Social Marginalisation and Violent Extremism: re-examining the link between marginalisation, inclusion and violent extremism

Dr Anne Aly MP
The old man of the mountain
Framing the Problem: the political discourse on home-grown terrorism

- policy approach that promotes democratic values, social harmony and active participation of Muslim communities
- Lack of focus on emergence, exposure and broader conditions vs assumed vulnerability
Responding to terrorism: affective machinations and the modulation of fear

- Securitisation of Muslim communities
- Assumptions about vulnerability
- Linking social harmony agenda to securitisation
- Conflation and politicisation of issues: border security, asylum seekers, national security, terrorism
Vulnerability, radicalisation, resilience and social harmony

- No vulnerability profile
- Marginalisation hypothesis
- Primacy of religion and ideology
- Focus on individual radicalisation
Exposure + Emergence = Opportunity
Environmental

Social

Group dynamic

Global events

Emergence

Radicalising settings

Opportunity

Exposure

Individual

Psychology

Personal identity
Why violent Extremists Narratives work: the appeal of messages to young people

Three Dimensions:

- **Individual Factors**: individual psychology; personal histories and backgrounds; trauma; resilience; personal identity and social interaction needs
- **Social Factors**: socio economic status; family structures; access to education; social expectations
- **Situational Factors**: governance; civil society structures; conflict zones; global trends and events
Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

COGNITIVE
Personalisation and internalisation of a set of beliefs associated with a radical or extremist ideology

BEHAVIOURAL
Acceptance of and willingness to use violence as a necessary means in relation to beliefs and ideology

OPPORTUNITY
Opportunities to use violence for the intention of carrying out beliefs and ideology
REACTION
Punitive
Highly engaged to operational
Law enforcement
CT narratives

INTERVENTION
De-radicalisation/ Disengagement
Engaged to highly radicalised
Experts, community, government, law enforcement
Targeted counter narratives

PREVENTION
Counter radicalisation and awareness
Everybody
Civil society, government, private sector
Counter narratives
Getting Smart about CVE

- Avoid stakeholder security
- Inspire and empower citizens to act
- Reinforce weak attachments
- Utilise Peer to Peer networks
- Recognise that tools of change are not in the hands of government
7 types of preventative initiatives:

**Challenge violent extremist messages**
- Providing opportunities such as employment
- Community based approaches
- Family based approaches to help parents talk to children

**Reinforce moral self-sanctions**
- Cognitive behavioural empathy, moral reasoning, anger management
- Peer mediation and Conflict resolution

**Develop awareness**
- Knowledge based initiatives to teach critical analysis
- Mentoring to build positive behaviours and attitudes through role modelling
“Missiles will kill terrorists. But they will not kill terrorism.”

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon
Address to the White House Summit on CVE February 2015