Map your community exercise

The following worksheet is derived from *Young people and extremism: a resource pack for youth workers.* 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 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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