

Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

Topic: Preventing online radicalization

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Position: Co-chair

Personal Introduction

Dear delegates of GA1,

My name is Areti Moustaki, I am 15 years old and an IB1 student in Costeas-Geitonas School (CGS). In this year's session of CSMUN I will have the honor and pleasure of serving as one of the co-chairs in the Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1).

The topics of this year's conference are all quite interesting and compelling and especially the delegates of GA1 will be given the chance to discuss issues of great significance, such as preventing online radicalization and assessing the use of surveillance as a means of maintaining international and national security. This study guide focuses on the first topic, namely the issue of "preventing online radicalization". I hope that after careful reading of this study guide you will have obtained the necessary information in order to be guided to further research the topic on your own and be able to come up with solutions regarding the issue and hence draft resolutions.

I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Yours truly,

Areti Moustaki

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Topic Introduction

People's lives have been drastically altered since the introduction of the internet. It has changed the way we interact and made it easier to form networks of like-minded people. We live at a time where "84% of the general population uses the



internet on a daily basis, with an 81% of them doing so from home.”¹ This evolution has resulted in a significant alteration in the systematization and functioning of society. Thus, with the introduction of the internet violent extremists and terrorists have now become part of this community, hence it is commonly thought that the internet plays a vital role as a means of radicalization. When an individual or an organization adopts extremist ideals and comes to believe that they should use violence to promote or advance their ideas or beliefs, it is referred to as radicalization to violence. These views can be associated with a wide range of ideologies, including political and religious ones.

Radical and radicalization are two very prevalent terms people tend to encounter in everyday activities, for instance in social events or in forms of written text. The use of the word “radicalization” emphasizes a great or dramatic alteration in the original state of something. Nevertheless, the extent is unclear. Based on this uncertainty, however, it is unclear if this alteration is going to become a risk or, more precisely, a threat to society.

Whilst radicalization is a societal issue for almost all nations, uncertainty still prevails. It is still quite unclear whether it is a violent process or a sudden emotional explosion. Peter Neumann explains radicalization as: "What goes on before the bomb goes off".² He believes it is a direct route to violence. Meanwhile Randy Borum argues that "Ideology and action are sometimes but not always connected".³ As can be deduced from the preceding statements, a connection between radical views and violent deeds cannot always be found. There are radicals who have never been engaged in any violent action or supported it in any way. Thus, it is extremely difficult to determine if all terrorists have a background of radical ideologies.

¹ Ines von Behr, Anaïs Reding, Charlie Edwards, Luke Gribbon. “Radicalization in the digital era: The use of the internet in 15 cases of terrorism and extremism.” RAND Corporation

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR400/RR453/RAND_RR453.pdf

² Neumann, Peter R. “Trouble with Radicalization.” OUP Academic, Oxford University Press, 12 July 2013, doi.org/10.1111/1468-2346.12049.

³ Borum, Randy. “Radicalization into Violent Extremism I: A Review of Social Science Theories.” Scholar Commons, dx.doi.org/10.5038/1944-0472.4.4.1.



Understanding the situation of radicalization and radicals is extremely essential to tackling the issue. The common definition and understanding of radicalization further makes it harder to develop a counterstrategy. One of the reasons leading to radicalization is the existence of a person or group with a certain viewpoint who wishes to attract others to support or act on their behalf. The invention of the Internet gives people the ability to abuse and misuse it in order to spread terrorism and extremism. However, everyone has the responsibility to confront and report any terrorist or extremist content they come across online. Relevant material falls under 4 categories: a) articles, photos, statements, or films that advocate terrorism or incite violence; b) materials inciting individuals to commit terrorist actions; c) websites created by terrorist or extremist organizations; and d) footage of terrorist incidents.

Definition of key terms

Radicalization

“Radicalization is a phased and complex process in which an individual or a group embraces a radical ideology or belief that accepts, uses or condones violence, including acts of terrorism, to reach a specific political or ideological purpose.”⁴

Online Radicalization

“Online radicalization is the process by which an individual is introduced to an ideological message and belief system that encourages movement from mainstream beliefs toward extreme views, primarily through the use of online media, including social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.”⁵

Extremist Ideologies

“Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for different

⁴ “Prevention of Radicalisation.” *Migration and Home Affairs - European Commission*, 6 Dec. 2016, ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/counter-terrorism/radicalisation_en.

⁵ IACP Committee on Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group, *A Common Lexicon* (Alexandria, VA: International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2012), www.theiacp.org/portals/0/pdfs/IACP-COT



faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.”⁶

Terrorism

Terrorism is defined as any action or threat seeking to affect the government or instill fear in the people. Its mission is to further a political, religious, or ideological cause.

Indoctrination

“Indoctrination means training someone to accept a set of beliefs without questioning them”⁷

Alt-right

A right-wing, primarily online political movement or grouping based in the U.S. whose members reject mainstream conservative politics and espouse extremist beliefs and policies typically centered on ideas of white nationalism, is often referred to as Alt-Right.

Background Information

The Process of Online Radicalization

Radicalization is the progressive adoption of radical viewpoints or beliefs by an individual or a group that are contrary to the status quo and contradict conventional notions. It can also lead to the endorsement of terrorism and extremist ideas connected with terrorist organizations. Online radicalization includes the dissemination or incitement of extreme beliefs by a group or individuals online. It is a process that requires a lot of time and effort. Consequently, certain steps must be taken for it to be considered successful. There are usually 3 steps in total, and they are the following:

⁶ “What Is Extremism? Definition of Extremist Ideology.” *Educate Against Hate*, 10 Feb. 2021, educateagainsthate.com/what-is-extremism/.

⁷ “Indoctrination - Dictionary Definition.” *Vocabulary.com*, www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/indoctrination.



Step 1: Determining the target audience

While investigating extremism and radicalization, specialists have observed that susceptible parties to online recruitment typically have three symptoms: disaffiliation, exposure to lectical or physical abuse – regardless of whether online or in real life – and lastly hopelessness or frustration. It is when those three circles meet, that things get complicated. These people are looking for support and sense of fulfillment, they feel the need to become part of a community, a place where they feel they belong, and they matter. Such extremist causes can provide them with that kind of feeling. The internet is a major recruiting tool. Exposure to extremist information can serve as a trigger for the adoption of extremist ideas by emotionally vulnerable individuals. Possible victims of radicalization could be identified and tracked through the web by the perpetrators, when patterns of behavior that indicate that an individual is vulnerable to radicalization. These patterns can relate to relational, personal, psychological, or external factors.

Step 2: Establishing a community

Victims are usually socially targeted, convinced and motivated by the idea of admission to a community. The perpetrators will penetrate any community with a sizable population that feels somewhat marginalized due to its niche interests, and devoid of gradual criticism of such interests. They either build a community that appeals to the subject, or they infiltrate a community in which the subject is already involved in.

Step 3: Isolation

With the intention of keeping recruitment subjects interested and engaged, the perpetrators need to disconnect them from other communities that may pose a threat and challenge to their plan. The support and validation by a community could draw the individual back to it, creating the sense that the individual has a place and a significant role in the community, which interrupt the process of radicalization, thus preventing radicalizers from succeeding. After the aforementioned steps are implemented, the perpetrators can move forward with the execution of their plan.



Radicalization Leading to Violence

The radicalization process that leads to violence is not a linear and predetermined path, as it is affected by several elements – both individual, communal, social and psychological. There is no single factor that may explain the radicalization of an individual or a group of people. The process is the outcome of a distinct personal journey and set of ideas which rationalize the use of violence. This process is made easier by possible identity crises individuals may be going through, which could be additionally fueled by online social networks. Radicalization leading to violence seldom involves an abrupt or rapid shift, but instead a complicated societal change that occurs on multiple levels.

Social Context

On the societal level, radicalization processes may be caused, affected, or encouraged by socio-political or socio-emotional factors that both directly or indirectly impact the individual affected. Confronted with political, social, or economic discomfort whether real or perceived, the promise of unity and the sense of being part of a community makes individuals more vulnerable to extremist organizations, rather than making them more skeptical of such groups.

Living Environments

People victim to an identity crisis, which could include the instance of striving to find their place and role in society. Victims of frequent inequality, or exclusion might seek explanations and solutions for situations, which they consider unfair or which they need remedy and justice for. The extent to which protective or vulnerability elements are present in the living environment of an individual, can affect his perspective and help him accept certain extremist opinions which legitimize violence.

Personal Journey

All the perceptions of the world are inevitably interpreted ideologically by those who are taught to accept a set of beliefs revolving around the “us” vs “them” mentality. People’s natural urge to be a member in a group can lead to irrational group preference



that divides society rather than uniting it. Owing to this gradual split of the world, people have the tendency to ignore any possible contradictory explanations or different opinions consistently. Ideology provides logical basis and reasoning in the indoctrination process, thus urging parties involved to engage in more radical kinds of action, such as passionate support or involvement in violent activities.

Factors which may contribute to vulnerability and signs to look out for

Individuals might be lured into the radicalization process via a variety of different ways. Individuals who are vulnerable in this context are those who, due to their circumstances, experiences, or mental state, are susceptible to extremist ideology. There is no particular path to radicalization. Nevertheless, there are several behaviors to look out for that indicate someone is being taken down the path of extremism. Some of these behaviors and vulnerabilities might increase the danger of exploitation of a person. Identifying them does not necessarily indicate that somebody is being radicalized. Behind every behavior, lie different explanations. However, it is imperative to take proactive steps if any concerns arise.

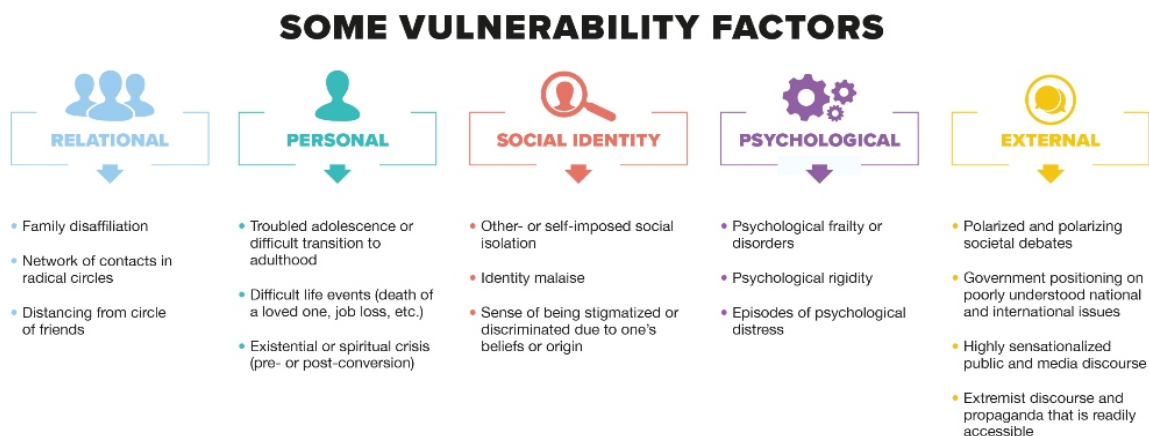


Figure 1: Radicalization vulnerability factors ⁵

Some signs to look out for that may indicate that a person is being radicalized include being persuaded or controlled by a group, spending additional time online and sharing extreme opinions on social networking sites and/or a constant need of finding identity, purpose and belonging.

Radicalizers may be highly convincing and manipulative to young or vulnerable individuals who feel compelled to conform. Spending additional time online and sharing extreme opinions on social networking sites may also indicate that a person could be involved in the process of being radicalized. Radicalizers are mostly targeting and influencing vulnerable individuals online through online gaming and social media platforms. In the beginning, they can use harmless or usual pages and sites that are by no means extreme. They then aim to invite the individual to a 'closed' group, which expresses radical opinions. This is done to make the person feel unique or part of a certain group.

Sometimes people encounter difficulties with their identity or where they feel like they fit in or belong. They might feel very distant from their friends, families or communities and thus be led to search for new groups or people online. Consequently, they are quite vulnerable to becoming victims of radicalization, as if approached by people who belong in groups with such beliefs, they might be tempted to join them and adopt their ideas and viewpoints as well.

Use of the web and social media to radicalize people

There is no longer a true offline world. Technology has now become an extension of nearly everything we do, providing those who wish to radicalize others with a channel of communication and an extended degree of influence that was not previously available. It has also given offenders a distinct benefit: they may contact a victim at any point of day or night and direct propaganda to them. Ideologies may now be disseminated with the click of a button to a huge audience. A mobile phone and a free account on a social media platform are all that is needed to spread radicalizing propaganda. An important thing to also note is that internet advertising is a lot cheaper than other conventional methods and can be targeted, making it a lot more cost effective and thus dangerous.

The online world has made it much simpler to detect people who may be influenced and radicalized. Social media platforms are full of vulnerable individuals



seeking help. Those hoping to take advantage of this approach such individuals and seek to radicalize them.

The internet as a domain of activity for terrorist activities

The Internet offers extremist organization recruiters with a more productive recruiting field and more possibilities to engage with people who might otherwise be inaccessible through traditional means. By combining conventional sites; mainstream social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and other Internet services, extremists are spreading their views, angering enemies, inciting violence and glorifying martyrs, creating virtual communities with the like, providing religious and legal reasons for the actions they are proposing.

Extremists distribute incendiary content such as instructional films on how to manufacture and use explosives and weaponry, footage of successful assaults, speeches promoting radical beliefs, blog entries, and statements endorsing and inciting attacks and acts of violence, inspiring people to join such organizations, or carry out similar attacks independently.

Influence, Resilience and Online Safety

Families, communities and other groups can directly and indirectly contribute to digital security and protection by strengthening people's resilience to radicalization. Humans are social beings and the failure to connect with the immediate social environment can result in a person identifying with content and material from radical groups and organizations, which they would not under normal circumstances. Thus, a healthy social environment in which families, communities as well as other groups such as faculty can be viewed as (social) influencers, can directly help by creating a feeling of connection to society that can serve as a direct prevention method against subversion to existing (liberal) systems and generally radicalization.

In addition to the above, the social environment might combat radicalization by assisting in emotional health and stability, public values and digital critical thinking and rational reasoning. The social environment can account for a large percentage of mental wellbeing in which a healthy and active individual is able to overcome feelings



of alienation, loss of identity and dignity, maltreatment, and social marginalization, which all contribute to radicalization. Furthermore, when adolescents think that "civility" is performed within families and other social environments, they are more inclined to identify with such behavior, by living up to the principles of civility and to combating civil disengagement.

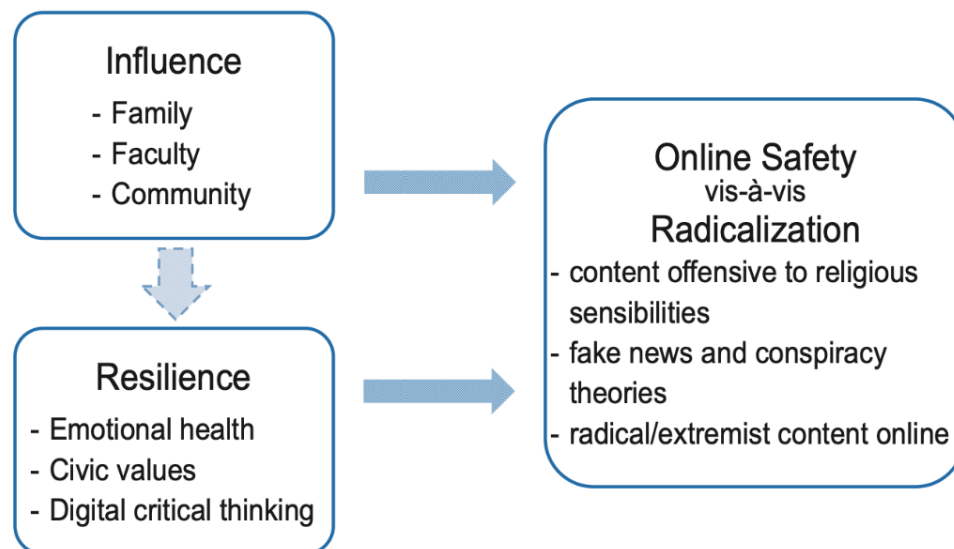


Figure 2: Influence, Resilience & Online Safety Framework ⁸

Finally, it is vital to highlight the significance of external influences that resonate with the social environment, while embracing critical thinking. This boosts the skill of recognizing radical or extremist content. Youth counseling and guidance for troubled individuals, education, awareness raising, and creating strong family environments may help attain the goal of improving resilience to online radicalization.

Common gaps in radicalization research

Inadequate understanding of how radicalization works

Although considerable research on violent radicalization and methods to resist it currently exist, an underlying general lack of knowledge still exists in regards to how radicalization works. There is a common recognition that further studies must be carried out, in order to identify the origins, processes and mechanisms of

⁸ *Time Spent Online, Conflict and Radicalization*. www.csq.ro/wp-content/uploads/Sajid-AMIT-et-al.pdf.

radicalization, so that effective prevention measures can be implemented. Regardless of whether this is deterministic – relating to the theory according to which everything, including human action, is ultimately decided by external factors – or rational, complicated or integral decision.

It is also necessary to study the dynamics of radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism. Radicalization is a more general, and more complicated phenomenon; thus, it is necessary to understand radicalizing elements and processes leading to violent extremism and terrorism. Counter-narrative development based on such limited and general information inevitably has reduced the likelihood of overall success. The notion of research and policy based on evidence has now become more prominent.

The structure of research funding that currently exists must be altered in order to achieve this goal. Only through consistent research and appropriate procedures, which in most cases demand considerable money and time, can solid scientific results prevail. Since contemporary research programs last over five years, the resources and time requirements themselves seem to be covered. Nevertheless, this does not result in clarity, accuracy, and innovation in terms of study goals. To add to that, research questions tend to be generic, unfocused, and repetitive.

Difficulty in discovering means of clarifying and activating interconnections between fundamental, applied, and practical research

Another broader research gap in this area is in discovering strategies to define and activate the relationship between basic, applied, and practical research. Radicalization research is evidently and closely related with practice. It is helpful not just to learn about human activity as a whole but, inter alia, to avoid terrorist attacks and to determine how and why radicalization arises. Ideally, the appropriateness and efficiency of such policy measures should be assessed for basic research to guide policies and applied research.



Major countries and organizations involved

United States of America (USA)

Even though the States have never been keen on intense monitoring, they are definitely one of – if not the – most involved nation in the fight against terrorism and more recently, cyber-terrorism. It has taken measures against and would be willing to support and reinforce efforts in the fight against the promotion of cyber-terrorism through online radicalization. The USA's battle on terrorism also included surveillance in social media, which terrorist groups used for recruiting.

People's Republic of China

The nation is undoubtedly one of the strongest believers in monitoring and the limitation of radicalization, both offline and online. Even though it has not taken any internationally recognized measures on the matter, its internal policies reflect an agenda in favor of the cause. The nation would likely refuse to participate in collective efforts but would support most efforts on the issue unless there is an opposition to its interests.

Canada

A small proportion of people who have become radicalized for political, religious, or other ideological purposes pose a threat to Canada and its democracy. The Canadian government is worried about all kinds of violent extremism but does not associate this issue with any specific religious, political, national, ethnic, or cultural group. Although Canada has experienced a variety of hazards arising from violent extremism in the past few decades, with the greatest terrorist threat to Canada being violent extremists motivated by terrorist organizations such as Daesh and al-Qaeda.

Australia

Australia is arguably the most involved nation on the matter, not only due to the major and minor incidents that it had to endure throughout the past decade, but also due to the simultaneous rise of the internet and terrorism's shift into the cyber world. It has taken multiple measures with the most distinguished one being the first ever



legal measure against the matter which – in part – legitimized the matter on the international scene. At this point, the nation will take any measure to protect its people without much regard for its national interests on the matter, in order to minimize current and future damage.

Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS)

The organization with members all throughout the African continent has been greatly involved with the issue with the greatest highlight being a research report created in 2012 which summarized the matter within the context of the continent and concluded with measures that should be taken to stop its ever-increasing rate of growth. Even though this was not extremely effective, countries in the ACSS still stand in favor of the cause and would be willing to support in any way they can, primarily through information-pooling as most would not be able to offer financial support.

European Union (EU)

Undeniably, the EU has taken the strongest stance against the matter as far as organizations go. It has implemented measures through its counter-terrorism agenda both in 2020 and in 2021. Its efforts are very notable but mostly impact the European cyber-space. Regardless, the nations involved would support actions on the matter according to their interests and relations with the ones involved.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO, a United Nations organization, has held multiple conferences, passed countless clauses pertaining to the topic at hand and implemented many measures within its jurisdiction. It is certain that members can count on it for funding and supporting their efforts.

Counterterrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU)

In 2010 the Counterterrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) was established in order to stop illegal terrorism content from the Internet with a special focus on the UK cyberspace. Working with online media, CTIRU strives to detect content that violates



its service conditions and requests that such is removed voluntarily. CTIRU also compiles a list of URLs for content hosted outside the UK that is prohibited on public estate networks.

Timeline of Events

<u>2005</u>	EU's Counter-terrorism Strategy was developed.
<u>March 30, 2006</u>	Terrorism Act of 2006 was put into force.
<u>July 2006</u>	UK made its counter-terrorism strategy public, in which the internet is identified as the primary domain "where various sorts of radical views are extensively advocated".
<u>2009</u>	As part of a new strategy, the UK Home Office has proposed collaborating with filtering businesses to disrupt extremist messaging on the internet and instead promote alternative perspectives to radicalized messages that could be obtained over the internet.
<u>2011</u>	The Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN) was created, aiming to prevent and combat violent extremism.
<u>2012</u>	Founding of the National Institute of Justice's Domestic Radicalization to Terrorism program, in order to help intervention and prevention efforts, by funding research on how radicalization to terrorism happens in the US.
<u>February 12, 2015</u>	The Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 got published.
<u>December 2015</u>	The European Council called for a more aggressive approach towards fighting online acts of radicalization causing terrorism.
<u>June 9, 2016</u>	Practical measures were taken in an effort to combat cybercrime, mostly in European nations.
<u>November 21, 2016</u>	The EU Council released guidelines on the prevention of violent radicalization.

<u>2017</u>	High-Level Commission Expert Group on radicalization was formed.
<u>2020</u>	The European Union’s Counter Terrorism Agenda was proposed, in an attempt to counter terrorist propaganda and illegal hate speech online.
<u>June 24-30, 2021</u>	United Nations Counter-Terrorism week took place.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

The attempts on this topic by external parties are fairly limited, with a few major and multiple minor ones. This is likely due to the very recent realization of the matter’s existence and the lack of time for major measures to be planned out and implemented.

The EU 2020 Counter-Terrorism agenda

The agenda proposed and implemented by the European Union puts forward numerous ideas on countering terrorist propaganda and hate speech online. It reinforces online monitoring and international cooperation on the matter. However, it does not stop there; the agenda proposes measures in favor of those who have fallen victims to terrorism as a measure of prevention. Overall and comparatively, the implementation of the aforementioned measures did see some success within the continent of Europe but the scale wasn’t large enough to impact the global scene.⁹

Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN)

The Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN) brings together front-line professionals from throughout Europe, as well as researchers and policymakers in order to share information about preventing and combating violent extremism in all its

⁹ “COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS.” A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond, 9 Dec. 2020, ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/pdf/09122020_communication_commission_european_parliament_the_council_eu_agenda_counter_terrorism_po-2020-9031_com-2020_795_en.pdf.



forms. It has been proven to be quite effective, as it has helped reduce the cases of online radicalization.

New Zealand's actions on major social media

Many have heard of the live-streaming terrorism incident in New Zealand not too long ago. Shortly after, the Prime Minister of the nation took it upon himself to meet with various major social media company CEOs and discuss measures against online radicalization. This particular action was passively effective, not causing any major change, but greatly preventing further growth (at least on this front of the matter).

Australian legislation

Australian officials in late 2019 enacted what they called the world's first law to curb online extremism, as authorities ordered five websites to remove extremist content or face prosecution.

Danish Institute for International Studies Report

An honorable mention among the hundreds of minor efforts against the issue is a research report made public by the Danish Institute for International Studies. It proposes offline, real-life measures that can be taken and their effects on the online world, a rather unconventional approach that may prove effective if implemented with caution and precision. The report was taken into consideration in the EU meetings on the matter (proposed by the delegation of Denmark, of course) and some of the measures proposed likely contributed to the implementable ideas produced.¹⁰

Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

UNODC Research Report

This research report created and published by the United Nations Organization on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regards radicalization through the internet and mentions ways how a functional society is harmed, as well as potential ways of

¹⁰ Gemmerli, Tobias. THE FIGHT AGAINST ONLINE RADICALISATION STARTS OFFLINE. Danish Institute for International Studies, 2015, www.jstor.org/stable/resrep13160.



amelioration and prevention. Granted, it is mainly a public awareness attempt, however it still proposes useful measures that can be taken into consideration.

The 2021 UN Counter-Terrorism week

During this year's Counter-Terrorism week from the 24th to the 30th of June, one of the matters discussed under the "Information and Communications Technologies" committee was radicalization through the internet, a matter that has been in desperate need for attention and - finally - is getting some from the ones who can help. ¹¹

RES55/63 (2001)

The resolution regards the criminal misuse of information technologies, an umbrella matter that includes radicalization through the internet and therefore includes measures against it - mainly monitoring updates though, as the attempt was 2 decades ago, and the matter was not as severe as it currently is. ¹²

RES1373 (2001)

This resolution was passed by the UNSC a few years ago and stands as one of the organ's most significant efforts on the matter. It takes measures that are generally against terrorism but has a specific focus on the cyber-space and how the issue can be tackled through the suppression and prevention of funding of terrorist groups. ¹³

Terrorism Act of 2006

The Terrorism Act 2000 was developed as a consolidating provision, combining prior anti-terror legislation into a single code which would not need renewal or reenactment. There have been a handful of new criminal offences introduced under

¹¹ "The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes." UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME, 2012.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Use_of_Internet_for_Terrorist_Purposes.pdf

¹² "Security Council I COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE." *United Nations*, United Nations, 2021, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/>.

¹³ *Resolution 1373 (2001)*, United Nations, 28 Sept. 2001, https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res_1373_english.pdf.



this Act, which include crimes of terrorist incitement, distribution of terrorist publications, an offense of planning terrorist actions and the provision of training for terrorist crimes. ¹⁴

Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015

In accordance with the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, the ‘Prevent duty’ considers the necessity of preventing individuals from engaging in terrorism. Part 5 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 emphasizes the risk of becoming involved in terrorism as well as how to avoid it. ¹⁵

Possible solutions

Education and keeping up to date with technology

People need to have the skills and confidence to work securely within the digital world, hence proper education can help them to identify where they can go for guidance when things go wrong. Certainly, young people must also be enabled, so that they can rely on their own knowledge if anyone challenges their way of thinking. It is up to people to learn about the online world and to identify potential threats online. However, the most important thing education has to offer is that it can provide young people with opportunities for success later in life, and help them improve their economic condition, lifting them from a vulnerable place where they can be potential victims of radicalization.

Community partnerships

Community collaboration is a critical step for developing resilience against recruitment and radicalization to extreme violence. Communities shall trust their government and shall be equipped with tools in order to combat recruitment and

¹⁴ Participation, Expert. “Terrorism Act 2006.” *Legislation.gov.uk*, Statute Law Database, 2006, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/11/contents>.

¹⁵ “Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.” *Legislation.gov.uk*, Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, 2015, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents/enacted/data.htm>.



radicalization. By supporting local partners to develop community resilience, terrorist groups will be deprived of recruits.

Sanctions against states and authors of radicalizing content

Penalties on radicalization content authors should be expanded globally in order to encompass monetary punishment. Usually, in more than one jurisdiction the author will have assets. These assets may encompass bank accounts, and banks may be required to freeze these accounts. Nations that do not cooperate as determined by the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee include countries that have no active role in blocking/removing the radicalizing content from which the jurisdiction concerned has been derived. These sanctions might be aimed against the Country of Origin and the organization launching or directing the authoring of the radicalizing material.

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