



SCREENING FOR THE PRESENCE OF **Extremist Influence** //

Professionals working on the front-line encounter individuals every day who have been influenced by extreme beliefs or rhetoric. Not all extreme beliefs qualify as extremism. The threshold for extremism is often cited as when beliefs are used to justify violence.

The following questions can help front-line professionals (e.g., law enforcement, educators, and behavioral health professionals) determine if someone's behavior is influenced by extreme beliefs, groups, or tactics. Screening can help determine the level of concern about the behavior and type of intervention required to prevent violence or manage concerning behaviors.

Question	If Yes, then:
Is a grievance present?	• Is it personal? • Who is to blame for the perceived source of grievance?
Does the presenting behavior or recent past behavior include justification of violence to address the grievance?	Describe the justifications.
Does the person reference extreme beliefs? <i>Specific references could include: mentions of individuals or groups with extremist beliefs; references to government corruption or illegitimacy; bias or hate language related to race, politics, or religion; or references to rights being violated.</i>	Look for: • Dehumanizing of targets. • Willingness to die for beliefs. • Acceptance of violence as necessary to achieve ideological goals. • Threats related to political issues or other flashpoint events. • Mention of extremist actors or attacks.
Do any of the person's communications suggest adherence to or support for extreme beliefs?	Look for: • Communicating a desire for violent social action. • Calls to action or incitement of violence. • Desire or willingness to die for extreme beliefs. • Receipt or spread of specific extremist content. • Glorification of extremist actors or attacks.