

Mapping your community exercise

The following worksheet is derived from **Young people and extremism: a resource pack for youth workers**.¹ Think through the following questions and note down your responses on a sheet of paper. You can draw a rough outline of what you take to be your local community, leaving enough space inside and outside of the boundary to write down your answers.

INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

The first step is to determine an understanding of what constitutes their community, then launch into the questions below.

- Where are the major landmarks? What institutions exist (places of worship, schools, etc.)?
- What types of businesses are in the community and where are they located? What youth organizations, associations or community clubs exist? Place all of these on your map.
- What groups of people are located in the community? Do they frequent or occupy a particular location? How do they move within the community? Where are young people in the community? What space is available to them?
- What youth programs, initiatives, opportunities exist? Where? What space is safe, dangerous or open and safe only sometimes during the day for young people?
- What space is off-limits to young people?
- Where does violence take place? Where can young people go to be protected, or feel safe?
- How does the space change at night?
- How does the space change at particular times of the year, around specific events or when certain things happen?

OUTSIDE OF THE COMMUNITY

- What are the perceived threats to the local community? Where do these threats come from?
- Who are the outsiders who come into the community regularly? Where do they come from? Why?
- Who decided the shape of your community? For what reasons?
- What changes might affect its future shape and boundaries?

ANALYZING YOUR COMMUNITY

Think about the map of your community from your own perspective:

- Where are the places that you frequent? Why these places?
- What places are safe for you to visit? Which are not?
- Can you go into some of these places with others? Who?
- What do you have to look out for as you walk in these places?
- How has this place changed over time for you?

PUTTING YOUR ANALYSIS TO WORK

Consider the questions above:

- How does the information you gathered and listed provide an answer to the questions?
- What questions does it not answer? Why?
- What new questions emerge?

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