

## YSP Austria: Youth and Multiculturalism: Preventing violent radicalization

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"It's not our differences that divide us. It's our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences."

Audre Lorde

On the 4th of December at 7 pm YSP Austria organized a Zoom meeting on Youth and Multiculturalism: "Preventing violent radicalization of young people", due to the recent event in the shooting terrorist attack in Vienna.

62 people from different backgrounds and NGOs participated in the event. Three main speakers shared their input:

Mrs. Mag. Dür-Kwieder, a psychologist and adult trainer, as well as a volunteer at the Documentation and Counseling Centre for Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism said: "Minorities often feel excluded and un-welcomed, which lead to isolation and many exclude themselves from society";

Mrs. Suad Mohamed, a pharmacist, intentional speaker, public health advocate and linguistic aims to spread awareness about refugee and migration issues, to improve the healthcare and pharmaceutical systems in developing countries and empower women and young people;

Mr. Bogdan Pammer, teacher in Steyr, former school director, and IAYSP President of the European and Middle East stated: "There are two extremes that young people face. On one hand, there is the nihilism, which portrays hopelessness, rejection of great stories of how the world is and not finding ones place. On the other hand, in their search for identity, they are confronted with totalitarianism, which provides them with simple answer, sense of belonging and empowerment."

Young people who are facing racism and feel un-welcomed develop an insecure personality. They have difficulties to connect to others and their identity become fragile. Extremist groups look for those who have a fragile identity and are in the need of support and orientation. For that reason, solidarity is the key to end this issue.