

# Let us clarify the terms

- **Radicalization**- 'the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, then join terrorist groups' (UK Home Office, 2011)
- **Deradicalization** – interventions that seek to change and offender's ideological convictions, attitudes or ways of thinking that motivate/justify extremist offending.
- **Violent extremism** – 'behavior promoting, supporting or committing acts which may lead to terrorism and which are aimed at defending an ideology advocating racial, national, ethnic or religious supremacy' (CoE Handbook)
  - Engagement in some action
- **Terrorism** – violent acts that have political, ideological or religious objectives
- **Disengagement** – 'involves a complete break with the social norms, values, attitudes, relationships and social networks' associated to terrorism (Horgan, 2009).
  - Interventions that seek to change offender's relationship or identification with the extremist group.
  - Less contact or restrain from action
  - Or changed their position or responsibilities in the group

# Life-cycle of radicalization

(Horgan, 2008)

- Becoming
- Being
- Leaving

Radicalization and violent  
extremism.

What we know up to now?

NAP, 14.12.2017

## Becoming

'They all were looking for something

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Predispositions (but no distinguishing profile):

- Worldviews, mindsets or psychological propensities:
  - **Authoritarianism** - rigid, dual cognitive style, intolerance to ambiguity – submission to authority, staunch conventionalism and aggression towards out-groups
  - **Dogmatism** – closed cognitive system of beliefs about reality, intolerance towards others.
  - **Apocalypticism** – they think death will come and they know how and when.
  - **Fundamentalist mindset** – dualistic thinking, paranoid ideas and focus on a charismatic leader

# Becoming

- Some argue for:
  - **Push factors:** need for meaning, identity, need for belonging, perceived injustice/humiliation
  - **Pull factors:** material or expressive incentives

# Becoming

## The '3Ns' (Webber and Kruglanski, 2017)

- Needs
  - Loss of significance – discrimination, humiliation, injustice, dishonor, shame etc.
  - Terrorism as an opportunity to significance gain
  - Significance loss leads to a need for cognitive closure
- Narratives
  - To justify violence
  - Not only justifiable but necessary and laudable
  - Delegitimization of the target: dehumanization (stripping them of the human features – rats, serpents, cockroaches etc.), outcasting groups (infidels), defining them as enemies etc.
- Networks
  - Important for consensual validation of narratives – peer validation
  - Small groups endorse extreme values
  - Second family
  - 'fused' identities – strong in-group bonds – their identity as the one with the group identity
  - 'fused' individuals ready to sacrifice themselves for the group

## Becoming (Precht, 2007)

- **Background factors:** personal issues with religion, identity, discrimination etc.
- **Trigger factors:** mentor or charismatic leader or dramatic events
- **Opportunity factors:** access to networks

# Becoming

- Common elements **Integrated Model** (Borum, 2011):
  - **Predisposing life experiences** – exposure to discrimination – significance loss
  - **Activating situations** – e.g. state policy or action
  - **Predisposing vulnerabilities** – e.g. ‘needs
  - **Social and group dynamics** – access to a network
  - **Ideology / Narrative** – collective narrative about the grievance and who is responsible



# Becoming

## Process models

Borum (2003) – four stages:

- Experiencing some unsatisfying event/grievance  
*(it is not right/it is not fair)*
- The injustice is targeted on something/somebody  
*(it is your fault)*
- The responsible party is vilified or demonized (*you are evil*)
- Which justifies the aggression

# Becoming

## **Process models**

Precht (2007) four-phases:

- Pre-radicalization – frustrations.
- Conversion and identification with radical Islam – meeting other like-minded
- Indoctrination and increased group bonding
- Acts of terrorism

## Being

- Many report **personal damage**: anxiety, paranoia, trauma, poor physical health, drug/alcohol abuse, physical injuries, loss of relationships with family and friends, disrupted education and career, criminal charges, imprisonment – with all the consequences

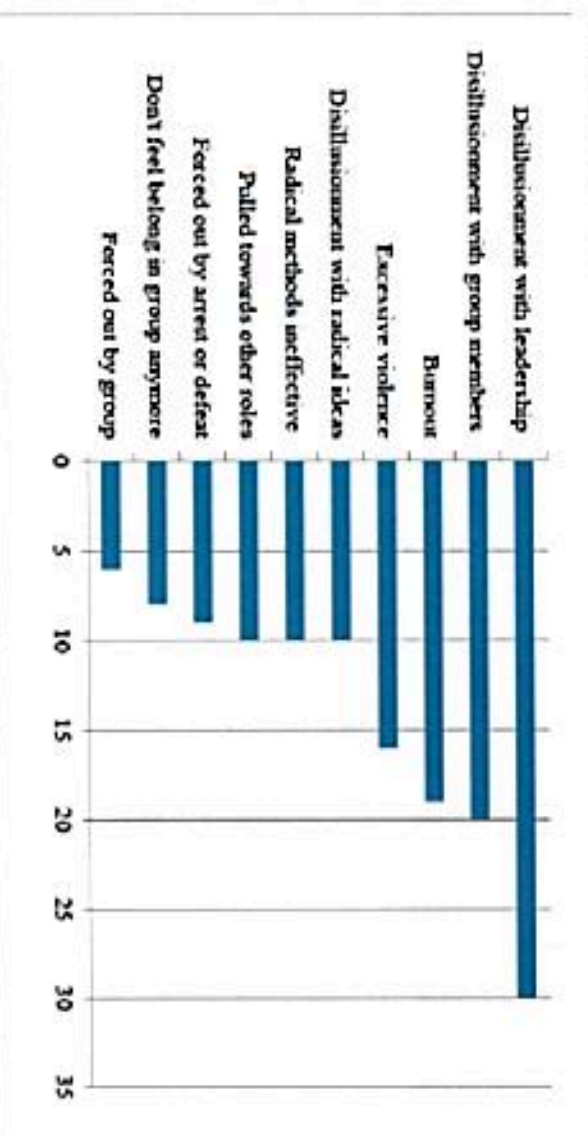
# Leaving

- Most people who join extremist groups eventually leave
- Multiple and non-linear reasons for leaving
- Personal and individual pathway
- Hesitations, long process, distress, difficult readjustment
- Three identity processes:
  - Reduction in the intensity of connections with the extremist group
  - Emergence of the personal self
  - Finding something else to identify with
- **DISENGAGEMENT IS ACTUALLY ABOUT ENGAGING SOMEWHERE ELSE !!!**

(BARRELL, 2014)

# Barrell (2014)

- Reasons to leave:



Once the push factors – the importance of the pull factors: e.g. family, career etc.

- Insight – e.g. ineffectiveness of violence, all people are humans ...

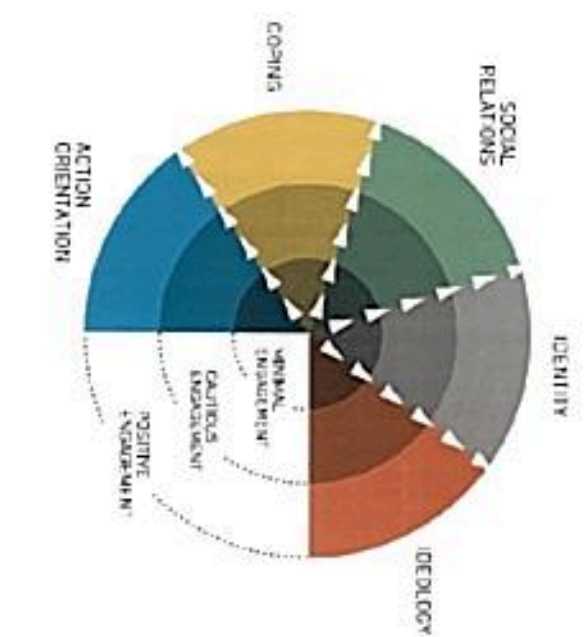
# LEAVING

## Pro-Integration Model

- Based empiric – 22 former terrorists
- Holistic
- Disengagement is an identity transition from being an outsider to belonging
- Five domains:
  - Social relations
  - Coping
  - Identity
  - Ideology
  - Action orientation

# Leaving Pro-Integration Model

- Is it about being connectedness and wellbeing in the mainstream society
- Three levels of societal engagement:



Minimum – not interested; Cautious – limited, hesitant; Positive level – full integration

# LEAVING

## Pro-Integration Model

- 1. Social relations**
  1. Important push factor – disillusionment
  2. Having out-group relations – sign of pluralism and de-radicalization
- 2. Coping**
  1. Many suffered traumas, depression, paranoia, burnout etc.
  2. Especially where they used violence and coercion in-group
  3. Need for robust personalities and string social support
- 3. Identity**
  1. Readjusting personal and social identities as a member of the society
  2. Sometimes an incident triggered the transformation
  3. Contact with out-group
- 4. Ideology**
  1. An important step – to accept pluralism – acceptance of difference
  2. Moderate views
- 5. Action Orientation**
  1. No longer using radical methods/ prosocial engagement in the society



# Conclusions

- Disengagement is an identity transformation through social relations – important with whom you spend your time with !!!
- Coping and social support is essential to facilitate re-engagement with the society
- Ideas and ideologies are important and people need to learn how to respectfully question or express them.