

Reporting Online Material Promoting Terrorism or Extremism – Your Questions Answered

The internet can be used by some people to promote, glorify or help carry out acts of terrorism and extremism. It can give terrorists instant access to huge audiences across the world, with the opportunity to influence vulnerable individuals. Tackling extremist material is important to protect the public and prevent offences that incite or encourage acts of terrorism.

The national Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) was the first specialist police unit in the world set up to tackle the proliferation of illegal terrorist and harmful extremist content on the internet.

The unit works with service providers to instigate the removal of terrorist and extremist material online which breaks their terms of service. Once such material has been identified, the service provider will be sent a request from the CTIRU asking them to remove the material. Publication of such material can also lead to those who post it being investigated for offences under the Terrorist Act 2006.

If you come across any material on internet sites, chat rooms or other web-based forums that you believe may be of an extremist or terrorist nature you can help stop it from being there by reporting it online via **gov.uk/ACT**. It will then be assessed by the CTIRU who will work with service providers to seek the removal of any content that breaches terrorism legislation.

Content that you might want to report could include:

- Articles, images speeches or videos that promote terrorism or encourage violence
- Content encouraging people to commit acts of terrorism
- Websites made by terrorist or extremist organisations
- Videos of terrorist attacks.

1. How do I know if material I come across on the internet has illegal terrorist or extremist content?

Examples of illegal terrorist or extremist content could include:

Articles, images, speeches or videos that promote terrorism or encourage violence

Content encouraging people to commit acts of terrorism

Websites made by terrorists or extremist organisations

Videos of terrorist attacks.

2. What should I do if I come across material that I believe has illegal terrorist or extremist content?

If you come across material on internet sites, social media or other web-based forums, you can report your concerns to the police online by visiting [gov.uk/ACT](https://www.gov.uk/act), where you will be directed to a short, anonymous form where you will be asked to enter the address of the webpage where you saw the material.

3. Will I have to give my name or contact details?

Police will only receive the information you submit on your referral form - you can do this anonymously. You will not be asked to give your name or any other details.

4. Who will look into my report?

When you report a concern through the online reporting tool, the details are sent to the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) - a specialist UK police unit. The referral will be assessed by officers, and, where appropriate, they will work with partners and industry bodies to remove it.

The CTIRU also proactively trawls the web every day, looking for and seeking the removal of the material which acts as source of inspiration for extremists, terrorists and is often a means of radicalising vulnerable people.

5. Does the material get automatically removed?

The CTIRU will work with industry to instigate the removal of terrorist and extremist material that breaches legislation and the host's terms of service. Once such material has been identified the host will be sent a request asking them to remove the material.

6. What happens if the material is hosted overseas?

Where the content is hosted in other countries outside of UK jurisdiction, the CTIRU will work with law enforcement counterparts abroad to help target websites based overseas.

7. What happens to people who post this material?

Publication of such material can lead to those who post it being investigated for offences under the Terrorism Act 2006.

8. How will I know what action has been taken?

If you attempt to access the account you originally referred and are unable to, it may be assumed that the account has been removed.

If you wish to be updated regarding your referral, you can leave your contact details if you wish.

However, 'action' can take many forms - this could include the removal of a social media account or website or a full investigation. Depending on what action is taken and any operational sensitivities it may not always be appropriate to update you.

9. Is it ok for me to forward the material or a link to it on someone else?

Don't be tempted to forward on the material you have found or show it to someone as this could be classed as an offence. Once you have reported the material the police will assess whether it is of an extremist or terrorist nature and take appropriate action.

10. Will the people who have posted the material online be able to tell that I have reported them to the police?

No, your report will remain anonymous.