**Child radicalisation:**

**NSPCC to advise concerned parents**

**A charity has trained its counsellors to help parents who fear their children are being radicalised.**

The NSPCC said its existing support line could now advise parents worried about extremists grooming a child. It said counsellors had been trained to spot warning signs such as children isolating themselves or "talking as if from a scripted speech".

Recent terror attacks "highlighted the growing problem of individuals being influenced by extremism", it added.

The charity said it had already started getting calls to its [**free, 24-hour helpline**](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/) from people worried about the problem.

A spokesperson for NSPCC said that counsellors explain how extremist recruiters "befriend vulnerable targets, feed them ideologies and - in the worst-case scenario - persuade them to commit terrorist attacks".

The charity said potential targets often had low self-esteem, were members of gangs, or were victims of bullying or discrimination.

Radicals tell them they can be "part of something special, and brainwash them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family", it added.

Signs which may "hint at a child being radicalised" include children:

* Isolating themselves from family and friends
* Talking as if from a scripted speech
* Showing increased levels of anger
* Becoming disrespectful and asking inappropriate questions.

NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless said: "The fact that a young person might hold extreme or radical views is not a safeguarding issue in itself.

"But when young people are groomed for extremist purposes and encouraged to commit acts that could hurt themselves or others, then it becomes abuse."

The charity is advising concerned parents to:

* Look out for any signs of radicalisation
* Talk to the child and encourage an open conversation - ask them why they are feeling a certain way or why they have certain views
* Contact the NSPCC for further advice
* If a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999

**The charity's counsellors can also advise parents on how to talk to children who are anxious about terrorism or upset by recent attacks, such as those in**[**France**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-33288542)**and** [**Germany**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-36882445)**.**

**The helpline number is 0808 800 5000 and callers can remain anonymous.**