

2019 Regional Overview for frontline Officers and Staff

the threat levels:

www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels accessed 24 May 19



international terrorism

SEVERE



northern Ireland related terrorism to British mainland

MODERATE



Aspirant Travellers



Context | Methods of travel from the UK have become more complex in the past few years. Whilst Daesh have lost territory, other conflict zones are emerging that may resonate with individuals.

Signposts to Vulnerability

- Payments or travel to countries of concern
• Involvement in / or fundraising for extremist purposes or for aid convoys to conflict zones
• Use of dehumanising or derogatory language that marginalises a specific group
• Fascination with massacre, death, weaponry, or contemporary military events

Returnees from Conflict Zones

Context | Individuals travelling from conflict zones, having fought for or against Daesh, pose a risk to national security. They may be radicalised, and may seek to harm others from ideological motivation.

Signposts to Vulnerability

- Significant period of time away from UK that lacks detailed explanation
• Promotion of a narrative that focuses on suffering
• Disengagement / isolation from family / friends / local community
• Overt changes in appearance and behaviour
• Fascination with massacre / death / weaponry / contemporary military events
• Use of anti-government, anti-democracy, or anti-Western rhetoric in an ideological context



Al Muhajiroun [ALM]

Context | ALM is a proscribed Islamist group that uses extremist rhetoric & activism to advance its objective of establishing an Islamic Caliphate governed by Shariah law.

Signposts to Vulnerability

- Use of dehumanising or derogatory language that marginalises a specific group
• Extremist speakers at education venues, community centres, hired venues or other locations
• Promote a narrative of Muslim suffering or attempted radicalisation of others in public spaces



Lewis Ludlow, affiliated to ALM, sentenced to life imprisonment for pleading guilty to preparing acts of terrorism in London. Photo: CTPSE

Context | The prison population is transient, and therefore may pose different threats & risks at different times. There is a common risk of radicalisation across the prison estate.

Signposts to Vulnerability

- Dehumanising / derogatory language
• Promote narrative of Muslim suffering
• Anti-immigration / anti-Muslim narrative

Extremism in the prison estate



Lone Actors

Context | Lone Actors are those presenting a risk of ideologically driven violence independently of a network-based conspiracy. This may manifest in low-sophistication attack methodology.

Signposts to Vulnerability

- Lack of integration / social isolation / alienation
• Excessive time spent online / dark web usage
• Grievances against HM Government or UK authorities



Context | Individuals adopting an XRW ideology ultimately believe that terrorist acts are justified as a means to starting the 'race wars'. Their fundamental belief is that the traditions / institutions / native people are under threat & removal of the threat is crucial.

Signposts to Vulnerability

- Dehumanising / derogatory language
• Possession of weapons / experimental bomb-making
• Membership / sympathy / interest in proscribed ideological groups

Extreme Right Wing [XRW]

Context | Animal Rights Extremists employ criminal methodology (including violent extremism) in order to promote or manifest their aims; they are not lawful protestors. ARE tactics have focused on intimidation / coercion, & trespassing, which may be linked to criminal damage. They are adept at using online technology.

Signposts to Vulnerability

- Seeking to cause unlawful disruption, disorder, damage, or intimidation
• Possession of weapons / experimental bomb-making
• Possession of ideological / single-issue related paraphernalia i.e. posters / books

Animal Rights Extremism [ARE]

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The above lists for 'Signposts to Vulnerability' are not exhaustive; please refer to your Counter Terrorism Local Profile, or Thematic Factsheets for further information.