



NHS England London Prevent Newsletter

August 2024

Dear All

Welcome to the **August 2024** edition of the NHS England Prevent London Newsletter. This newsletter will serve to keep you up to date on the latest issues regarding Prevent. Your continued commitment and engagement with the Prevent agenda is very much appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE: This newsletter is for reference purposes and to enhance understanding of Prevent and terrorism related issues for health practitioners. The various views and research findings are from experts working in this field of study but do not necessarily represent the policy or position of nor are they attributable to NHSE.

*This newsletter has been created for all Prevent Leads across the health sector. The information in this newsletter is for internal consumption only and is protectively marked at **OFFICIAL** under the Government Security Classification Policy. The contents of this document should not be placed on the Internet for public download. Please feel free to share with all relevant internal colleagues.*

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1. **Current Terrorism Risk and Threat** **Update: Jane Corrigan SO15**

We are currently working on more than 800 investigations, the majority of which are in partnership with MI5. Since March 2017, Counter Terrorism Policing and UK Intelligence Services have disrupted 39 late-stage attacks. We continue to see a worrying rise in the number of Young People being drawn into Terrorism. In 2023 there were 219 CT related arrests. This was an increase of 52 (31%) compared to the previous year and the highest number of arrests in a single year since 2019. It is worth noting that 10% of those arrested were female (21 of the 219) and 19% of those arrested were aged under 18. 2023 saw the highest number of terrorism arrests of young people since records began (11 September 2001).

Your calls really do matter. Every year we receive around 10,000 calls and online reports and a fifth of those provide intelligence that is particularly useful to our officers and investigators. Please contact us if you are concerned regarding a friend, a family member, a loved one.

You can call the Anti-Terror Hotline on **0800 789 321** or visit – www.ActEarly.UK or contact our support line on **0800 011 3764** if you have a Prevent relevant concern.

I think it is useful for you to be sighted on our position following the Government announcing a review of the [UK Counter Extremism strategy](#) (please see article 2 below) . This strategy was last reviewed in 2015 when the operating environment was very different from today. We are aware that the Home Secretary referenced the inclusion of wider trends and beliefs including extreme misogyny and broader violence. We will be working hard to clarify the scope of the review and will request that significant consultation takes place with all partners.

There are no immediate changes for how Prevent operates and all current thresholds and assessment tools remain as they are. If you are asked by any stakeholders, we'd advise you to continue working as before with regards to Prevent and the current referral criteria. This may raise questions again about Incel ideology which is already taken as a Prevent relevant concern.

Thank you for your continued support in Countering Terrorism and please reach out if you are concerned someone maybe susceptible to being radicalised.

Kind regards

Jane Corrigan
Detective Superintendent
London Prevent Coordinator
Counter Terrorism Policing – SO15

2. UK Riots 2024 Social Media Companies warned:

In the wake of recent acts of violence across the UK, the **Office of Communications (Ofcom)** has issued a stern warning to online service providers, including major social media platforms, urging them to immediately implement new safety duties under the [Online Safety Act 2023](#).

This move comes as a direct response to the UK riots of 2024, which were exacerbated by the rapid spread of fake news and misinformation on platforms such as **X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram**.

In an open letter, Ofcom has highlighted the emphasises the necessity for immediate action to prevent the spread of misinformation and harmful content that can lead to real-world violence. It calls for urgent need for online service providers to act swiftly in introducing new safety measures as stipulated under the Online Safety Act.

Please read BBC new story [here](#)

3. Misogyny to treated as a form of extremism under new government plans:

Home Secretary, **Yvette Cooper** has ordered a review of the UK's counter-extremism strategy to determine how best to tackle threats posed by harmful ideologies.

The analysis will look at hatred of women as one of the ideological trends that the government says is gaining traction.

Ms Cooper said there has been a rise in extremism "both online and on our streets" that "frays the very fabric of our communities and our democracy".

The review will look at the rise of Islamist and far-right extremism in the UK, as well as wider ideological trends, including extreme misogyny or beliefs which fit into broader categories, such as violence.

It will also look at the causes and conduct of the radicalisation of young people.

Ms Cooper said the strategy will "map and monitor extremist trends" to work out how to disrupt and divert people away from them.

It will also "identify any gaps in existing policy which need to be addressed to crack down on those pushing harmful and hateful beliefs and violence", she said.

For some years there has been concern [around "Incel culture"](#), an online movement of mainly young men who describe themselves as "involuntarily celibate" and blame women and "alpha males" for their problems.

A mass shooting in Plymouth in 2021 by 22-year-old Jake Davison, who killed five people before fatally shooting himself, was linked to [Incel ideology](#).

The review is expected to be completed by October 2024.

Please read news story [here](#)

4. Classroom based studies on youth radicalisation

Classroom-based surveys are a proven method for studying adolescents since it is relatively easy and cost-effective to obtain a large number of participants from various backgrounds. They are also beneficial for research on youth radicalisation and extremism. For example, they allow us to acquire information such as the percentage of students that hold extremist attitudes, factors that correlate positively or negatively with extremism, or how the process of radicalisation develops over the course of adolescence.

This paper, by **Lea Echelmeyer** from the University of Amsterdam, **Laura-Romina Goede**, **Yvonne Krieg** and **Carl Philipp Schröder** at the **Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony** describe various challenges they encountered when using classroom-based surveys on [extremism and radicalisation](#) in their research. The researchers also present advice, including determining what sample design is appropriate, depending on the

research question, when to employ a cross-sectional or a longitudinal design, how to measure general or ideology-specific youth extremism, how to achieve a sufficiently large sample size for quantitative analysis, and how to adapt the survey administration process when doing research on radicalisation and extremism in a classroom environment.

Please read more [here](#)

5. Challenging the assumptions behind youth violent extremism:

Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) interventions are largely based on theories that young people (especially young men) are particularly vulnerable to radicalisation. Youth is seen as a vulnerable time of identity formation, separation from family and openness to other influences.

However, too much focus on youth as a driver of extremism misses the existence of older participants in extremist violence, clouds understanding of the reasons for their violent acts and neglects an important demographic in PVE.

This article, by **Maja Halilovic Pastuovic** and **Gillian Wylie** from the **School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Trinity College Dublin** challenges the “youth radicalisation” thesis which underpins so much PVE work and argues that such work needs to acknowledge the existence of older participants. This is achieved through analysis of a series of interviews with 11 older men (and 6 family members), from Ireland/Northern Ireland and Bosnia and Herzegovina, who have been involved in violent extremism. The reasons for their involvement are found to lie in family and community cohesion across interconnected generations in contexts of political conflict.

The findings therefore challenge the automatic connection of youth and radicalisation and so call into question PVE initiatives which are only youth centric.

Instead, it is essential to create interventions based on theories of change that understand intergenerational cohesion, grievances in sectarianised contexts and political interrelationships between states and communities.

Please read more [here](#)

6. Women researchers into the Far Right:

Although the far right has become more heterogenous in recent years, it remains predominantly a male-dominated environment, and a masculine one. Indeed, it stands out from other political milieus with its explicit commitment to traditional gender roles, misogynistic rhetoric and/or anti-feminist views. So what happens then when women researchers engage in close-up research to study this male-dominated environment?

While issues related to gender relations and sexism during fieldwork concern all researchers identifying and presenting as women, male-dominated milieus, such as the far right, can exacerbate this phenomenon.

Drawing on 17 interviews with women researchers with experience of close-up research on the far right, this article by

Tamta Gelashvilia at the **University Department of Political Science Oslo** and **Audrey Gagnon** also at the **Centre for Research at the University of Oslo**

investigates the challenges they face to ensure their emotional and physical safety and highlights the lack of guidance, support, and resources from institutions.

Please read more [here](#)

**WE'D LOVE
TO HEAR
FROM YOU**

Thank you for reading our Prevent newsletter, we hope you found it interesting and useful.

If have any suggestions or request for future news items or articles relating to Prevent which you would like to see in future editions, please let us know.

If you have any queries or require any further advice from the NHS England: -

To contact your regional health, Prevent lead please use the following email address:

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You can read more about the Act Now [website here](#)



Please click link [iREPORTit](#)

Members of the public can anonymously report any online content that they deem to be illegal or harmful, via the police through the dedicated [Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit](#) [Public Referral Tool](#)

For further advice on how DHSC and NHS England can support and work with you please contact: prevent@dhsc.gov.uk

