

Transatlantic Mayoral Dialogue on Preventing Hate, Extremism, and Polarization, and Safeguarding Local Democracy



NOVEMBER 15 – 16, 2022
THE PEACE PALACE, THE HAGUE



Mayoral Declaration

We, the Mayors and City Leaders gathered from North America and Europe in The Hague for the Strong Cities Network Transatlantic Mayoral Dialogue on Preventing Hate, Extremism, and Polarization, and Safeguarding Local Democracy:

Condemn the growing misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories driving hate, polarization and extremism.

Express concern that these challenges are impacting not only how citizens interact with their governments and each other but also represent an unprecedented challenge to human rights and the democratic values upon which our societies are founded.

Recognize that mayors and local leaders play a unique role in responding to these challenges, working in close collaboration with civil society and the communities they serve to strengthen social cohesion and create cities of belonging.

Stand in solidarity with mayors and communities who defend, promote, and protect the rights of their communities, minorities, and those who seek shelter and refuge in times of crisis.

Welcome the leading role that the Strong Cities Network continues to play in facilitating the sharing of local learnings across the network.

Declare our commitment to, and *call on* all mayors and other local leaders on both sides of the Atlantic to join us in:

1. Leading by example to promote and preserve fundamental freedoms and standing against all forms of discrimination, disinformation, intolerance, hate, violence and extremism.
2. Strengthening our democracies and facilitating the active participation of all citizens, especially young people and isolated or marginalized communities to promote and foster social cohesion, representative governance, and resilience.
3. Promoting transparency and pursuing open dialogue between city authorities, civil society and communities, to understand peoples' lived realities and aspirations.
4. Building and strengthening trust between local governments and the communities they represent to curb negative trends that consider citizens and governments opponents rather than partners.

5. Supporting multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approaches to understand the threats our communities face, drive forward holistic approaches to addressing hate, extremism, and polarization, and empower, enable, and equip the frontline workers and communities who play key roles in effective local prevention efforts.
6. Ensuring data-driven and evidence-based local strategies that address local grievances and can respond to a continuously changing and increasingly interconnected and dynamic threat environment.
7. Promoting increased cooperation with national partners to ensure that the voices of cities and their communities are reflected in national and international prevention policy frameworks.
8. Building cooperation with the Strong Cities Network and other international networks and partners to elevate and enhance the role of cities in the prevention of hate, extremism and polarization, and the safeguarding of local democracy.

Express our further commitment to share with the Strong Cities Network on an annual basis the actions we have taken to implement this declaration.

Cities endorsing The Hague Mayoral Declaration (as of 21 February 2023):

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Antwerp, Belgium
 Arnhem, The Netherlands
 Berlin, Germany
 Bodegraven-Reeuwijk, The Netherlands
 Bratislava, Slovakia
 Budapest, Hungary
 Budavár (Budapest I), Hungary
 Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA
 Columbus, Ohio, USA
 Delft, The Netherlands
 Denver, Colorado, USA
 Dusseldorf, Germany
 Eindhoven, The Netherlands
 Essen, Germany
 Florence, Italy
 Fredrikstad, Norway
 Greater Manchester Region, United Kingdom
 Gouda, The Netherlands
 Helsinki, Finland
 Highland Park, Illinois, USA

Houston, Texas, USA
 Kristiansand, Norway
 Leiden, The Netherlands
 London, United Kingdom
 Los Angeles, California, USA
 Montréal, Canada
 Malmö, Sweden
 Oslo, Norway
 Paris, France
 Poznań, Poland
 Prato, Italy
 Rotterdam, The Netherlands
 Seattle, Washington, USA
 Stamford, Connecticut, USA
 Strasbourg, France
 The Hague, The Netherlands
 Utrecht, The Netherlands
 Vilvoorde, Belgium
 Wroclaw, Poland
 Zilina, Slovakia



Signed on behalf of North American cities by
The Hon Andrew J Ginther
 Mayor of Columbus, Ohio, USA



Signed on behalf of European cities by
The Hon Jan van Zanen
 Mayor of The Hague, The Netherlands