**STRONG CITIES NETWORK: CENTRAL ASIA LOCAL COORDINATOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Strong Cities Network: Central Asia Local Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Research, Policy and Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports to</td>
<td>Manager, Balkans and Central Asia, Strong Cities Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct reports</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgetary responsibility</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource responsibility</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>Part-time (a minimum of 2.5 days/week with opportunities for increased days dependent on the ability to deliver all requirements); fixed-term consultancy contract for 12 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>Competitive, based on experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Remote working, ideally based in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan and able to travel as needed throughout the region.</td>
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**About ISD**

ISD is a global counter-extremism organization dedicated to powering solutions to hate and extremism. ISD has established itself as one of the leading global authorities on extremism and security. Combining research and analysis with government advisory work and programme delivery, ISD has been at the forefront of forging real-world, evidence-based responses to the challenges of integration, extremism and terrorism.

As a global non-profit organization with teams in London, Beirut, Toronto and Washington D.C., ISD enjoys strategic partnerships with the world’s leading technology companies and supports more than a dozen prominent governments and institutions in stemming the rise of violent extremism and hate speech.

**About the Strong Cities Network (SCN)**

Launched at the United Nations in September 2015, the Strong Cities Network (SCN) is the first ever global network of mayors, municipal-level policy makers and practitioners united in building social cohesion and community resilience to counter violent extremism in all its forms.

Led by ISD and comprised of more than 140 cities, the SCN builds collaboration between mayors, political actors and frontline teams to tackle polarisation, hate and violence in local communities in every major global region. The network catalyses, inspires and multiplies community-centric approaches and action to counter violent extremism through peer learning and expert training. It operates with a set of fundamental principles, agreed by all members, that protect and promote human rights and civil liberties in all aspects of its work to prevent violent extremism.

**SCN in Central Asia**

Building on engagement and training activities across Central Asia since 2019, the SCN is implementing an exciting project focused on building multi-agency and multi-stakeholder local...
coordination to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE). Following initial engagement through the first SCN Regional Practitioners’ Workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2019, and ongoing activities to recruit city members to the network and conduct city consultations, the SCN will support a programme of work aimed at building cooperation and engagement on PVE between mayors, national and local policy-makers, practitioners and frontliners through an SCN city exchange and national-local regional workshop. Moreover, SCN will support policy-makers through online research on the scope, scale, nature and influence of Russian-language extremist narrative in the region to improve understanding of online extremist content and inform responses to counter the spread of online hate and polarising speech.

Local governments have an important role to play in P/CVE and can provide both a strong contextual understanding of the drivers of extremism and communal violence, alongside direct access to the communities they serve. However, they too often have little means to coordinate (both vertically and horizontally) on important awareness-raising and community engagement on PVE issues. Through online research, our project aims to equip national and local level PVE stakeholders with policy briefs on the online extremist threat environment regionally. This will inform policy-makers on how adapt to contemporary online threats and design comprehensive activities with civil society and private sector actors on responding to the associated risks. Moreover, SCN will seek to enhance cooperation, communication and coordination between national and local level authorities with a stake in PVE issues. Additionally, the program aims to strengthen partnerships between city officials in all countries in the region through an exchange to share best practices and lessons learnt on PVE policies, structures and activities.

SCN efforts are distinct from other PVE programming in the region with its unique approach on providing actionable online research findings, facilitating local government partnership regionally and improving coordination with national-level counterparts. Success will depend on thorough online analysis and coordination between the Consultant, SCN and the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media (CASM) - SCN’s technical partner for the project. Additionally, it will be dependent on strengthening the bond between SCN and the newly recruited city members by building cooperative partnerships at all levels of national and local government and fostering strong relationships and dialogue to support a “whole of society” approach. This coordination will be integral to the impact, credibility and ultimately the sustainability of our activities.

In light of the ongoing response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic and local restrictions on movement and gatherings, the success of the project will depend upon strong coordination of stakeholders, the use of digital research approaches, alongside the agility to adapt to new ways of working such as delivering activities online where necessary.

**Role Purpose**

ISD seeks to engage a Consultant to work with the ISD and SCN team, and the technical partner in delivering this work in Central Asia. Acting as a local coordinator, the Consultant will serve the project as an on-the-ground point of contact responsible for logistical coordination of SCN activities, day-to-day stakeholder management and representation to city officials, partners and relevant authorities. Equally important, the Consultant will ideally also support research on the Central Asian Online Extremism Index by working together with ISD staff and a technical partner in identifying the nature and scope of key online extremism narratives and networks in the region.

The Consultant will work on enhancing SCN’s engagement in Central Asia through continuous communication and coordination with newly recruited SCN members, and facilitating the application process of other interested cities in the region which want to join the network. Additionally, the...
Consultant will work closely with the SCN team members and the technical partner in designing and implementing the Online Extremism Index for Central Asia in Russian. As for offline regional activities, the Consultant will be responsible for logistically supporting the organisation of a city exchange and national-local coordination workshop in the regional and contributing in close partnership with subject matter experts from across SCN and the ISD team based in London. Coordination with officials and partners in additional locations may also be required as necessary. The successful candidate will be based ideally in one of the five Central Asian countries. Occasional travel within the region, when permitted, might be required. International travel restrictions permitting, we would also envisage at least one coordination/collaboration visit to our HQ offices in London, UK.

**Responsibilities**
The Consultant will need to work independently in the region and will be responsible for:

- Consistent daily coordination, representation and relationship building/management with mayors and local government officials, national government ministries and multilateral engagement
- Identifying key project stakeholders and beneficiaries on an individual and administrative level across all local governments engaged
- Coordinating and engaging with civil society organisations and the international community
- Participating in an online research technical training on online media listening tools
- Supporting the design of the online thematic and geographic research scope
- Identifying key online sources with extremist content
- Identifying key search terms for the thematic and geographic research scope
- Filtering, classifying and analysing data to produce the Online Extremism Index for Central Asia
- Supporting regional analysis and project monitoring and evaluation activities as required
- Contributing /drafting of training materials to be piloted at the regional workshop, including the translation of documents and materials.
- Co-facilitating both the city exchange and regional national-local workshop alongside SCN HQ staff
- Local logistical support for a city exchange involving an estimated 10-15 individuals from partner cities
- Local logistical support for a regional workshop involving an estimated 20-30 people from across the Central Asia
- Contributing to wider SCN activities and informing project strategy and scope as required.

**Person Specification**
We seek an experienced, proactive and dedicated Consultant to work with the SCN team to ensure our ambitious plans in the region are achieved. The successful candidate will be a collaborative and solutions-focused professional with the ability to work to deadline and produce outputs to a high quality. We welcome applications from Consultants who meet the following criteria:

**Essential**

- Significant experience in developing and delivering community-based peacebuilding/ social cohesion projects with a range of stakeholders from different backgrounds
- Previous experience working in and/or with government/municipalities
- Knowledge of national PVE strategies, policies, programmes and priorities in Central Asia
- Experience in implementing PVE projects
• Comprehensive understanding of extremist groups, narratives and recruitment trends across Central Asia
• In-depth knowledge of regional online extremist-related discourses
• In-depth knowledge of prominent social media platforms and news websites
• Conducting analytical research on conflict-related issues in the region
• Experience in organising and delivering meetings, events, trainings and activities
• Experience of delivering training workshops/seminars and developing training materials
• Highly organised with the ability to be flexible, multi-task and respond proactively
• An understanding of and commitment to SCN’s core mission
• Intercultural and interpersonal awareness, with acute political, religious and cultural sensitivity
• Native Russian speaker, or high professional Russian language proficiency, with excellent verbal and written language English

Desirable
• Prior background of engagement with key PVE stakeholders in Central Asia, including with government ministries
• Developed understanding of local government structures and administrative organisation across Central Asia
• Working knowledge of one or more of the following languages: Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uzbek and Turkmen.
• Excellent working knowledge of social listening technology, natural language processing, and open source intelligence
• Experience translating materials / conducting simultaneous translation.

Application Process
To apply, please send a copy of your CV and a covering letter (no more than 2 pages) to vacancies@isdglobal.org by 1700 GMT on Friday 29th August. Please include an indication of your pay expectations in your cover letter, using a USD day rate.

Interviews are planned immediately after the close of the application period. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted and applications without a covering letter will not be considered. ISD reserves the right to appoint before this date where required.