

# **VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION**

## What is Vulnerability to Radicalisation (V2R)

*DEFINITION: Vulnerability to Radicalisation (V2R) occurs when a person, who as a result of their situation or circumstances, may be drawn or exploited into supporting terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.*

**In simple terms, this means that someone who is vulnerable could be easily groomed into doing something very bad.**

## What is Vulnerability

*DEFINITION: A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of or protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation.*

**Again, in simple terms this means, a vulnerable person is someone who has something going on in their lives that makes them more open to harm.**

## Signs of Vulnerability

Vulnerabilities do not exist on their own, they overlap, interweave and impact negatively on the life chances of people. Many of these vulnerabilities are present in other safeguarding risks such as Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) or Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Some signs to consider:

- Mental Health issues
- Isolation / Increased secretiveness
- Marginalisation / Discrimination
- Identity confusion
- Trauma
- Feeling under threat
- Personal crisis
- No longer doing things they used to enjoy
- Rejected by or issues with family, faith or social group
- Strongly held grievances or sense of injustice
- Shift in Religious or Political views
- Refusing to listen to different points of view
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- New network of online friends
- Dangerous online activities (such as worrisome chat groups, searching concerning subjects etc)
- Exposure to extreme views
- Using 'Them and Us' to describe other groups of people

**If someone is Vulnerable to Radicalisation, they are unlikely to tell anyone or to reach out for support. Without help they might go on to do themselves or society harm.**

If we are all aware of the signs, we will be better equipped to identify and refer vulnerable individuals to Prevent. This will enable those at risk to get the support and early intervention needed, to divert them away from a path that can lead to Terrorism. Ultimately, tragedies could be avoided and lives saved.

## Seeking Support

Prevent supports and safeguards those who are Vulnerable to Radicalisation. If we identify concerning signs in a person's life, then we need to consider a referral to Prevent. This enables professionals to intervene at an early stage and offer bespoke support to both the individual and their family. The earlier the intervention, the greater the chance of their being diverted away from the path that leads to Extremism or Terrorism.

## To make a Prevent Referral.

**Contact your local force Prevent officers using 101.**

**Act Early Support line: 0800 011 3764 (09:00am – 5:00pm)**

**Anti-Terror hotline: 0800 789 321 (24hrs)**

## How Prevent Supports People

Prevent looks to safeguard people by working with a range of partners and the cooperation of the person involved to identify their vulnerabilities and seek to lessen them. This voluntary, multi-agency approach is known as Channel.

**Can Prevent make a positive difference to someone's life? The answer is yes! There is always a way through and Prevent can help find a solution that will work for them.**

## Failing to Act

Failing to act may expose the vulnerable person to harm through:

- Insecurities being preyed upon (online and in person) such as their need to belong to a group or family
- Becoming exposed to extremist material or harmful individuals and ideologies
- Targeted due to Mental Health / Learning needs
- Being part of an online echo chamber fuelling grievances
- Open to Radicalising influences
- Extremists who latch on to grievances and provide false information to incite the individuals to act against those who have wronged them such as the government, or their school

**There are extremist groups out there who are seeking to exploit vulnerable individuals, either online or in person.**

## More Information

- Let's talk about it. [www.Ltai.info](http://www.Ltai.info)
- ACT Early Campaign. [www.actearly.uk](http://www.actearly.uk)
- CT Internet Referral Unit. [www.gov.uk/report-terrorism](http://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism)
- Educate against Hate. <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
- Action counters Terrorism. <http://www.gov.uk/ACT>

## Suicide Prevention Guide

Influencing Factors	Signs & Symptoms
Men – Males account for three-quarters of suicide deaths registered in the UK in 2020.	<b>Suicide can affect any person, irrelevant of race, age, gender, or socio-economic status.</b>
People in contact with the criminal justice system. In particular those arrested for Child Sex Exploitation (CSE); & Indecent images of Children offences.	Talking about wanting to die; previous attempts. Signs of self-harm
People suffering from acute stress, anxiety, depression & personality disorders.	Withdrawal, acting anxiously, agitated or recklessly.
People bereaved by suicide. Friends and relatives of people who die by suicide have a 1-10 risk of making a suicide attempt after their loss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debt, increase of alcohol and drugs</li> <li>• Adverse childhood experiences, bullying or relationship issues</li> <li>• Displaying extreme mood swings, rage and possibly seeking revenge</li> <li>• Feeling isolated, hopeless &amp; trapped</li> </ul>

**What can we do?** Suicide is one of the most preventable deaths, & asking about suicide is the **key** to suicide prevention

**Be yourself** – They are not alone, show your concern

**Listen** – Allow them to talk, however negative

**Offer Hope** – Help is available, & the feelings are temporary

**Support** – Friends, family, GP



Support: [www.selfharm.org.uk](http://www.selfharm.org.uk)

Mind: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

Rethink: [www.rethink.org](http://www.rethink.org)

Sane: [www.sane.org.uk](http://www.sane.org.uk)

Self-Injury & Related Issues: [www.siari.co.uk](http://www.siari.co.uk) Young Minds: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

The National Self-harm Network: [www.nshn.co.uk](http://www.nshn.co.uk)