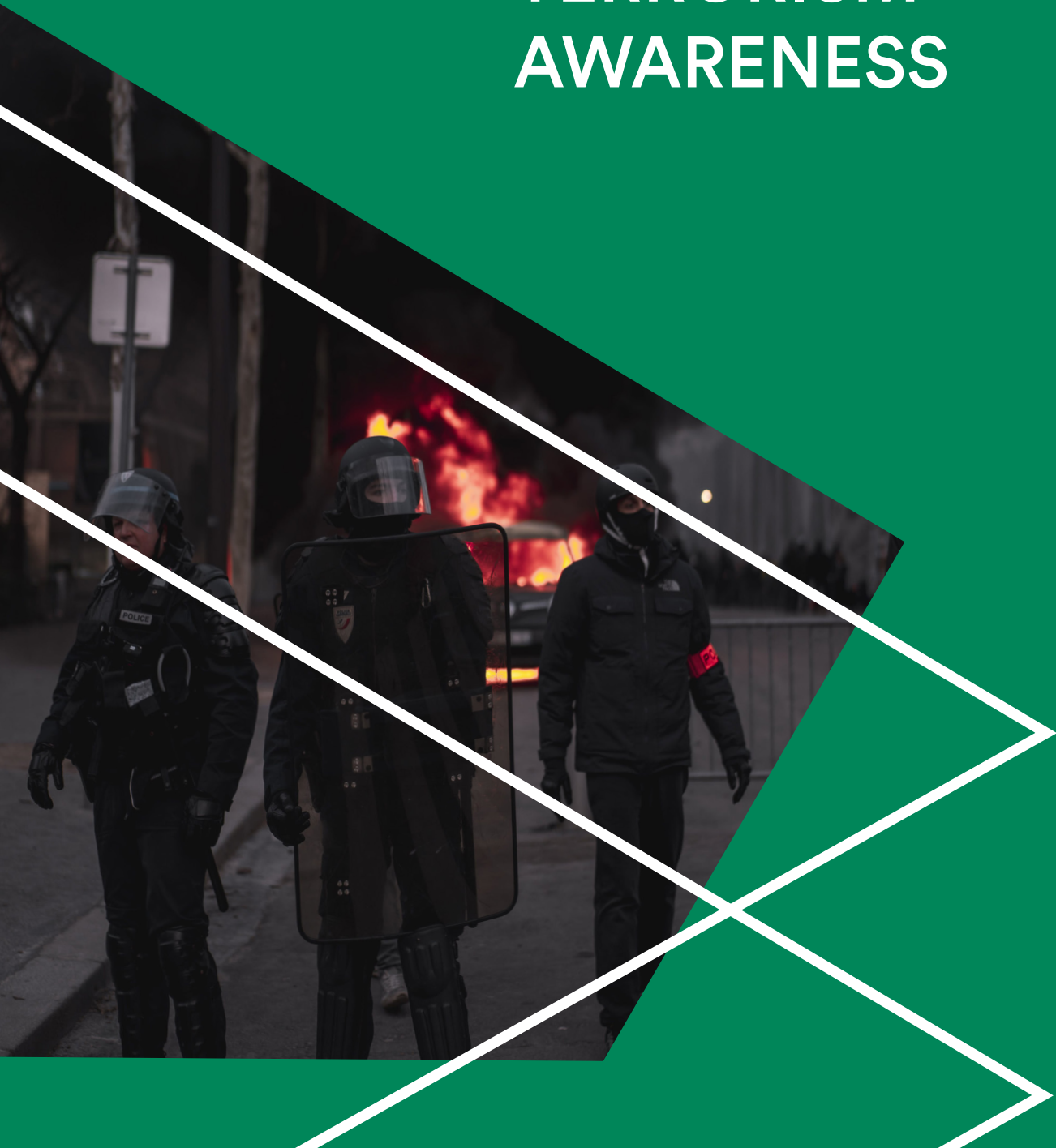




THEME OF THE MONTH  
DECEMBER 2023

# COUNTER TERRORISM AWARENESS



# Introduction

This booklet aims to provide essential information on understanding terrorism, recognising signs of suspicious activity, and promoting community safety in the face of potential threats.



## What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is the process by which individuals or groups adopt extreme beliefs and ideologies, often leading to the acceptance and justification of violence as a means to achieve their goals. Understanding the stages of radicalisation is essential for early intervention and prevention efforts.

## Signs of Radicalisation

### Pre-Radicalisation:

- Individuals may experience a sense of alienation, marginalisation, or a search for identity.
- Exposure to extremist ideologies through social media, propaganda, or influential individuals.

### Self-Identification:

- The individual begins to identify with extremist ideologies, often driven by a desire for belonging or purpose.
- Engagement with like-minded individuals and communities increases.

### Indoctrination:

- Deepening commitment to extremist beliefs, accompanied by a willingness to use violence to achieve objectives.
- Isolation from diverse perspectives and critical thinking.

# Current threat level

The UK uses a system to communicate the current threat level of a terrorist attack. The threat levels are set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) and range from Low to Critical.

## 1. Low:

- Indicates that an attack is unlikely.
- Allows for normal activities with routine security measures in place.

## 2. Moderate:

- Suggests an attack is possible but not likely.
- Heightened awareness and increased security measures may be implemented.

## 3. Substantial:

- Signifies a strong possibility of an attack.
- Calls for increased security, vigilance, and preparedness.

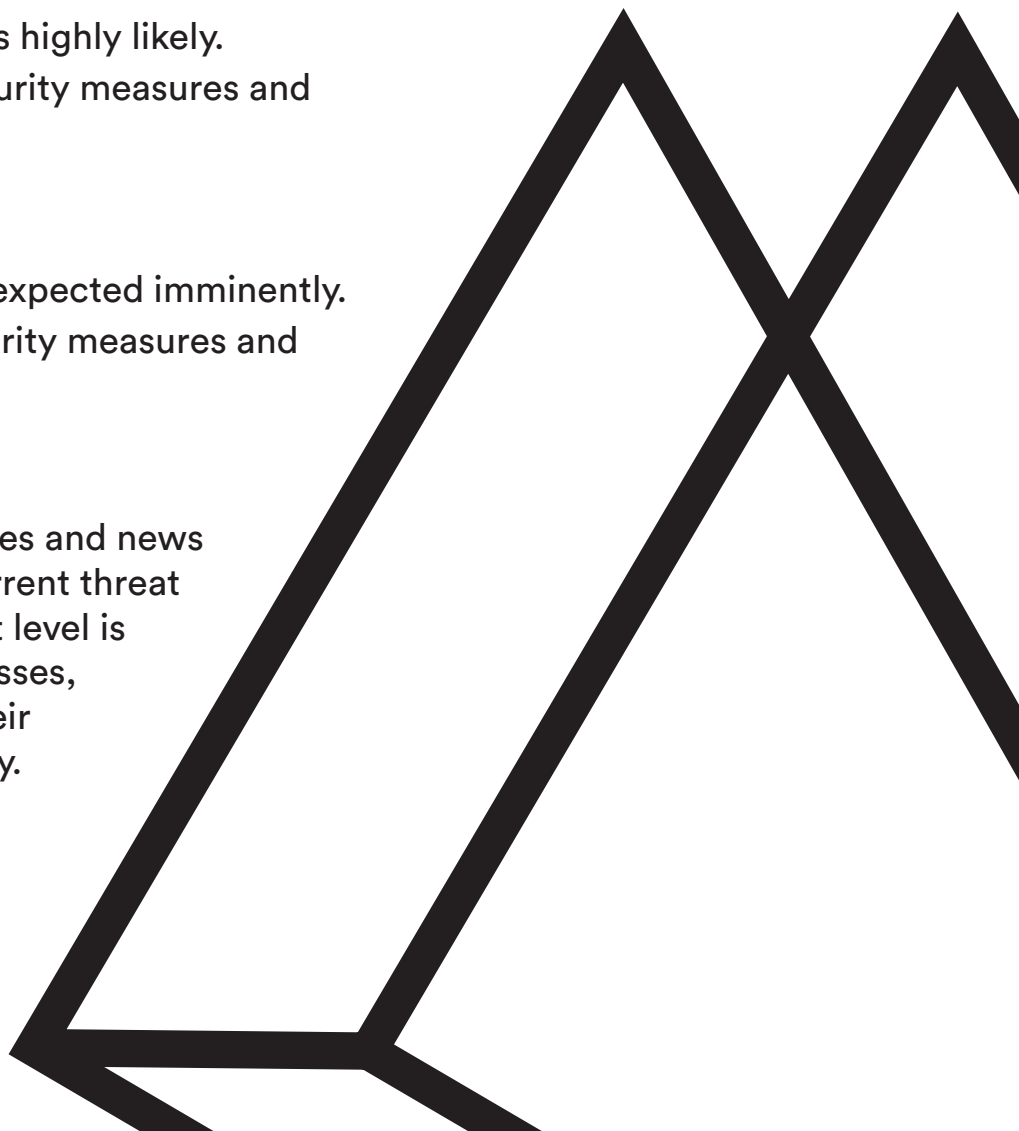
## 4. Severe:

- Indicates that an attack is highly likely.
- Requires heightened security measures and preparedness.

## 5. Critical:

- Implies that an attack is expected imminently.
- Demands maximum security measures and public preparedness.

Regularly check official sources and news outlets for updates on the current threat level. Awareness of the threat level is crucial for individuals, businesses, and communities to adapt their security measures accordingly.



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# Recognising unusual behaviour

Recognising signs of suspicious activity is crucial for early intervention and prevention of potential threats. While some behaviours may seem innocuous on their own, a combination of certain indicators should raise concern. Be attentive to:

## Unusual Surveillance:

- Individuals lingering or repeatedly passing by a location without an apparent reason.
- Taking photos or videos of security features, entrances, or crowded areas.

## Unattended Items:

- Abandoned bags, packages, or vehicles in public spaces or transportation hubs.
- Items left behind without an apparent owner or purpose.

## Behavioural Changes:

- Drastic changes in appearance, behaviour, or social interactions.
- Expressing extremist views, intolerance, or violent ideologies.

## Unauthorised Access:

- Attempts to gain unauthorised access to restricted areas or facilities.
- Suspicious individuals loitering near secure locations.

## Financial Anomalies:

- Unexplained purchases of unusual items, chemicals, or equipment.
- Suspicious financial transactions or patterns.

## Online Activity:

- Promoting or glorifying violence on social media platforms.
- Engaging with extremist content or expressing support for radical ideologies.

## Suspicious Vehicles:

- Abandoned or parked vehicles in unusual locations.
- Vehicles displaying signs of tampering or suspicious behaviour.

## Inconsistent Stories:

- Providing conflicting or implausible explanations for actions or presence.
- Evasive or vague responses to questions.

Being aware of these indicators helps individuals and communities identify potential threats and take appropriate action to ensure public safety.

# Reporting suspicious activity

Reporting suspicious activity promptly is a civic responsibility that plays a vital role in preventing potential threats. If you observe any behaviour that raises concern, follow these steps:

## Remain Calm and Observant:

- Stay calm and focused to accurately observe and remember details.
- Note physical descriptions, clothing, and any unique identifiers.

## Do Not Confront:

- Do not approach or confront individuals engaged in suspicious activity.
- Keep a safe distance and prioritise personal safety.

## Contact Authorities:

- Report the suspicious activity to local law enforcement by calling 999.
- Provide as much detail as possible about the observed behaviour.

## Use Official Channels:

- Use official reporting platforms provided by law enforcement agencies or anti-terrorism hotlines.
- Online reporting tools may also be available for non-emergency situations.

## Community Engagement:

- Encourage community members to report suspicious activity and raise awareness about the importance of vigilance.
- Community engagement plays a crucial role in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

## Anonymous Reporting:

- Some regions offer anonymous reporting options to protect the identity of the reporter.
- Check with local authorities for available options.

By reporting suspicious activity, you contribute to the collective effort to enhance security and protect your community from potential threats.

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# Role of communities in counter-terrorism

Communities play a pivotal role in the collective effort to counter terrorism. Understanding and embracing this role empowers individuals to actively contribute to the safety and well-being of their community.

## Vigilance and Awareness:

- Foster a culture of vigilance and awareness within the community.
- Encourage residents to be observant and report any suspicious activities promptly.

## Community Policing:

- Support community policing initiatives, fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and residents.
- Collaborate on crime prevention strategies, including counter-terrorism efforts.

## Educational Programmes:

- Participate in educational programs focused on recognising signs of radicalisation and extremist ideologies.
- Equip community members with the knowledge to identify and report potential threats.

## Crisis Response Planning:

- Engage in community-wide crisis response planning and drills.
- Establish communication networks for swift information dissemination during emergencies.

## Social Cohesion:

- Promote social cohesion by connecting individuals and fostering a sense of community belonging.
- Strong social bonds discourage radicalisation and promote shared values.

## Leadership Development:

- Support the development of community leaders who can guide initiatives related to safety and well-being.
- Empower individuals to take on active roles in promoting community resilience.

Recognising the vital role communities play in counter-terrorism efforts reinforces the collective responsibility of individuals to contribute to a safer and more secure society.

# Online Radicalisation

The internet has become a powerful tool for communication, information-sharing, and community building. However, it also presents challenges, including the risk of online radicalisation. Recognising the signs and understanding the dynamics can contribute to a safer online environment.

## 1. Recognising Online Radicalisation:

- **Extremist Content:** Be cautious of content promoting violence, hatred, or extremist ideologies.
- **Recruitment Efforts:** Watch for attempts to recruit individuals into extremist groups or causes.
- **Echo Chambers:** Avoid getting trapped in online echo chambers that reinforce extreme views.

## 2. Monitoring Online Activities:

- **Social Media Awareness:** Regularly review and manage your social media connections and content.
- **Online Forums:** Be cautious when participating in online forums or chat rooms with extremist content.
- **Monitoring Changes:** Watch for sudden changes in online behaviour, such as increased aggression or isolation.

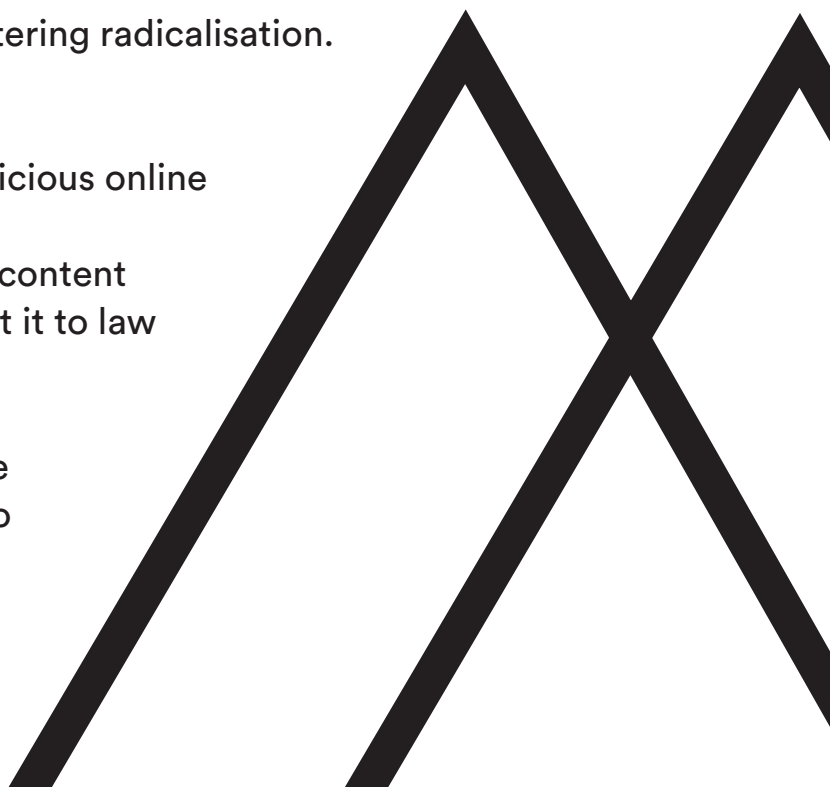
## 3. Educational Initiatives:

- **Counter-Radicalisation Resources:** Explore educational materials that provide insights into counter-radicalisation strategies.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage with online communities working towards countering radicalisation.

## 4. Reporting Suspicious Online Activity:

- **Utilise Reporting Tools:** Report suspicious online content to the respective platforms.
- **Law Enforcement:** If you encounter content indicating an imminent threat, report it to law enforcement.

By being aware of the potential for online radicalisation and actively contributing to a safer online space, individuals can play a crucial role in countering extremist narratives.



# Run, Hide, Tell: Responding to an attack



In the unfortunate event of a terrorist or violent attack, knowing how to respond quickly and effectively can save lives. The “Run, Hide, Tell” protocol is a simple and memorable guide for individuals caught in such situations.

## Run:

- **Escape Routes:** Identify the nearest exit and run away from the danger, following any available escape routes.
- **Leave Belongings:** Drop any belongings to facilitate a quicker escape.
- **Help Others:** Encourage others to run with you but do not let them slow you down.

## Hide:

- **Find Cover:** If running is not an option, seek cover immediately.
- **Stay Quiet:** Silence electronic devices and stay as quiet as possible.
- **Barricade if Necessary:** If in a room, barricade the door with furniture to impede the attacker’s entry.

## Tell:

- **Call Emergency Services:** Dial 999 as soon as it is safe to do so.
- **Provide Information:** Share information about the location, the number of attackers, and any other relevant details.
- **Stay Hidden:** Stay hidden until the authorities declare it safe to come out.



# Emergency contacts

In times of crisis, having quick access to emergency contacts can make a significant difference in response times and overall effectiveness. Ensure that you and your community are well-prepared by maintaining an updated list of emergency contacts.

## Local Emergency Services:

- Police: Emergency: 999

## National Hotlines:

- Anti-Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321 (UK)
- Non-Emergency Police: 101 (UK)

## Community Leaders and Organisations:

- Local Authorities: Contact details for local government offices and leaders.
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT): If available, note their contact information.

## Medical Services:

- Local Hospitals: Include the contact details of nearby hospitals and medical facilities.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Note the emergency medical services contact number.

## Utility Services:

- Gas Emergency Services: National Gas Emergency Service: 0800 111 999
- Electricity Emergency Services: National Power Cut Helpline: 105

## Family and Friends:

- Designated Contacts: Share information with family and friends outside the immediate area.
- Reunification Points: Identify safe locations for reunification in case of separation.

## Community Support:

- Local Community Centers: Contact information for community centers that may serve as emergency shelters.
- Religious Institutions: Include contacts for nearby places of worship that may offer support.

By establishing and regularly updating a comprehensive list of emergency contacts, individuals and communities can enhance their preparedness and response capabilities during times of crisis.

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# Useful websites and helplines

In times of crisis, having access to reliable and up-to-date information is crucial. The following websites and helplines provide valuable resources for individuals seeking information and assistance related to counter-terrorism awareness, emergency response, and community safety.

## GOV.UK - Counter-Terrorism:

- Website: [Counter-Terrorism on GOV.UK](#)
- Comprehensive information on government policies, strategies, and resources related to counter-terrorism in the United Kingdom.

## National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO):

- Website: [NaCTSO](#)
- NaCTSO provides guidance and support to businesses and the public to help protect against terrorism.

## Action Counters Terrorism (ACT):

- Website: [Action Counters Terrorism](#)
- The ACT website offers information on recognizing and reporting suspicious activity.

## Anti-Terrorism Hotline:

- Hotline: 0800 789 321 (UK)
- The Anti-Terrorism Hotline is a confidential means to report any information regarding terrorism or suspicious activity.

## Crimestoppers:

- Website: [Crimestoppers](#)
- An independent charity enabling individuals to report information about crimes anonymously.

## Victim Support:

- Website: [Victim Support](#)
- Victim Support offers assistance and resources for individuals affected by crime, including terrorism.

# Educational materials

Educational materials are essential tools for fostering awareness, preparedness, and resilience within communities. The following educational resources cover a range of topics, from counter-terrorism awareness to emergency response training.

## ACT Awareness E-Learning:

- Website: [ACT Awareness E-Learning](#)
- An online training program offering practical advice on how to respond to potential terrorist incidents.

## Digital Literacy and Online Safety:

- Website: [Get Safe Online](#)
- Resources on online safety, protecting personal information, and recognising digital threats.

## Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015:

- Legislation: [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#)
- Access the full text of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 for a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework.

## Ready.gov:

- Website: [Ready.gov](#)
- Resources for emergency preparedness, including toolkits, checklists, and educational materials.

## LSP's Safeguarding & Mental Health First Aider Teams

If you have any concerns at all, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our Safeguarding or Mental Health teams. You can find the contact details [here](#).





# MORE INFORMATION

[www.learningskillspartnership.com](http://www.learningskillspartnership.com)  
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