

Glossary

Countering violent extremism: means of countering violent extremism include the use of non-coercive means to persuade individuals or groups from using violence and to deter recruitment in, support for, the facilitation of and engagement in ideologically motivated terrorism by non-state actors to achieve political goals or objectives.

Extremism: the support of ideas that are very far from the norm or very far from what most people consider reasonable or acceptable.

Intercultural competencies: a range of cognitive, affective and behavioural skills that lead to effective and appropriate communication with people of other cultures.

Preventing violent extremism: means of preventing violent extremism include actions by schools, families and communities to help students develop resilience to violent extremism and radicalisation. These include providing students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that foster tolerance, empathy, critical thinking and global citizenship, and the ability to take appropriate action against violent extremism.

Propaganda: a form of communication aimed at influencing the attitude of a community towards a cause or a position.

Pull factors: factors that pull individuals into violent extremism. For example, violent extremist groups can pull in members by providing services, revenue and employment in exchange for membership. Groups can also attract new members by providing an outlet for grievances and the promise of adventure, freedom and friends.

Push factors: factors that push individuals to violent extremism include marginalisation, inequality, discrimination, persecution and limited access to quality education; the denial of rights and civil liberties; and other environmental, historical and socio-economic grievances.

Radicalisation: a process through which an individual adopts an increasingly extremist set of beliefs and aspirations. This may include the willingness to condone, support, facilitate or use violence to further political, ideological or religious goals.

Terrorism: a strategy or act of violence that is adopted or undertaken to achieve a political goal. Terrorist-related offences include the use of violence for political purposes, such as the hijacking of aircraft, the targeting of marine vessels, the use of chemical or nuclear weapons against civilians, kidnapping and other forms of targeting civilians.

Violent extremism: violent extremism can vary depending on context and culture. Generally, violent extremism refers to the beliefs and actions of people who support or are willing to use ideologically motivated violence to achieve radical ideological, religious or political goals. An enemy is identified who can become the object of hatred and violence.