

# Tamerlan



# Transgressive behavior

- Radicalization involves behavioral change
  - Radicalization to the point of engaging in violent extremism will usually result in observable behavioral change
- Most people, including extremists, experience inhibitions when it comes to breaking the law
  - Transgressive/criminal behavior usually increases in incremental steps as radicalization increases and thresholds are crossed
  - This is usually accompanied by a justifying narrative

# Mohamed Merah



# CVE - Identity and Social Networks

## 1. Community

- Belonging and identity represent deep basic needs
- Displacement, loneliness and alienation afflict many students
- Tying young people into strong, healthy, social networks greatly reduces the likelihood of radicalization

# CVE - Identity and Social Networks

## 2. Mentorship

- Mentorship and pastoral care
  - The presence or absence of constructive mentors and role-models, is a key factor influencing the paths taken by students
    - Including spiritual and moral guides
- Community workers can play a key role as mentors
- Clubs, societies and associations can be a vital source of pastoral care and guidance

# CVE – Ideas and Narratives

## 1. Positive narratives

- Young people tend to be idealistic and naturally question injustice
  - They are concerned with local suffering and join in solidarity with the suffering of the global community
- Young people have legitimate questions that need reasonable answers
- Sound teaching from the heart of tradition is a bulwark against extremism

# CVE – Ideas and Narratives

## 2. Broadening the mind, opening the heart

- Terrorist leaders are overwhelmingly graduates from the technical sciences (engineering, medicine etc.) - in contemporary transnational movements
  - Their thinking has been shaped by reductionist modeling and formulaic solutions
- Introducing all students to some studies in the social sciences and humanities can help develop capacity to accept pluralism and complexity whilst building empathy

# CVE – Ideas and Narratives

## 3. Counter narratives

- Effective CVE requires both
  - working with tradition and mainstream narratives
  - and addressing destructive narratives with counter-narratives
- Counter-narrative responses are most effective when they are seen to be legitimate responses
  - from respected civil society institutions
  - rather than initiatives of the state



# CVE – Ideas and Narratives

## 4. Engaging with non-violent extremism

- Non-violent extremism is a legitimate and necessary aspect of open society
- Care should be taken not to conflate non-violent extremism with violent extremism
- In CVE non-violent extremists can be part of the solution
- Miss-handling non-violent extremism can have perverse outcomes and second-order effects that contribute to radicalization

# CVE – Ideas and Narratives

## 5. When non-violent extremism becomes a problem

- When the rights of others are infringed
  - Threatening behavior and intimidation
  - Lawful rights transgressed through bullying
- When extremist movements facilitate radicalization
  - Directly inciting hatred and promoting sectarianism
  - Encourage criminal behavior
  - Promoting narrative of violent struggle and advocating participation in violence
  - Aiding recruitment to violent activism

# Toxic religion



# Anjem Choudary



# CVE – Behavior

## 1. Warning signs

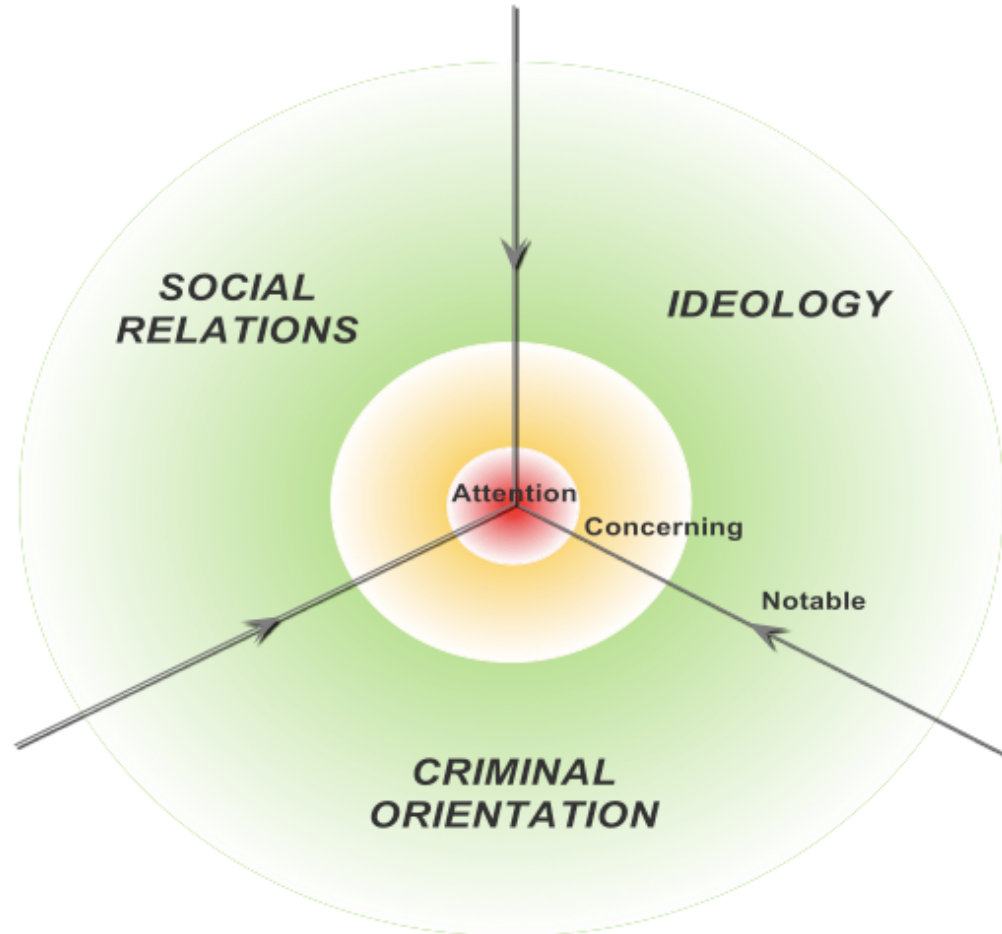
- Aberrant and transgressive behavior - in conjunction with changed social relationships and increasingly extremist ideas - represents an indication of radicalization
- Family, community, teachers and friends need to be attentive to signs of radicalization
- Interventions should, as far as possible, be redemptive rather than punitive

# CVE – Behavior

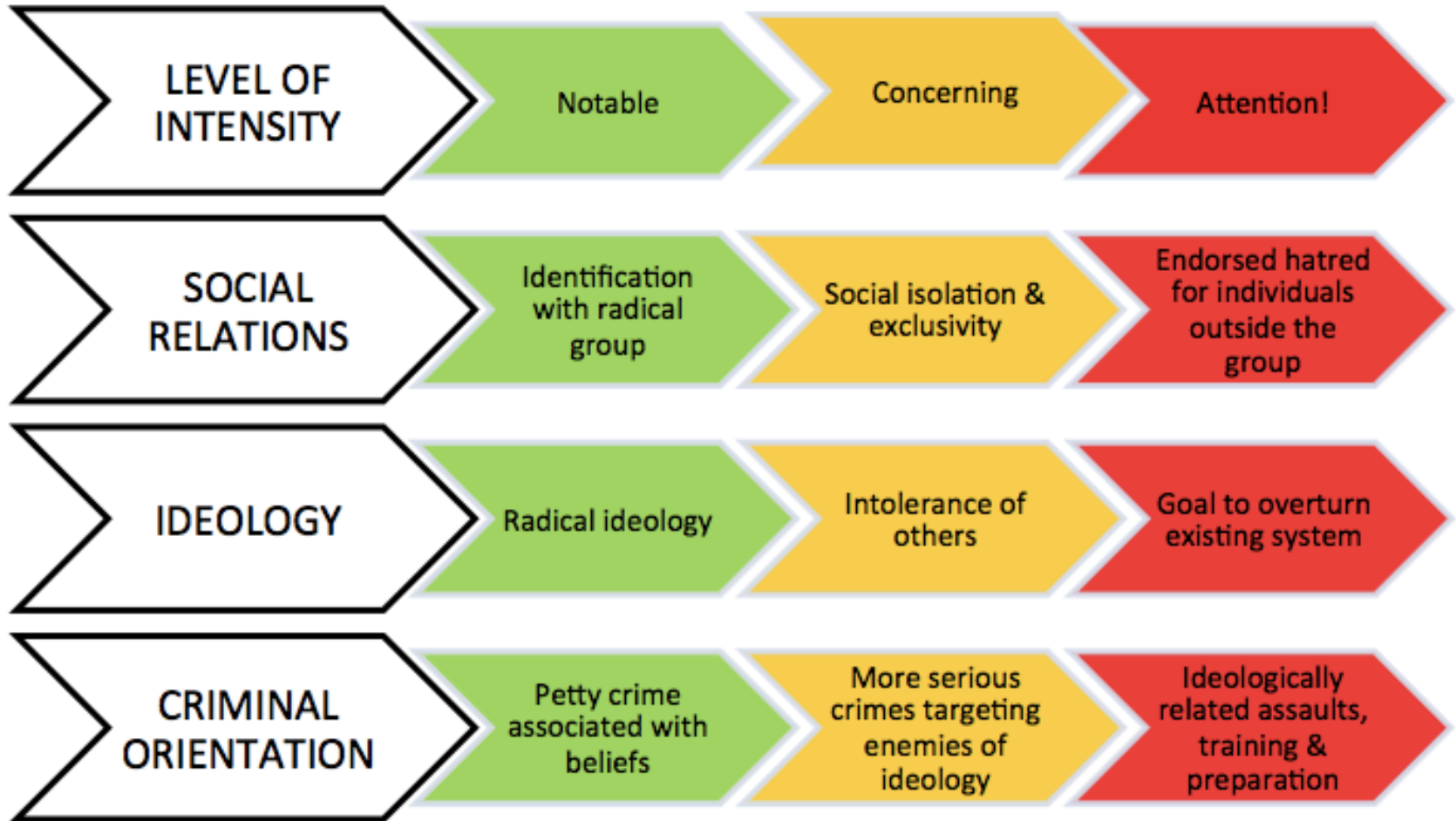
## 2. Rehabilitation

- Where radicalization and engagement with violent extremism has occurred it is important to attempt to reintegrate individuals into mainstream society
- Education presents rich opportunities for personal development, reinvention and reorientation
- This is most effective with subtle but deliberate case-management

# The Radicalization Indicators Model



# The Sectors and Levels





Seven realities we must face:  
counter-narrative CVE challenges in  
responding to IS

# 1. Narrative is critically important but so too are social networks

- Friendship precedes radicalisation, social networks are key
- Responding to the 'broadcast' narrative leads to individuals being identified and targeted with the 'narrowcast' narrative via social media and one-on-one follow up

## 2. IS is al-Qaeda 3.0

### – it has learnt and evolved

- AQ 1.0 socialised jihad, linking the local to the global, drawing foreign fighters, and shifting the focus onto the far enemy
- AQ 2.0 (AQAP, AQI) further joined the local and the global; and leveraged the internet and social media to accelerate global recruitment
- AQ 3.0 (IS) uses the caliphate to inspire and command loyalty and combines --centralised, hierarchical command; with a long tail of keyboard warriors viral marketing and free-range social media; plus predatory grooming, radicalism and recruitment; with little filtering and low thresholds for action at home and abroad -

### 3. IS is a complex hybrid and must be met at every level

- IS is a jihadi terrorist movement that gained territory through a long insurgency led by locals, augmented by foreign fighters; functions as a disciplined police-state; is defended by expert application of conventional military power; inspires global action; and is also an apocalyptic cult legitimised by the achievement of the caliphate
- IS must be broken down and dislodged militarily
- IS must be defeated politically
- IS recruitment and radicalisation around the world must be met with counter-narrative and counter-action

## 4. Effective counter-narratives must come from young Muslims to young Muslims

- The government needs to help them with resources and building capacity
- But legitimacy and effectiveness is lost if the counter-narrative is seen to come from the government.
- It is not good enough to rely on established leaders, organisations and networks, we must work directly with young leaders and groups.

## 5. IS is deploying an Islamic narrative targeting Muslims

- We need to work with Muslims and for Muslims
- Islam and Muslims are not the problem but Islamic narrative is being exploited and Muslims are being preyed upon
- But being seen to single out Muslims invites rejection of CVE at the outset and, in reality; CVE does and must go beyond a single community, faith and narrative
- But IS produces specific challenges and requires specific responses

## 6. There is no singular solution nor a single counter-narrative

- We must adopt multiple approaches and accept varying degrees of effectiveness
- We must 'chunk-down' counter narrative issue by issue
- We must work with multiple partners at multiple levels speaking to multiple audiences through multiple means

# 7. Everything that we do and say becomes part of the narrative in the long struggle for hearts and minds

- What we say to one audience is quickly heard by all whether we intend it or not
- Words matter but actions also speak
- IS is masterful at both messaging and engaging one-on-one, we must become just as good in doing both



# Responding to IS and FTF recruitment

- Defeating IS in Iraq-Syria – de-mythologizing the caliphate
- Intelligence – deconstructing the networks of recruiters, in the ME, around the world and at home
- Working with community groups in a CVE approach to recognize signs of radicalization and conduct early intervention and rehabilitation
- Counter-narrative messaging – by communities, for communities, independent of governments but facilitated by them

# Conclusion

- Radicalization is largely a social process
  - Social networks and identity are key
- Ideas and narratives are also important
  - Particularly in response to injustice and suffering
  - locally and globally
- Community groups are ideally placed to respond to both
  - The need to belong
  - And the need to respond
- Rehabilitation is better by far than alienation