

## **Six case studies: detecting signs of radicalization**

1. A was an intelligent and popular teenager who helped her parents and looked after her younger sisters and her grandparents. She was in love with music and dance, Harry Potter novels and Coke. Everything was fine until she broke up with her boyfriend. She got isolated, withdrawn and depressed. Her parents advised her to visit a doctor but she refused. She started spending a lot of time in her room where she denied her parents' access. It seemed that she had lost interest in any of the activities she used to enjoy, distancing herself from her friends. Anyway, her parents did not expect her to leave her home and go to Syria.

2. B was a high flyer student who wanted to become an engineer. After his father died in a work accident, his grades started to go down. He also disengaged from his friends. He claimed that education was no longer a priority when there was so much injustice in the world. He got also dissatisfied with how things were going in his country. He liked neither the school nor the neighbourhood where he was living. He felt it wasn't fair for him to live in that poor neighbourhood separated from the rest of the city. He felt frustrated, picked on, vulnerable and angry at the whole world. He complained about a constant feeling of not being understood. Suddenly there was a change in his style of dress and personal appearance: he started growing a beard and wearing black clothes.

3. C was an excellent student throughout high school who really interested in environmental issues and felt very disappointed about how these issues were managed by the society. She wanted to do something to right the wrongs. One afternoon C attended an environmental protest. It was fun and she felt like she was doing the 'right thing' for society. She enjoyed spending time with this crowd. She felt it was cool. So she dropped out of school in order to live full-time in a forest camp with her new friends who assured her she was doing something good for the community if she were to follow them. She was fascinated by their ideas which appealed to her emotions and desire to save the world. She felt significant being around like-minded individuals fighting against a common enemy.

4. D was a teenager in a country town with self-esteem and alcohol problems. He felt confused and marginalised. He thought that the only way to right the wrongs was through power and aggression. He cared about those who were suffering and had a strong desire to help and bring relief to them. He found people who seemed to be sharing the same noble ideas. He became more argumentative and domineering in his opinions; he violently condemned those who disagreed with him. He started questioning his faith and identity. His parents found out that he had been downloading and promoting extremist content.

5. E was a typical teenager, dynamic and fond of sports. He had always been quite religious but hadn't been a church goer until he listened to an online lecture delivered by someone whom he perceived as a credible religious authority. He became progressively religious and often expressed his concern about his religion being under serious threat.

6. Y and her two friends spent their free time on social media. They had Twitter friends all over the world. They were quite bored with their ordinary life and often said they needed adventure or excitement. They found online friends whom they seemed to be sharing a lot in common and who promised to give them a lot of adrenaline rush. The three girls soon turned from loving teenagers into jihadists willing to go to a distant war-stricken country in order to get married to IS fighters whom they never met, and lie and steal from their families.

Case	Causes	Identified Signs
1		

