

What is the threat of **extremism** and **terrorism** in the UK?

The government is determined to defeat extremism and terrorism in all its forms. This includes extremism: violent and nonviolent, Islamist and far right. Islamist extremism is not the only threat. Today in the UK there are numerous active extreme right-wing groups, sharing an ideology centring on an intense hostility to minorities and a belief that violence between ethnic and religious groups is inevitable.

Why is **extremism** relevant to me?

As parents, you play an important role in helping to keep your children safe from the risks posed by extremist groups. As your children grow and become more independent, it is not unusual for them to take risks, explore new things and push boundaries. This can mean that they are particularly vulnerable to extremist groups, who may claim to offer answers. There have been a number of tragic examples where young people have been influenced online by extremist groups and have travelled to Syria, or become involved with far-right groups.

How are people **radicalised**?

There is no single model to radicalisation. Every person is different and the process is unique for each individual. **Vulnerabilities + Radicaliser + Ideology + Absence of protective factors that intervene in the process of radicalisation = Vulnerable to radicalisation.**

Is my child vulnerable to **radicalisation**?

It is possible for any child to be exposed to extremist influences. Children from very different backgrounds have been radicalised, even those from stable homes, who were doing well at school. However, it's important to keep things in perspective and remember that for most young people, the risk that they will become involved with extremist groups is very low.

Possible warning signs of radicalisation include:

- Changes in attitudes and opinions, including a susceptibility to conspiracy theories, argumentativeness or aggression and a refusal to engage with peers who are different to themselves
- Changes in behaviour and peer group, including distancing themselves from friends, conversion to a new religion, a significant change of appearance and rejecting activities they used to enjoy
- Secretive behaviour, including changes in online identity
- Support for extremist ideologies and groups

What should I do if I think my child has been exposed to **extremism** or **radicalisation**?

If you believe your child is at risk you should talk to them. There is advice on www.educateagainsthate.com about how to have that conversation and the NSPCC www.nspcc.org.uk also provide confidential advice if you would like to talk it through with someone on **0808 800 5000**

As well as talking to your child, you could raise the issue with JTM's Safeguarding Officer on **0151 336 9340**, a friend or family member who knows them well.

If you think a child is in immediate danger or see or hear something that may be terrorist related, trust your instincts and call **999** or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on **0800 789 321**.