

## What is the Coordination Office for the Prevention of Extremism

(Koordinierungsstelle Extremismusprävention)?

German society is a multicultural society. The Municipal Integration Centre of the District of Viersen is committed to creating a social climate in which intercultural interaction is the normal state of affairs. This requires people to be able to relate to one another respectfully and without prejudice.

The Coordination Office for the Prevention of Extremism (KoEx) draws up measures and supports institutions with the aim of facilitating that:

- Do you have concerns that people in your school are becoming radicalised, but you don't know who to turn to? KoEx will put you in touch with the right contacts.
- Are people in your club increasingly making bigoted and discriminatory statements that should not go unchallenged? KoEx can suggest some ways of dealing with the problem.
- Are you interested in organising a training course, a specialist event or a project against extremism and need speakers or other support? KoEx has an extensive network to draw on.

KoEx can also provide assistance with other related issues.

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Ministerium für Kinder, Jugend, Familie,  
Gleichstellung, Flucht und Integration  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Ministerium für  
Schule und Bildung  
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Herausgeber: Kreis Viersen - Der Landrat  
Stand: November 2022  
Fotos: © beeboys - stock.adobe.com



COORDINATION OFFICE  
FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF EXTREMISM  
of the District of Viersen

## Role of the Coordination Office for the Prevention of Extremism (KoEx)

The Municipal Integration Centre is committed to intercultural interaction in various areas of life.

As part of the Municipal Integration Centre, KoEx cooperates with various organisations. They work to prevent extremism, provide information about forms of extremism or are engaged in promoting a democratic and intercultural society.

The responsibilities of KoEx also include regional coordination of the “Schools without Racism – Schools with Courage” network. Many schools of various types in the area have already joined this school network.

Intercultural co-existence is a matter of course in the District of Viersen. At the same time, increasing radicalisation has been evident in German society over the last decade.

The role of KoEx is to counteract such developments by taking preventative action at an early stage.

In this context, KoEx emphasises a multi-perspective approach that takes account of the latest research. As part of the Municipal Integration Centre, KoEx has the opportunity to draw on an established network of cooperation partners.

Extremism not only manifests itself in a variety of forms, with both political and religious motivation. It can even be found at the heart of society when discrimination takes place against people of a different background, culture or religion.

People are different, extremism denies that. Extremism assumes that people are not equal. Extremism blames outsiders for conflict in society.

KoEx recognises that conflicts and friction can come about in any society. It is not a distinctive feature of intercultural societies.

The question is how to deal with it. Using intercultural skills, it is possible to counteract conflict by showing curiosity and a willingness to talk and compromise.

Intercultural skills are the basis for dealing with any conflicts that arise in a constructive way. Passing on intercultural skills is, therefore, the best way to prevent extremism. KoEx provides support for this by teaching these skills.