

Lockdown and Radicalisation

During lockdown one place where we're all more vulnerable is in the area of radicalisation. The playground of extremist groups, the internet is somewhere where we've all spent a lot more time recently, running the risk of being exposed to these purveyors of hate and the messages they promote. What can you do then to protect yourself?

Be Aware

Leicester and Leicestershire are HIGH PRIORITY areas in the fight against radicalisation. Don't lull yourself into thinking the risk isn't real. Nearly 50% of regional counter terrorism resources are used here.

Stay Vigilant

A stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet...but if someone you don't know takes an excessive interest in you then ask yourself why. What do they want from you? Resist being drawn in. The internet is the primary recruitment ground for most extremist groups.

Keep it secret, keep it safe...

Don't disclose any personal information about yourself and risk your own safety and security, or the safety and security of your family and loved ones

You're Not Alone

It isn't just you, keep an eye out for those around you who are also at risk. Siblings, parents, family and friends can all fall victim.

If you're concerned about anything you hear or see, or are worried about the wellbeing of family and friends, visit the Counter terrorism website **Let's Talk About It** or call 999.

Know The Signs

The online world we inhabit is often the hunting ground for radical groups. Daesh (ISIS) runs the Al-Hayat Media Centre, producing regular online content aimed at Western audiences. Extremist right wing groups, like the illegal organisation National Action, have often been known to use the internet to promote themselves and their ideologies. They're not alone. Wherever these groups are active you'll see their signs and symbols. If you do then beware, you may be exposing yourself to extremist propaganda and the risk of radicalisation.



National Action



Popular Right Wing symbols

Sharing 'Information' Online

Over recent weeks we've all spent much more time online than usual and, whether we're looking for it or not, we've probably all been bombarded with news and information on a daily basis. How can you tell though what's real and worth listening too and what's fake and needs ignoring though? Why not try some of the steps below...



Make sure that the story you're sharing is from a SOURCE known to be accurate and reliable.



Read beyond the HEADLINE. If a headline seems unbelievable, it may well be. Make sure!



Be ANALYTICAL. Just because you've seen a story several times it doesn't mean it's true. Always fact check.



Be aware of RETOUCHED images. Fake news often doctors genuine pictures. If it looks artificial, the probably is.



Look out for ERRORS. Artificial stories often have artificial URLs and web addresses. Look out for spelling mistakes

If you find yourself in a situation where you're not sure whether what you're reading, sharing and promoting is real then always fact check!

For all things factual about COVID-19 why not try the website <https://infotagion.com>.

Social Media



Since mid-March the only way many of us have been able to stay in touch with family, friends and the world around us has been through social media. Great as they are, these faceless, distant platforms are also wonderful ways for fake news, false information and even radical content to be shared with an audience of thousands.



Remember, just because it's on social media doesn't mean it's true and you should be careful before share, post, re-tweet or recommend.

