

Online Radicalisation Survey

Top line results

(19-07-17)

- This topline presents the findings from a survey into public attitudes toward issues linked to extreme online content, radicalisation, and possible interventions – as commissioned by Policy Exchange.
- ICM interviewed a sample of 2,001 GB adults aged 18+ online, between 14th-18th July 2017.
- To ensure a representative sample, at the analysis stage data has been weighted to the profile of all GB adults aged 18+.
- A sample size of 2,001 produces data accurate to plus or minus (+/-) 2 percentage points at the 95 per cent confidence level.
- An asterisk (*) denotes a value that is greater than zero but less than one.
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Survey conducted in accordance with ISO 20252 and ISO 27001, the international standards for market research and information security management.

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q1. I would like you to think about different types of material or information that might be found on the Internet. For each of the following, would you describe it as.... SINGLE CODE EACH. RANDOM ORDER

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	Extreme	Not extreme	DK
Hate speech, which directly encourages people to commit acts of violence	79%	9%	12%
Content showing most serious acts of violence, such as rape or murder	76%	10%	13%
Online trolling/bullying/insults	72%	16%	12%
Hard core pornography	68%	18%	14%
Hate speech, which doesn't directly encourage people to commit acts of violence	61%	24%	15%
Content showing lower level acts of violence, such as assault	58%	28%	14%
Content showing acts of violence in an apparently humorous way, such as in cartoon form or with jokes/music accompanying it	39%	45%	17%
Content supporting hard right or hard left political views	37%	45%	18%
Fake news	37%	46%	16%

Q2. Thinking only about the following types of content that might be found on the Internet, which one of the following would be the point at which you would define it as "extreme"? CODE ONE

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%	
I would not consider any content to be extreme	4%	Most extreme
Content that shows the most serious acts of violence, including murder, torture or rape	57%	
Content that shows violence that is not considered to be of the most serious kind, such as assault	7%	
Content that includes hate speech that includes incitement to violence, but not actual violence	14%	
Content that includes some form of hate speech, but not a specific incitement to violence or any actual violence	10%	Least extreme
Don't know	7%	

Q3. Which one of the following would you yourself prefer?

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
The Internet being a COMPLETELY free space without any limits on free speech; the presence of some extreme material is an inevitable and acceptable price to pay for this	25%
The Internet a REGULATED space; extreme material has unacceptable consequences for people and society, and should be controlled	66%
Don't know	9%

Q4a. What do you think is the best way in which extremist material should be handled on the internet?

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
It should be removed as quickly as possible	78%
It should be preceded by age appropriate content warnings, but still be accessible	16%
It should be feely available for viewing	2%
Don't know	4%

⇒ **IF REGULATED SPACE AT Q3, SKIP TO Q5**

Q4b. When it comes to the removal of Internet content, which one of the following would you yourself most approve of?

BASE: All who prefer the Internet being a REGULATED space (1,329)	%
Removal of only the most graphic extreme/violent content	21%
Removal of any content that includes any form of violence or incitement to violence	31%
Removal of other forms of extreme content in addition to violence or incitement to violence, such as extreme politics, pornography etc	46%
Don't know	2%

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q5. You may be aware of a debate between people who argue that our safety should be guaranteed even if it means we lose some of our freedoms, while others argue that our freedoms should not be curtailed in any way.

On a scale of 1 – 7, where 1 means that you fully prioritise your freedoms over security, and 7 means you fully prioritise security over your freedoms, where would you place yourself on that scale? You can, of course, give any mark in between, which would imply you would be willing sacrifice some freedom and some security.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	DK
3%	7%	9%	21%	24%	15%	17%	5%
← Complete freedoms NET: 18%			Neutral 21%	Complete security-> NET: 56%			

⇒ **IF 1 AT Q5, SKIP TO Q7**

Q6. You say you would be willing to give up at least some freedom. How much of your right to the following freedoms would you be willing to give up, if any, if your personal security could be assured?

BASE: all who prioritise security (1,947)	NET: A lot/little	A lot	A little	None at all	DK
Freedom of expression	52%	11%	42%	38%	10%
Freedom of assembly and association	51%	13%	38%	31%	18%
Prohibition of torture or inhuman treatment	49%	34%	15%	38%	13%
Freedom from discrimination	46%	18%	28%	43%	11%
Freedom from slavery and forced labour	44%	28%	15%	45%	11%
Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	43%	12%	30%	46%	11%
Right to the enjoyment of possessions	42%	11%	31%	46%	12%
Right to privacy and the home	41%	16%	25%	51%	9%
Right to liberty	40%	13%	27%	48%	12%
Electoral rights	35%	12%	22%	55%	11%
Rights of a fair trial	32%	17%	15%	58%	10%

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q7. To what extent do you think people who commit terrorist acts have been 'radicalised'? That is, the process by which individuals are persuaded to commit acts of terrorism by others in the name of a cause?

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
Fully – they would not have committed these acts without some external forces radicalising them	29%
Partially, they must have been influenced in some way but there must be some sympathy with the cause in the first place	52%
Not at all, the motivation for terrorist attacks lie within the individuals who misguidedly decide to commit them	12%
Don't know	7%

Q8. If any radicalisation encouraging individuals to commit terrorist acts does take place, to what extent do you think terrorists are influenced by each of the following? RANDOM ORDER

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	NET: A lot/little	A lot	A little	None at all	DK
Extremist internet content	88%	55%	33%	3%	9%
Extremist/hate speech at places of worship	89%	63%	25%	3%	9%
Foreign war zone experiences of their own	79%	41%	38%	8%	13%
Impact of foreign warzone interventions by Western governments	81%	39%	41%	7%	13%
Extremist/hate speech in Far Right political meetings	81%	50%	31%	7%	12%

Q9. And do you think radicalization occurs more online, or more through face-to-face, in-person contact?

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
More online	19%
More in person	21%
Both equally	49%
Neither	1%
Don't know	11%

Q10. Who, if anyone, do you think has responsibility for controlling – or removing – extremist content that can be accessed online? RANDOM ORDER

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
Companies that provide website content, such as Facebook, Google, Youtube etc	72%
The government	53%
Companies that provide access to the Internet via wifi or via mobile 3G/4G services such as BT, Virgin Media, Vodafone etc	49%
Individual internet users	36%
Other	2%
Nobody has such a responsibility	4%
Don't know	9%

Q11. A number of companies responsible for providing Internet access/content have invested money into combatting online radicalisation - the process by which individuals are persuaded to commit acts of terrorism by others in the name of a cause via content or contact on the Internet.

Do you think that the leading Internet companies who have invested money, such as Facebook, Google, Twitter and others are or are not doing enough to combat online radicalisation?

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
Are doing enough	14%
Are not doing enough	65%
Don't know	22%

Q12. At present Internet companies self-regulate – they themselves decide what content is allowed and not allowed on their websites. Do you think....CODE ONE

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
There should be formal regulation of Internet content, with an independent regulator able to enforce the removal of content	49%
There should be informal government oversight of internet content and possible removal	23%
Self-regulation is the right way for internet content to be controlled and if necessary, removed	15%
Neither Internet companies nor governments should interfere in any way with Internet content	3%
Don't know	10%

Q13. Do you think it is sufficient for user generated content websites such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to react to specific complaints made to them about extremist or offensive material, or should they be more proactive in locating and deleting extremist and offensive content?

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	%
It is sufficient for them to react to specific complaints	16%
They should be more proactive in locating and deleting extremist and offensive content	74%
Don't know	9%

Q14. Here are some things that could be done to tackle online extremism. For each one, please tell me whether you would support or oppose it?

BASE: all respondents (2,001)	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	DK
Closing down websites that repeatedly show extremist material, and fail to remove it soon enough.	60%	21%	10%	3%	1%	5%
	NET: 80%			NET: 5%		
Levying a fine on those Internet companies that fail to remove extremist content	52%	26%	11%	4%	2%	5%
	NET: 77%			NET: 6%		
Legislation to criminalise the persistent viewing of extremist material online. This would include the persistent viewing of extremist videos, or the reading/viewing of other extremist content	46%	28%	13%	4%	3%	7%
	NET: 74%			NET: 6%		
Legislation to criminalise the possession and viewing of extremist material online. This would be similar to the law on the possession and viewing of indecent images of children	46%	27%	14%	4%	3%	7%
	NET: 73%			NET: 7%		
Making Internet companies that provide internet content subject to a independent regulator like Ofcom, which currently regulates TV, telephone and broadband providers	41%	34%	13%	3%	2%	7%
	NET: 75%			NET: 6%		
Companies that publish extremist content being held liable for their actions via civil remedies – with families of terrorist attack victims able to sue them for damages	37%	26%	17%	8%	3%	8%
	NET: 64%			NET: 11%		
Criminal prosecutions of the executives of those companies that fail to remove extremist content	36%	29%	18%	8%	3%	6%
	NET: 65%			NET: 11%		
Every website being given an age rating to provide guidance on the nature of its content, just like films in the cinema	32%	30%	22%	6%	3%	7%
	NET: 62%			NET: 9%		

Q16. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you agree strongly, tend to agree, neither agree nor disagree, tend to disagree or disagree strongly?

BASE: All respondents (2.001)	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	DK
I would never think about looking for extremist violent content, never mind actually looking at it	66%	16%	11%	2%	2%	2%
	NET: 82%			NET: 4%		
The problem with the Internet is that like minded people can get together to reinforce their extreme views	32%	44%	16%	4%	1%	3%
	NET: 76%			NET: 5%		
There is a moral, ethical and social responsibility for Internet companies to counter extreme narratives on the Internet with positive alternatives	37%	36%	18%	3%	1%	5%
	NET: 73%			NET: 4%		
The Internet creates more opportunities for people to become radicalised	27%	45%	18%	4%	1%	4%
	NET: 72%			NET: 5%		
The Internet has been a force for good in our society, but too often divisive and unpleasant influences have taken it over	22%	50%	17%	7%	1%	2%
	NET: 72%			NET: 8%		
There is a moral, ethical and social responsibility for government to counter extreme narratives on the Internet with positive alternatives	32%	38%	20%	3%	2%	5%
	NET: 70%			NET: 5%		
The Internet may not cause people to be radicalised, but it accelerates the process	16%	51%	20%	7%	2%	4%
	NET: 67%			NET: 9%		
If I saw extremist or violent content on the Internet, I would report it to my internet provider or block the page	38%	28%	19%	6%	2%	7%
	NET: 66%			NET: 8%		
The Internet has become like the Wild West, out of control and some form of content control is now required	21%	42%	18%	11%	5%	3%
	NET: 63%			NET: 16%		
I would feel comfortable speaking out against violent extremism	18%	32%	25%	13%	6%	6%
	NET: 51%			NET: 19%		
People radicalise other people, the Internet doesn't	15%	30%	29%	17%	5%	4%
	NET: 46%			NET: 22%		
The Internet is a global entity and with many internet companies based overseas removing content will be too difficult to do	11%	30%	26%	15%	10%	8%
	NET: 41%			NET: 24%		
Deleting online content is pointless; people will be radicalised in other ways	9%	25%	31%	23%	8%	4%
	NET: 34%			NET: 30%		
Internet providers get a bad press but it's not their fault other people post extreme content on their websites	8%	24%	29%	23%	12%	4%
	NET: 32%			NET: 35%		
It is acceptable in certain situations to publish internet content that encourages violence against religious groups	3%	9%	12%	17%	55%	3%
	NET: 13%			NET: 72%		

Q17. Would you support or oppose a prison sentence for....

BASE: All respondents (2.001)	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	DK
The possession of extremist material online	39%	31%	13%	6%	6%	6%
	NET: 70%			NET: 12%		
The persistent viewing of extremist material online	36%	30%	15%	7%	6%	6%
	NET: 66%			NET: 13%		

Q18. Do you think that children are more or less likely than adults to view extremist online content?

BASE: All respondents (2.001)	%
More likely	25%
Neither more nor less likely	43%
Less likely	16%
Don't know	16%