

CONFLICT MATTERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

24 OCTOBER 2018

INSIDE POLARISATION – UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF US VERSUS THEM

Us versus them comes in many forms. EU versus UK, Muslim versus non-Muslim, believers versus non-believers, left versus right, man versus woman, teachers versus parents... the list is endless. Underneath we can see a universal pattern – and a dynamic that we urgently need to understand. In this lecture **Bart Brandsma**, the leading expert on dealing with the fall-out of polarisation, will take you inside polarisation.

He will present the three basic rules, the five roles you can play and the four game changers that will help you deal with polarisation. Teachers, mayors, police-officers, public prosecutors, journalists... all professionals who face the urgency to take a professional stand in tensed situations, in open or hidden polarisation, will be presented a number of eye-openers and new insights to start depolarisation. After the lecture – with interactive exchange with the public – you will feel refreshed and more equipped to deal with this age old dynamic, us versus them.

PRACTICAL INFO

The lecture will take place on **Wednesday 24 October** at 4 pm, in the Metropolitan Arts Center Belfast MAC, 10 Exchange St West, Belfast. BT1 2NJ. Participation is free of charge but registration is required, [please register here](#).

ABOUT BART BRANDSMA

Bart Brandsma (1967) is a Dutch philosopher, independent trainer and consultant who works throughout Europe on local and national issues, and is author of the book *Polarisation: understanding the dynamic of us versus them*.

With a small team of dedicated people, he trains and advises professionals – such as mayors, public prosecutors, policymakers, teachers, school heads, prison personnel and prison directors, radicalisation experts and counterterrorism teams, police professionals, municipality workers, youth and social workers, dialogue experts, communication advisors, journalists, etc. www.polarisatie.nl



ABOUT THE EVENS FOUNDATION

The Evens Foundation is a European public-benefit organisation with a mission to contribute to the development of a common European future based on cultural and social diversity.

For the past 10 years, we have been actively supporting educational projects in the field of conflict transformation; exploring pioneering ideas and good practices that allow to turn conflict into an educational opportunity.

In the coming years, as part of our Conflict Matters programme, we will be organising and supporting a variety of events across Europe that will explore the different manifestations, dynamics and potential of conflict in a broader and more in-depth way.

For more information about our initiatives, see www.evensfoundation.be

