

VULNERABILITIES TO GROOMING AND RADICALISATION: A SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING PACKAGE

*For individuals and groups using the 'Maryam
and Joe – Behind Closed Doors' simulation*



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Background

Radicalisation is a complex topic and being able to identify signs is a key part in safeguarding young people. 'Maryam and Joe – Behind Closed Doors' was developed with funding from the Home Office to educate professionals and young people on the dangers of grooming for radicalisation. It is a standalone multi-social media simulation which enables users to recognise the process of grooming and identify signs and vulnerabilities in young people. Designed in line with current priorities of the Prevent Duty and Ofsted criteria, the simulation is a flexible learning tool that can be used to support Schools' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development in lessons such as PSHE, citizenship, aspects of history, English and general studies.

'Maryam and Joe' – the simulation

The simulation offers two social-media timelines with two different routes to radicalisation – one female, and one male. There are five 'scenes' for each character and each one opens with a real news clip covering a story relating to hate crime, radicalisation and extremism. The timelines follow the online lives of Maryam and Joe over a three month period, and you can follow the grooming process on different social media and see how quickly this leads to their radicalisation. Throughout the simulation the aim is to educate about the 'grooming process' and how groomers/radicalisers work.

In Maryam's story we find her manipulated by groomers belonging to Daesh (ISIS) who encourage her to start to doubt her identity.

In Joe's story we find a second year undergraduate at university, having problems with foreign students. He has a girlfriend, Rose, whom he met online. He is manipulated by Rose as he tries to please her in what he thinks is a relationship but is really a grooming exercise for her.

Maryam and Joe for professionals and young people

The simulation can be used in many ways to increase young peoples' learning and understanding of grooming and radicalisation. Topics relating to radicalisation are also covered in different scenes and include issues such as:

- hate crime
- freedom of speech
- racism
- online grooming
- propaganda
- fake news
- far right extremism
- terrorism
- intervention
- British values
- internet safety.

By offering an immersive experience, and the opportunity to interact with the characters' social media via a 'traffic light' system and emojis, young people have an opportunity to discuss and reflect on these issues in a safe space and gain the knowledge and skills to protect themselves.

Objectives

- To provide professionals and young people with a platform to develop understanding about the processes involved in radicalisation
- To raise awareness amongst professionals and young people of the processes of grooming for radicalisation
- To heighten awareness of how young people and students can be safeguarded, in particular the processes and staff involved in junior, secondary, tertiary and higher education
- To facilitate understanding of the different ideologies that underpin extremist and terrorist organisations
- Highlight the issues associated with young women being groomed and recruited for travelling by Daesh
- Highlight the issues associated with young men being groomed and recruited to right wing organisations
- Encourage discussion and reflect on the use and abuse of different social media platforms for the purposes of radicalisation
- To look at the different policies and procedures that exist in organisations on radicalisation and to evaluate how they work in practice.

"In a recent pilot of the product in an FE setting, 27 out of 39 young people said the simulation had increased their knowledge of radicalisation and would alter their online behaviour."

Next steps

Pay for the training session, and after attendance the simulation is then free for a year to use within the terms and conditions.

- 1 Book online and pay by credit card via our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/ccp/game/bcdindex.html
- 2 Contact us if you need to pay by invoice, or to discuss group discount or to arrange bespoke training at your premises.
Telephone 01227 827546 or email ccp@kent.ac.uk



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More from the Centre for Child Protection

'Rosie 1'

A simulation focusing on an initial assessment visit to a family. The initially benign situation rapidly develops into a case of child sexual abuse. Free download and worksheet from our website.

'Rosie 2' Assessing parental capacity and neglect in complex families*

Workshop using our 'Rosie 2' simulation. It is now 5 years on from 'Rosie 1' and the case is still active and focuses on neglect.

'myCourtroom: Rosie's family go to court**

'myCourtroom' is an interactive and immersive simulation based on realistic scenarios to trigger discussions and decisions around court skills.

'Visiting Elliot'

Developed in collaboration with Kent Police and KSS CRC, 'Elliot' is designed to train professionals who visit sex offenders on licence in the community.

'Zak' and 'Gamer Zak**

An innovative social media style simulation for use with young people focusing on online grooming and the radicalisation process. 'Gamer Zak' is a series of vlogs on over-sharing private information

RITA

Responsive InTeraCTive Advocate (RITA) was developed with the aim of supporting the UK's ageing population through the use of responsive and interactive avatars.

'Looking out for Lottie**†

This award-winning simulation focuses on child sexual exploitation and online grooming with unique opportunity to consider the 'boyfriend style' groomer perspective.

'Maryam and Joe: Behind closed doors**

Funded by the Home Office, explore how two young people are groomed on multiple social media platforms, as well as face to face, for radicalisation by a far right extremist group and by so-called IS (Daesh) extremists.

MA in advanced child protection*

The two year, part-time, distance learning MA provides the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills, confidence and multi-agency perspectives. Certificate and Diploma now available.

Standalone modules*

MA modules can be studied as short courses and are a good taster for MA level study. We also have a specialist 'Direct work with children' module.

*Winners of: HEA Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence 2017

†Guardian Award for Digital Innovation 2016

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