



MINOTENK

minoritetspolitisk tenketank

What is *Minotenk*

- Minotenk is a minority political think tank
- Was founded in 2009
- Works with issues concerning the minority population in Norway, but also seeks to address minority challenges in a global perspective
- Beside being a think tank, we provide a network for young people who engage in minority politics.



Who are we



- Our management consists of young people with different cultural, academic and religious background.
- Minotenk also has an advisory council consisting of leading experts in Norway in the fields of history, anthropology, journalism, the medical profession, cross-cultural studies and religious studies.
- Committees of volunteers, working on different projects.

Our focus areas

- Motivate young people with minority background to take higher education and strengthening autonomy, resources and self-confidence.
- Improve the relationship between the minority and majority population, and the relationship between the different minority groups

Strategies

- Minotenk has adopted open debate and dialogue as our main tools. We have managed to mobilize members of the minority as well as the majority, young people as well as old, regardless of sex, ethnic or religious background. Many of those who have participated in our meetings have gone on to become well known voices in the media and gained access to our network.

Why dialogue is so important



“No realist politics in a civilised society is imaginable unless it is based on love of ones neighbour, mutuality, helpfulness and trust. This is the rock upon which all human cooperation must be built”

- Fridtjof Nansen

- Through dialogue, we gain new understanding of each other's experiences, perspectives, and needs. Stereotypes and enemy images may be broken down and relationships built
- The advantage of dialogue is that it's an easy and flexible tool
- Low costs
- Long time commitment is important
- Create a good, stimulating and safe environment for good talks

“When you know better you do better”

- Maya Angelou



Role models

- Negative focus on minorities in the media
- Survey 2009: 71 percent of all the stories that had immigration or integration as the main theme, was problem-oriented
- Among all the newspaper articles about immigrants and refugees from 1976 to 2002, crime was the most common topic
- Negative discourses > negative self-image
- Closed doors at the job market, rent market etc.

- Role models are highly important for us psychologically, helping to guide us through life during our development, to make important decisions that affect the outcome of our lives, and maybe most important: to find an positive and balanced identity
- Invisible role models
- Someone to identify with
- Create engagement, strong bonds with the media and create networks

Thank you for your attention! 😊 linda@minotenk.no

