

Lesson 6: Gender Differences in Radicalisation

Lesson Outline

Target Group

Prison officers

Prison Management

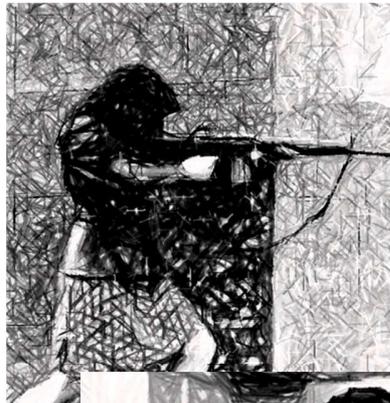
Psychologists

Social workers

Probation Officer

Parole Officers

Non-Governmental Organisations



Suggested Number of participants

14

Duration

2 hours

Equipment

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

Aim

Radicalisation is 'a dynamic process whereby an individual increasingly accepts and supports violent extremism. The reasons behind this process can be ideological, political, religious, social, economic or personal'. There is clear participation of women in the terrorist groups. ISIS allured women for recruitment, marriage and violent acts including suicide attacks. However gender differences are not always properly addressed, including in assessment tools.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

Know the theoretical background on the motivations for engaging with extremist groups. Some of the motivating factors should include:

- the response to violence and safe havens for women;
- economic and political exclusion of women;
- gaining self-esteem and taking unconventional roles challenging societal gender norms;
- religious thinking and women;
- influence of male family members as main recruiters;
- influence of social media targeting women.

Skills

Know that extremism among women is not different from those among men, but it can be harder to monitor or oversee extremist women since they often operate in closed circles with very limited contact with the external world. Limited external contact may include, for example, choosing to educate their children at home and not in mainstream schooling. The few cases of women involved in extremism found in prison can result in challenging rehabilitation and reintegration.

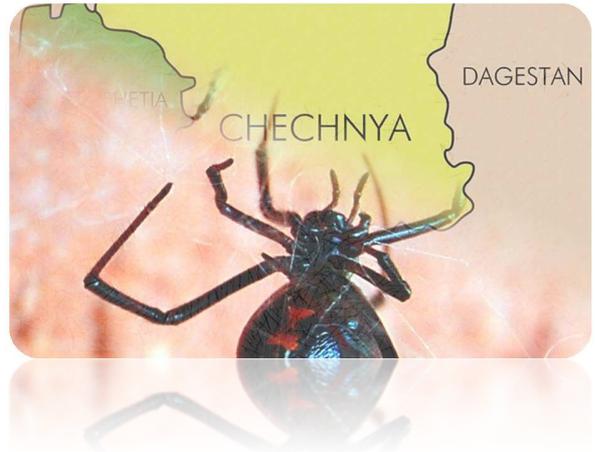
Attitudes

Dealing with affinities and attitudes towards terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and ideas conveyed by those concepts in male and female. This lesson is to provide an overview of the different motivations and methods used to attract potential male and female recruits.

Introduction to lesson

Women have been seen as 'mad', but not as 'bad', with Freud labelling all females who did not fit inside his box as 'hysterical'.

Moreover, the stereotypical image of a terrorist is that of male. Yet, females have an active role in this particular phenomenon. Whether the Chechen Black Widows, ISIS or other groups female are equally attracted to extremism as are males. However, this phenomenon is less explored, discuss and researched.



Development

Introductory level

Step 1:  Have a look at the following video (Women Fighters of the IRA 1970)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44PgwV38WGQ>.

Step 2: What does this video bring to mind?

- Would you couple 'women' and 'terrorism' easily?
 - Why? Why not?
- Do you think women can be as radically violent as men?
 - Why? Why not?

Step 3:  Now have a look at this video (British Women Joining Jihad in Syria)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hAIIQ2g1Q>

- What do you think would lead a female, stereotypically thought as the soft gender, the mother figure, to turn to violence?

- What differences do you think there are in the radicalisation and violence between the genders? Do they have the same roles?
- What differences in rehabilitation should be provided for women in terms of rehabilitation?

Advanced Level

Step 4: Would you consider feminism as a radical violent group?

What about radical feminism?

Conclusion

Introductory level

What we would like you to do now is mention how this knowledge will help you deal with a female extremist. How would this differ from the way you would deal with a male extremist?

Advanced Level

 Have a look at this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMC-JqUudlw&feature=youtu.be&bpctr=1536825159>

- Do you think that it is such an unexpected occurrence that a female becomes a VE that they are forgotten about, resulting in nothing being offered to them?
- What can be done to remedy this?

Evaluation

Can you mention differences in violence between the two genders?

Can you mention different VE groups and the role of the women involved?



Reading Material

Introductory level

Compulsory reading:

Sexy, Tough or Inept? Depictions of Women Terrorists in the News. Retrieved from:
https://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1154128/sexy_tough_or_inept_depictions_of_women_terrorists_in_the/

Supplementary reading:

The Experience of Women In The IRA And UVF. Retrieved from:
<https://thebrokenelbow.com/2016/04/08/the-experience-of-women-in-the-ira-and-uvf/>

Advanced Level

Compulsory reading:

Alter egos: misconceptions about religiously radicalized women. Retrieved from:
<https://warontherocks.com/2018/09/alter-egos-misconceptions-about-religiously-radicalized-women/>

Supplementary reading:

Nacos, B. (2006). The portrayal of female terrorists in the media: Similar framing patterns in the news coverage of women in politics and in terrorism, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, (28), 435-451

Female suicide bombers: how terrorist propaganda radicalises Indonesian women
Retrieved from: <https://theconversation.com/female-suicide-bombers-how-terrorist-propaganda-radicalises-indonesian-women-98143>

What Is Radical Feminism? Retrieved from: <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-radical-feminism-3528997>