

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CHILDREN'S NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF STIGMATIZATION – EXAMPLES OF PREVENTATIVE WORK FROM GERMANY

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STRENGTHENING JUSTICE SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN



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Gefördert vom



im Rahmen des Bundesprogramms

Demokratie *leben!*

SELECTED RESEARCH FINDINGS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES FOR PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Young people are particularly vulnerable to extremist promises
 - Prevention and disengagement work has to take account of youngsters' rights for protection and developmental support
- Experiences with racism and discrimination can add to the vulnerability of youngsters to extremist messages and groups
 - Prevention and disengagement work have to take into account these experiences and social realities

DISCRIMINATION / RACISM / ALINEATION IN RELIGIOUS-EXTREMIST NARRATIVES



Generation Islam @genislam1 · 15 Std.
Wochenende der Empörung

TwitterStorm an diesem Sonntag um 20:30 Uhr.

Sei dabei und sag allen Bescheid.

Die islamische Community hält zusammen.

[#NichtohnemeinKopftuch](#)

[#Kopftuchverbot](#) [#Kopftuch](#) [#NRW](#)

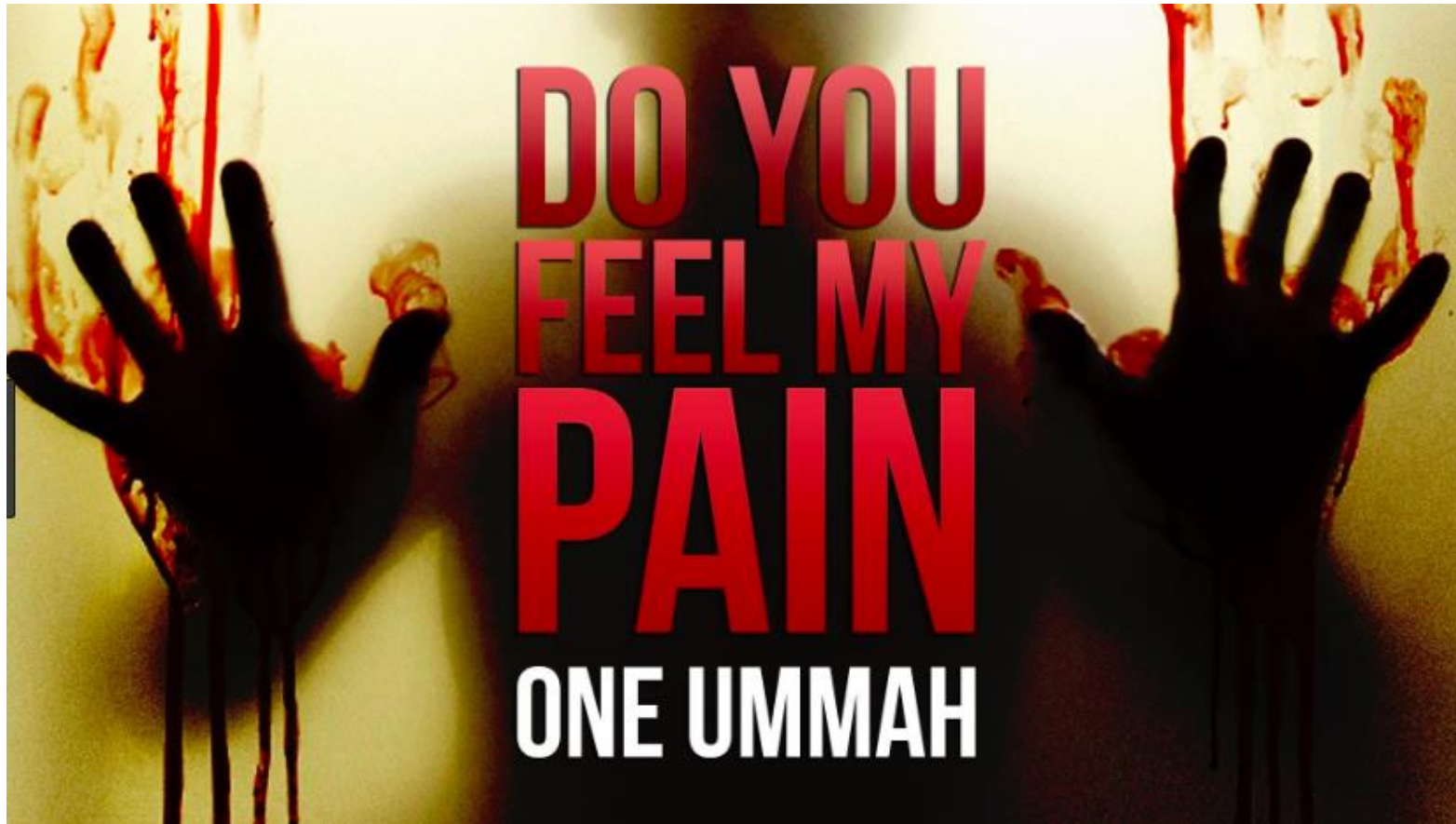


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„#notwithoutmyheadscarf“

DISCRIMINATION / RACISM / ALIENATION IN RELIGIOUS-EXTREMIST NARRATIVES



„ummah“ = global Muslim community

DISCRIMINATION / RACISM / ALIENATION AS SOCIAL REALITY



ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION AND ALIENATION IN PREVENTATIVE WORK

THE NGO UFUQ.DE

- Providing spaces to represent and recognize experiences of discrimination and racism
- Providing guidance, support and assistance to victims of discrimination (> i.e. help lines, antidiscrimination initiatives)
- Fostering inclusive narratives of „us“ / challenging dichotomic narratives of „us“ versus „them“

CHARLIE AND MUSLIM!

**JE SUIS
CHARLIE**

**JE NE
SUIS PAS
CHARLIE**

**JE SUIS
MUSLIM**

**JE SUIS
CHARLIE
ET
MUSULMAN!**

AVOIDING STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION IN COUNCELLING AND FAMILY WORK

THE ADVISORY SERVICE LEGATO

- Exit work
- Family support
- Communication coaching
- Community coaching
- Social therapy
- Youthwork and network consultancy

AVOIDING STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION IN COUNCELLING AND FAMILY WORK

- Professional family support is based on professional expertise about social systems – not about religion.
- Professional family support does not give advice but asks the right questions in order to understand any radicalization process in its context

AVOIDING STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION IN COUNCELLING AND FAMILY WORK

- Avoiding to confront youngsters with the suspicion of them being extremists prevents feeding ideological dichotomy
- Understanding religiously justified radicalization as a result of complex social and psychological dynamics has proofed being helpful in opening doors to exit-programms!

AVOIDING STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION IN COUNCELLING AND FAMILY WORK

- Advisory services or exit programmes focussing on religion might even support narratives of religion being „the problem“
- Understanding religiously justified extremism as a symptom (instead of addressing „religion“ as „the problem“) helps to build trust with religious communities and opens chances for cooperation

CONCLUSION:

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION – HELPFUL ELEMENTS OF PREVENTATIVE AND ADVISORY WORK

- *Avoiding stigmatization:* Quick classifications of young people as “radicalized” or “endangered” should be avoided. Prevention work should not single out specific groups or parts of society (i.e. „immigrants“, „Muslims“, a specific city district).
- *Avoiding overemphasis of religion:* Preventative and advisory work should not uniquely focus on the religious dimension of Islamist extremism. Religion matters, but constitutes only one dimension of a complex phenomenon – and only one dimension of the solution.
- *Recognizing discrimination:* Prevention work should provide space for young people to articulate experiences of discrimination and to develop strategies on how to challenge inequalities.

CONCLUSION:

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION – HELPFUL ELEMENTS OF PREVENTATIVE AND ADVISORY WORK

- *Recognizing young people as agents of their lives:* Interest for violent extremism can be considered as a (misled) coping strategy of young people facing personal crises or challenging phases in their adolescent lives
- *Contextualizing extremism:* It is helpful not to perceive young people as „troublersmakers“ acting independently of the societal climate. Processes of involvement in violent extremism do occur in social and societal environments (i.e. peers, family, political climate). Prevention and intervention should include working with – and changing of – social environments.

CONTACT



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