



# Global lessons on tackling 'othering'

sci

**We gathered activists from Europe, Asia,  
Africa & the US to hear experiences of hate  
& extremism and to develop responses.**



**GREECE**



**SOUTH AFRICA**



**SPAIN**



**SERBIA**



**KENYA**



**MYANMAR**



**INDIA**



**POLAND**



**UNITED STATES**



**BELGIUM**

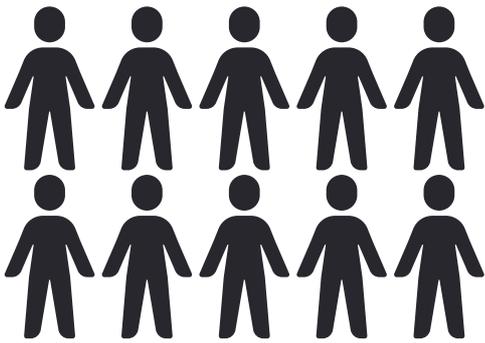


**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF CONGO**



**IRELAND, & THE  
UK**

# Responses to 'othering'



## INCREASE PROXIMITY BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

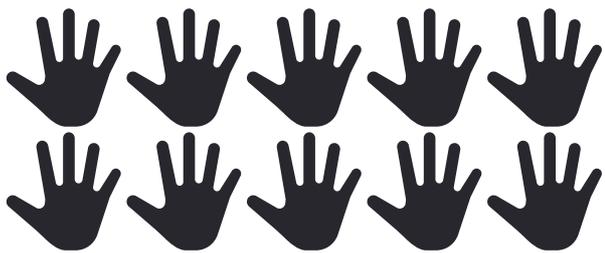
Finding ways to bring communities together can break down barriers and overcome negative messaging from those stoking division. It can help create a broader alliance, to shift power from those advancing extremism, to those advancing more inclusive values.

## ADDRESS GENUINE CONCERNS

Engage with those who extremists might seek to radicalise. Listen to their concerns, help them respond to genuine fears and to work through misunderstandings.



# Responses to 'othering'



## **AVOID LABELS WHERE POSSIBLE**

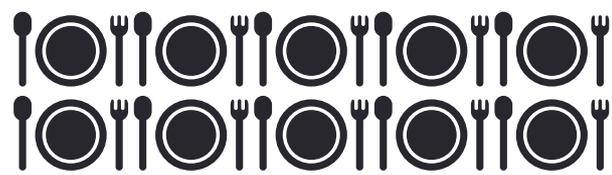
Labelling people as extremists can put them beyond reach. Consider instead addressing behaviours - identifying what is acceptable and what is not. This can promote conversations about the values many of us share, as opposed to the divisive issues pushed by negative influences.

## **CHALLENGE DISINFORMATION**

Disinformation can come in many forms, as can efforts to address it. This can involve grassroots action to inform and engage with communities. It can require broader tactics to address online disinformation and radicalisation.



# Responses to 'othering'



## TACKLE POVERTY

Inequality and economic upheaval can fuel poverty and leave communities vulnerable to extremists who seek to blame minorities for society's ills. Take action to create fair societies, to provide safety nets for the economically deprived and to promote equality.

## USE HUMAN RIGHTS AS TOOLS FOR CHANGE

Promoting shared human rights can improve the lives of individuals in any society, but can be tools to hold states to account where they are engaging in extremism. Where possible, mobilise international pressure to adhere to human rights.



# Responses to 'othering'

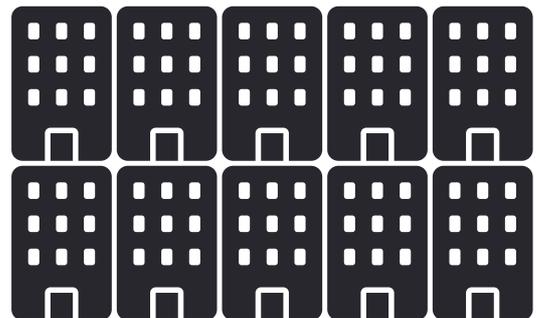


## SEEK UNUSUAL ALLIES

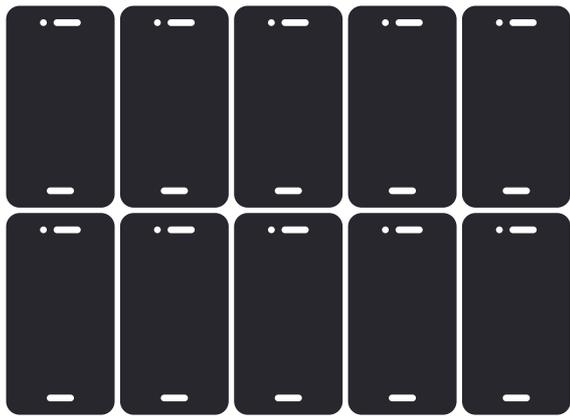
The far-right Golden Dawn party in Greece was exposed as a violent, criminal organisation after a campaign by a broad coalition of civil society groups. That umbrella group also pressed state and international organisations to support its efforts.

## EMPOWER MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

Those who are denied their rights and who are denied equal treatment should be at the forefront of action for change. Supporting action to empower such communities is vital.



# Responses to 'othering'

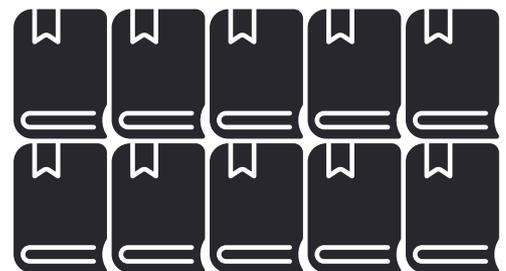


## GATHER DATA

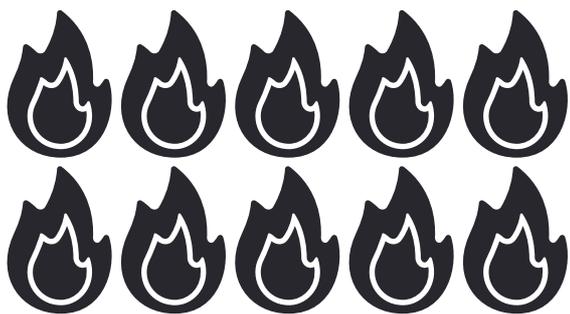
Those promoting extremism and hate often seek to work in the shadows. Gathering data on their activities and the human cost can help to inform wider society, the media and policy-makers.

## USE THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

Putting a human face to issues, especially where vulnerable communities are being marginalised, can cut through negative propaganda. Storytelling can shift the public narrative and shift opinions.



# Responses to 'othering'



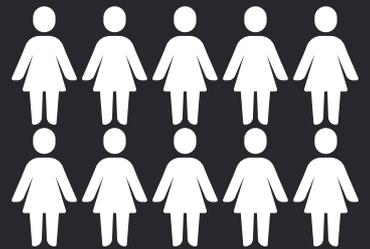
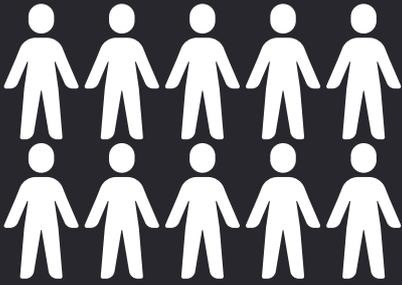
## SUPPORT ACTIVISM

Grassroots activists are on the frontline in promoting positive change. Activists should be supported in their work, provided with opportunities to share ideas and tactics across borders, and helped to enhance their leadership skills.

## PLAN FOR THE LONG HAUL

Funders should be prepared to take risks to support democracy, human rights and equality against extremism. They also need to see this work as a long term process.





sci