

Home Affairs Committee

Combating new forms of extremism: Government Response

First Special Report of Session 2026–27

HC 311

Home Affairs Committee

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First Special Report

The Home Affairs Committee published its Seventh Report of Session 2024–26, [Combatting new forms of extremism](#) (HC 903), on 1 April 2026. The Government Response was received on 1 June 2026 and is appended below.

Appendix: Government Response

Introduction

Extremism is a deeply challenging and complex issue which fuels polarisation, erodes social cohesion and heightens tensions within communities by creating an environment in which hostility and intolerance can flourish.

The Home Affairs Select Committee's report comes at a time when the nature of extremist ideologies, behaviours and pathways are developing in ways that do not always align with traditional ideological categories, particularly in online environments.

It also comes at a time of rising threat, as evidenced by the recent terrorist attack in Golders Green and the abhorrent series of arson attacks against sites of relevance to Jewish communities.

The Government is grateful to the Committee, witnesses and all those who contributed to this inquiry, and welcomes the Committee's continued engagement on this important issue. This response sets out the Government's actions already underway and further steps we will take to ensure we are able to respond to the evolving threat from extremism.

Summary

- The Government's response to this report confirms that a broad, evidence led approach to Counter-Extremism is necessary. The Government works closely with partners across policing, local government, education, the criminal justice system, technology companies and civil society. This includes preventing people from being drawn into extremism and disrupting extremist activity where it risks harm.
- The Government is clear that efforts to counter extremism are distinct from existing counter-terrorism systems. The Home Office leads on CounterExtremism policy through a dedicated team that works in close coordination with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's social cohesion function.
- The Prevent strategy is an essential component of safeguarding, aimed at protecting individuals and communities from the threat of terrorism and radicalisation.
- Detailed [statistics on individuals referred to and supported by Prevent](#) are published annually. Prevent is subject to regular internal performance monitoring against its objectives set out in the CONTEST Strategy, and aspects of the programme are regularly subject to both internal and independent evaluation, including an ongoing independent evaluation of its flagship Channel programme.
- The Prevent programme is also subject to independent scrutiny. The Independent Prevent Commissioner (IPC) role was established by the Home Secretary to provide strategic oversight and review of the policy and operational delivery of the Prevent programme. Key responsibilities of the role are reporting on how Prevent is meeting its objectives of stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Commissioner advises the Home Secretary, Ministers and Parliament on actionable changes which can be implemented to the Prevent system, to support ongoing improvement to meet the requirements of a changing threat landscape.
- An interim IPC, Lord David Anderson KC was appointed in February 2025, and substantive Commissioner, Tim Jaques, was appointed by the Home Secretary in April 2026.
- In July 2025, Lord Anderson published his report 'Lessons for Prevent' which looked at the Southport attack of July 2024, and the murder of Sir David Amess in October 2021 as both perpetrators had been subject to Prevent referrals.

- Lord David Anderson set out clearly in his ‘Lessons for Prevent’ report in July 2025 the challenges posed by the shift towards online radicalisation. The Home Office and Counter-Terrorism Police continue to adapt to this change, supporting people who are at risk of taking a path towards terrorism from being radicalised online.
- The Home Office has made improvements to strengthen the Prevent programme following the Southport attack in 2024. In February, the Home Office published clear guidance on Prevent thresholds, titled Key Principles of Prevent, to help ensure there is a shared understanding of the purpose of Prevent and the circumstances in which it should be used. This guidance clearly sets out that, while ideology is an important consideration, it is not mandatory for a Prevent referral.
- On 13 April, in response to the findings from Phase 1 of the Southport Inquiry, the Government announced its commitment to set up a Home Office-led taskforce to develop an approach to tackling the risk posed by violence fixated individuals. This will run alongside Phase 2 of the Southport Inquiry.
- The Government has recently set out its vision for a fair, tolerant and decent country, in the publication [Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom - GOV.UK](#). This action plan sets out the steps we are taking to tackle threats to social cohesion and counter the scourge of extremism. Further detail on the commitments made in this important publication can be found in the next section.
- The cross-threat nature of Com networks requires a sophisticated response. The National Crime Agency (NCA) and Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) lead a multi-agency taskforce and have established an Intelligence Coordination Cell as the national hub coordinating law enforcement and international action against Com networks to dismantle their online infrastructure. This Intelligence Coordination Cell works with a network of regional Com threat leads across the UK. It also ensures that referrals, including international referrals from Five Eyes partners, are met with a local policing response.
- In March, the Government published its Media Literacy Action Plan, [A Safe, Informed Digital Nation](#). This sets out our commitment to fostering a safe, informed and resilient digital society. It supports understanding of how platforms and new technologies, including artificial intelligence, shape what people see and share. In it, we confirm that we will develop training for teachers on teaching media literacy skills related to Counter-Extremism and misogyny.

Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive and resilient United Kingdom

Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom, published on 9 March, outlines the threats and challenges to social cohesion in the United Kingdom. It also sets out the steps cross-Government departments are taking to bring people together, support integration, and tackle those who endeavour to undermine our shared values.

Recognising the need for a whole of Government approach, the 90 commitments span a range of Departments and partners. This work will also be governed through a Ministerial Steering Group, which the Home Office will rightly play a significant role in.

Home Office Commitments

The Home Office has committed to a wide-ranging series of actions that we believe, in the round, will help bear down on the threat posed by extremism. These commitments will be delivered at pace and include:

- **Embedding the 2024 extremism definition across government, working with frontline partners such as the police**, recognising that a consistent understanding of extremism is essential to tackling it effectively. We will do this by overhauling training and guidance to ensure a consistent understanding of extremism and extremist ideologies.
- **Updating and embedding the 2024 engagement principles** so that public bodies do not confer legitimacy, funding or influence on extremist groups. We will boost our due diligence capability to ensure we can take evidence-based decisions about engagement which are in line with these principles.
- **Publishing an annual ‘State of Extremism’ report** setting out the nature and scale of the current threat facing the UK and government action to counter its activity and influence. This will be structured around specific ideologies, including Islamism, the Extreme Right, and the Extreme Left.

- **Transforming our specialist Disruptions Unit to detect, expose, and counter extremist influence across the UK** – including online, mobilising coordinated action across central and local government to disrupt online and offline extremist activity and influence by improving our harms assessment framework and reporting mechanisms.
- **Making the Home Office’s visa taskforce permanent and expand its reach to block hate preachers and extremists of all kinds from entering the UK.** We will also establish a cross-government referral system to flag high-risk individuals early and enable swift immigration action where appropriate
- **Funding protective security for faith communities to keep places of worship and community sites safe through the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant, the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme, and the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme.** We have increased funding to record levels, and we will continue to work with the police and security partners to ensure protections for all faith communities remain proportionate and effective. In April, the government announced £25 million of funding to protect Jewish communities. £20 million of this will go directly to policing to provide a boost in police patrols. This brings the total funding to £58 million this year – the largest investment a Government has made in protecting Jewish communities in history.
- **Delivering training as part of the new free to access Faith Security Training Scheme** to help faith groups improve their safety and security, particularly at places of worship.
- **Ensuring hate crimes are prosecuted with the full force of the law.** While we work with policing bodies on implementing the protest and public order provisions in the Crime and Policing Act 2026, we have also asked Lord Macdonald to review existing public order and hate crime legislation to test whether it is effective and proportionate, particularly in response to protests and the ‘stirring up’ of hatred. The Review concluded in May 2026, and the Home Secretary will set out next steps in due course.
- **Connecting our local and national networks** so that we can create a single and aligned assessment of extremism and the impact this has on communities. This will help ensure we can both respond to threats and work to build resilience as a preventative factor.
- **Developing new tools and powers to disrupt organisations that spread extremism, hate and threaten public safety.** We will also introduce a State Threats Designation Power – based on counter

terrorism proscription – disrupting and deterring the most egregious state and proxy organisations carrying out hostile activity against the UK.

- Recognising that Jewish, Muslim and other minority communities are facing rising levels of hatred and extremism, **we will work with the Crown Prosecution Service and the Police to ensure robust use of existing hate crime and public order legislation on harmful extremist conduct, and terrorism legislation wherever conduct meets the appropriate threshold.**

Wider Government and partner commitments

The Government also committed to coordinated action across Whitehall to strengthen social cohesion and help tackle the root causes of extremism. This includes developing a Social Cohesion Measurement Framework for clearer, consistent metrics to measure local cohesion; strengthening the Charity Commission's powers and oversight to prevent the abuse of charities by extremists through tougher enforcement, trustee ID verification, digitised accounts and the automatic disqualification of trustees with unspent hate crime convictions or convictions for providing false or misleading information to the Charity Commission; and standing firmly against those who try to intimidate, threaten and harass others because they are offended by so-called 'blasphemy'.

The Government is also investing in prevention and resilience by supporting adults who work with young people to identify and address loneliness, alongside tackling loneliness among young men and boys not in education, employment or training; expanding Inter Faith Week to promote understanding between communities; and championing freedom of religion or belief internationally through sustained diplomatic engagement. Alongside this, we are developing a robust crossgovernment integration strategy to help both new and existing migrants to effectively integrate into their communities, find sustainable work, and make a positive contribution to their area.

To ensure rapid and effective responses to emerging tensions, the Government is establishing an Advisory Board of frontline practitioners to support local authorities during periods of crisis; introducing a local cohesion risk assessment tool to help councils identify and respond to emerging tensions earlier; and strengthening crossgovernment coordination to tackle Foreign Information Manipulation directed at the UK and our partners overseas.

In the education sector, we will respond swiftly to the findings of Sir David Bell's review into antisemitism in schools and colleges; increase funding for programmes that tackle anti-Muslim hatred; co-design a Cohesion Charter with students to support campus cohesion; and enhance higher education providers' ability to meet Prevent duties while upholding freedom of speech.

On the Online Information Environment, the Government has committed to protect users and reduce harm by requiring platforms to mitigate risks related to their algorithms; giving people greater control over what they are exposed to and reduce accidental exposure to hateful content; piloting communications campaigns to help parents and carers build children's resilience to harmful and divisive content; bringing major streaming services into line with TV rules on harmful content; setting clear safety standards for AI systems; and strengthening the evidence base on misinformation to better understand and counter its impacts.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

We recommend that the Home Office establishes a coherent, long-term research and evidence programme on emerging forms of extremism. It should ensure that sufficient support and resources are available to enable independent, empirical research to be commissioned, whether by the Home Office itself, the Commission for Countering Extremism or the Office of the Independent Prevent Commissioner. Research conducted should be published and the Home Office should include mechanisms for regularly reviewing and updating the evidence base. We expect the Home Office to set out its plans for such a research and evidence programme in its response to this report.

Response

Home Office analysis and insight functions provide world-leading analysis of terrorist and extremist use of propaganda and exploitation of the internet. To support this crucial objective, the Home Office undertakes open-source research to better understand the terrorist and extremist media, online and communications environment. This work is crucial to the delivery of Prevent and has helped to position the UK at the forefront of the battle against terrorist and extremist online propaganda. Prevent remains a vital tool to divert people from dangerous and poisonous ideologies.

As announced in ‘Protecting What Matters’, the Home Office’s annual ‘State of Extremism’ report, the first of which will be published by the end of 2026, will support public sector staff to tackle extremism. This will include information on what extremism looks like today in the UK—groups, narratives and ideologies, including Islamist and Extreme Right—as well as the action this government is taking to disrupt these extremist threats.

The Home Office is also increasing its analytical resource to increase its horizon scanning capability—this will allow us to identify and understand new and emerging extremist threats—we can then share this information with local partners, building their understanding of the threat and the best way to mitigate this.

Recommendation 2

The Home Office should engage more closely with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and Ofcom to ensure effective implementation of measures around online safety for children and to ensure that extremist content is among the types of online harmful content that technology companies are expected to address and be held accountable for. In addition, the Home Office should lead a cross government, multi-agency approach to shut down Com networks, building on existing cooperation between law enforcement, security services, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and other relevant departments and safeguarding partners. We expect the Home Office to update us on progress in its response to this report.

Response

The Home Office is working closely with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) throughout the Children Online Wellbeing consultation to enable swift action on its outcomes, which will sit alongside wider interventions including safer platform design, robust age assurance, responsibilities on Artificial Intelligence (AI) providers, effective enforcement, and support for parents, professionals and young people.

The Online Safety Act (OSA) represents one of the most significant pieces of UK legislation aimed at creating a safer digital environment. The illegal content and child safety duties in the Online Safety Act 2023 are now in effect and Ofcom as the independent regulator can now enforce against these duties. As of 17 March 2025, the illegal content duties in the Online Safety Act 2023 (OSA) are now in effect.

Providers in scope of the OSA are legally required to implement measures to remove illegal content from their platforms. This includes illegal content relating to terrorism and inciting violence. These measures aim to create a safer online environment by ensuring robust systems and processes are in place to protect users from illegal harms.

The OSA provides additional protections for children to prevent them from encountering content depicting or encouraging violence that is legal, but which poses a material risk of significant harm to an appreciable number of children.

The Home Office regularly shares information with Ofcom to support its risk assessments and ability to implement a regulatory regime that is effective and proportionate to the risks of harm posed by online terrorism and extremism on in-scope services.

The Home Office agrees that tackling Com networks requires effective coordination across government, law enforcement, regulators and safeguarding partners. We already work closely with policing, the security and intelligence agencies, DSIT and other relevant departments to address online networks that facilitate serious harm. This includes sharing intelligence, supporting operational activity, and ensuring safeguarding responses are in place for those at risk.

Multi-agency cooperation continues through the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) led taskforce. An intelligence coordination cell has been established as the national hub coordinating law enforcement and international action against Com networks to dismantle their online infrastructure. This intelligence coordination cell works with a network of Regional Com Threat Leads housed in Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCUs) as well as the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Police Scotland to ensure coherent responses that link international referrals from Five Eyes partners with a local policing response.

Since October 2025 it has processed 524 referrals, leading to 17 UK arrests, 27 individuals safeguarded, and 155 international referrals.

Industry partners are engaging more actively on detection and removal, and the UK benefits from a single national intelligence picture of Com networks and a more coordinated response.

In addition to its enforcement activities, the police-led taskforce has established a Prevent board overseeing stands of activity including behaviour-change interventions, deterrent messaging, research commissioning, legislative and financial disruption activity, and international Prevent work with Five Eyes and Europol partners.

The Home Office continues to consider whether the current legal and regulatory framework provides the right tools to address emerging online threats, including decentralised networks operating across multiple platforms.

Given the evolving nature of the threat, the Government keeps its approach under review and will continue to work across departments and with operational partners to identify where further action may be needed.

Recommendation 3

We welcome the inclusion of enhanced digital and media literacy in the new curriculum. It should be embedded consistently across education settings and equip children with the skills to identify, analyse and scrutinise online content, including the operation of algorithms and AI-generated material. We expect the Home Office to engage with the Department for Education to provide analysis and research to ensure that education materials keep pace with changes in technology and tactics used to spread extremism online.

Response

In response to the Curriculum and Assessment Review, the Government committed to strengthening media literacy, to enable young people to critically engage with the messages they encounter through different media channels; and to better specify media literacy within both the primary and secondary citizenship curricula.

In March, the Government published its Media Literacy Action Plan, [A Safe, Informed Digital Nation](#). This sets out our commitment to fostering a safe, informed and resilient digital society. It supports understanding of how platforms and new technologies, including artificial intelligence, shape what people see and share. In it, we confirm that we will develop training for teachers on teaching media literacy skills related to Counter-Extremism and misogyny.

To increase awareness, the Home Office regularly provides analysis on terrorist use of propaganda and exploitation of the internet for the Counter-Terrorism system. This analysis also informs the Department for Education and other partners to better understand the terrorist and extremist media, online and communications environment. This includes radicalisation risks posed by terrorist and extremist (groups or individuals) and misuse of Generative AI.

Recommendation 4

We recommend that the Home Office makes a clear, specific statement to clarify the role of Prevent in addressing non-ideological cases, and makes any necessary updates to relevant Prevent guidance and training to reflect that position. The government should also set out a plan to anchor Prevent more firmly within the wider safeguarding system. To deliver this, the Home Office should look to implement Lord Anderson of Ipswich's recommendation to connect Prevent to a broader safeguarding and violence-reduction system. This will require strengthening the capacity of local safeguarding systems and significantly raising the level of training and competence among Prevent duty practitioners.

Response

In February, the Home Office published clear guidance on Prevent thresholds, titled [Key Principles of Prevent](#), to help ensure there is a shared understanding of the purpose of Prevent and the circumstances in which it should be used. These messages were reinforced and replicated in the Prevent Duty training packages (explained in more detail below).

This guidance clearly sets out that, while ideology is an important consideration, it is not mandatory for a Prevent referral. Prevent is an early intervention programme, that must consider when someone is at risk of being radicalised to terrorism, rather than limiting Prevent to cases where a terrorist ideology has already taken hold. Prevent is a Counter-Terrorism capability, so where there is not a concern that someone may be drawn into terrorism, alternative local support services should be considered.

The Government is considering the findings from Phase 1 of Sir Adrian Fulford's inquiry alongside the recommendations made in Lord Anderson's 'Lessons for Prevent' report. As Sir Adrian Fulford concluded, Prevent and Channel are not the answer for all such cases, however the Government has made improvements since the Southport attack in 2024 to strengthen the Prevent programme.

To strengthen Prevent, we have launched a new Prevent risk assessment tool, changed the approach to repeat referrals so that cumulative risk is considered, introduced new guidance and training on a range of ideologies and threats, and have expanded the range of interventions available to people being supported by Channel. We have also introduced the role of Independent Prevent Commissioner.

The Government has also strengthened the approach to knife crime, introducing stricter laws in the Crime and Policing Bill for online sellers of knives including strengthening age verification controls and checks at sale and delivery. We are also ensuring every child caught carrying a knife will now be given a mandatory, targeted plan to tackle the root causes of their offending.

To address harms online, the Online Safety Act is a significant step forward and one of the most robust systems globally. Platforms now have duties to identify and remove illegal content and to protect children from harmful content, with Ofcom robustly enforcing these duties.

Whilst Government has already begun to make improvements to help keep the public safe, there is much more to do.

The Government will bring forward legislation to help tackle violence-fixated individuals in this parliamentary session. Proposed measures are a new offence for preparing a mass casualty attack, and measures to prevent the spread of extreme violence content online.

On 20 April, the Government announced its commitment to set up a Home Office-led taskforce to develop a new approach to tackling the risk from such individuals. The taskforce will develop an approach to tackling the risk posed by violence fixated individuals and will run alongside Phase 2 of the Southport Inquiry.

Prevent training

The Home Office provides training for frontline professionals, those applying the duty in their day-to-day roles, to give them a solid understanding of Prevent, how to identify behaviours of concern, and how to make a Prevent referral (when appropriate). We currently provide two core training products:

- Our e-learning provision, the [Prevent duty training](#), which launched in 2022 is a free to access service for all sectors and the general public hosted on GOV.UK. This is composed of four modules which cover raising awareness of what Prevent is, how to identify behaviours of concern, how to make a referral and what the Channel process is.
- Our Face-to-Face provision, which launched in 2024, is accessed by Prevent Trainers via a restricted training platform. It includes two courses: the Prevent Awareness course, which provides frontline staff with a more comprehensive and localised understanding of the Prevent process, 'Notice, Check, Share' and radicalisation risks; and the Extreme Ideology course, which is a specialised, supplementary

resource that provides learners with an enhanced understanding of the ideological nature of terrorism, the importance of ideology, common narratives, and a summary of the current threat picture.

To ensure that our training provision remains effective and reflects the latest policy position and threat from terrorism, we have embarked upon a full review of our current provision, with a view to refreshing its content over the course of the next year. The refresh will also include creating new video case studies, to support referrers in establishing whether their concern means a Prevent referral is appropriate. This content features antisemitism concerns. Organisations applying the duty can also choose to develop their own Prevent training or supplement it with additional training applicable to their sector and/or organisation.

Recommendation 5

The Home Office should assign greater priority to countering extremism and work alongside the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, other relevant departments, and local authorities to implement the social cohesion strategy. It is vital that the Home Office reviews the suite of counter-extremism measures that sit outside the counter-terrorism infrastructure, with a view to expanding its approaches for early intervention and ensuring consistency across the country to identify and intervene to counter extremism. Efforts should be coordinated with programmes such as Prevent but counter-extremism efforts should not exist only as part of counter-terrorism efforts. We expect the Home Office to set out its role and responsibilities for delivering on the government's new social cohesion strategy, including how it is coordinating its work with other departments.

Response

As announced in the Government's [Protecting What Matters](#) publication, the Government is delivering a fundamental reset of how we counter extremism, ensuring we have the tools, capabilities, and partnerships to match the scale and nature of an evolving threat.

Our Extremism Disruptions team, which horizon scans for extremist influence and events, will be expanded with additional resource to provide greater support to local authorities to disrupt extremist networks at a national and local level.

The Home Office is also increasing efforts to stop hate preachers and extremists from entering the UK as part of an expanded global visa taskforce. More individuals of extremist concern will be identified and

referred to specialist teams to take swift immigration action, including cancelling or refusing their visas or Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs), should they attempt to travel to the UK. This builds on strong action over the past two years where the highest harm extremists from across the ideological spectrum were targeted and stopped from coming to the UK. This included an Islamist extremist looking to deliver sermons across the country, individuals who were seeking to attend the ‘Unite the Kingdom’ rally last month, and neo-Nazis looking to celebrate their vile views at a music festival.

Our annual ‘State of Extremism’ report will support public sector staff to tackle extremism. This will include information on what extremism looks like today in the UK—groups, narratives and ideologies, including Islamist and Extreme Right—as well as the action this government is taking to disrupt these extremist threats. The first iteration of this will be published by the end of 2026.

We are also embedding the 2024 definition of extremism and engagement principles across government to ensure a consistent understanding of extremism, which is essential to tackling it effectively. We are reinforcing this through clearer guidance and improved training, helping those on the frontline to recognise extremism and the different extremist ideologies which underpin it. Updating and embedding the 2024 engagement principles will assist public bodies to not confer legitimacy, funding or influence on extremist groups. We will support due diligence capabilities to ensure we can take evidence-based decisions about engagement which are in line with the updated principles.

We will deliver this work in partnership with other partners across government, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local Authorities, police and more, coordinating effort to ensure a shared understanding of the threat and aligned effort to tackle the causes and drivers of extremism.

Protecting What Matters also contains a commitment to stand up a new Ministerial steering group to drive progress, reporting directly to the Prime Minister. Home Office Ministers will be represented at this.

Key trends in extremism highlighted during the inquiry

The Committee highlighted six key trends in extremism:

1. Increasing involvement of young people
2. Hybridised and conflicted ideological belief systems
3. The role of online spaces, social media and influencers
4. Use of technology, including generative AI
5. Over-representation of neurodiverse individuals and those with mental health conditions
6. Rising anti-blasphemy extremism, anti-Israel extremism and anti-Muslim hostility

Below, we have set out both our understanding of, and response to, each of the key trends identified.

Increasing involvement of young people

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the education sector contributed the highest number of referrals (3,129; 36%) into the Prevent programme. This illustrates the continued importance of the education sector in identifying young people at risk of radicalisation and intervening early to provide them with support.

The education sector has consistently been one of the highest referrers to Prevent, which is why a greater number of minors are discussed at Channel and adopted as cases. The sector has a strong focus on safeguarding learners from all types of harm, including radicalisation into terrorism. Young people can be particularly vulnerable due their age and cognitive development and may be more susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.

The Home Office and Department for Education continue to actively work with the education sector, national partners, and local partners to safeguard children and young people from these risks. As evidenced by the data on referrals by education settings, Prevent remains a vital tool for early intervention and safeguarding for children.

Prevent has been a statutory duty since 2015 and, as the system matures, we would expect to see Prevent further embedded within sectors and referral numbers increasing.

The Department for Education have published comprehensive advice and made a range of resources freely available on the Educate Against Hate website to support teachers in protecting children from extremism and radicalisation. The Educate Against Hate website provides teachers, school leaders and parents with the information, guidance and support they need to challenge radical views and keep their children safe, including from online extremist influences. The site is regularly updated so that it continues to be an active and relevant source of support. The site currently hosts over 100 resources to support school leaders, teachers and parents.

We continue to work with education professionals and civil society groups to identify and produce high-quality resources to assist teachers to build pupils' critical thinking skills and resilience to extremist ideologies.

Hybridised and conflicted ideological belief systems

The Home Office agrees that extremism is increasingly characterised by fluid or hybrid ideological frameworks. There is no single pathway to becoming an "extremist". Journeys into engaging with extremism are convoluted, unique for each individual, and not generalisable. Engagement with extremism is also not fixed, people can move in and out of engagement and may never act on their beliefs, some factors can exacerbate the risk of engagement with extremism. We know that extremism can lead to a variety of harms across society. It can undermine people's rights and freedoms, incite hatred, increase societal tensions, and create a fertile ground for radicalisation to terrorism.

Prevent deals with people who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. In 2019, a letter was issued jointly by the Home Office and Counter-Terrorism Policing to confirm that people with 'school massacre ideation' or with 'mixed unclear unstable' ideologies, should be considered for Prevent.

In the published Prevent statistics for year ending March 2022, Home Office analysts improved the way in which a referral's type of concern is presented. Previously referrals were grouped into one of four categories: Islamist, Extreme Right Wing, Mixed, Unstable and Unclear, and Other. From the publication date ending March 2022 the 'Mixed, Unstable and Unclear' category was disaggregated into its component sub-categories to provide a more granular view of types of concern.

In May 2024, the 'type of concern' categories were updated to better reflect the nature of cases referred into Prevent. These new categories include:

- Multiple ideologies (with no dominant ideology)
- No ideology identified
- No ideology – other susceptibility to radicalisation identified
- Fascination with extreme violence and mass casualty attacks (where no other ideology).

Home Office analysts hold significant expertise in the field of Counter-Terrorism, and include academic researchers, intelligence analysts, extremism analysts and policy professionals. Home Office analysis includes assessment of the online space which includes topics or media that terrorist and extremist groups are seeking to exploit. This also involves hybridised and conflicted ideological belief systems, such as the Com network, incels and school massacre fandoms.

The analysis of Com examines the diffuse online network linked to a wide array of harms including cybercrime, sextortion, and offline attacks. Some groups linked to the Com network have invoked terrorist and extremist ideologies including neo-Nazism, accelerationism, Left-Hand Path Satanism, and violent extremist nihilism. The Com network can also host extremely disturbing content, including Child Sexual Exploitation Abuse material. However, much of the offending linked to Com appears to be non-ideological and motivated by other factors such as financial gain and a desire for notoriety.

Likewise, incels who advocate violence in support of an ideological agenda, would likely meet the UK terrorism threshold as Single-Issue Terrorism under the Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism (LASIT) umbrella. However, while the ideology is recognised as a “potential terrorist motivation”, the range of beliefs which fall under incel ideology means that actions carried out by those who subscribe to these beliefs should not be assumed automatically as acts of terrorism and should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Analysts continue to monitor hybridised threats and Prevent officials work closely with statutory partners such as DfE and DHSC to ensure that frontline Prevent practitioners remain briefed on the latest risks and threats. Understanding of the threat is informed by regular reports and analysis, as well as external research and academics.

The role of online spaces, social media and influencers

The Home Office works to influence tech companies to increase action to tackle online content used to radicalise, recruit and incite terrorism by providing bespoke threat assessment, insight and support. This involves

engaging a wide variety of online platforms, including social media and messaging services, gaming services, file hosting platforms, and internet service providers.

We recognise that there is online content that justifies, advocates, or glorifies violence, which falls below the threshold of UK Terrorism Act (TACT) legislation and yet may contribute to offline violence and radicalisation.

This type of borderline content can go uncontested on social media platforms. Therefore, its accessibility, mainstream appeal, and ability to evade moderation makes it a useful tool for terrorists and extremists to engage large audiences and recruit using more accessible narratives.

We engage with tech companies to understand to what extent their own terms of service already capture and prohibit this content, how effectively those terms are enforced, and to aid their understanding of how this type of content can evade moderation and be used to recruit and radicalise individuals for terrorist purposes.

The UK has one of the strongest regimes in the world to protect children from harm online. Platforms are legally required to protect children from harmful content. We know we must go further to address the impact of social media overuse on young people.

On 2 March 2026, the Government launched a National Conversation and a swift, three-month consultation looking at options including a social media ban for under-16s, raising the digital age of consent, curfews to curb excessive screen time, and tougher enforcement of age checks. The consultation closes on 26 May, and the government will respond by the Summer.

The Prime Minister has been clear that no platform gets a free pass when it comes to keeping children safe, including where harms are enabled or amplified by AI systems, addictive design features, or rapidly evolving technologies.

No single measure is a silver bullet when it comes to online safety. Any action as a result of the consultation must sit alongside wider interventions including safer platform design, robust age-assurance, responsibilities on AI providers, enforcement, and support for parents, professionals and young people.

This is a cross-cutting issue with implications across multiple harms the Home Office is responsible for. The Home Office is working closely with DSIT through and after the consultation to act swiftly on the measures.

Use of technology, including generative AI

The Government is committed to understanding the impact of AI across a range of harms, including its misuse by extremist actors and impact on online radicalisation.

While there is evidence of early experimentation with AI for terrorist and extremist purposes, particularly in the area of content generation, we have not seen evidence of widespread adoption to date.

We are clear that AI presents both risks and opportunities for how we counter radicalisation in online spaces. We are therefore strengthening our understanding of AI-related risks and taking proportionate action to mitigate them, while also seeking to harness the opportunities the technology offers.

We continue to monitor developments closely and engage with technical experts, the research community, and the AI Security Institute to better understand the risks and opportunities AI presents, and how these may evolve.

The Government recognises that AI chatbots could contribute to an environment online in which vulnerable individuals are influenced or radicalised without direct contact with extremist actors. There have been recent real-world cases highlighting concerns about the role of chatbots in shaping harmful or extremist beliefs, underlining the importance of robust safeguards.

In response, the Government is swiftly addressing legislative gaps concerning AI chatbots and is tightening legislation around AI chatbots through the Crime and Policing Act and the Children's Wellbeing and School's Act.

Over-representation of neurodiverse individuals and those with mental health conditions

A new Prevent Case Management System was launched in May 2024 which means we can now record better data on mental health and neurodiversity where people are referred to Prevent. This is new data for Prevent, and we expect the quality of the data will improve over time. We will carefully analyse trends, working with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), to further improve our reporting practices here.

We have undertaken a strategic policy review of mental health and neurodiversity within Prevent to strengthen how we support and manage individuals with mental ill-health or who are neurodivergent. We continue to work to ensure that Prevent keeps pace with the increasingly

complex and evolving terrorist threat to stop people from being drawn into terrorism. This includes working closely with DHSC to better connect the counter-terrorism system with expertise in healthcare. Health practitioners are already embedded within Prevent; Schedule 7 of the CounterTerrorism and Security Act 2015 identify health bodies as statutory partners who participate in local Channel panels, contributing a vital healthcare perspective. We are also looking at a broader range of interventions available through Prevent in response to the increased complexity of the threat. This includes piloting a service that provides specialist psychological advice to Intervention Providers, helping them to better support individuals with mental illhealth or who are neurodivergent.

We have also commissioned research in collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Policing's Clinical Consultancy Service to improve our understanding of the complex relationships between mental health, neurodiversity and radicalisation, as well as how best to support people with mental ill-health or who are neurodivergent.

Prevent is clear that mental health and neurodiversity should be considered as contextual factors, which may—or may not—affect a person's radicalisation risk. Risk needs to be assessed on an individual basis. The delivery of the 'Key Principles of Prevent' earlier this year bolsters existing guidance for practitioners on the considerations around mental ill-health, neurodiversity, and Prevent.

Rising anti-blasphemy extremism, anti-Israel extremism and anti-Muslim hostility

Anti-blasphemy activism

Freedom of belief and freedom of speech are fundamental values. Any individual or group is free to express views and beliefs within the confines of the law, but we must all behave responsibly and respect one-another's fundamental rights.

There is no law against blasphemy in this country. The Government will not introduce legislation that would create de facto blasphemy laws in the UK.

We will bear down on those who seek to intimidate and harass anyone they have accused of blasphemy, just as we will use the full force of the law against anyone who commits a hate crime against someone because of their faith or beliefs.

Antisemitism

There has been an alarming rise in antisemitism both in this country and across much of the globe, including the horrific antisemitic terrorist attacks in Heaton Park, Bondi Beach and now Golders Green. Time and again, we have heard from the Jewish community that antisemitism is becoming normalised in many corners of society – from our schools and universities, to workplaces, and the NHS. The dramatic rise in online antisemitic incidents mean that Jewish people are also unable to escape this abhorrent content in their own homes.

Jewish people are often the targets of extremists – whether radical Islamists or those from the extreme right or left. We will clamp down on antisemitic extremism and its drivers, disrupting and targeting those that seek the harm of our Jewish communities.

In April, the government announced £25 million of funding to protect Jewish communities. £20 million of this will go directly to policing to provide a boost in police patrols. This brings the total funding to £58 million this year– the largest investment a Government has made in protecting Jewish communities in history.

The government will continue to use the recommendations in Lord Mann and Dame Penny Mordaunt’s Commission on Antisemitism report for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and in the Board of Deputies, Jewish Leadership Council and Union of Jewish Students’ report following the antisemitic terrorist attack at Heaton Park to inform future policy decisions. These will be tested with the Antisemitism Working Group, Lord Mann in his role as the Independent Adviser on Antisemitism, and Jewish communities.

This government is enacting a suite of measures to combat antisemitism across all corners of society including:

- reviewing public order and hate crime legislation to ensure the police and government response to protest and hate crimes is effective and proportionate.
- committing £7 million of funding to tackle antisemitism in schools, colleges, and universities, and launched a Tackling Antisemitism in Education innovation fund, which will help identify and tackle misinformation, improve media literacy, and promote tolerant debate and discussions. We will also swiftly respond to the findings of the review led by Sir David Bell into antisemitism in schools and colleges. The review will look at whether the policies, processes and support are available to help schools and colleges across England identify and tackle antisemitism when it arises.

- encouraging local authorities to take practical steps to challenge and eradicate antisemitism. This includes sharing intelligence with the police, rethinking approaches to protests, making best use of Public Space Protection Orders, and adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism – which most councils have already done. We will also act on Lord Mann's forthcoming review of how the healthcare system deals with antisemitism.

We welcome and support the steps institutions such as the BBC have taken to foster a trusted, accurate media environment. The BBC's new mandatory staff training on antisemitism has been developed with the Antisemitism Policy Trust, the Community Security Trust, and Jewish staff.

Anti-Muslim Hatred

All forms of racial and religious hatred are completely unacceptable and have no place in our communities. No one should ever be a victim of hatred or live in fear because of their race, religion, beliefs, or the way they choose to live their lives.

We are determined to root hatred out of our society, and we refuse to allow the intolerance of a few to impact the lives of people of faith.

The Government has adopted a new non-statutory [definition of anti-Muslim hostility](#) and will appoint a special representative on tackling anti-Muslim hostility.

We are providing record protective security funding for faith communities. Faith communities will receive up to £77.4M in 2026/27 to bolster security at vulnerable places of worship, faith schools and community centres. This includes up to £32.4 million through the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant, £40 million through the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme and for security at Muslim faith schools, and £5 million for the places of worship and associated faith community centres of all other faiths.