

ANNUAL LETTER FOR ALL NORDIC SAFE CITIES MEMBERS

Dear members of the Nordic Safe Cities Network

On behalf of the Nordic Safe Cities team and the Nordic Council of Ministers we would like to thank you for being part of the Nordic Safe Cities Network within the past year, and for your continued efforts in creating safer societies, building social cohesion and preventing polarization and violent extremism across the Nordic Region.

A YEAR IN NORDIC SAFE CITIES

Since the establishment of Nordic Safe Cities in 2016, the network has engaged 33 Nordic cities and more than +600 practitioners, experts, politicians, organizations and youth in the activities and sessions of the network. Over the past years we have collaborated with yourself and your Nordic colleagues to spread new knowledge and tools for your everyday work in keeping your city safe. In 2018 we have continued these efforts and advanced the network on a local, Nordic and international level.

2018 saw the initiation of several local activities established. Through the concept KomINN +150 young people in Larvik and Kristiansand were trained in becoming social change-makers and developing tangible campaigns and initiatives, that can create inclusion and safety among all youth. +20 local campaigns were developed. One campaign created in Larvik, #Hilsforfaen, reached more than 3.000 young people and was launched at Stavern Festival this summer.

Furthermore, Copenhagen municipality has now become the first Danish city to launch a mosque network engaging +6 mosques to work together for a safer and more tolerant city.

On a Nordic level the network held two Nordic Sessions in Helsinki and Kristiansand. Gathering +200 Nordic actors, experts, politicians and practitioners to share knowledge, be inspired and develop new policies and practical solutions to help the cities of the North create safer cities.

2018 was also the year where we had our first official membership meeting in Kristiansand. Here a strategic roadmap for the network was discussed, and precedence was set for the new steering structure of the network.

We have also brought your work to the European and global scene, where we have experienced a tremendous interest in the Nordic prevention approach and Nordic Safe Cities programme. Most recently at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September where we also gained new insights and contact that we will introduce in the programme activities in 2019.

On a strategic level the secretariat has also focussed on establishing a stronger relationship with governmental actors within the field, e.g. ministries and the established centers in Denmark, Norway and Sweden and to get a closer collaboration with research institutions and centers of expertise. All with the purpose of connecting the dots between the work being done on a local, Nordic and International level.



These relationships will for next year result in the establishment of an Advisory Board. Through the Advisory Board we aim to continuously strengthen our approach and spread the newest knowledge to your city as well as share the Nordic prevention model to the relevant organizations and networks on both a Nordic and international scale.

Based on the membership meeting in Kristiansand, we will from 2019 conduct steering group meetings in which all member cities will meet once a year for a meeting prior to a Nordic Safe City Session.

LOOKING INTO 2019

In 2019 we are eager to continue strengthening the political engagement within the network even more and creating local concepts and actions together with you and your cities.

We are looking very much forward to continue the collaboration with your city and together ensure even stronger network, knowledge sharing and development of new initiatives and create a safer Scandinavia together.

Please note that the next Nordic Safe Cities session will be on March 20-21, 2019 in Oslo, Norway. More information will follow.

On behalf of the Nordic Safe Cities network and the Nordic Council of Ministers

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