# Countering Violent Extremist Ideologies

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# Some initial definitions:

⬡ Ideology:

- a system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy: *the ideology of democracy*.

- the ideas and manner of thinking characteristic of a group, social class, or individual: *a critique of bourgeois ideology*.

⬡ Extremist:

- a person or a group who holds extreme or fanatical political or religious views, especially one who resorts to or advocates extreme action: *political extremists | [as modifier] :  an extremist conspiracy*.

⬡ Violent:

- using or involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something: *a violent confrontation with protesters*.

# EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES:

- Extremist means 'to be far outside' the acceptable norms of society.

  - ACCEPTABLE

- However, every society has a different understanding of what is acceptable.

  - VALUES, PRINCIPLES, NORMS BASED ON LOVE AND RESPECT

3

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# Education is not neutral

- The relation between education and political life reveals the project of education in modern and postmodern times by unfolding the necessary critical thinking elements conducive to novel proposals on education.

- Education can either make a creative contribution to the betterment of political life through education, or provide an analysis of the field by identifying the major contributors and some of its continuum challenges.

- The role of education is not solely the understanding, interpretation and critique of which has already been theorized and practiced but also the reformulation of education itself.

# Education has a political function

⬡ We all belong to a 'polis' – to a city, a community and a collective –

⬡ Our identities as individuals gain meaning and purpose when we live within our political agency

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# WHY SHOULD EDUCATION RESPOND TO VIOLENCE?

O Education as a whole is conceived as non-violent practice that promotes humanistic values

O Education create relations with other through understanding and comprehension of 'difference'

O *"To be human is to engage in relationships with others and with the world" – Paulo Freire*

O *"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented" – Elie Wiesel*

# Citizenry & Social Responsibility

O The development of social responsibility and citizenship are essential for active participation within one's community and as a means to actively transform one's social and political structure.

O SOCIAL JUSTICE

O SOCIAL and CULTURAL RESPONSABILITY

O ACTIVE RESPONSE TO INJUSTICE