

Press release

£5 million to build a national coalition against extremism – in communities and online

- English
- العربية (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-to-build-a-national-coalition-against-extremism-in-communities-and-online.ar>)

From: Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prime-ministers-office-10-downing-street>), The Rt Hon David Cameron MP (<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/david-cameron>) and Home Office (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>)

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The Prime Minister announces £5 million support for local initiatives, campaigns and charities to counter extremist ideologies.



- Plans to create a joint industry and government group to do more to tackle proliferation of extremist content online
- The government's new one-nation Counter-Extremism Strategy to confront and defeat all forms of extremism to be published tomorrow (19 October)

The government will invest £5 million this year to build a national network of grassroots organisations to challenge all forms of extremist ideology, the Prime Minister announced today on the eve of the publication of the government's new Counter-Extremism Strategy.

At the heart of the Strategy is a new partnership approach to strengthen community resilience and promote a coalition to speak out, challenge and ultimately defeat extremism. The new funding, initially for this financial year, will be dedicated to providing direct and in-kind practical support to groups to expand the reach and scale of their work to confront extremism, and develop credible alternative narratives to the dangerous views propagated by extremists. This could include:

- social media training
- technical assistance to enable a small charity to set up a website
- targeting funding for specific projects

Prime Minister David Cameron said:

“ I said last week that there is one more big social reform in our mission to rebuild Britain as an

even greater country. We need to systematically confront and challenge extremism and the ideologies that underpin it, exposing the lies and the destructive consequences it leaves in its wake. We have to stop it at the start – stop this seed of hatred even being planted in people's minds and cut off the oxygen it needs to grow.

Tomorrow I will be launching the Counter-Extremism Strategy. It sets out our new approach to tackle this poison: to vigorously counter the ideology that underpins it; to take on the violent and non-violent parts of the creed; actively supporting the mainstream voices to rise above those of the extremists; and tackle the segregation and feelings of alienation that can help provide fertile ground for extremist messages to take root.

At the core is building a national coalition of all those individuals and groups who are united in their determination to defeat extremism and build a more cohesive society. We will do everything we can to support them – through my new Community Engagement Forum and with practical support and funding to tackle these deep-rooted issues. The scale of the task is immense and that is why we need everyone to play their part.”

The new Strategy also goes further in developing the partnership between industry, police and government to remove terrorist and extremist material online, building on the successful joint industry, government and police work to take down child abuse images online.

The past 18 months has seen a big change in the way that extremists use the internet to target their radical ideology directly at young minds. According to recent research from the Quilliam Foundation, (<http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/>) ISIL produces 38 unique pieces of high-quality propaganda every day which is then disseminated widely by a network of thousands of ISIL supporters and sympathisers all over the world. And extremists are increasingly using the internet to inspire radicalisers to groom new recruits through online peer-to-peer relationships.

You can report illegal terrorist information, pictures or videos if you see this online. Report dangerous online material. (https://eforms.homeoffice.gov.uk/outreach/terrorism_reporting.ofml)

Cooperation with industry and police to remove harmful terrorist and extremist content has significantly improved in recent years – the Met's Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit has now removed over 110,000 pieces of extremist propaganda since 2010 and over 38,000 pieces so far this year, with referrals from the public up 400% between end of 2013 to 2014 and 2014 to 2015.

Notes to editors

There is no single model of radicalisation. Extremist ideologies can prove very attractive. They appear to offer a sense of belonging and purpose, reinvention and focus on a single set of beliefs governing how people live their lives and the actions they take. Feeding off the vulnerability of their audiences, extremists use their ideologies to radicalise and recruit online and offline.

Examples of organisations already working to counter extremist ideology include:

- Active Change Foundation (<http://www.activechangefoundation.org/>) (ACF) is a successful youth centre in East London. They run the Young Leaders Programme for aspiring young leaders of all backgrounds. The programme trains, mentors and supports the young leaders to have the critical thinking skills and confidence to achieve their ambitions in life and offers them a platform to use their skills in their local

communities

- Inspire (<http://www.wewillinspire.com/>) is a women's counter-extremism organisation campaigning for human rights and gender equality, led by Sara Khan and Kalsoom Bashir. They run facilitated workshops for Muslim women across the country, supported by Prevent Local Coordinators, and are both recognised media commentators on the issue of young women travelling to Syria. The group launched their Making A Stand (<http://www.wewillinspire.com/making-a-stand-against-extremism-hatred-and-violence/>) campaign in October 2014, which called on Muslim women to take the lead in their communities by vocally rejecting extremist narratives. Sara Khan attended the Prime Minister's Community Engagement Forum (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-i-want-to-build-a-national-coalition-to-challenge-and-speak-out-against-extremism>) this week.

For more information about the work of the Counter-terrorism Online Referral Unit, please contact the Met Press Office. (http://news.met.police.uk/contact_people) The government also runs a referral scheme for the public to report dangerous content on gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>).

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