



跨部門反恐專責組  
Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit

# Safe Community Newsletter

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## Say No to Extreme Ideologies

### What are Extreme Ideologies?

content, which inevitably includes some extreme information that is offensive, violent or encouraging hatred. After being exposed to a large amount of such information, vulnerable groups, particularly young people, may fall prey to its influence and subsequently adopt it into their ideologies.

Individuals influenced by extreme ideologies usually undergo psychological, ideological or behavioural changes. They may even mistakenly believe that it is legitimate to sacrifice anything in order to pursue their agenda. They think that it is justified to use any means, including staging extreme violent attacks, to achieve their goals.

With the advancement of information technology today, the Internet offers a wide variety of



It is worth noting that potential extremists or violent individuals do not have any specific profiles or backgrounds. Regardless of age, sex, background or religion, anyone can be influenced by extreme ideologies. In recent years, many violent attacks or plots involving radicalised young people have occurred around the world and therefore, such situation cannot be underestimated.



## Singapore February 2025

The authorities arrested a radicalised 18-year-old teenager, who intended to attack local Muslims after coming into contact with online contents related to far-right extremism and hatred towards Islam.



## The US - Wisconsin December 2024



A 15-year-old girl staged a shooting attack at her school and committed suicide afterwards. Investigation revealed that the perpetrator supported neo-Nazism, browsed a substantial volume of school shooting contents on the Internet, and engaged in online forums glorifying mass shooters.



## Australia - Sydney April 2024

A 16-year-old teenager stabbed a bishop while he was delivering a sermon at a church. The bishop was known to have made controversial religious comments. The authorities classified the incident as a terrorist attack driven by religious extremism. Investigation revealed that the teenager was influenced by online extreme religious ideologies, and had sent encrypted messages to his friends revealing his attack plans.





To prevent young people and even children from getting radicalised and leading astray by extreme ideologies, their family members, friends, teachers or caregivers can identify such risk at an early stage from some behavioural traits :

## *Early Characteristics*

- Isolate themselves from family and friends or change their social circle
- Unwilling to share their views
- Their behaviour on the Internet becomes secretive and suspicious
- Browse a substantial volume of online extreme content
- Their behaviour and rhetoric clearly mimic the symbolic acts of past attackers or extremist groups



## *Prominent Characteristics of Radicalisation*

### **Flooded with grievance and hatred**

Turn radical due to the influence of extremism and discontent with the society and express such dissatisfaction through extreme actions



### **Develop sense of mission**

Create a strong sense of mission and believe that it is a duty to pursue their ideologies by extreme means

### **Hostility against out-group**

Perceive people holding different stances or ideologies as enemies and gradually become marginalised and isolated from the society



### **Advocate extreme violence**

Legitimise or glorify extreme violent acts and incite like-minded individuals to achieve their common goals by violent means

# How can we help young people stay away from extreme ideologies?



- ♥ Communicate more with and show greater concern for young people, discuss issues with them in an open-minded and caring manner
- ♥ Guide them to verify the sources of information and differentiate between fake news and real news
- ♥ Encourage their positive development and participation in healthy activities to enhance their self-esteem and life satisfaction
- ♥ Help them build a positive mindset on life and core values

Should you identify any young people displaying signs of radicalisation, you can :



Maintain open communication with them and try to understand their thoughts



Encourage them to talk to the right people



Discuss with those who know them well, such as teachers or school social workers



Seek professional assistance

The **Youth Crime Prevention Centre** under the **Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG)** is committed to offering counselling, care, and support to young people between the ages of 10 and 24, as well as helping them strengthen their positive thinking, enhance their social skills and foster their integration into society, with a view to building a healthy and law-abiding life.



Please call the **Crime Prevention Hotline** of the **HKFYG** at **8100 9669** for support if necessary.