



CT Policing Wales

Understanding the
signs of extremism

PLISMONA
GWRTHDERFYSGAETH
CYMRU



COUNTER
TERRORISM
POLICING WALES

ACT

ACTION
COUNTERS
TERRORISM



Identify

**GRIEVANCES
AND BELIEFS**

**CHANGE IN
BEHAVIOUR**

**SUSPICIOUS
ONLINE
ACTIVITY**

**VERBAL &
OFFENSIVE
BEHAVIOURS**



CT POLICING WALES

Understanding the signs of extremism:

Radicalisation is the process of causing someone to become a supporter of terrorism or forms of extremism that lead to terrorism.

There is no exact cause of someone becoming radicalised and it can happen to anyone, it is important to recognise these characteristics early and to safeguard the individual. Extremism is constantly shifting and it is recommended you stay current with these changes.

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect and tolerance for all faiths and beliefs. Not all extremist individuals will go on to commit violent acts of terrorism, however extremist behaviour can be displayed as part of the process of radicalisation

Definition Dilemma

Extremism, unlike Terrorism (TACT 2000) may be non-violent and in the UK, not considered a criminal offence – but non-violent extremism might be the first step in a process of radicalisation

Identify

How to spot the signs of possible extremism?

Verbal and offensive

- A person could be **hostile** towards people from a certain country, religious group, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background or beliefs
- **Use simplistic and prejudiced arguments** demonising other groups, seeing them as a threat to 'our way of life' or blaming them for global or local issues
- **Argumentative and domineering in their views**, be quick to condemn those who disagree and ignoring views that contradict their own.
- **Use extremist narratives**, read, view extremist propaganda or violent material
- **Justify** the use of **violence**
- **Become abusive** to others
- Have a **need to dominate** and control others
- **Display offensive signs**, symbols, flags and tattoos.

Grievance and Beliefs

- A person could have feelings of grievance or injustice – perceive they have been treated unfairly and subsequently express views of discrimination, distrust in government or social exclusion that leaves them with a distorted view of society.
- Refer to a ‘liberal, elite establishment agenda’ or ‘Jewish conspiracy’
- See white Britons as under threat of racial and cultural extinction and say that they have to ‘take action’
- Have a desire for political and social or religious change, justifying the use of violence to achieve such change
- Feel under threat or persecution “us and them” mentality
- Be sympathetic to extremist ideologies and extremist groups
- Identify with a proscribed / extremist group

Change in behaviour

- A person could question their faith or identity in society
- Be secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts or associates
- Be unwilling to engage with people who are different
- Have a desire for excitement and adventure – individuals can be influenced by online propaganda and will associate opportunity for adventure.

- Have a desire for status – some people may desire increased standing with their community and greater power
- Change their friends, significantly changing their appearance and disengaged in activities they used to enjoy
- Adopt the use of certain symbols associated with extremist organisations, distribute extremist literature, such as literature, videos and messages.

Understand the following changes in behaviour which may be a cause for concern

- victim of bullying or hate crime
- isolated and lonely
- angry at the world
- confused about the reasons for their misfortunes or situation
- purposeless, without direction or hope
- unprotected, lacking adult guidance

Online activity

Social media and online apps, gaming sites, websites, podcasts, radio, TV stations, forums and private chat rooms – provide a unique opportunity for people to express their views but they might become an echo chamber and individuals might find themselves drawn into the same beliefs of others.

- A person could use coded-language and ‘codes’ to communicate with Extremist communities

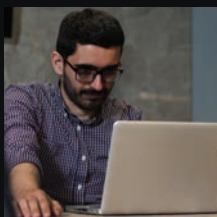


**“ A DESIRE FOR
POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL CHANGE,
USING VIOLENCE
TO ACHIEVE
SUCH CHANGE ”**





**“ THE INDIVIDUAL
MAY BECOME
INCREASINGLY
SECRETIVE ABOUT
THEIR ONLINE
ACTIVITIES ”**



- Download or view extremist content online, including books, magazines, radio and videos
- Be secretive online, having multiple online profiles and spending excessive periods of time online, using encryption software and/or VPN's to mask their online identity
- Share extremist or divisive views on their social media
- Be in contact with extremist recruiters
- Use encrypted chat forums APPS, WEBSITES, Private Chatrooms and platforms to communicate in secret

Safeguard

Professionals come into contact with vulnerable individuals all the time, we must always safeguard those most vulnerable within our communities. Just because someone is vulnerable it doesn't make them instantly susceptible to extremism but can place them in greater risk. To ensure we identify those who require the support of professionals working in Prevent you should consider the subjects vulnerability but in conjunction with the signs of extremism. If a vulnerable person is not displaying those characteristics of an extreme individual they may need support from other safeguarding professionals.

Vulnerabilities to Radicalisation

Identity Crisis

A person may be vulnerable if they are experiencing discomfort about their place in society, having difficulty accepting their identity or questioning their faith or beliefs.

Personal Crisis

Persons may be experiencing a traumatic time in their life, feeling under threat, a sense of isolation, low self-esteem and they may be experiencing family tension or poor relationships. A person who is in a transitional time of their life such as changing jobs, new university, ending a relationship, recovering from illness or any other significant event leaving them thinking "what's next" and trigger a search for new meaning.

Personal Circumstances

People can often find themselves in difficult situations and therefore be susceptible to control and be drawn into principles and ideologies held by others. They may be lacking parental supervision, involvement in crime and experiencing loss, bereavement, divorce or pressure from peers. A person may have migrated, left family behind, equally individuals may lack a positive role model and a family member or peer may indoctrinate extremist views into the subject.

Unmet aspirations

The individual may have perceptions of injustice, a feeling of failure and exclusion from society, friends and family. They may feel betrayed due to a lack of opportunity and prospects in life.

Mental Health

OCD, Depression, Personality Disorders, Schizophrenia, PTSD, Stress, Suicidal, etc.

The overwhelming majority of people with mental illness never to turn violence, but mental health disorders may make some people more susceptible to extremist ideology, and in rare cases that ideology can lead to horrific acts. No mental health disorder will cause somebody to turn into a terrorist, but these extremist ideologies can suddenly begin to make sense to someone who is deeply disturbed and may rationalise all of their anger and confusion. (Voanews, 2016)

Neurodivergence Inc. Autism, ADHD, dyslexia

It is important to caution here that there is no substantial link between Neurodivergent conditions and terrorism. There may be specific risk factors which could increase the risk of radicalisation among people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autistic special interests such as fantasy, obsessiveness (extreme compulsiveness), and the need for routine/predictability and social/communication difficulties can all increase the vulnerability of a person with ASD to go down the pathway of extremism.

Searching for a “need to matter” or social connection and support for someone who is alienated or without friends may also present as risk factors.

People with an ASD may be more vulnerable and become increasingly more involved in extremism. They also have a tendency to hyper-focus in on their fascinations and interests at the expense of other attachments and life interests. These are the vulnerabilities which extremists are increasingly exploiting in people they target for recruitment and training. (The Conversation ‘Are autistic people at greater risk of being radicalised’, 2017)

Manage Risk

How will you manage risk and help keep Wales safe in partnership?

Don't delay. Identify, safeguard and manage risk by sharing your information with colleagues in CT Policing Wales.

Police Officers – can use their force crime systems (NICHE prevent referral, MARF) to submit a referral by tasking direct to CT policing

Public – any member of the public can access the Prevent Referral form on the force website. Remember “communities defeat terrorism”

Partners – Partners can use a specific web based form to complete and submit information direct to CT Policing. The link will also be sent to you separately.

<https://digitalservices.south-wales.police.uk/en/all-wales-prevent-partners-referral-form>

You may be contacted following submission if appropriate to gather further information.