

TerRa

Terrorism and Radicalisation



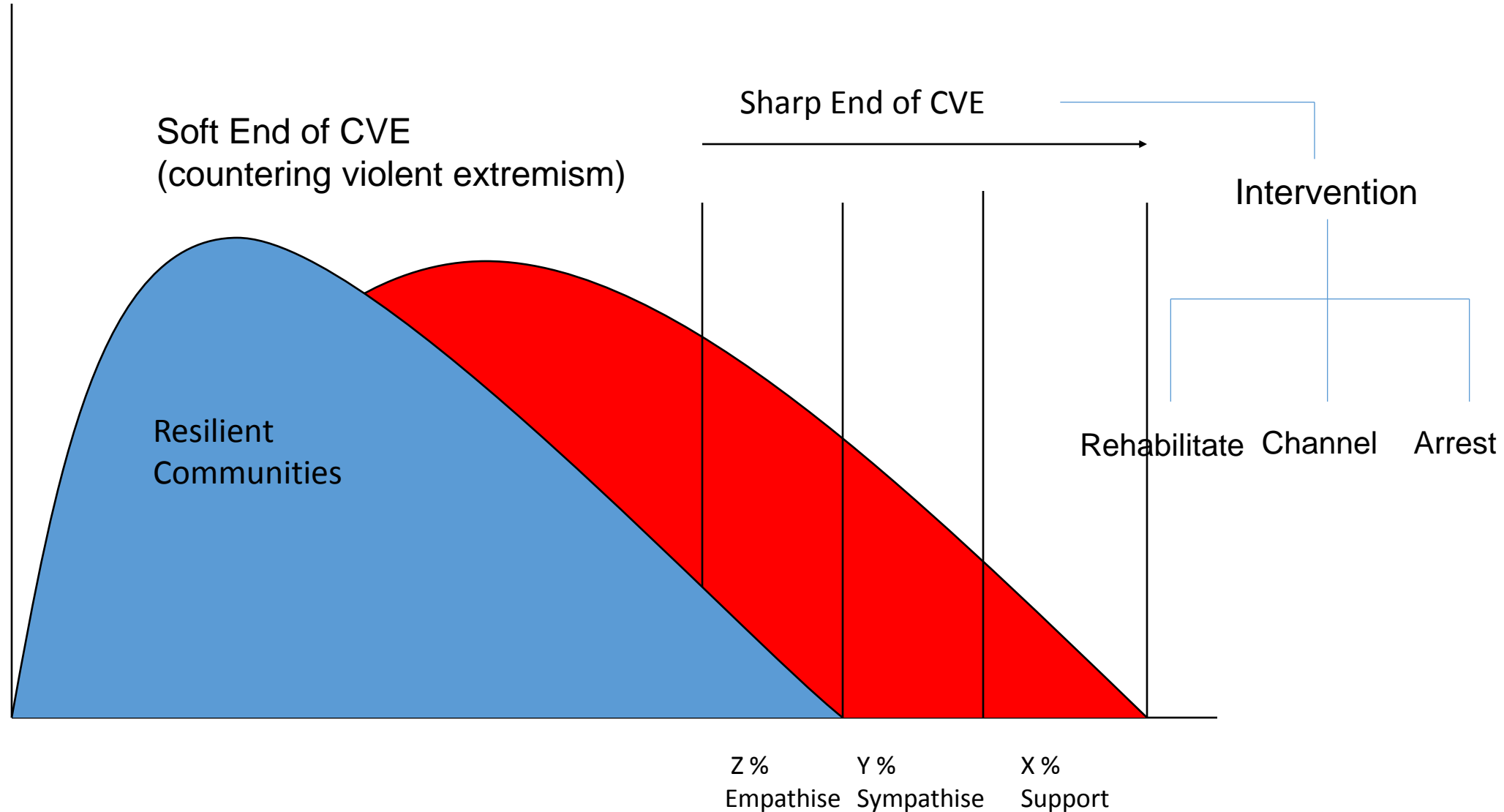
European Network based
prevention and learning program

Pathways to Islamist Radicalisation

What is Islamism ?

- Political ideology - seeks political hegemony
- Assumes - a more or less single interpretation of faith as a political creed and system
- Medieval political point of view with modern ideological assumption - modern framework, medieval political mind-set, pre-modern laws
- Caliphate - modern ideological state/empire to dominate the world and enforce their version of Islamic faith
- Social vs Socialism – Islam vs Islamism
- Underpinned with Salafi Theology – Potent mixture and designed to fight

Importance of Tackling The Root Cause



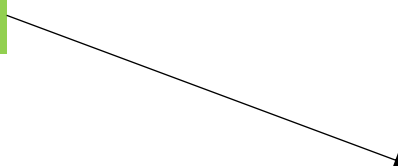
Pathways

SOCIAL COHESION

**SOFT END
COMBATING IDEOLOGY/THEOLOGY**

**SHARP END
INTERVENTION**

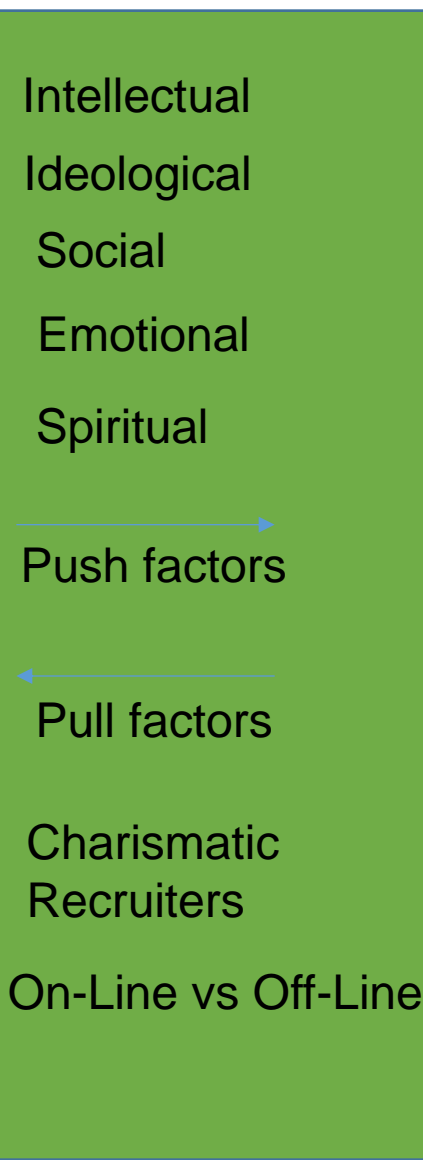
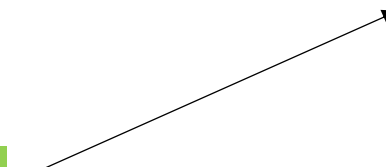
Personal Grievances



Partial Grievances



Perceived Grievances



Utopian IS
A belief in a world view where the west is at war with Islam

Theological Justification

Revenge

Mental Health

GRIEVANCES

LENS

SOLUTIONS

Mosques

Mosques **themselves** – in my opinion they are not the main source of terrorist activities.

But this requires elaboration:

- Some mosques allow all groups to operate e.g. Hizb ut Tahrir holding Arabic classes
- Some Mosques led by people who support extremist ideology
- Activists who are not part of mosque but operate from there
- Some institutions theology is sympathetic to certain brands of terrorism and extremism i.e. Salafism

Online Extremism

- No such thing as self radicalisation - Some individuals who already have “cause” or “motivation” and then seek to find information
- Those individuals who see it as a place for anonymously spreading their ideology and theology - either through direct one way propaganda, and those who see those forums where “theological/jurisprudential” discussions can take place. Justify and further radicalize those with sympathies, and meet like-minded individuals.
- Finding a community to belong to - researchers have stated that this is a common practice with all sorts of deviant behaviours whether suicide pacts, cults etc.. Reinforcing the beliefs and world view and further strengthening such beliefs.

M. Sageman (2008) **Leaderless Jihad** – The internet has:

- Lowered the age of the average recruit
- Increased the participation of females
- Decreased the sophistication and effectiveness of terrorist attacks
- Social media Platforms & forums – can act as engine of transformation; however, individuals seek and select sites most compatible with their views

Higher/Further Education

- 47% Convicted terrorists UK attended Universities
- 6 convicted terrorists – former presidents of Islamic Societies in University
- Apparent mainstream institutions endorsing extremist preachers
- Violent terrorist supporters and their activists have been operating on campus
- The politicized discourses which prevent an objective analysis taking place
- Institutionally there are little to no resources invested in this area
- . There has been no objective criterion to differentiate
 - what are the groups and institutions that we are engaging with actually take as their political and theological stand points?
 - what is an acceptable minimal threshold and how do we define it?
- Counter campaigns against the prevalent totalitarian voices need to be facilitated
- Resources to support not merely criticize Universities need to be put in place

Prisons

- Existing tensions are heightened - cultures of racism and prejudice have been addressed over the last few years within prisons but there are still tensions which exist within intra-prison “communities” and those communities and staff
- Lack of awareness of mainstream staff of the theological and ideological realities they are dealing with
- Lack of grounded evidence based training for staff on actual evidence based characteristics and behaviours to be aware of when dealing with such cases
- Isolating extremist/terrorist preachers and activists from the wider Muslims populace - how can this be justified? How can it be done? How can interaction be regulated
- What are successful interventions and unsuccessful ones?