

101 - Simulation Resources

Peer Guidelines for Young People



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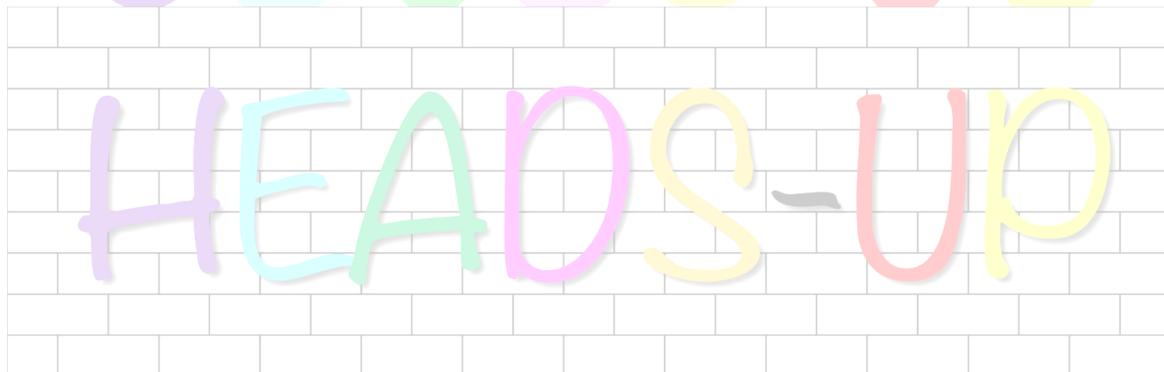
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Introduction to the Peer Guidelines for Young People

This set of guidelines have been produced to support you, as young people, to better understand radicalisation, to raise awareness of the characteristics of someone who may be susceptible to radicalisation and to identify the warning signs of when a young person has been radicalised. The aim is that through these guidelines, you will be supported to recognise and act if you think a friend is being or has been radicalised.

These guidelines have been developed by Future in Perspective, as part of the HEADS-UP project. They are linked to the simulation videos which show Jasmine and Kyle's stories. Both videos are available to access and download from the HEADS-UP website, which you can view at: www.heads-up.online.



Peer Guidelines for Young People

The following section provides some of the most 'frequently asked questions' asked about radicalisation in Europe.

What is radicalisation?

At the most basic level radicalisation is the process where people become 'radical'. Radicalisation is not usually an event; rather it is a process in which individuals are drawn into terrorist-related activity. In many cases this process is related to the search for identity, meaning and community.

It is a social process, in which peer relationships (friendships) are likely to be significant in persuading an individual that terrorism is a legitimate course of action.

Why are young people vulnerable to radicalisation?

As a young person, you may be considered more vulnerable to radicalisation than older adults. The reason for this is that the teenage years are a time of great





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change and young people at this stage are often searching for a sense of identity and belonging in social groups. It is also a time when young people can become vulnerable to other's influences, such as radicalizers. Issues with finding identity, nor feeling like they fit in with their peers, seeking a connection with a social group, for example can all lead to young people having low self-esteem and confidence, and seeking meaning in their lives; and this is what can make young people vulnerable to radicalisation.

What are the warning signs of radicalisation?

In general, radicalisation in young people can happen over a long period of time. However, there have been some cases when radicalisation has been triggered by a specific incident or news item, and has happened much quicker. Similarly, sometimes there are clear warning signs of radicalisation, in other cases the changes are less obvious.

The following behaviours listed here are intended as a guide to help you identify possible radicalisation:

Outward Appearance

- Becoming increasingly argumentative
- Refusing to listen to different points of view
- Unwilling to engage with students who are different
- Becoming abusive to students who are different
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends and appearance
- Distancing themselves from old friends
- No longer doing things they used to enjoy





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- Converting to a new religion
- Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts
- Sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups
- Changing online identity
- Having more than one online identity
- Spending a lot of time online or on the phone
- Accessing extremist online content
- Joining or trying to join an extremist organisations

You know your friends very well, so you are in a prime position to recognise if they are acting out of character. Trust and have confidence in your judgement, and get advice if something feels wrong.

What is the process of radicalisation?

There are various different models and approaches used to describe the radicalisation process. The following describes a four stage radicalisation process, which emphasises specific times that are thought to be key moments in the radicalisation process. These four stages include:

1. Pre-radicalisation – the individuals' life before radicalisation
2. Self-identification – the individual starts to become influenced by radicals and to slowly move away from their former identity
3. Indoctrination – the individual comes to identify with radicals on a deeper level – becoming committed to helping or supporting the radical cause
4. Radicalisation – the individual is willing to act on their new beliefs and ideals

Radicalisation can also be seen to have a series of 'push' and 'pull' factors. Push factors drive a person to radicalisation, while pull factors lure them to the radical lifestyle. In most cases, the process of radicalisation involves both push and pull factors.





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The following presents some of the key push and pull factors involved in the radicalisation process.

Push Factors	Pull Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of grievance or injustice • Need for identity, meaning, belonging and/or comradeship • Desire for excitement, challenge, adventure • Need for status • Desire to feel needed and significant • Criminality • Attraction to authoritarian ideologies • Certain mental health problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideology gives meaning to life • Identification with a noble cause • Becoming a member of a new social group – like a new family • Gaining social status • Access to excitement, challenge, adventure • Empowered by extremist identity • Outlet for criminal capability • Opportunity to be an authoritarian leader or follower
<p>What do you do if you think a friend is being or has been radicalised?</p> <p>If you suspect that a friend has been or is currently being radicalised, the first thing you should do is seek help. You should first speak to your teacher, and also to your parents, to explain your worries and to seek support and advice. Don't try and talk to your friend on your own. You may spook your friend, and this could force them to take action quickly. Instead, seek help from teachers, parents and professional youth counsellors before bringing it up with your friend.</p>	

What do you do if you think a friend is being or has been radicalised?

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