

# **Radicalisation and Extreme Action**

# Lesson 1: What is Radicalisation?

An introduction to the concept of Radicalisation and the issue of Radicalisation in Prison

## Lesson Outline

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## Target Group

Prison Senior Management Team (PSMT)

Correctional Officers (COs)

Prison Support Staff (PSS) (Teachers, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrist, Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations personnel)

## Suggested Number of participants

14 participants

## Duration

3 hours

## Equipment

- ✓ Whiteboard
- ✓ Laptop
- ✓ Data Projector
- ✓ Flipchart
- ✓ Sound projections
- ✓ (Or large TV screen)



## Aim

By the end of this session participants should be in a position to understand better what one means by the terms

- Radicalisation
- Radicalised
- Extreme radicalisation
- Violent radicalisation

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session the participant should be able to develop the following:

## Knowledge

Be aware of the issues of radicalisation and the link between prisons and radicalisation.

Know the different kinds and types of radicalisation such as:

- Religious radicalisation
- Political radicalisation
- The link between political and religious radicalisation
- Extremism and radicalisation
- Violent radicalisation

## Skills

Participants will be in a position to use the terms related to the subject of radicalisation in prison well.

They will gain the skill of using these terms appropriately, and use a common language.

## Attitudes

- Develop an attitude of awareness to the dangers of radicalisation and violent radicalisation
- Avoiding racism or censorship of those who profess different ideas.
- Sensitivity towards labelling others.



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*I believe that preventing radicalisation is far more efficient than de-radicalisation, meaning stopping someone joining is a lot easier than trying to pull someone out once they've joined. **Majjid Nawaz**, British activist and politician*

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## Introduction to lesson

 Video 4.30 minutes

'Universities for terrorists' EU prisons turning into radicalization hotspots

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk8JtaJewsw>

## Development

### Introductory level

**Step 1:** Discussion and reactions to video:

Point to discuss:

- Which religion is terrorism linked to in this video? Is it similar in your country (reference is made of the Muslim religion, and the fact that in France there are 70% Muslim inmates in their prisons)
- What is containment of radicalism? Is it practiced in this country?

- Is there a difference between extremism and terrorists tendencies? What is, in your opinion, the link between the two?
- Which are the traditional visible signs of an extreme radicalised persons? What happened to these signs today? (beard, clothing, ritualised prayer and practices.) (Today these are being hidden. So what do you think we should do? (dynamic security)
- What in your opinion is the difference between a terrorist and a soldier? Why do you think ISIS reference to its members as soldiers and not terrorists?
- Does containment consolidate radicalisation?
- Does dispersal encourage radicalisation to other inmates?
- Who is moderate? Who is radical? How do we get to know?
- What in your opinion is the solution to this social and political problem?

## Step 2: What is radicalisation?

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**Radical:** If something is considered extremist or very different from anything that has come before it, call it radical.

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**Radicalisation** is defined as the action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues.

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**Radicalisation:**

- Is this a good or a bad thing in itself?
- Give some examples of persons (you know or are famous in history) who you consider radical (Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln).

So what is the problem with radicalisation?

**Step 3: Radicalisation that leads to terrorism**

One problem with radical positions on any issue is that extreme radicalisation may lead to extreme action including terrorism. One should be familiar with the terms: terrorism, international terrorism and domestic extremism.

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***What is Terrorism?***

*Terrorist groups use violence and threats of violence to publicise their causes as a means to achieve their goals. They often aim to influence or exert pressure on governments and government policies but reject democratic processes, or even democracy itself.*

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**What is International terrorism?**

International terrorism from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Qaida present a threat from many others. They hold territory in places without functioning governments, making it easier for them to train recruits and plan complex, sophisticated attacks. Drawing on extreme interpretations of Islam to justify their actions, these groups often have the

desire and capability to direct terrorist attacks against the West, and to inspire those already living there to carry out attacks of their own.

### **What is domestic extremism?**

Domestic extremism mainly refers to individuals or groups that carry out criminal acts in pursuit of a larger agenda, such as "right-wing extremists". They may seek to change legislation or influence domestic policy and try to achieve this outside of the normal democratic process.

### **Step 4:**

There are two other words we often associate with radicalism:

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*Jihad: a struggle or fight against the enemies of Islam*

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*Extreme Right (The Far Right, The Radical Right, The Right Wing, Right Wing Extremism\**

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- \*The far right (or extreme right) is a political label used to identify parties and movements based on fascist, racist and/or extremely reactionary ideologies. Officially those on the far right embrace the concept of the "inequality of outcome", meaning that one group is naturally better than another. They also tend to embrace inequality of opportunity as well, favouring concepts such as segregation, or mass deportation of non-white people (or in general, people of other races), or sometimes even genocide - although they sometimes

keep these abhorrent views hidden, except when trolling anonymously online (see /pol/). The label "far right" can apply to everything from absolute monarchies to Nazism, meaning that many far-rightists oppose others on the far-right who have a different idea of what the ruling class should be.

 Explanation with some details on Youtube: Right Wing Extremism & Terrorism  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_QAPnotklk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_QAPnotklk)

On 12 May 2018, a 21-year-old Chechnya-born French Muslim, armed with a knife, killed one pedestrian and injured several more near the Palais Garnier, the opera house in Paris, France, before being fatally shot by police. The knifings were in the area of Rue Saint-Augustin and Passage Choiseul. French President Emmanuel Macron said France had "*paid once again the price of blood but will not cede an inch to the enemies of freedom.*" The suspect, identified as Khamzat Azimov, had been on a counter-terrorism watchlist since 2016. Amaq News Agency posted a video of a hooded person pledging allegiance to Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, claimed to be the attacker. Europol classified the attack as jihadist terrorism.

 Example of a Religious terrorist attack:

Watch YouTube: One dead, four wounded in Paris knife attack; assailant killed  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSdQQxkgM3w>

Example of an Extreme Right terrorist attack:

Right-wing terrorism is terrorism motivated by a variety of ideologies and beliefs, including Islamophobia, anti-communism, neo-fascism and neo-Nazism, and a mindset against a woman's right to make choice about her pregnancy. This type of terrorism has been sporadic, with little or no international cooperation.

See:

 Anders Behring Breivik: Video Manifesto Has Camp Shooting Motivations; Oslo, Norway (07.25.2011) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqI83SSwpY8>



You can also make reference to the BBC article: The clues right-wing terrorists give away <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42916391>

The 2011 Norway attacks, referred to in Norway as 22 July, were two sequential lone wolf terrorist attacks by Anders Behring Breivik against the government, the civilian population, and a Workers' Youth League (AUF)-run summer camp. The attacks claimed a total of 77 lives.

The first attack was a car bomb explosion in Oslo within Regjeringskvartalet, the executive government quarter of Norway, at 15:25:22. The bomb was made from a mixture of fertiliser and fuel oil and placed in the back of a van. The van was placed next to the tower block housing the office of Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg. The explosion killed eight people and injured at least 209 people, twelve of them seriously.

The second attack occurred less than two hours later at a summer camp on the island of Utøya in Tyrifjorden, Buskerud. The camp was organized by the AUF, the youth division of the ruling Norwegian Labour Party (AP). Breivik, dressed in a homemade police uniform and showing false identification, took a ferry to the island and opened fire at the participants, killing 68 of them outright, and injuring at least 110 people, 55 of them seriously; the 69th victim died in a hospital two days after the massacre. Among the dead were personal friends of Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, and the stepbrother of Norway's crown princess Mette-Marit.



**Step 5:** Being an extremist is not against the law. Many persons are extremist about a number of things - but that does not mean that they are breaking the law.

The extremist who becomes a terrorist uses unlawful force, terror or threats to encourage others to act in support of those beliefs.

Throughout history one can identify various extreme groups who used violence in order to attain their goals, such as the Ku Klux Klan in America.

Currently one can safely say that terrorist acts are related to either Far Right extreme group or groups that follow certain interpretations of Islam, such as ISIS, ISIL, Daesh or Da'ish. At times the term IS (Islamic State) is used.

Generation Jihad is a reference to a group of people who are very often brainwashed with Al Qaeda propaganda, mostly through the internet.



See and discuss the article/handout 'Generation Jihad: Young people 'brainwashed with Al Qaeda propaganda on the internet'

'<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-1251287/Generation-Jihad-Young-people-brainwashed-Al-Qaeda-propaganda-internet.html>

## Advanced Level

### **Step 6: The Law of the Country on Terrorism and related areas**

What does the law of the country say about extremism and terrorism?



Case example:

**Malta**

Chapter 9 Criminal Code Part II sub-title IVA

Of Acts of Terrorism, Funding of Terrorism and Ancillary Offences

The object of this Bill is mainly to make provision for offences of terrorism and funding of terrorism and to make ancillary amendments for the prevention of such funding.

The focus on this section should be mostly on those who support terrorism, rather than committing the act themselves. In all probability these persons have been radicalised themselves, are not in a position to directly commit a terrorist act, but do so indirectly through its funding.

328 F. (1) Whosoever receives, provides or invites another person to provide, money or other property intending it to be used, or which he has reasonable cause to suspect that it may be used, for the purposes of terrorism shall, on conviction, be liable to the punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years or to a fine (multa) not exceeding five thousand liri or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) In this article a reference to the provision of money or other property is a reference to its being given, lent or otherwise made available, whether for consideration or not.

328 G. (1) Whosoever uses money or other property for the purposes of terrorism shall, on conviction, be liable to the punishment of imprisonment not exceeding twelve years.

(2) Whosoever is in possession of money or other property intending it to be used, or having reasonable cause to suspect that it may be used, for the purposes of terrorism shall, on conviction, be liable to the punishment laid down in sub-article (1) of article 328F.

## Conclusion

### Introductory level

Make a list of why you think young persons may turn into terrorist?

Do you think that the prison may encourage persons to become radical and eventually even commit terrorist acts? Why?

## Advanced Level

Discuss the link between funding a terrorist act and doing the act itself. Do both actions carry the same weight? What happens if somebody sends money from your country to country like Syria? Is one arrested and prosecuted? What is the minimum amount one can send to these countries? How would you deal with such a person if he or she is caught and imprisoned?

## Evaluation

Describe in your own words the following terms:

- Radical
- Radicalisation
- Terrorism
- International terrorism
- Domestic terrorism
- Jihad
- Extreme right



Training for Detainees: Section 1

Awareness Raising on Terrorism and Radicalisation



## Reading Material

### Introductory level

#### Compulsory reading:

Handout: What is radicalisation?

<https://www.livingsafetogether.gov.au/informationadvice/Documents/what-is-radicalisation.pdf>

Handout: What is violent extremism?

<https://www.livingsafetogether.gov.au/aboutus/Documents/what-is-violent-extremism.pdf>

#### Supplementary reading:

Man who called for Muslims to be gassed and sterilised is jailed for hate speech

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jonathan-jennings-islamophobia-hate-speech-jail-jeremy-corbyn-a8484956.html>

### Advanced Level

#### Compulsory reading:

Handout: Understanding the radicalisation process

<https://www.livingsafetogether.gov.au/informationadvice/Documents/understanding-the-radicalisation-process.pdf>

'All radicalisation is local' The genesis and drawbacks of an elusive concept by Rik Coolseat <http://www.egmontinstitute.be/content/uploads/2016/05/ep84.pdf?type=pdf>

**Supplementary reading:**

Handout: Law of Malta: Of Acts of Terrorism, Funding of Terrorism and Ancillary Offences

**Information for the Facilitator**

In order to make sure that participants are aware of the difference between terrorism linked to religions and terrorism linked to political ideologies you may wish to give the participants the following task for home

- a) Find examples of terrorist attacks related to religious ideology
- b) Find examples of terrorist attacks related to political ideologies

For the more advanced participants, one can focus on the law of the country and explore what it says in relation to

- a) Acts of terrorism
- b) Acts that may lead to terrorism, including the funding of groups which are considered as terrorism groups.