Assessment Model
for concerns for extremism

Concerning convictions and rhetoric

Readiness to use violence

Criminal record

Concerning socialisation and relationships

ANALYSIS of
RISK AND THREAT

1 2 **3** 4

Danish Centre for Prevention of Extremism

Introduction to the tool

The tool is a dialogue-based analysis tool which is intended to help the participants in the Infohouse Municipality maintain the focus and direction of the dialogue regarding the individual's risk and threat in addition to their welfare and resilience.

The tool consists of two parts: **The first part** is intended to analyse whether the concern about extremism is legitimate. Here the focus is on whether there is a risk that the individual will try to commit acts of violence and legitimise violence and other illegal acts and end up harming themselves and others.

The second part is intended to analyse the individual's life situation and potential for change in relation to the concern about extremism. Here focus is on welfare and resilience. The tool has been developed as a combined tool with nine dimensions - four dimensions for part one and five dimensions for part two. The combined tool appears in the figure below.
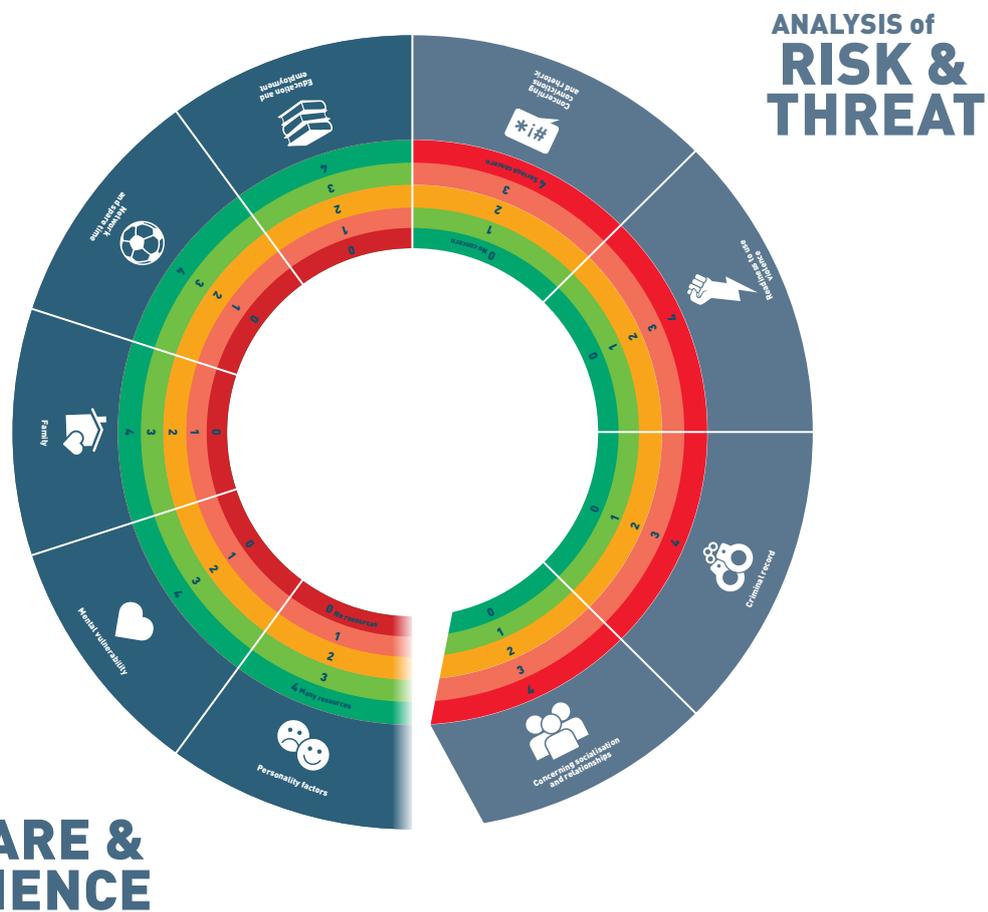
The nine dimensions of the tool has been selected and developed on the basis of comprehensive mapping and systematisation of international research on an individual's pathways to and from extremism, the signs of concern and the risk and protective factors. The nine dimensions thus represent areas that are relevant to investigate when a reported concern is to be analysed systematically and effectively in a targeted manner.

If, based on the analysis of risk and threat (part 1), there is no basis for being concerned about extremism, then the analysis can be concluded. Part 2 – the analysis of the individual's welfare and resilience, should thus not be made.

PART 1 - ANALYSIS OF RISK AND THREAT

The first step in the analysis consists of investigating and analysing dimensions 1-4. These dimensions support a qualified **analysis of the risk and threat** in relation to extremism. If no causes for concern are found in relation to extremism, the analysis can be concluded after the first part of the analysis work. If there is a suspicion of poor welfare, but the concern is not about criminal behaviour with an extremist motive, the concern must be passed along to the municipality. If there is a concern about just one of the four dimensions below, then the entire analysis should be made, including the analysis of welfare and resilience.

The four dimensions are:

- **Dimension 1 - Concerning convictions and rhetoric**

- **Dimension 2 - Willingness to use violence**

- **Dimension 3 - Criminal history**

- **Dimension 4 - Concerning socialisation and relationships**

The analysis of the dimensions and the related attention points generally gives a **snapshot of the individual's current situation** and do not explain why the individual has become radicalised or is in the process of being radicalised. At the same time, it is important to note that the analysis does not necessarily provide an exhaustive and complete image of the individual's situation. There may be other factors in the individual life that also have an impact. When analysing the dimensions, it is also important that the authorities in the Infohouse Municipality who are carrying out the analysis continually stop and reflect upon the interpretations and assumptions on which the scoring of the individual dimensions is based.

Each of the four dimensions are assessed and scored based on the **scale of concern below.**

Please note that the value 0 is for 'no concern' and the value 4 is for 'serious concern'.

0	1	2	3	4
No concern				Serious concern
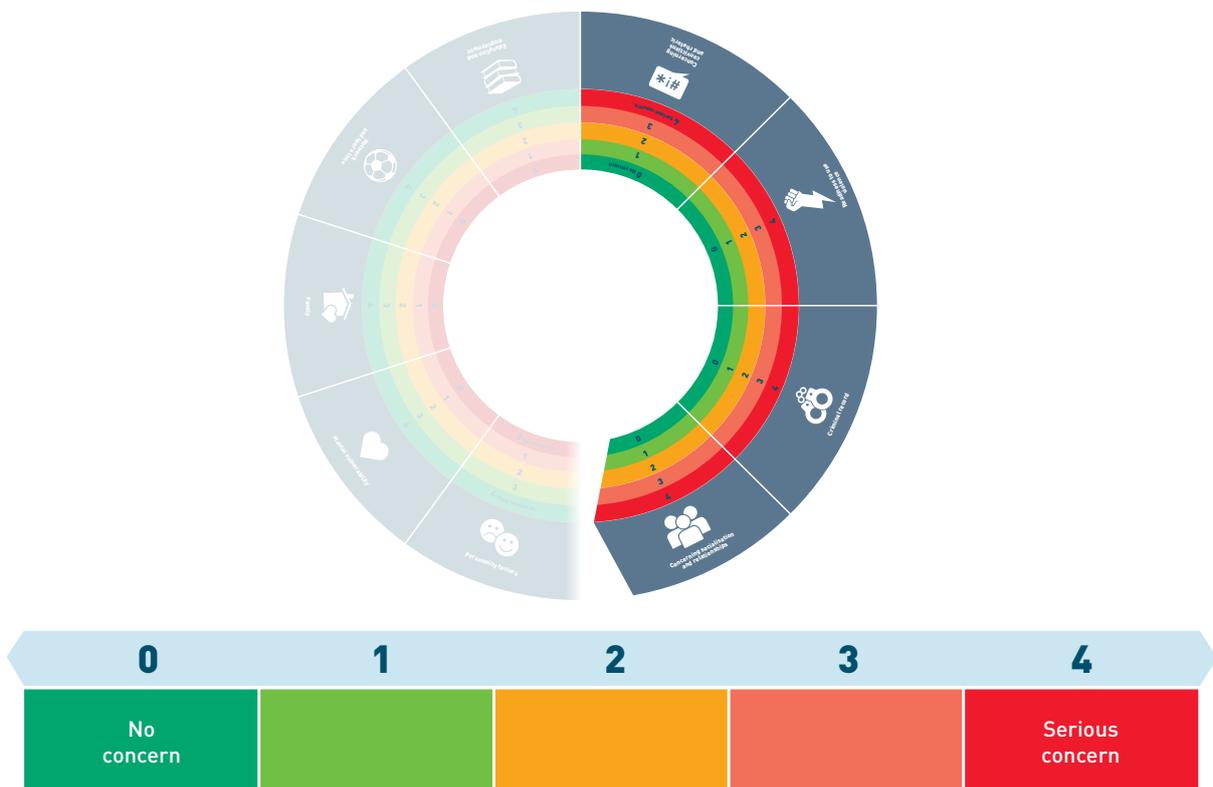
Dimension 1 - Concerning convictions and rhetoric

Definition of concerning convictions and rhetoric

The dimension *concerning convictions and rhetoric* should be understood as being when an individual agrees with and expresses the will to carry out illegal actions (violence, vandalism, etc.) on the basis of an extreme conviction or interpretation of an ideology or religion. The important thing is not whether an individual is associated with a certain ideology, religion or viewpoint, but rather to be aware of the concerning convictions and the rhetoric that legitimises and encourages violence or other illegal acts and which indicate a particular cause for concern about extremism.

What are the causes for concern in the dimension?

Have a group discussion based on the knowledge and data available about what the causes for concern are in relation to the relevant individual – or the individual's context – based on the dimension *concerning convictions and rhetoric.*

Attention points that can guide the dialogue

The attention points below can guide, elaborate on and provide nuances to the dialogue about what the concerns are regarding the person in question and his/her *concerning convictions and rhetoric.* Here it will also be revealed if there is a lack of information/knowledge that should be included.

Attention points

- Expresses that he or she feels connected to an ideology or admits to following an extreme version of a religion that justifies violence.

- Rejects democracy and universal human rights.

- Expresses intolerant views towards other ideologies, religions, sexual orientations, ethnicities, etc.

- Speaks about 'absolute solutions', for example, killing or expelling a certain group

- Uses violent, simple and absolute arguments.

- Is obsessed with a certain person or specific cause

- Identifies with mythical, extremist or historical characters.

- Spreads extremist ideological messages or extremist religious messages, including online.

- Displays an interest in participating in conflicts or training activities abroad which involve extremist groups.

- Expresses a desire/willingness to die for a cause.

- Expresses anger against the system, certain legislation or certain authorities.

- Expresses anger, hate, frustrations, etc. towards local or global events.

- Uses totalitarian symbols, perhaps on their clothing or as tattoos or via posters in their room or their home.

- Searches for information/knowledge among extremist literature and extremist materials and/or is active on extremist websites.

- Attempts to pressure/recruit others to embrace his/her ideology or religion and is preaching and moralising.

- Has changed his/her personality and distances himself/herself from former aspects of himself/herself.

- Distances himself/herself from family and friends because they are not righteous/ideologically correct enough.

- Dehumanises groups and individuals and views others as enemies.

Analysis of concerning convictions and rhetoric

Give a total score for the concern about *concerning convictions and rhetoric* based on the dialogue. The scale below should be used to score the dimension.

0	1	2	3	4
No concern				Serious concern
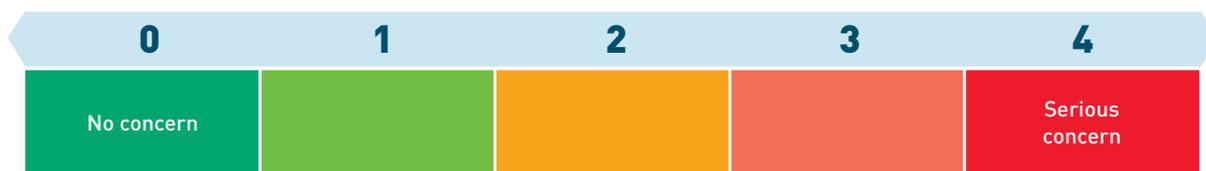
Write the background for the total score for the dimension *concerning convictions and rhetoric* (fill out below).

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If more data collection/information is needed, state this in the field below (also feel free to state who has this information – for example, authorities or collaborating entities, and also perhaps who will be in charge of collecting it).

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If there are any other comments or reflections, write these in the field below.

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Dimension 2 - Willingness to use violence

Definition of willingness to use violence

The dimension dealing with willingness to use violence is about whether the individual in question behaves violently or expresses the will to use violence. It can also be about whether the individual in question has the ability and capacity to harm himself/herself or others through violent acts. The research-based foundation for this dimension indicates that there is a disproportionately large amount of individuals fascinated by violence and with a history of violence who are involved in extremism.

What are the causes for concern in the dimension?

Have a group discussion based on the knowledge and data available about what the causes for concern are in relation to the individual in question - or the individual's context - based on the dimension *willingness to use violence.*

Attention points that can guide the dialogue

The attention points below can guide, elaborate on and provide nuances to the dialogue about what the concerns are regarding the person in question and his/her *willingness to use violence.* Here it will also be revealed if there is a lack of information/knowledge that should be included.

Attention points

- Accepts violence as a natural reaction.

- Glorifies violent actions, such as for example violence directed at certain groups or violence directed at symbolic targets.

- Communicates with others about harming certain targets.

- Participates in violent acts or violent clashes between groups.

- Has a history of violent acts.

- Demonstrates a fascination with and interest in weapons.

- Demonstrates a fascination with violence, for example, extreme fighting sports.

- Has knowledge of how to make and use weapons and/or explosives.

- Has received training in the making and use of weapons and/or explosives.

- Has weapons or knows how to acquire weapons, explosives or other items that can harm others.

Analysis of willingness to use violence

Based on the dialogue, give a total score for the dimension *willingness to use violence*. The scale below must be used for the score.

0	1	2	3	4
No concern				Serious concern
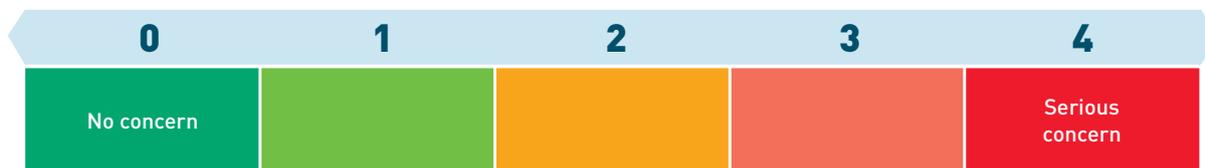
Write the background for the total score for *willingness to use violence* (fill out below).

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If more data collection/information is needed, state this in the field below (also feel free to state who has this information – for example, authorities or collaborating entities, and also perhaps who will be in charge of collecting it).

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If there are any other comments or reflections, write these in the field below.

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Dimension 3 - Criminal history

Definition of criminal history

The dimension *criminal history* is about whether the individual in question has committed recorded and/or non-recorded criminal acts. This concerns criminal acts in general, but there is a special focus on whether the criminal acts were against certain groups or symbolic targets and the seriousness of the criminal acts. Research demonstrates that individuals who have carried out criminal acts based on an extremist motive often have committed other criminal acts in the past, including violent crimes.

What are the causes for concern in the dimension?

Have a group discussion based on the knowledge and data available about what the causes for concern are in relation to the individual in question - or the individual's context - based on the dimension *criminal history.*

Attention points that can guide the dialogue

The attention points below can guide, elaborate on and provide nuances to the dialogue about what the concerns are regarding the person in question and his/her *criminal history.* Here it will also be revealed if there is a lack of information/knowledge that should be included.

Attention points

- Has committed recorded and/or non-recorded criminal acts.

For example:

- Criminal acts against *certain groups* such as homosexuals, politicians, ethnic minority groups, etc.

- Criminal acts against *symbolic targets* such as government-owned buildings, state symbols, the police, traffic junctions, sports events, etc.

- Criminal acts that are a danger to others.

- The seriousness of the criminal acts.

- History of crimes committed as a minor.

- History of association with organised crime.

Analysis of criminal history

Based on the dialogue, give a total score for the dimension *criminal history.* The scale below must be used for the score.

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No concern				Serious concern
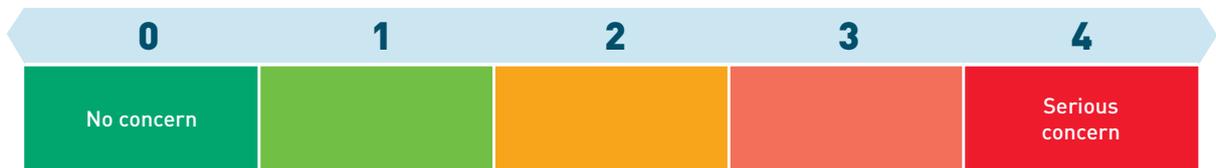
Write the background for the total score for *criminal history* (fill out below)

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If more data collection/information is needed, state this in the field below (also feel free to state who has this information – for example, authorities or collaborating entities, and also perhaps who will be in charge of collecting it).

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If there are any other comments or reflections, write these in the field below.

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Dimension 4 - Concerning socialisation and relationships

Definition of concerning socialisation and relationships

The dimension *concerning socialisation and relationships* deals with the individual's way of interacting with other people such as, for example, when the individual is moving away from or towards certain communities or having social ties with like-minded people. This may include people/groups with an extremist interpretation of reality who might already be involved in extremist communities. Research shows that extremism is very much a process of socialisation – therefore, if the individual is moving around in certain communities or if he or she is in contact with certain individuals then this may be an indication that there is a particular cause for concern about extremism.

What are the causes for concern in the dimension?

Have a group discussion based on the knowledge and data available about what the causes for concern are in relation to the relevant individual – or the individual's context – based on the dimension *concerning socialisation and relationships.*

Attention points that can guide the dialogue

The attention below can guide, elaborate on and provide nuances to the dialogue about what the concerns are regarding the person in question and his/her *concerning socialisation and relationships.* Here it will also be revealed if there is a lack of information/knowledge that should be included.

Attention points

- Sees himself/herself as being an outsider in established communities or being in opposition to them.

- Is oriented towards closed or excluding communities, including online communities.

- Has a close (perhaps recent) contact with people who are known criminals and/or who have extremist views.

- Has close (perhaps recent) contact with people who have extremist beliefs and who might already be involved in extremist communities.

- In contact with a *presumed* radicaliser

- Is associated with a closed or extremist group.

- Status in the group (leadership position, peripheral association, a full member, new to the group, etc.)

- The group's reward system - for example, gaining status through acts of violence or criminal acts.

- Is the individual in question willing to take risks to be accepted into a group?

- Has been rejected as a *member* of other groups.

- Has been a *member* of other groups

- Is in *bad standing* in a group – for example, owes money, broke the code, owes favours, etc.

- The individual's family/friends express concern that the individual in question is pulling away from them and/or getting involved with certain concerning groups.

Analysis of concerning socialisation and relationships

Based on the dialogue, give a total score for the dimension *concerning socialisation and relationships.* The scale below must be used for the score.

0	1	2	3	4
No concern				Serious concern
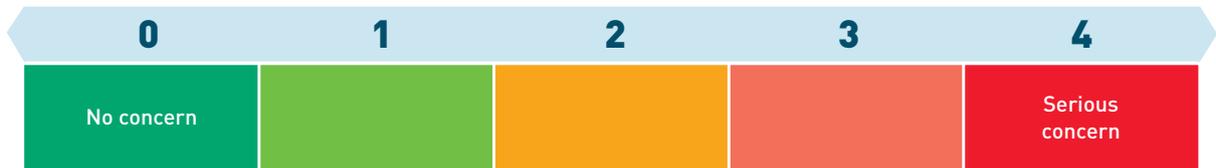
Write the background for the total score for *concerning socialisation and relationships* (fill out below).

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If there are any other comments or reflections, write these in the field below.

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