

Call for evidence

Q1. 1) Are you replying as a member of the public, as a practitioner or on behalf of an organisation?

Member of the public

Page 3: Member of the public

Q2. 2a) What is your name?

Mohammed Amin

Q3. 2b) What is your location? (map of regions)

London

Q4. 2c) What is your gender?

Male

Q5. 2d) What is your age?

65+

Q8. Asian / Asian British

Pakistani

Q11. 2f) What is your religion?

Muslim

Q12. 2g) We would like to be able to use extracts from responses in our study. If you would not like us to use any extracts from your response or would prefer we did so without using your name, please tell us here.

Yes, I am content for you to use extracts of my response in the study

Q14. 2h) What is your email address? We may use this to contact you further, either to talk to you about your response or to update you about the study.

[REDACTED]

Page 7: Section one: Part one

Q33. 1a.) Can you describe extremism?

Yes

Q34. 1b) If you said 'yes' or 'not sure', please describe what extremism looks like to you. (100 word limit)

Extremism is an attitude of mind.

Extremist individuals may regard our government as fundamentally illegitimate, may regard it as ungodly, and may believe that it should be overthrown by force.

Other extremists may regard particular sub-groups in our society as not worthy of inclusion in our society, may promote hatred against them, and may wish to violently attack them or expel them from our country.

Individuals who wish to achieve similar goals through the democratic process may be extremists, depending upon the precise nature of their goals.

Q36. 2a) How helpful is the following definition of extremism?“Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist”. (HM Government Counter-Extremism Strategy, 2015)

Very helpful Helpful Neither helpful nor unhelpful Unhelpful Very unhelpful

X

Q37. 2b) What is the main reason for your response? (100 word limit)

The definition is helpful because if an individual seeks to achieve the specific goals listed, they are likely to be an extremist.

I did not describe it as “very helpful” because greater generalisation is needed. Conversely, if one intends to proceed by a list of examples of extremist attitudes, a much longer and more precise list is required.

Page 8: Section one: Part two

Q38. 3) How important do you think the following factors are when considering extremism in this country?

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Don't know
Extremism-related criminal offending e.g. hate crime		X			
Extremist events e.g. marches, events in community or commercial venues		X			
Segregation e.g. by ethnicity, religion or gender				X	
Incidents in regulated spaces, e.g. schools, universities, charities, prisons			X		
Size and influence of extremist groups	X				
Extremist propaganda e.g. on social or traditional media	X				
Links between extremism and terrorism	X				
Attitudes indicating sympathy to extremist ideas or behaviour		X			

Q39. 4a) Is there one factor from the list above that you think is most important when considering extremism?

Yes

Q40. 4b) If you said 'yes' or 'other', please tell us which factor you think is most important and why. (100 word limit)

Links between extremism and terrorism.

The reason is that terrorism has killed many people in the UK. Furthermore, such terrorism when committed by Muslims poisons the perception that non-Muslims hold of Muslims, thereby further increasing divisions in our society.

Q42. 5a) Have you witnessed anything you would regard as extremist happening in your local area, elsewhere in the country or online? Please select any options that apply.

Yes, online

Q43. 5b) If you said 'yes', what type(s) of extremism have you witnessed? Please select any that apply from the following options that were suggested to us during our engagement and from our ongoing research.

Far Right extremism

Hindu extremism

Muslim / Islamist extremism

Page 15: Far Right extremism

Q57. 5c) For Far Right extremism, what attitudes, activities or behaviours have you witnessed that you regard as extremist? Please describe what you have witnessed in the text box accompanying any of the following options that apply. (100 word limit)

Extremism-related criminal offending e.g. hate crime	-
Extremist events e.g. marches, events in community or commercial venues	-
Segregation e.g. by ethnicity, religion or gender	-
Incidents in regulated spaces, e.g. schools, universities, charities, prisons	-
Influence of extremist groups	-
Extremist propaganda e.g. on social or traditional media	I have seen such material online.
Links between extremism and terrorism	-
Attitudes indicating sympathy to extremist ideas or behaviour	I have seen such material online.
Other or unsure	-

Q58. Do you think this type of extremism:

Is increasing

Q59. What is the main reason for your response? (100 word limit)

I believe that far-right extremism is increasing because it draws strength from terrorism committed by Muslims. I suspect that it is also surreptitiously promoted by the Russian state to weaken the UK and that UK far-right groups also receive support from such groups and individuals in the USA.

Page 17: Hindu extremism

Q63. 5c) For Hindu extremism, what attitudes, activities or behaviours have you witnessed that you regard as extremist? Please describe what you have witnessed in the text box accompanying any of the following options that apply. (100 word limit)

Extremism-related criminal offending e.g. hate crime	-
Extremist events e.g. marches, events in community or commercial venues	-
Segregation e.g. by ethnicity, religion or gender	-
Incidents in regulated spaces, e.g. schools, universities, charities, prisons	-
Influence of extremist groups	-
Extremist propaganda e.g. on social or traditional media	I have seen examples on social media.
Links between extremism and terrorism	-
Attitudes indicating sympathy to extremist ideas or behaviour	-
Other or unsure	-

Q64. Do you think this type of extremism:

Is increasing

Q65. What is the main reason for your response? (100 word limit)

I believe that Hindu extremism in the UK is being strengthened by the rise of Hindu extremism within India, and the transnational links that exist between the UK and India.

Page 19: Muslim / Islamist extremism

Q69. 5c) For Muslim/Islamist extremism, what attitudes, activities or behaviours have you witnessed that you regard as extremist? Please describe what you have witnessed in the text box accompanying any of the following options that apply. (100 word limit)

Extremism-related criminal offending e.g. hate crime	-
Extremist events e.g. marches, events in community or commercial venues	-
Segregation e.g. by ethnicity, religion or gender	-
Incidents in regulated spaces, e.g. schools, universities, charities, prisons	-
Influence of extremist groups	-
Extremist propaganda e.g. on social or traditional media	I have seen this online.
Links between extremism and terrorism	-
Attitudes indicating sympathy to extremist ideas or behaviour	I have occasionally met individuals who hold extremist views.
Other or unsure	-

Q70. Do you think this type of extremism:

Is increasing

Q71. What is the main reason for your response? (100 word limit)

As well as the incidents of terrorism committed by Muslims, further evidence for the growth of extremism amongst British Muslims comes from anti-Ahmadi violence in the UK (including murder) and the widespread expressions of support for the hanged murderer after the killer of Salman Tasir was hanged in Pakistan.

Page 22: Section one: Part four

Q78. 6a) Can you describe the harms caused by extremism?

Yes

Q79. 6b) If you said 'yes' or 'not sure', how would you describe these harms? (100 word limit)

The first victim of extremism is the individual holding such beliefs. They preclude that individual making a success of their lives in British society, and cause that individual to cut themselves off from people who do not share their backgrounds and views.

The activities of extremist individuals and groups cause others in society to fear for their personal safety. They polarise society damaging its social cohesion.

Extremist individuals can even go on to commit violence against others and to kill people.

Q81. 7a) From the following list, which are the three groups you believe are most at risk of harm caused by extremism?

Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities

Religious minority communities (including minority groups within a religious community e.g. Ahmadiyya)

White majority communities

Q82. 7b) What is the main reason for your response? (100 word limit)

Far-right extremism is a direct threat to ethnic and religious minorities. Such minorities are also harmed when minority individuals hold extremist views, both because those extremists are harmed by holding those views, and also because the activities of those individuals will lead to the rest of society becoming fearful of, and possibly hating, the ethnic and religious minorities.

The majority white British community is harmed by extremism as the mirror image of the reasons given in the first paragraph.

Q83. 8a) Have you seen evidence of extremism online causing harm?

No

Q85. 8c) Would you describe extremism online compared to extremism in your local area as...?

Equally harmful

Q88. 9b) If you said 'yes' or 'not sure', how would you describe these harms? (100 word limit)

I consider online extremism equally harmful to local area extremism. While local extremism is experienced more acutely by those who are affected by it, online extremism has a much wider reach and is therefore much more corrosive in our society as a whole. This difference between local intensity and widespread reach is the reason why I consider both to be equally harmful.

Page 23: Section one: Part five

Q90. 10a) Do you think more should be done to counter extremism?

Yes

Q91. 10b) What is the main reason for your response? (100 word limit)

If extremism is not countered, it will continue to grow. In particular, the activities of Islamist extremists (both violent and non-violent) serve to energise far-right extremists and help them to recruit more support.

Conversely, the growth of far-right extremists then helps Islamist extremists to promote their narrative that British society is inherently hostile to Muslims, and that Muslims must segregate themselves from British society or even seek to overthrow it in the service of Allah.

Q92. 11) How much should be done in the following areas to counter extremism?

	A lot more	A little more	Maintain current level	A little less	A lot less
Civil society	X				
Counter terrorism		X			
Education	X				
Faith	X				
Foreign policy		X			
Integration	X				
Justice	X				
Law enforcement		X			
Media	X				
Online	X				

Q93. 12a) Is there one area from the list above that you think is most important when countering extremism?

Yes

Q94. 12b) If you said 'yes' or 'other', please tell us which factor you think is most important and why. (100 word limit)

The most important area when countering extremism is education. The education system captures 100% of all British citizens from the ages of 5 to 16. That should provide an ideal opportunity to teach them ways of thinking that inoculate them from extremism. Education also reaches others up to university leaving age.

Obviously, education will not directly reach older people although some parents may be positively influenced by what their children learn. However, over time, getting the education system right for countering extremism would eliminate it from our society.

Q96. 13a) Are there particular institutions or groups that you see as having a role in improving our current efforts to counter extremism? Please select up to three from the following options that were suggested to us during our engagement and from our ongoing research.

Faith groups and leaders

Independent regulators e.g. Charity Commission, Ofsted, Ofcom

Media companies

Q97. 13b) What is the main reason for your response? (100 word limit)

Faith groups and leaders have a major impact on the views held by the adherents of their religion.

Regulators have the power to shut down organisations promoting extremism.

Media companies are important because much media reporting serves to fuel the rise of extremism. They need to become much more responsible.

Q98. 14) What is the one thing you would give greater priority to, in our efforts to counter extremism offline and online, and why? (100 word limit)

Having the government convey much more consistent and much more positive messages about the contribution that racial and religious minorities have made, continue to make, and will make, to our shared society in the UK.

This would take oxygen away from far-right extremists. It would also make it much harder for Islamist extremists to preach that British society is against Muslims.

Page 24: Section two: Evidence on extremism

Q99. 1) Do you have any evidence of the scale in England and Wales of the following factors, which have been linked to extremism? (750 word limit) Extremism-related criminal offending e.g. hate crime Extremist events e.g. marches, events in community or commercial venues Segregation e.g. by ethnicity, religion or gender Incidents in regulated spaces, e.g. schools, universities, charities, prisons Size and influence of extremist groups Extremist propaganda e.g. on social or traditional media Links between extremism and terrorism Attitudes indicating sympathy to extremist ideas or behaviour

I do not have any data.

Q100. 2) Do you have any evidence on how well the following factors can be used to measure extremism at a local or national level? (750 word limit) Extremism-related criminal offending e.g. hate crime Extremist events e.g. marches, events in community or commercial venues Segregation e.g. by ethnicity, religion or gender Incidents in regulated spaces, e.g. schools, universities, charities, prisons Size and influence of extremist groups Extremist propaganda e.g. on social or traditional media Links between extremism and terrorism Attitudes indicating sympathy to extremist ideas or behaviour

I do not have any data.

Q101. 3) What is the most significant driver of extremism and what evidence supports this? (750 word limit)

I do not have any data.

However, I believe that the most significant driver of Islamist extremism is the promotion of extreme interpretations of Islam, heavily funded from overseas.

I believe that the most significant driver of far-right extremism is the activities of Islamist extremists combined with the racist attitudes of people who are concerned by the growth of minority communities in the UK.

Q102. 4) What is the ideology or worldview of extremists and what are they trying to achieve? If you are talking about a specific type of extremism please specify. (750 word limit)

A superb analysis of Islamist extremism has recently been published in the book "The Genealogy of Terror: how to distinguish between Islam, Islamism and Violent Extremism" by Dr Matthew LN Wilkinson. I strongly recommend reading it.

Q103. 5) What tactics do extremists and their leaders use to achieve their objectives, including: to mainstream their views? to recruit people to their cause? to respond to those opposing them? If you are talking about a specific type of extremism please specify. (750 word limit)

No response.

Q104. 6) Do you have any evidence on the harms caused by extremism, including: to women? to young people? to minorities? to society? (750 word limit)

No response.

Q105. 7) Do you have any evidence on the harms caused by extremism online? (750 word limit)

No response.

Q106. 8) What works in counter extremism, what doesn't work and what evidence supports this? (750 word limit)

No response.

Q107. 9) If your work involves countering extremism, what are the challenges you face in doing so and how could you be better supported? (750 word limit)

No response.

Q108. 10) Many of the people we have spoken to say that offering a positive vision for our country is key to countering extremism. What could that vision look like? (750 word limit)

Britain is a country in which being British is not defined by your race or your religion. Instead, it is defined by your willingness to adhere to the shared values of our society. These are not repeated here as they have often been spelled-out by the Government.

As a consequence, what makes Britain a wonderful country to live in, regardless of your race or your religion, is that in Britain you are free to practice your religion as you wish subject to not infringing the rights of other people. In Britain, you are free to maintain your culture, including how you dress and how you eat, the types of music you like etc. in a way that very few other countries allow.

In Britain, you are free to marry within your ethnic or religious group, or to marry outside it, and the state will not interfere.

Britain cares very strongly about discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, or any of the other legally defined characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

All of this makes Britain an ideal country in which people can flourish.