

What is Radicalization?

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Only a very small number of people have used or will ever use violence to promote their cause. Those who do have most likely undergone a process called ‘radicalization’

Freedom of expression

Everyone has the right to express their beliefs and group interests openly. As a democratic society, we protect the rights of all law-abiding people, including those who belong to minority political, religious and ethnic groups.

However, it becomes a concern to everybody, including families, communities and law enforcement, if a person begins to advocate or use violence to achieve a political, religious or ideological goal.

What is radicalization?

Radicalization happens when a person’s thinking and behavior become significantly different from how most of the members of their community view social issues and participate politically. Only small numbers of people radicalize and they can be from a diverse range of ethnic, national, political and religious groups.

As a person radicalizes they may seek to significantly change the nature of society and government. However, if someone decides that using fear, terror, or violence is justified to achieve ideological, political or social change – this is violent extremism.

Exactly what influences individuals to go down a path of using or supporting violence to seek change can be difficult to determine, but there can be a number of factors. The radicalization process is unique to each person who undergoes it, and in most cases will not cause serious harm. In exceptional circumstances, however, the decisions made by a person can result in a serious and lethal act of violence.

Those who radicalize and display threatening behavior, incite hatred, or promote the use of violence for their cause require some form of intervention. This may come from family, religious or community leaders or law enforcement.

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COMMUNITIES MATTER:

Communities play a vital role in assisting people to move away from violent pathways and stopping acts of violence before they are committed.