

Radicalization in North America: A Strategic Approach to Prevention

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Abstract

North America has long served as a fundraising and logistics hub for dozens of global terrorist organizations as well as an occasional target for attacks. There is no single path to radicalization, and there is no guaranteed method for deradicalization.

North America should develop an international counter radicalization strategy that is complemented with targeted policies and programs that deter and prevent future radicalization as well as a formal deradicalization program. These efforts should be supported by culturally-sensitive community policing and voluntary self-policing within diaspora communities.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

Radicalization is the process by which individuals are introduced to and accept an overtly ideological message and belief system that encourages movement from moderate, mainstream beliefs towards extreme views.



Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence & Analysis:

Radicalization is the process of adopting an extremist belief system, including the willingness to use, support, or facilitate violence, as a method to effect societal change.

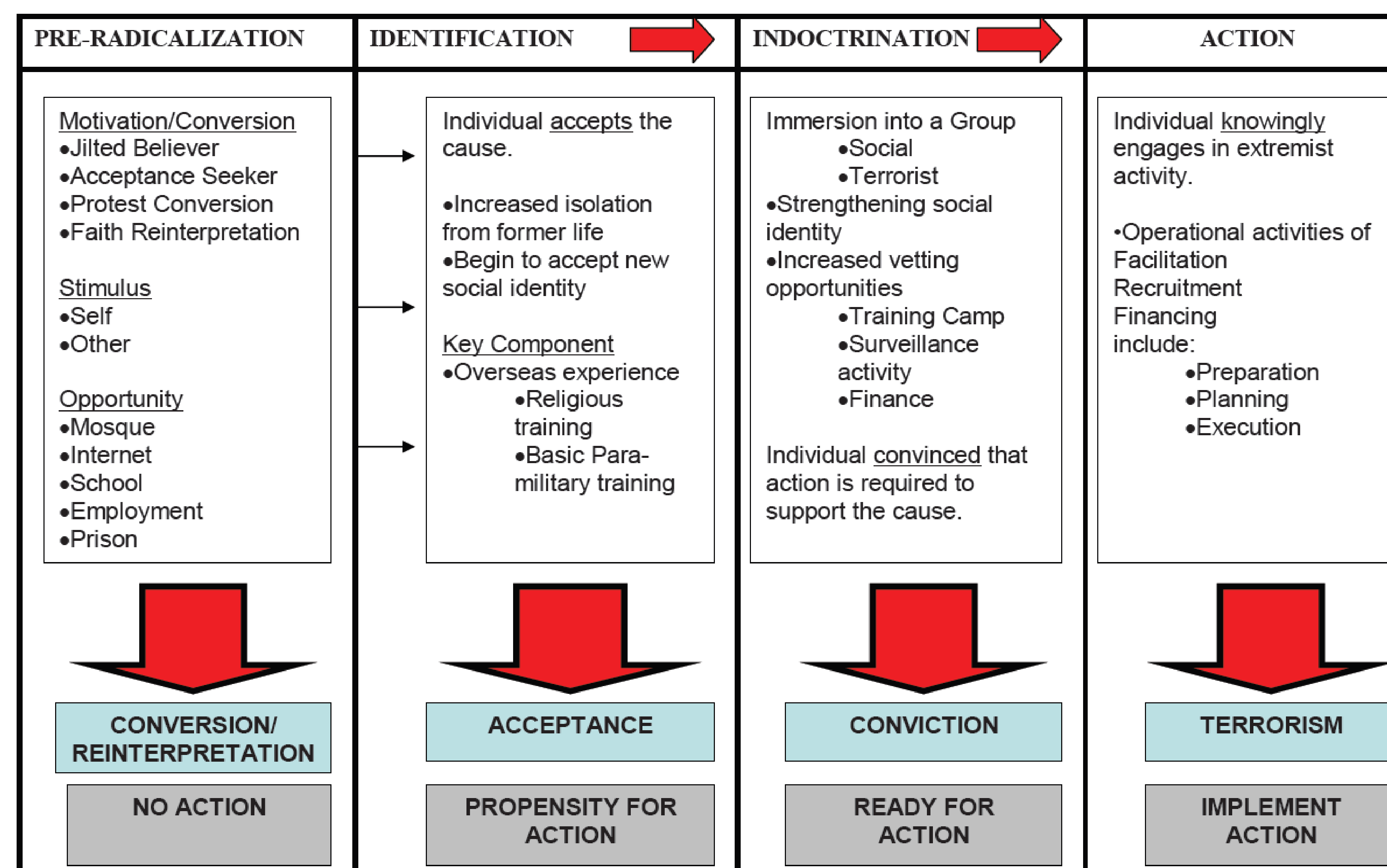


Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD):

Radicalization is a growing readiness to pursue and/or support – if necessary by undemocratic means – far-reaching changes in society that conflict with, or pose a threat to, the democratic order.



The Radicalization Process

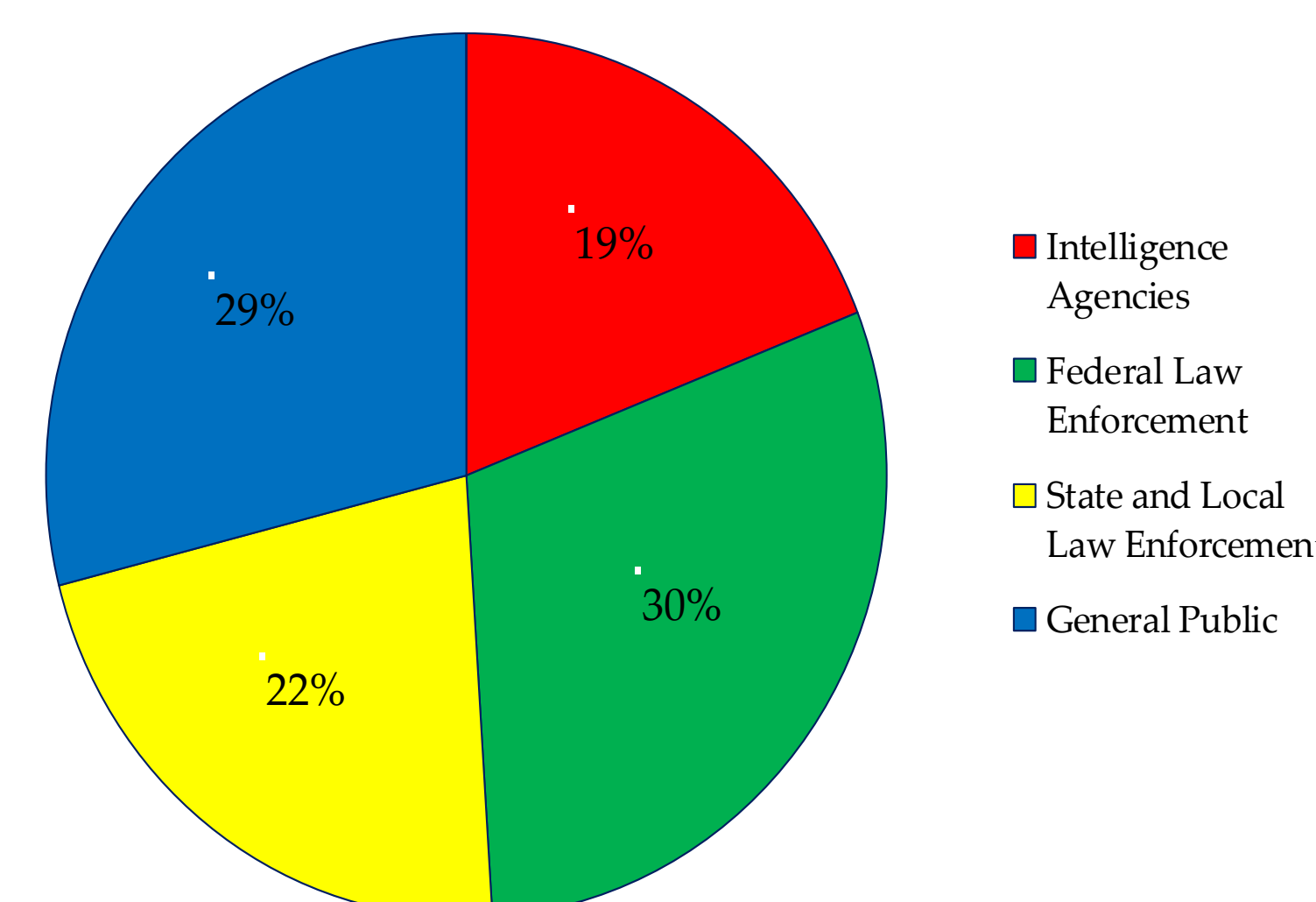


Ten Signs of Potential Radicalization

- 1) Catalyzing life event (death, divorce, bullying, loss of employment, etc.)
- 2) Alienation and/or isolation from family, friends, or community
- 3) Loss of interest in school, work, or hobbies
- 4) Obsession with a social, political, religious, or economic issue
- 5) Association with other like-minded individuals
- 6) Change in outward appearance and demeanor
- 7) Use of special words, gestures, or symbols
- 8) Embracing conspiratorial beliefs and speaking out for one's cause
- 9) Redirection of time and money to support radical activism
- 10) Intolerance towards opposing views, beliefs, or groups

Law Enforcement and Citizens Stop Terrorism

Source of Initial Clues in 68 Foiled American Plots, 1999-2009



Source: Strom et al., October 2010. *Building on Clues: Examining Successes and Failures in Detecting U.S. Terrorist Plots, 1999-2009*. Research Triangle Park, NC: Institute for Homeland Security Solutions. p. 12.

