

Talking about extremism and radicalisation

What is extremism?

An extremist is someone whose opinions, especially about religion or politics, are not reasonable or acceptable to most people.

Holding extremist views means that whatever your race or religion you view people or events with a closed and intolerant attitude.

Not all extremism is harmful or criminal. But at worst, an extremist expresses hatred and violence towards others.

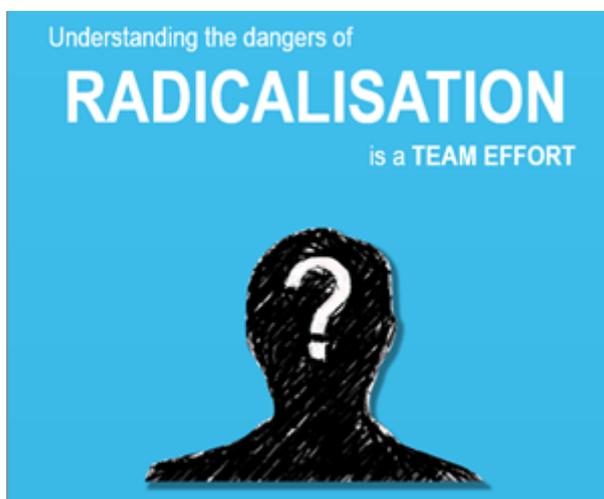
Extremists do not look different physically or in the way they dress. It is the way they view the world and their attitudes about the world which are different.

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

Extremism can grow where different groups in a community are isolated or wary of each other.

Extremists push the boundaries and may break the law. They go beyond what is acceptable, including:

- ⇒ Using violence, threats, or intimidation
- ⇒ Being closed minded and not open to the views of others.
- ⇒ Being devoted to a belief system to the exclusion of anything else.



What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation is when someone is persuaded to support terrorism or extremism.

People might become radicalised as a result of their political views, or their religion, or their belief that a certain way of life is right.

Often someone is radicalised because they are vulnerable.

They might have experienced:

- ⇒ Peer pressure, bullying or abuse
- ⇒ Traumatic events
- ⇒ Poverty or disadvantage
- ⇒ Substance misuse
- ⇒ Conflict with their family or other social group (faith group, peer group)
- ⇒ Crime, hate crime, conflict or war in their community.

REMEMBER

We all need something to believe in. It's when those beliefs become extreme that you might need to speak to someone.



Can you spot a terrorist?

Extremism can take many forms: the far-right; racist groups; groups with strong pro - or anti-religious beliefs; people who discriminate against LGBTIQ; people with lifestyles and beliefs that are outside 'the norm'; even animal rights activists.

But there is no typical age, gender, religion, ethnicity or background that makes someone into a terrorist.

They are often a vulnerable person who has been targeted by an extremist group. These groups give that person a sense of belonging, a feeling of status, and sometimes a promise of reward.

Signs of radicalisation can be:

- ⇒ Mood swings, anger, arrogance.
- ⇒ Expressing new extreme views.
- ⇒ Changes in appearance.
- ⇒ A new group of friends.
- ⇒ Spending excessive time on the internet.

What is Prevent?

Prevent is a government strategy which aims to stop people from becoming involved with extremism, from supporting terrorist activities, and from becoming terrorists themselves. It's about preventing them from committing a crime.

Prevent guidelines help organisations like the college spot the

signs of and deal with radicalisation.

The college has a duty to keep you safe. We are here to support and protect people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. We work with students, staff and local communities to address issues before they become a criminal matter.



TERRORISM

Terrorism is the unlawful use of violence or the threat of violence to support a belief or ideology. Although **extremely rare** in the UK, terrorism is still a threat.

BRITISH VALUES

Any person or group who is strongly opposed to core British Values could be considered an extremist.

Democracy

- Your opinion counts



The rule of law

- No one is above the law
- Laws protect everyone
- Innocent until proved guilty



Individual liberty

- Freedom of speech



Respect and tolerance

- All backgrounds and cultures
- All ages
- All genders and sexualities
- All religions and beliefs



What to do if you are worried

If you have concerns: **say something**. By speaking out you might be helping a vulnerable person who is being exploited.

AT COLLEGE

If you have concerns, speak to a member of **Student Services**. They have procedures that will help you feel supported and investigate your concerns.

t. 01983 550657

e. StudentServices@iwcollege.ac.uk

ONLINE

The internet is used by some people to promote terrorism and extremism. If you see content that worries you because you find it offensive or you think it might be illegal, you can report it here:

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you think public safety is at threat, call the police. If there is no immediate threat call 111. In an emergency call 999.

Safeguarding against

EXTREMISM

is NOT spying!



KEYWORDS

Ethnicity: a group sharing common race, traditions, language.

Far-Right: people who have beliefs including extreme nationalism, radicalism, fascism, Neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism.

Hate crime: crimes targeted towards a person because of their disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Ideology: a set of beliefs.

Vulnerable: open to attack; at risk of being persuaded to do or believe things.