

THE BEHAVIOUR BAROMETER: An Education and Awareness Tool

Taking early intervention with radicalized individuals—or persons in the process of becoming radicalized—and being vigilant about radicalization poses a unique challenge for the general public as well as for front-line workers such as teachers, psychologists, families, social workers, and police officers. As the subject attracts growing concern, many people feel an increasing urgent need to understand and prevent radicalization. However, in order to better comprehend the phenomenon, they need pertinent information and guides adapted to their needs. The CPRLV has developed the Behaviour Barometer for just that purpose.

The Barometer is an educational and awareness tool that was developed based on numerous academic studies and actual cases of radicalization in which the CPRLV has been involved. Signs commonly observed in cases of radicalization leading to violence and that should be watched out for have been identified using contextual analysis. The sooner action is taken to stop the radicalization process, the greater the chances are of it being halted or even reversed. Other behaviours that are often

mistakenly believed to be signs of radicalizations have also deliberately been included in the barometer to clear up any misconceptions.

The barometer is divided into four (4) categories of behaviours based on the degree of seriousness: insignificant, troubling, worrisome, and alarming. The advantage of this system is that it provides a quick and simple visual representation of observed behaviours while helping raise awareness of those behaviours that are significant indicators of radicalization. Some behaviours may seem serious when they are not, in fact, signs of radicalization. For example, expressing one's identity through certain visual signs is considered an insignificant behaviour. On the other hand, strong indicators that radicalization is taking place may tend to be trivialized or misunderstood. For example, if a person starts making dehumanizing comments about other groups, this should be considered worrisome.

Advice on proper use of the Behaviour Barometer

- The barometer is designed as a teaching tool and must not be treated as a comprehensive radicalization screening or detection tool. It is intended primarily to help persons concerned about a loved one identify behaviours they should watch out for.
- Anyone wishing to use the CPRLV barometer should know that not all behaviours of a single individual will generally fall under the same category on the barometer, but rather under a combination of categories instead. It is therefore important that the barometer not be used to carry out a purely qualitative assessment of behaviours (aimed at determining the category containing the greatest number of observed behaviours) but a qualitative assessment instead (examining which behaviours are most significant given the individual's overall way of being).
- It is always important to keep in mind the fact that some behaviours mentioned in the barometer may, when examined independently, prove to be the result of other issues unrelated to radicalization such as the person's state of mental health or an oppositional disorder. This is why the observation of behaviours associated with radicalization must be conducted in the context of a global assessment in order to rule out any other explanations for such behaviours.

The barometer is not a clinical assessment instrument: it may help understand someone else's behaviour, but cannot be used to reach a definitive verdict. To obtain further guidance, the CPRLV strongly recommends contacting one of its support workers who will be able to conduct a thorough and accurate assessment of the situation and determine any possible avenues for intervention as needed.

24/7 HELPLINE

Montreal area: 514-687-7141
Elsewhere in Quebec: 1-877-687-7141
info-radical.org

IT'S CONFIDENTIAL!



CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION
OF RADICALIZATION
LEADING TO VIOLENCE

BEHAVIOUR BAROMETER

How to recognize radicalization behaviours

leading to violence

Prevention first!

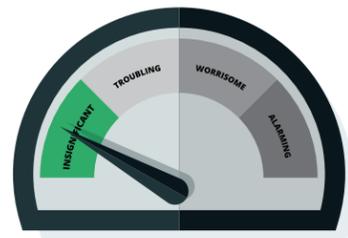


CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION
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INSIGNIFICANT BEHAVIOUR

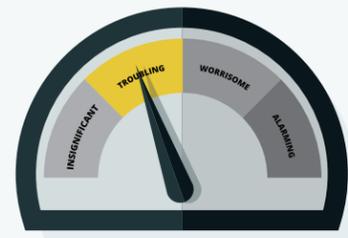
This category includes a series of behaviours associated with diverse forms of political, religious or community engagement, which are characterized by peaceful actions and democratic means of expression.



- + Argues fervently to defend his/her convictions before family members and/or close friends
- + Adopts visible signs (traditional clothes, beard, shaved head, religious symbols, specific tattoos, etc.) to express his/her identity or sense of belonging
- + Is active on social media
- + Takes a stand and campaigns peacefully for a cause related to a community, a group or an individual
- + Takes a keen interest in current national and international events
- + Expresses the desire to reintegrate or to increase involvement in a religious practice, or an identity or political engagement
- + Converts or adopts new religious, ideological or political beliefs
- + Insists on following specific dietary requirements due to political or religious convictions
- + Expresses a need for excitement or adventure
- + Displays a desire to correct social injustices

TROUBLING BEHAVIOUR

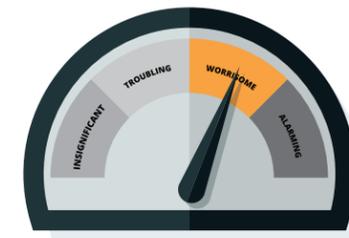
This category includes individual behaviours that attest to personal ill-being. It also includes behaviours that represent an increasingly sustained self-identification with a cause or an ideology that leads the individual to significantly change his or her behaviour.



- + Expresses polarizing views of absolute truth, paranoia or extreme mistrust
- + Adopts behaviour which creates a rupture with family practices
- + Is drawn to conspiracy theories and discourse
- + Begins to isolate himself/herself from family and/or friends
- + Suddenly changes his/her habits
- + Feels a sense of victimization and rejection
- + Insistently preaches religious and ideological ideas to others
- + Rejects the rules and regulations of institutions and organizations with which one is in contact (school, workplace, athletic organizations, etc.) based on ideological, political or religious grounds.
- + Refuses to take part in group activities or interact with certain individuals due to the latter's religion, race, skin colour, gender or sexual orientation
- + Expresses a need to dominate or control others
- + Has difficulty reassessing one's own ideas and/or recognizing the value of other points of view

WORRISOME BEHAVIOUR

This category encompasses behaviours that can be associated with the beginning of an individual's engagement in a radical trajectory. It is characterized by an acute mistrust of the outside world, and by a preponderance of views legitimizing the use of violence to achieve one's goals, or to win a cause.



- + Cuts off ties with family members and/or close friends in order to keep exclusive company with a new circle of acquaintances or friends
- + Legitimizes the use of violence to defend a cause or an ideology
- + Hides a new lifestyle, allegiance or belief system from family members and/or close friends (either online or in real life)
- + Becomes closer to individuals or groups known to be violent extremists
- + Becomes suddenly disinterested in professional or school activities
- + Displays symbols of affiliation or support associated with recognized violent extremist groups
- + Becomes obsessed with the end of the world or with messianic views
- + Expresses hateful views towards other individuals or groups

ALARMING BEHAVIOUR

This category includes a variety of behaviours that attest to an exclusive and sectarian allegiance to an ideology or a cause, which lead the individual to perceive violence as the only legitimate and valid means of action.



- + Takes part in violent extremist group activities by any means whatsoever (material, financial or physical)
- + Recruits individuals for a violent extremist cause (or encourages their enlistment to that cause)
- + Is in contact with a group or a network of individuals known to be violent radicals, either online or in real life
- + Reinforces own beliefs through regular consultation of violent extremist Internet forums and websites
- + Commits or plans violent or hateful acts inspired by ideological motives or a violent extremist cause
- + Learns about, seeks to acquire or knows how to use weapons (firearms, explosives, etc.) outside the legal bounds
- + Plans a trip to a conflict zone or to a region in which violent extremist groups are known to be active

The barometer remains a guide that **SHOULD NOT** lead to hasty conclusions, nor should it replace a more thorough evaluation by the CPRLV staff members. Should you require further insight, please contact our INFO-RADICAL helpline or fill out a help request form on our website www.info-radical.org