

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

# KEEPING

# SAFE

Keeping Children and  
Young People Safe  
from Extremism and  
Radicalisation



## KEEPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE FROM EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION – ADVICE TO PARENTS AND CARERS

Parenting a young person can sometimes be very challenging. Maintaining a positive relationship can at times be difficult as they grow and become independent, develop new relationships and seek to find their own identity.

There have been many reports in the media recently of young people being targeted by adults who hold

extreme views that advocate violence. A number of young people have been persuaded to leave the UK in secret against the wishes of their families, putting themselves in extreme danger.

This leaflet aims to help parents and carers recognise when their child may be at risk of radicalisation and where to get help if they are worried.

### WHAT IS EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION?

Extremism is where someone holds views that are intolerant of people of a different ethnicity, culture, religion, gender or sexual identity. These views can be used to justify political, religious, sexist, homo/ transphobic or racist violence.

Radicalisation happens when a person's thinking and behaviour become significantly different from how most of the members of their society and community view social issues and participate politically.

People who become radicalised can be from a diverse range of ethnic, national, political and religious groups. As a person radicalises they may begin to seek to change significantly the nature of society and government. However, if someone decides that using fear, terror or violence is justified to achieve ideological, political or social change – this is violent extremism.

## WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE BECOME RADICALISED?

Violent far-right or Islamist extremists, usually attract people to their cause through a persuasive narrative which will attempt to explain why a person may feel certain grievances, thus justifying any violent or criminal actions which are seen to avenge any perceived wrongs suffered.

Young people may be drawn to extreme views because:

- They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- They are trying to make sense of world events
- They have a personal grievance or experience of racism or discrimination and feel they want to change things
- They are under pressure from their peers who have links with these groups

## HOW A YOUNG PERSON OR CHILD MIGHT BE DRAWN TOWARDS EXTREMIST IDEOLOGY

Young people may come into contact with adults and peers with extremist views both online and in everyday life. This person may be a relative or stranger they meet online.

### ONLINE

Contact online may be through sites such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube or other social sites. Children may need to spend a lot of time on the internet while studying, but sometimes young people can be invited to use

other less well-known sites such as KiK, Whisper or Yik Yak. Extremists often use these sites because they are harder to monitor and they can hide their identity.

These can be useful tools but we need to be aware there are powerful programmes and networks that use social media to reach out to young people and can communicate extremist messages.

Extremists often manipulate young people by using emotional triggers to engage with them and may target them when they are experiencing

difficulties such as bereavement, emotional trauma, mental health issues or social isolation.

## RECOGNISING THE SIGNS OF EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

The following could describe general teenage behaviour but together with other signs may mean a young person is being radicalised:

- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships
- Spending increasing amounts of time online
- Becoming quick to condemn others who do not share their beliefs without interest in their point of view
- Secretive behaviour
- Losing interest in friends and activities
- Becoming isolated or withdrawn
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Justifying or even glorifying violence
- Possessing illegal or extremist literature

## HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO STAY SAFE?

Have regular discussions with your child to discover whether they have any worries and what their interests are. Talk to your child about what they see on the TV, read in the media or

the internet. Discuss their opinions and inform them that what they read or see may not be the whole picture.

Encourage your child to show an interest in the local community and show respect for people from all faiths and backgrounds.

Teach them that expressing strong views and trying to change things for the better is fine but they should not take violent action against others or support those that do.

Offer them peaceful means to express themselves such as petitions, campaigns and engage in politics in our democracy.

Other things you can do are:

- Help your child to understand the dangers of becoming involved in situations about which they may not have the full information
- Be aware of your child's online activity and update your own knowledge
- Know what social media and messaging sites your child uses
- Remind your child that people they contact over the internet may be pretending to be someone else or telling them things that are not true

- Explain that anyone who tells them not to inform their parent or teachers of their discussion or ask them to keep secrets is likely to do them harm or put them in danger.

If you are worried and feel there is a risk of your child leaving the country, consider what precautions you might take to prevent them travelling, such as keeping their passport in a safe place.

You should also consider what access your child has to savings accounts, check spending habits, and check gifts of money from family and friends.

If you have any concerns please talk to your child's personal tutor or to the Safeguarding Champions in your child's centre as soon as possible. They will be able to help and can access support for you and your child.

## CITY AND ISLINGTON SAFEGUARDING TEAM

### CENTRE FOR HEALTH SOCIAL AND CHILDCARE

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Cross College Safeguarding Manager

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### CENTRE FOR BUSINESS ART AND DESIGN

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Daniel Norris

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### CENTRE FOR LIFE LONG LEARNING

Matt Wojtyniak

020 7704 7207

### SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Lorraine Gaylor

020 7502 7259

## FURTHER SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

### CONFIDENTIAL HELPLINE

NSPCC's free helpline service to speak to a counsellor 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

0808 800 5000

[www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/)

### POLICE

If you have serious concerns about your child you can call your local police on 101. They can refer you to a trained expert who can help you gain access to support and advice.

### IMMINENT THREAT OF HARM TO OTHERS CONTACT:

Police

999

### ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE

0800 789 321

### PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES IN YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY

For information about local community organisations, see:

<http://greaterlondonvolunteering.org.uk/volunteer-centres-2/>

## USEFUL WEBSITES

### INTERNETMATTERS.ORG

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

This website has lots of information, advice and resources which can be used to help children stay safe online.

### NCA'S CEOP COMMAND

(formerly the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

CEOP works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account, protecting children from harm online and offline.

### COMPUTER HOPE

[www.computerhope.com/tips/tip81.htm](http://www.computerhope.com/tips/tip81.htm)

'Top 10 terms every parent of teenagers should know' provides information on the top terms or lingo used by teenagers helps to identify if they are hiding something from you.

### QUILLIAM FOUNDATION

[www.quilliamfoundation.org/](http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/)

Quilliam is the world's first counter-extremism think tank set up to address the unique challenges of citizenship, identity, and belonging in a globalised world. Quilliam stands for religious freedom, equality, human rights and democracy.

### FOR MORE ADVICE ON CYBER SAFETY VISIT

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

[www.cybersmile.org](http://www.cybersmile.org)

[www.childnet.com/](http://www.childnet.com/)



CITY AND ISLINGTON  
COLLEGE

This booklet has been produced by City and Islington College. It is based on the guidance produced by Islington Safeguarding Children Board, LB Tower Hamlets Parent Engagement Team and other source.

KEEP SAFE

# WE ARE HERE TO HELP

TALK TO US IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT KEEPING SAFE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COLLEGE.

The College and every member of staff has a legal duty to report cases of suspected harm or abuse.

If you have concerns that a young person or vulnerable adult is at risk of, or is being abused, you **MUST** report this.

Each Centre has a Safeguarding Champion who can be contacted about any concerns you have about keeping safe both inside and outside the College.

[www.candi.ac.uk](http://www.candi.ac.uk)

## CHILD PROTECTION AND ADULTS AT RISK MANAGER

Ruth Jno Baptiste  
CHSCC  
020 7700 9296



## CHILD PROTECTION AND ADULTS AT RISK TEAM

CALL: 020 7697 1717



Philippa Cooke  
CAS



Joanne Smith  
CBAT



Faith Patterson  
CBAT / CHSCC



Helen Kent  
CHSCC



Joshveen Soor  
CHSC



Julie-Donna Best  
CLL



Monica Jassal  
SFC



Deborah Evans  
For Nurseries

## SAFEGUARDING CHAMPIONS



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