

## Rising to the Challenge of Radical Indoctrination

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Radical indoctrination has risen to the forefront of the global dialogue because of its profound effects in the Western world, and its success against key values and principles of the liberal arena.

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The importance of responding to the challenge of radical indoctrination can be understood when it is made clear that such phenomena has the potential to destabilize liberal democratic societies and undermine their core values. The matter has become urgent since the Western world is presently losing the battle against radicalization.

There are several identifiable danger zones in which radicalization occurs. These include the Mosque, where religious connections are utilized in order to introduce radical beliefs and Universities, where students are approached on campus and then taken off campus for further and more intensive indoctrination. In addition, the prison system has become an important location in which radicalization occurs, precisely because the prison authorities often do not recognize the process and therefore allow it to continue unheeded. Recently the internet has been used as a gateway for organizations to support and facilitate the spread of radical indoctrination. The internet is particularly effective because there are no geographical boundaries and beliefs are able to move throughout the world instantaneously.

It is clear that governments must take action to respond to this threat. Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones

highlighted the need for governments to confront those who promote radical indoctrination. The narrative of Muslim victimization and grievance worldwide must be confronted by pointing out the inadequacies and falsehoods which they contain. In addition, it is critical that government policies -remain consistent both locally and abroad. Lastly, the government should work with the communities in order to make them resilient against the process of radicalization itself. By working with individuals in the communities rather than the group as a whole, it will undermine the appeal of extremism for those most vulnerable to it. The majority of Muslims in European countries, for example, are in fact mainstream and moderate. However, their voices are drowned out by the radical; the latter must not be given recognition by government contact.



Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones [photo: Ori Porat]

In order to counter the radical narrative it is also crucial to actively

promote a counter story for instance, in the case of Britain, to promote what it means to be British. It is impossible try to dissuade individuals or groups from one narrative, albeit radical, if there is nothing else for them to turn to. Furthermore, national integration strategies must be combined with a focus on cross-cultural contact. Children must be able to meet, for example in schools. Within a single country there cannot remain a situation where different groups can continue to exist without cross-cultural contact, and therefore without any possibility for integration.



[photo: Ori Porat]

Another strategy that can prove successful in fighting against radicalization is blocking the dissemination of extremist material. Rather than a passive approach, this active one requires significant effort and investment. Yet it is unacceptable to allow the speech, which clearly supports radical indoctrination to continue. Such steps would essentially condone indoctrination, and therefore need to be aggressively fought.

The fundamentals of a free society must be protected against the radical indoctrination that has taken hold in many nations. By combating radical narratives we can rise to the challenge of radical indoctrination and protect our liberal values.