Development of Extremist Violence Framework

Public sector and U.S. government employee limitations on free speech

1st Amendment Protected Speech and Activity

Refers to broad U.S. Constitutional protections of religion, expression, assembly and the right to petition.

Grievance/Conspiracy Mindset, Other Vulnerabilities*

Tending to develop a strong sense of resentment, antagonism or victimhood over real or perceived injustices; or to embrace untrue conspiracy theories to explain high-profile events or circumstances that are in one's view negative.

Radicalization

The processs of developing increasingly hostile or antagonistic views toward a particular group, ideology or institution.

Extremism

The belief that an individual's or a group's success, honor or survival is predicated on violent action against a specific adversary or the larger society.

Violent Acts

Violent, destructive or endangering actions taken to terrorize or intimidate despised groups or a civilian population; or relatedly influence government policies and decisions, or public perceptions.

* Other vulnerabilities to radicalization can include family or cultural influences; extreme social isolation or marginalization; repeated thwarting of occupational goals; maladaptive personality traits like spite and contempt; and certain psychiatric or neurocognitive impairments.

This framework is based on one originally developed with Wesley Forster for the U.S. Department of Defense Counter Insider Threat Program.

Victoria Balenger, PhD, CTM ~ www.behavioralriskmgmt.com