JOB DESCRIPTION

STRONG CITIES NETWORK DIRECTOR

Role	Strong Cities Network Director		
Reports to	Managing Director/ CEO	**Direct reports**	3+
Budgetary responsibility	>£2m per year	**Resource responsibility**	
Contract	Permanent; 4-5 days per week; Part time role considered		
Salary	£70,000 - £95,000		

About ISD

ISD is a global think and do tank dedicated to powering solutions to hate, polarisation and extremism. Combining research and analysis with government advisory work and programme delivery around the world, ISD works to implement real-world, evidence-based responses to these challenges. We are a fast-paced and dynamic team that prioritises integrity, collaboration and courage in all we do.

As an independent, international, non-profit organisation with teams in London, Beirut, Berlin, Nairobi and Toronto, ISD enjoys strategic partnerships with some of the world's leading universities and supports more than a dozen prominent governments and international institutions in safeguarding human rights and stemming the rise of extremism and hate.

Role/Purpose

The Strong Cities Network (SCN) Director is a senior role at ISD providing leadership and representation of ISD's flagship cities programme. Established at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, the SCN exists to pool knowledge, tools and good practice, to support city exchange and to scale local-level capacity and response to hate, polarisation and extremism globally. We help our members (145 municipal and regional authorities from every major global region) design and deploy community-driven strategies rooted in localised assessments of risk and capacity, and supported by sector-leading research and expertise in global extremist movements.

We are looking for an experienced and visionary leader to join ISD's senior team and to lead the next stage of the SCN's consolidation, development and growth. The post holder will have at least -10 years' experience delivering capacity building programming in challenging global environments, and the gravitas to represent the SCN at the highest levels within relevant multi-lateral institutions, the international donor community, and national and local governments. They will work with the SCN's international team to drive forward a dynamic global engagement strategy, with the ambition of building the SCN into the preeminent international support infrastructure for cities looking to counter polarisation and extremism by 2025. In doing so, they will draw on the expertise of the research, policy and programming teams at ISD as well as ISD's wider networks of experts and practitioners. The SCN Director will lead engagement with key donor countries, national and local government officials, mayors, multilateral institutions (including the UN, GCTF and EU) and a range of local and international civic stakeholders.

Responsibilities

Working alongside ISD's leadership team and programmatic teams, the SCN Director will engage with multilateral institutions, key governments and a range of civic and expert stakeholders to expand the network's impact and profile globally. Key areas of responsibility for the role are:

1. **Strategy, Policy & Content**
   a. Development and delivery of SCN medium-term strategy for the consolidation and development of the network, including global funding, engagement and influence
   b. Ensure development of the SCN's policy engagement with members, governments and multilateral institutions, in particular ensuring the consolidation of frameworks for national-to-local coordination, and representation of the SCN within key multilateral institutions (GCTF, UNCTED, UNOCT, EU, etc)
   c. Oversee the creation of SCN content (policy and training modules on critical thematic priorities) engaging, leveraging and building out ISD/SCN's network of experts and practitioners
   d. Develop and enhance the SCN's offer to cities in terms of expertise and capacity building around the world
   e. Provide oversight and quality control of key SCN outputs (publications, newsletter and member/partner communications, training and capacity building modules, SCN Online Hub etc)

2. **High-level representation and outreach**
   a. Devise and drive an ambitious strategy for network engagement at local, national and multi-lateral levels, expanding the SCN's visibility among key constituencies
   b. Act as an ambassador for the SCN, leading global representation and engagement
   c. Identify and pursue partnerships, advocacy and representation opportunities aligned to the strategic priorities of the SCN and ISD

3. **SCN institution-building**
   a. Strategically develop the SCN's governance and secretariat functions, including relaunching the International Steering Committee of mayors, establishing an Advisory Board and annual network touch-points
   b. Develop the core functions of the SCN, including ongoing member engagement, the build out of the SCN Online Hub and resources, communications and Monitoring and Evaluation
   c. Spearhead the strategy, delivery and content for annual high-level network events in partnership with regional heads and SCN programmatic leads

4. **Fundraising and programme development**
   a. Lead donor engagement, fostering better donor coordination around the SCN's longer term strategic priorities
   b. Develop SCN donor proposals with the SCN team for continuing and new areas of SCN work, engaging with a range of existing and new donors
   c. Work with the senior team and regional heads to meet annual targets for fundraising for the SCN

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Expectations

We expect all staff, consultants and volunteers to:

- Commit to ISD's vision, mission and Guiding Principles
- Foster diversity, inclusivity and equality of opportunity at ISD
- Demonstrate respect for others and safeguard those who are vulnerable
- Carry out their duties in accordance with ISD's policies and procedures
- Adhere to risk management and security instructions at all times

Competencies

These reflect ISD's Guiding Principles which we expect all members of the team to embody, regardless of seniority and role. How these competencies are assessed is outlined in ISD's Performance Review Process.

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge, training and qualifications	• Degree-level qualification or relevant experience • Excellent understanding of ISD's broader issue areas, including conflict, extremism and polarisation • Expertise in the field of countering violent extremism (CVE) • Expertise in implementation of countering violent extremism (CVE) programming in a range of global contexts, including countries in transition	• Master's Degree Qualification or substantial relevant experience on extremism, hate groups or related topics
Experience	• 10+ years professional experience in designing and delivering capacity building programming in challenging global environments. • 5 years+ experience working with a range of multilateral organisations, liaising with high-level stakeholders, and developing programming • Experience building networks of multi-lateral, as well as national-level, stakeholders to address issues such as peacebuilding, security and countering violent extremism (CVE) • Significant experience delivering countering violent extremism capacity building programmes in a	• Specific experience designing or leading an interventions / public health or psycho-social programmes • Significant experience in designing policymaker and practitioner-facing programmes • Experience working with national and local governments • Significant experience advocating for, and developing policy on countering violent extremism (CVE) in a range of global contexts, including countries in transition

	range of global contexts, including countries in transition • Experience building out programming, raising substantial funds for international programming and managing international teams • Significant experience working with senior policy makers • Experience in national and multilateral policy engagement and advising international institutions	
Skills	• Presentation and representation to professional groups, including at international level • Stakeholder management • Team management • High level of negotiation and influencing skills	• Professional language skills (French, Arabic, German) • Training and capacity building, and facilitation skills
Competencies	• Extremely strong written and oral communication skills • Exceptional analytical and critical thinking skills • Entrepreneurial approach to fundraising and development • Commercial acumen • Strong team management skills (remote, international teams)	• Exceptional attention to detail
Additional requirements		