

Building a youth community to prevent violent extremism

Lessons from South & Southeast Asia

MEET THE SPEAKERS

19 May 2022, 11-12:30 CEST
Press Club Brussels



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IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



MAUD ROURE
MODERATOR

Maud Roure is the Deputy Director, responsible for Programmes at the Kofi Annan Foundation. She also leads the Foundation's work on Building Peace & Trust and Promoting Youth Leadership, which includes the Extremely Together initiative, a youth-led effort to mobilize and enable young people to prevent violent extremism and polarization in their society. Before joining the Foundation, Maud was the Head of Learning and Policy and a member of the Strategic Management Team at Interpeace. She also worked on peacebuilding programmes in the Great Lakes region of Africa.



MARC FIEDRICH
OPENING REMARKS

Marc Fiedrich is the acting Director and Head of Service for the Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) at the European Commission and Head of the Stability and Peace Unit. In his position, he coordinates crisis response, conflict prevention and peace-building activities the EU undertakes through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – 'Global Europe'. Prior to his work with the EC, he was an ethnographic researcher in Uganda (1997 - 2000) and worked with several NGOs, principally in Africa.



SOFIA ANTON
PRESENTER

Sofia Anton is the Programme Manager for the Building Peace & Trust and Promoting Youth Leadership programmes at the Kofi Annan Foundation, and led the Extremely Together initiative in South and Southeast Asia. She works on the reconstruction of conflict-affected societies through transitional justice mechanisms and on violent extremism with the youth-led Extremely Together Initiative to prevent radicalization across communities. Previously she served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, at the Embassy of Finland in Mexico, and the Monterrey Institute of Technology (ITESM).



**CANDIDA NOVAK
HORNAKOVA**

PANELIST

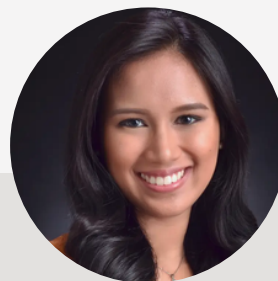
Candida Novak Hornakova is a Policy Officer at the Mediation Support Team of European External Action Service (EEAS) where she is working on integrating the Youth, Peace & Security (YPS) Agenda into EU conflict prevention and mediation support efforts. She is a Czech diplomat with over 14 years of experience with multilateral organisations, including serving as a delegate to the UN Security Council or the Vice-President of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board. She has also extensively worked on the Middle East Peace Process and SDG16.



**NATASCHA
SKJALDGAARD**

PANELIST

Natascha Skjaldgaard is the Global Youth Advisor and the Head of Section of the Africa desk at the Policy and Development department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. Before her current position, she was a UN Youth Delegate and member of the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth.



ARIZZA NOCUM

PANELIST

Arizza Nocum is a peace and education advocate from the Philippines and one of the Kofi Annan Foundation's Extremely Together Leaders. Her multi-faith background as the daughter of Catholic and Muslim parents inspired her to use education as a tool to promote peace and tolerance. Arizza founded KRIS Library, an NGO that has built libraries and provided scholarships to schoolchildren living in areas affected by conflict. Beyond KRIS, Arizza has also initiated training programs for young peacebuilders in the Philippines and is exploring the use of digital and social media as a tool for peace.



SYED ALI ABBAS

PANELIST

Syed Ali Abbas is a social activist from Pakistan and one of the Kofi Annan Foundation's Extremely Together's Leaders. He is an aeronautical engineer by training who has set up three foundations dedicated to tackling violent extremism around Pakistan. Through training and mass mobilisation campaigns, he helps young people overcome religious, economic and social divides. He has successfully led more than 30 projects – which have all gathered international recognition. He has been profiled as one of the nine most important activists in the world in 2012 by Al-Jazeera, and as the “Bravest Blogger of The World” by US Daily Beast.