660.

For more information please contact info@strongcitiesnetwork.org

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