

ONLINE RADICALISATION

Background: Online radicalisation is the process by which an individual is groomed online to come to support terrorist or extremist ideologies. It is important to consider extremism in the wider spectrum which could include far-right, environmental, religious, animal-rights or misogynistic extremism. As with other forms of grooming, extremists will seek to exploit vulnerabilities in individuals that may include: unmet aspirations, personal or identity crisis, personal circumstances, criminality, feeling of failure, perceived injustice/s or a sense of belonging in order to further their ideological aims.

Why it matters: Young people may potentially be vulnerable to online radicalisation through their affinity for the online environment and social media when considered alongside: 1) adolescence is a time of change for young people who may be 'finding their place' in the world; 2) the ability to question the veracity of information may be less developed if it has come from someone in a position of perceived knowledge or authority and 3) young people mature at different stages and may not have broader critical thinking skills that are typically developed through maturity and life experience.

Questions to consider: Do you know the signs and indicators of online radicalisation? Does your organisation's safeguarding procedures include radicalisation and how to deal with an incident? Does your organisation have measures to prevent access to extremist online content by children, young people and adults at risk? Further information is available at [Safeguarding Children and Young people against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism \(proceduresonline.com\)](http://Safeguarding Children and Young people against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (proceduresonline.com))



Information: Social media platforms can serve to reinforce a viewpoint through a distorted narrative leading to the perception that the extreme narrative is the 'prevailing world view'. Indicators can be challenging to distinguish from typical adolescent behaviour, eg becoming increasingly argumentative, being secretive or reluctant to discuss online activity, refusing to listen to different points of view, spending increasing amounts of time online, distancing themselves from previous friends or having more than one online identity.

What to do: Be aware of the possibility that young people and adults may be becoming radicalised and make sure you know the local procedures to follow. If you believe the concerns need an immediate Police response, contact 612612 or 999 in an emergency. Anyone can report any suspicious activity or concerns anonymously at <https://act.campaign.gov.uk> who will refer the information to Jersey Police.

Recently the term 'Incel' ('involuntary celibates') has been in the media. This is a mainly online subculture of predominantly white, heterosexual males who define themselves as unable to find a romantic or sexual partner despite desiring one. Incel ideology has inspired several attacks & whilst not inherently right wing, the hard line misogyny found amongst certain Incel circles often present within online right wing communities with notions of white supremacy & absolute male supremacy.

Other indicators: inappropriate language, possession or accessing violent extremist literature/websites, behaviour changes, expression of extremist views, advocating violent actions/means, association with known extremists, articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders, using extremist views to explain personal disadvantage, joining/seeking to join extremist organisations, seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology