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# NEWSLETTER



## Creative Content as a Tool to Deradicalise and Disengage

- Creative Content: A Playful Tool to Deradicalise and Disengage
- In Touch with Dessa Quesada-Palm: The Art of Coming Together
- Upcoming Webinar
- Member Highlights
- Open Contributor & Funding Opportunities





# Introduction

Throughout the month of August, SEAN-CSO focused on creative content as a tool to deradicalise and disengage. It is a non-traditional method of learning that can effect the process of deradicalisation and disengagement. Experts believe there is no one formula to define “Creative Content.” Therefore, there are various ways to utilize creative content for this purpose.

This month, SEAN-CSO invited practitioners and experts to discuss their unique ways of creating creative content. We organized a webinar and interviewed a figure regarding how to create and use creative content as a tool to deradicalise and disengage.



# Creative Content: A Playful Tool to Deradicalise and Disengage

Creative content is a new method that encourages unique and non traditional methods of learning that can be used to deradicalise and disengage individuals from violent activities. It identifies the drivers of radicalisation to formulate measures to address the issue. The subsequent interventions can be divided into two categories: deradicalisation and disengagement.

Deradicalisation focuses on directing an individual's violent ideology and behavior to be nonviolent. Disengagement, however, emphasizes how to open space for individuals to change behavior, such as rejecting, avoiding, and refraining from violent activities. The process involves a long-term and voluntary response rather than a forced and sudden 'decapitation' of violent actions. Rather than eliminating the core ideology, interventions should be viewed as a means to channel that energy to other actions instead of violence.

Based on that assumption, we can use creative content to create programs that focus on how to encourage participants to work together playfully. However, few Southeast Asian CSOs have applied this method of using interactive games such as board games or cultural activities. The creative content outcomes should genuinely fill the rooms of hopes or fears being felt

during the normative process of CVE. This approach is hoped to have a significant impact and give different and new perspectives addressing the drivers behind violent extremism.

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## Source:

Chowdhury, N, Hearne, F, and Hearne, E. (2008). *Beyond Terrorism: Deradicalization and Disengagement from Violent Extremism*.

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Nasution, W. (2017). Mengenai Deradikalisasi. *Jurnal Intelijen*. <https://doi.org/https://jurnalintelijen.net/2017/10/26/mengenai-deradikalisasi/>

Lakhani, S., & Wiedlitzka, S. (2022). "Press F to pay respects": An empirical exploration of the mechanics of gamification in relation to the Christchurch attack. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2022.2064746>

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## In Touch with Dessa Quesada-Palm (Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute): The Art of Coming Together

This month, SEAN-CSO is in touch with Dessa-Quesada Palm, artistic director of the Youth Advocate Through Theatre Arts (YATTA) and also part of faculty courses related to arts and peacebuilding at the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute (MPI) based in the Philippines. For 40 years, she has been experienced in art performances such as dance and drama theatre. “For me, (creative content is) anything that comes from you, from what you feel, what you think, and express in ways that use a certain level of art,” she stated.

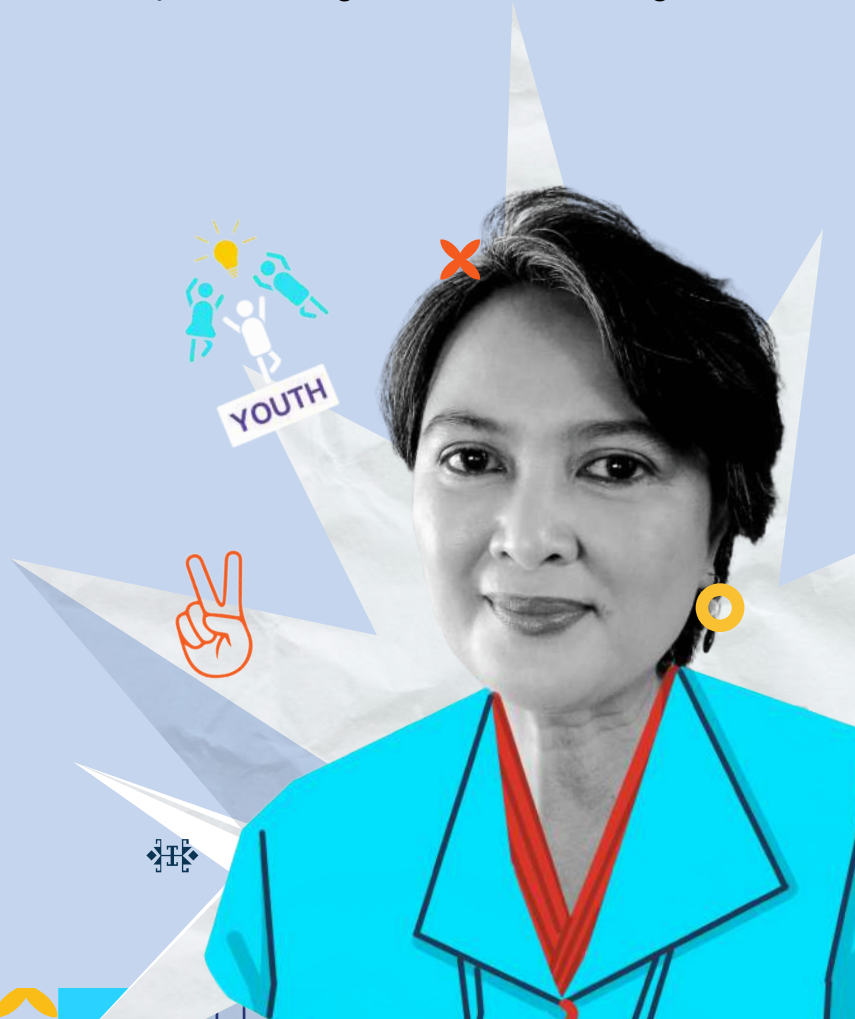
She believes that the creative process of art could help channel young people's energy to be productive and not harmful to others. “Somehow, I always returned to drama theatre. I think for me, that is bound with my spirit. I can't live without doing this; it is a give if people find it. So I feel the challenge now is finding how many spaces there are for young people trying to figure out through peaceful means,” said Dessa.

From the academic perspective, literature on creative content for PCVE is still a work in progress. Dessa and her friends from Japan and Kenya put several courses (before it was face-to-face, now it is online) and co-work articles now part of Routledge's book called “Theatre in Peacebuilding,” she stated.”

In the context of Southeast Asia, the content and platform variation should match its

communities' characteristics. “We need to use all media. Each medium or genre touches us differently as a person,” she added. She then recalls the stories of an interfaith workshop between Muslims and Christian students, some of which evacuated from a city under siege by extremist elements of ISIS. The beautiful part that touched her the most was when they were able to tell stories of home left on their phones to later portray and share important values.

In a closing statement, she said the importance of fun and passion in PCVE efforts “Well, peacebuilding is a process, which goes just like having fun on the one hand. Because the more fun you have then, the less aggressive you have. Arts can capture that range of emotion and feeling.”







## Webinar Highlights

### 3 Ways to Utilize Creative Content to Deradicalise and Disengage VE

Can creative content be used as a tool to deradicalise and disengage VE? On Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022, we discussed this topic in our webinar with three notable speakers: Mahi Ramakrishnan (Beyond Borders, Malaysia), Lindawati Sumpena (PeaceGeneration, Indonesia), and Dr. Amporn Marddernt (Thammasat University, Thailand). They shared their insights on using creative content to promote deradicalisation and disengagement from CVE.

Here are three ways to utilize creative content:

- **Festival**

Mahi's context in Malaysia reveals the Malaysian people's lack of exposure and awareness to refugees' rights and protections. She has met a lot of refugees who are talented artists. Therefore, Mahi used creative solutions to engage with the public through festivals. Seven years ago, Mahi held the first Refugee Festival in Malaysia, inviting these refugees, many of them were poets, writers, and even filmmakers. This festival suddenly became a platform for the refugees to share their life experiences, and the Malaysian public could listen to them.

- **Art Performance**

Dr. Amporn had her students read poems about peace. She believes that poetry is one example of local resilience to promote social cohesion and fight against social

exclusion when people are stigmatized and vulnerable. Dr. Amporn argued, even an academic conference can be a place where people can engage in discussions and share their life experiences, even write it down as a poem.

- **Gamification**

Who would've thought the concept of "game" could be used as a tool to deradicalise? Linda shared her experience with PeaceGeneration using gamification methods for peacebuilding. Gamification tries to give the players some of the journeys that drive their internal motivation to do something. Targeting younger audiences, she attempted to deliver the process of preventing violent extremism in the form of a game.

Using creative content, it is possible to deradicalise and disengage VE in a much more fun way. Although the concept of creative content has a broad meaning, plenty of alternative tools can be used to promote P/CVE. This approach is not only practical, but it also broke the stigma that deradicalisation and disengagement can only be accomplished by using intimidating or serious methods.





## Member Highlights

### Division for Applied Social Psychology Research (DASPR)

#### Indonesia

Long before it was established in 2017, DASPR members have been actively researching and exploring the issues of terrorism and deradicalization since 2007. Under the direction of Professor Sarlito W. Sarwono as the initiator of the psychology of terrorism in Indonesia, they explored the motives of terror acts.

Ten years later, DASPR became known as a group driven by scholar-activists to tackle social problems through social psychology perspective and method. They have conducted some research, including “The Roles of Women in Counter Violent Extremism,” “Rehumanization Project,” and “Politics, News Media, and Identity Discourse.”

Other than research, DASPR has had some important activities since 2017. From 2017 until 2018, DASPR cooperating with the

Directorate General of Corrections (Direktorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan), held a program of Fostering The Effectiveness of Deradicalization Programs in Prison. In the same year, DASPR had an empowerment program, “In-Prison Re-education Program for Terrorist Inmates,” targeting 22 convicts of terrorist inmates in 5 prisons in Java and Sulawesi. In 2019, DASPR conducted an intervention program involving families of terrorism convicts called the “Family Resilience Program.”

DASPR also made a documentary film as a counter-narrative in 2018-2019 called “Keluargaku, Jihadku” (My Family, My Jihad). Previously, in 2020-2022, DASPR implemented a program to enhance the Government of Indonesia in dealing with the P/CVE issues called “Integrating Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) into the Guideline and Training Manual of the Indonesian Parole Officers Association” (Ipkemindo).



Source photo : DASPR

## Center for Human Rights and Community Security (Sabah) or Pusat ASASI

### Malaysia

Envisioning a resilient, prosperous, and peaceful Malaysia is the main driver for the Center for Human Rights and Community Security (Sabah) or Pusat ASASI. This organization works as a resource center for Community Security and Human Rights Development in Sabah. Therefore, its core function revolves around facilitating and managing community development projects. Pusat ASASI also provides the society with professional services such as capacity building and legal and technical assistance in Sabah.

ASASI has made some efforts to achieve these objectives by working on a series of community engagements, outreach projects, and capacity-building activities,

including hosting a state-level Roundtable on P/CVE on 31 October 2019 at the Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu. ASASI also initiated a campaign and youth empowerment program called “Kita Orang Sabah, Tolak Segala Bentuk Diskriminasi dan Keganasan” (We Are the People Of Sabah, We Reject All Forms of Discrimination & Violence). Then in 2021, ASASI conducted a Youth Leadership Camp called “Kem Kepimpinan Anak Muda ASASI 2021 – Bersama Membina Peradaban” in order to foster value-building among the youth.



## Are you the one that SEAN-CSO are looking for?

If you are an academic, NGO officer, or Human rights activist that has knowledge and/or experience in the field of secondary and tertiary interventions, and would love to spread positive messages to prevent and oppose violent extremism in Southeast Asia through creative ideas, then, you are eligible to apply to our new program SEAN-CSO Content Contributors.

Not only can you spread positive messages, but you can also have this additional benefit:

- Incentive up to USD\$150. The article will be published on the
- SEAN-CSO website, social media, and newsletter.
- Special merchandise from SEAN-CSO.

To read more of the requirements, you can click this post on our linkinbio. We provide the link for our guidelines and application, or you can simply visit our website at:

[bit.ly/SEAN-CSOContentContributorINFO](https://bit.ly/SEAN-CSOContentContributorINFO)



## Funding Opportunities

**USAID Global Fund for Women -**  
Localization Activity Agency for International  
Development

► [bit.ly/SEANCSO-USAIDWomen](https://bit.ly/SEANCSO-USAIDWomen)

**What works to prevent violence:**  
Scale-up Grant

► [bit.ly/SEANCSO-WW2PV](https://bit.ly/SEANCSO-WW2PV)

**Asia Foundation Development Fellows**

► [bit.ly/SEANCSO-AsiaFoundation](https://bit.ly/SEANCSO-AsiaFoundation)

**The Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund:**  
Short-term Grants

► [bit.ly/SEANCSO-WPHFund](https://bit.ly/SEANCSO-WPHFund)



## Upcoming Webinar

### ASEAN: The Hotbed of Potential War? What are the interventions needed?

Wednesday, September 7th 2022

#### Event Time:

| 03:00 PM Jakarta Time  
| 04:00 PM Kuala Lumpur Time  
| 06:00 PM Melbourne Time

#### Speakers:

**Greg Barton**  
(Deakin University, Australia)  
**Wai Wai Nu**  
(Women Peace Network,  
Myanmar)  
**Marcin Damek**  
(Nanjing University, China)

#### Moderator:

**Tadzrul Adha**  
(IMAN Research, Malaysia)

[bit.ly/SEANCSOWebinar-Sept2022](https://bit.ly/SEANCSOWebinar-Sept2022)



## Synergy in Harmony

Walk together for a better world



This update has been brought to you by  
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Generation Indonesia.**

Would you like to be featured in the next SEAN-CSO  
Newsletter or in our upcoming social media  
campaign?

If you have stories, research, or programs focused on  
Preventing or Countering Violent Extremism, contact  
us at:

[sean-cso@peacegen.id](mailto:sean-cso@peacegen.id)

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