

Extremism & Radicalisation - A Guide for Parents.

British Muslim father feared to be travelling to Syria with family is a 'champion for shariah' law

Schoolgirls 'have already crossed Syrian border'

Turkish intelligence sources fear east London trio have been smuggled into Isis territory despite desperate search

GROOMED FOR TERROR

PARENTS MUST CONFISCATE THEIR CHILDREN'S PASSPORTS IF NECESSARY. KEEP THEM UNDER LOCK AND KEY



Schoolgirl jihadi brides were following 70 extremists on Twitter accounts the internet giant had refused to axe

BRAINWASHED IN THEIR BEDROOMS

THE SCHOOL

School took steps to stop extremism

PM: airlines must do more to stop teens going to Syria

3 GIRLS ON HALF-TERM FLEE UK TO JOIN ISIS

Extremist scandal in schools is 'not over'

Family Heading To Syria Arrested In Turkey

Asif Malik, his p days after they

Police hunt young British family of six who left country and believed to be heading to Syria

Introduction.

As a parent you may be worried about how extremism and radicalisation might affect your child especially with media 'headline' scaremongering.

We have put together this brief document to help you understand more about extremism and radicalisation, and how you can deal with these issues should the need arise.

What are extremism and radicalisation?

Any idea can be taken to an extreme, but the type of extremism that this document looks at is when ideas and opinions lead on to violence.

We often hear on the news of young people that have been radicalised and drawn into terrorist groups, but what does that mean? In simple terms radicalisation is the process of someone developing extremist views.

Should I be worried as a parent?

Despite the high levels of media attention given to these issues, the chances of them affecting you as a parent are very low.

It is important to remember that the most people will never support terrorism and that the amount of young people that become involved in violent extremism is very small.

You know your child better than anyone else, and are best placed to notice any changes in their behaviour. Talk to someone if you have concerns. You can receive support and advice from your local police by telephoning 101 or Crime stoppers on 0800 555111. They will treat the matter with total confidence and will do all they can to help to prevent your child turning to behavior that breaks the law.

It is the job of everyone to prevent the radicalisation of young people. Parents, teachers, friends and family all have a part to play in making sure that extremist ideas are challenged.

Unfortunately, there isn't a checklist of what makes someone become an extremist, every individual is unique. But remember Young people want to push the boundaries. They are searching for an identity in a confusing world. Encouraging young people to learn about and understand alternative points of view is an essential role of a parent.

What is the government doing about extremism and radicalisation?

The government recently introduced a law to make it compulsory for places such as schools and hospitals to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy and Channel Duty.

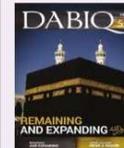
PREVENT: We all have a part to play

For further background information on the roles of schools and teachers in safeguarding children, and preventing pupils from the risks of terrorism and extremism the following documents will be of use:

- **Keeping children safe in education:** statutory guidance for schools and colleges
- **Prevent Duty Guidance:** for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

PROPAGANDA THEMES

ISIL, also sometimes referred to as ISIS, is a violent terrorist group which has caused huge suffering to people in both Syria and Iraq in the name of an Islamist extremist ideology. They are a brutal group that wants to impose rule on people and has used violence and extortion. ISIL's claim to have established an 'Islamic State' or 'caliphate' in the region has no theological credibility.



ISIL propaganda includes images and videos that present the group as an exciting alternative to life in the West. This media presents ISIL as the powerful creators of a new state, to which all Muslims (male and female) have a duty to travel. The propaganda continuously ignores the fact that ISIL is a terrorist organisation engaged in killing innocent men, women and children. When ISIL's official media groups release material online the group encourages supporters on social media to share the material – this is what gives ISIL its large reach, particularly to young people.

ISIL propaganda uses **four main themes** to encourage young people to travel to Syria and Iraq. These themes are used to recruit both men and women, and are also widely used in discussions on social media around ISIL.



ISIL celebrates and promotes an **image of success** online in order to attract young people – it tells them that ISIL are the winning side and can offer them an exciting life. The ISIL slogan 'Baqiyah wa-Tatamaddad' (remaining and expanding) presents the group as one that consistently achieves success. ISIL propaganda ignores the reality that ISIL are not winning and are opposed by the majority of people in Syria and Iraq.



ISIL portray their 'Caliphate' as an ideal, utopian state where Muslims will find **status and belonging**. ISIL propaganda claims that it is the duty of Muslim men and women in the West to travel there and regularly states that all foreigners are welcome in its ranks, so long as they are Sunni Muslims. In reality the claimed Caliphate has been rejected by the overwhelming majority of Islamic scholars around the world. ISIL abuse of women and children and killing of innocent civilians has been well documented.

The Prevent strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, young people from an early age can be exposed to terrorist & extremist influences or prejudiced views, early intervention is always preferable. Schools, working with other local partners, families and communities, play a key role in ensuring young people and their communities are safe from the threat of terrorism.

'Schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology and learn how to challenge these ideas. The 2014 Government extremism task force identified risks around radicalisation within educational institutions and it is important that Prevent is actively supporting these institutions to protect children from harm and ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and British values.'

'Social media is an increasingly influential part of life particularly for young people. It has been identified as an important tool in the sharing of extreme material and extremist groups are actively using social media to inform, share propaganda, radicalise and recruit for their cause. Social media safeguarding is an important element of protecting young people from extremist narratives and Prevent can play an active part in this process.'

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

Channel is one tactical option employed by Prevent and has recently been placed on a statutory footing.

This means that frontline staff are working hard to ensure that young people are protected from extremism and radicalisation.