



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

# New Zealand's Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy

Bringing our nation together to protect  
all New Zealanders from terrorism and  
violent extremism of all kinds

## Prime Minister's foreword



Tēnā koutou,

The terror attack on the Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch on 15 March 2019 was unprecedented in New Zealand.

51 Shuhadah died, many were injured, and Muslim communities were deeply impacted. The rest of the country embraced them, and we have made it clear that radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism have no place in New Zealand.

While the aim of terrorism is to shake our beliefs and divide us, New Zealand instead responded with compassion, empathy and solidarity.

New Zealand has never been immune to terrorism and violent extremism – no country can be. We planned to respond and recover from a terrorist event, but never wanted those plans to be put to use.

New Zealand's Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy details how government undertakes its responsibility to keep Aotearoa safe for all New Zealanders.

The focus of the strategy is preventing terrorism and violent extremism by combatting radicalisation in all forms and building a society that is safe, diverse, and inclusive – one in which all individuals and groups have a sense of belonging, inclusion, participation, recognition and legitimacy.

As a Government we are committed to listening to and empowering communities and providing support to those who need it.

We are committed to eliminating violent and extremist content online, and working with international partners and organisations, through initiatives such as the Christchurch Call to Action. We will continue working with our international partners to share information and best-practice, to help combat extremism wherever it may appear.

Government's contribution, however, is only part of the story. He Whenua Taurikura, New Zealand's annual hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism, which brings together government with communities, civil society, the private sector, academia and the media, is a key opportunity to build expertise, networks, and resilience.

I wish all attendees the best.

*Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa  
Let us keep close together, not wide apart*

**Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern**

Prime Minister

2021



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# 01

## Our vision

Bringing our nation together to protect all New Zealanders from terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds

Our strategy to prevent and counter all forms of terrorism and violent extremism is about working together as a nation. Prevention is our priority. We will increase our understanding of the issues, work collectively, build resilient communities and whānau, and address the underlying causes of violent extremism. We will ensure Aotearoa New Zealand's systems and capabilities are ready to identify and act early to reduce risks, and to respond to and recover from events.

This strategy aims to secure Aotearoa New Zealand from the threat of terrorism and violent extremism, and to ensure that all communities, iwi, hapū, whānau and individuals feel secure. This strategy also reaffirms the Government's commitment to international efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism regionally and globally.

Our network  
**New Zealanders**



Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to preventing and countering all forms of terrorism and violent extremism is based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, human rights, open government norms, and the principle of proportionality.

We will achieve our aim by:

**Working in partnership**

The government will work in partnership with the public, communities, the private sector, local government and others, focusing on reducing and mitigating the risks of terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds to New Zealand and our citizens, residents and visitors.

**Ensuring that as a nation we connect with each other**

If we see something that concerns us, we will say something, and we will know what to do to keep ourselves safe.

**Supporting the efforts of the international community**

We will continue to work closely with international partners to counter terrorism and violent extremism at the global, regional and national levels.

**Focusing on prevention**

Prevention is our priority, while having the right capabilities across government, coordinated by an agile and effective national security system and enabled by fit for purpose legislation, so that when we need to act, we can do so cohesively, responsively, ethically and efficiently.

### Underpinned by



legislation



governance



public information



responsive National Security System



capabilities

# 02

## Nature of the risk, June 2021

### New Zealand's terrorism and violent extremism challenges

Violent extremism is an evolving threat, driven by increasingly complex and convoluted ideologies. Terrorism continues to threaten the safety of individuals and the cohesion of communities, globally and in New Zealand. Common drivers of violent extremism include polarisation within a society, divisions between and within political, religious and identity groups, and real and perceived threats to the identity, values, power and status of a group.

#### Global trends

Globally, the two most high profile forms of violent extremism are faith motivated (of any kind, but exemplified over the last decade by individuals associated with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, ISIL) – and identity motivated, particularly adherents to a White Identity

Extremism<sup>1</sup> ideology, such as the Christchurch terrorist. Other forms, including politically motivated extremism and single issue extremism, are of concern but less prominent.

While ISIL has lost its territorial “caliphate” in Iraq and Syria, it still inspires attacks globally through its propaganda, financing and support to followers. ISIL continues to pose a significant threat in ungoverned and unstable areas worldwide, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Over the past several years, increased attention has been drawn to the threat of White Identity Extremism, including in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and North America. Such extremists are

<sup>1</sup> Describes extreme racial ideologies and beliefs that are focussed on real or perceived threats to concepts of a white, ethnic-European culture and identity.

often lone actors and small groups mainly communicating online. The Christchurch terrorist continues to be glorified in White Identity Extremist circles, and his actions have inspired terrorist attacks in the US and Europe since March 2019.

The internet continues to be abused by violent extremists. Anonymity, accessibility, the privacy provided by encryption, and the challenges for governments, companies and civil society of keeping ahead of technology, provide an enabling environment. Violent extremists from across the ideological spectrum use the internet to recruit, share knowledge and plan attacks. Online extremist narratives can have a rapid radicalising effect, meaning that violent extremists inspired by various ideologies can emerge with little or no forewarning.

#### New Zealand's terrorism environment

Violent extremist narratives in New Zealand are influenced by international trends and can be adapted to the New Zealand context. For example, the 2019 Christchurch terrorist attack, grievances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, international political and social tensions and conflicts, and extremist content on the internet, have all influenced the New Zealand terrorism threat environment over the past year.

Consistent with the global picture, identity-motivated and faith-motivated violent extremism are the most prominent forms of violent extremism in New Zealand today. Similarly, politically- and single issue-motivated violent extremism remain of concern, but have less overt support in the public space.

The Christchurch terrorist attack will likely have a long-term effect on violent extremism in New Zealand. The attack is still discussed

## What is terrorism, violent extremism and extremism?

**Terrorism.** Under New Zealand law, a terrorist act is defined as an ideologically, politically, or religiously motivated act – including, but not limited to, those causing death or serious bodily injury – intended to intimidate a population, or to compel the government to do or not do certain things.

**Violent extremism.** The justification of violence with the aim of radically changing the nature of government, religion or society. This violence is often targeted against groups seen as threatening violent extremists' success or survival, or undermining their world view.

**Extremism.** Religious, social or political belief systems that exist substantially outside of more broadly accepted belief systems in large parts of society, and are often seen as objectionable to large parts of society. Extreme ideologies may seek radical changes in the nature of government, religion or society or to create a community based on their ideology.

*This strategy focuses on extremist narratives, activities and movements only where they cross, or intend to cross, into violence. Non-violent forms of extremism, however objectionable, lie outside this mandate.*

among the small number of New Zealand-based White Identity Extremists, and the attack and the terrorist's livestream video and manifesto continue to circulate online. As a result, there remains a realistic possibility the Christchurch attacks could inspire a copycat or retaliatory attack in New Zealand.

Support for ISIL in New Zealand has very likely declined as the group's physical presence in its core territory of Iraq and Syria has been degraded.

There are a small number of New Zealand-based extremists who continue to support ISIL. Should the group rebound, splinter, or if a new group emerges with a similar ideology, there will likely be renewed attention from New Zealand-based faith-motivated violent extremists.

**Outlook**

Globally, extremist ideologies are likely to become more varied, and individuals will increasingly draw from a range of inspirations to justify their actions. Most attacks will likely continue to be unsophisticated, and lone-actor attacks will remain common. Violent extremists are highly likely to continue to focus on accessible, “soft” targets, such as crowded places and symbolic locations. Groups will likely continue to learn tactics from each other, and the internet will almost certainly continue to enable radicalisation and recruitment.

In New Zealand, if a terrorist attack happens over the next 12 months, it will likely be carried out by a lone actor who resorts to violence without forewarning.

**The national terrorism threat level**

The national terrorism threat level is a scale of five levels that provides an assessment of the

likelihood of a terrorism incident. It is designed as a tool to inform and guide government risk assessment and risk management activity.

As of June 2021, the national terrorism threat level is MEDIUM; a terrorist attack is feasible and could well occur. The threat level is under continual evaluation and takes into account specific domestic considerations and relevant international threat factors.

The Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG), an autonomous inter-agency group hosted by the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS), is responsible for reviewing and recommending the national terrorism threat level. The assessed threat level is set by the Director-General of Security. The Officials Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination (ODESC) considers the appropriate response and recommendations are made to ministers, including the Prime Minister.

A change in threat level is used to determine government planning and risk management, and to advise agencies so they can take any further appropriate measures. A change in the threat level does not necessarily require a specific response from the public.

Threat Level	Likelihood Assessment
Extreme	Terrorist attack, or violent criminal behaviour, or violent protest activity is expected.
High	Terrorist attack, or violent criminal behaviour, or violent protest activity is assessed as highly likely.
Medium	Terrorist attack, or violent criminal behaviour, or violent protest activity is assessed as feasible and could well occur.
Low	Terrorist attack, or violent criminal behaviour, or violent protest activity is assessed as a realistic possibility.
Very low	Terrorist attack, or violent criminal behaviour, or violent protest activity is assessed as unlikely.

**Table: CTAG Threat Level Definitions<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> New Zealand's current national terrorism threat level and information about counter-terrorism and wider national security is available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) [website](#).

# 03

## Delivering the vision

### Our framework: focused on reduction

The following pages provide an overview of the four priority areas for this strategy and the actions that we will take to deliver the vision of bringing our nation together to protect all New Zealanders from terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds.

This framework is built around New Zealand’s holistic and integrated approach to managing national security risk, known as the 4Rs:

- » **Reduction** — identifying and analysing long-term risks and taking steps to eliminate these risks if practicable, or if not, to reduce their likelihood and the magnitude of their impact.
- » **Readiness** — developing operational systems and capabilities before an emergency happens.
- » **Response** — taking action immediately before, during or directly after a significant event.

- » **Recovery** — using coordinated efforts and processes to bring about immediate, medium-term, and long-term regeneration.

Under this strategy, these 4Rs have been distilled into four pillars of:

- I. **mōhio** — understand
- II. **mahi tahi** — work together
- III. **whakahōtaetae** — prevent
- IV. **takatū** — be ready to respond and recover

**Within these pillars, our focus is on prevention.**

An annual work programme accompanies the strategy. The work programme outlines a range of actions to advance these priority areas and our national capabilities.

Delivery of the work programme across government is coordinated by the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Committee (CTCC), reporting to the Security and Intelligence Board (SIB) of Chief Executives.

The CTCC was established in 2015, to bring together the significant pieces of work to counter terrorism and violent extremism being led by different agencies across government, and to collectively deliver improvements to the counter-terrorism system at a national level.

The key responsibilities of the CTCC are therefore to implement this strategy by:

- » Supporting strategic decision-making and action, including by providing advice and recommendations to SIB Chief Executives.
- » Coordinating and driving inter-agency work to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

This strategy and work programme is supported by a range of plans, strategies and information developed to address specific aspects of this work.

These supporting elements include:

- » National Security System (NSS) Handbook.
- » Counter-Terrorism Handbook.
- » Terrorism Risk Profile.
- » Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack: New Zealand's Strategy.
- » National Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Strategy.
- » Christchurch Call to Action to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.

Our framework is focused on reduction





## mōhio — understand

### *We're aware and informed*

We detect and understand the threat, while our people look out for each other and know what to do when something happens.

#### Objectives:

- » New Zealanders have the information they need to be aware, engaged and stay safe.
- » Our security agencies have the right capabilities to detect and understand the threat to New Zealand.
- » We share appropriate information across the public and private sector.

Building a shared and clear, evidence-based understanding of the evolving challenge of violent extremism and terrorism and their underlying causes is essential if we are to take effective action to prevent them.

Violent extremism is a complex issue and research into its nature, extent and causes in New Zealand should be multi-disciplinary and the knowledge

base shared widely. Global, regional and local contexts are important for understanding current and emerging violent extremism trends and ideologies, as are related and overlapping issues, such as the spread of conspiracy theories and mis- and dis-information.

New Zealand universities and other research institutes have a key role in building this national understanding and leading constructive dialogue, together with government agencies, the media, civil society and communities.

Within government, the multi-agency CTAG is responsible for assessing the threat of terrorism, including for setting the national terrorism threat level. The NZSIS is responsible for detecting, investigating and understanding

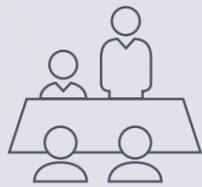
individual terrorism threats, working closely with New Zealand Police's investigative and intelligence teams. A range of government agencies contribute to our overall understanding of the risk environment.

To promote research and understanding of terrorism and violent extremism, we will establish and support a National Centre of Excellence. The centre will bring together academia, civil society and government to research preventing and countering violent extremism, with a focus on approaches that build resilience through embracing diversity and promoting social cohesion. This centre will help inform public discussion, raise awareness of these issues and guide the work of policy agencies across government.

We will also host He Whenua Taurikura ('a country at peace'), New Zealand's hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism. This annual hui will build understanding and stimulate dialogue, as well as promoting research and innovative thinking, with the goal of helping us to work together as a nation.

Together, the National Centre of Excellence and He Whenua Taurikura will provide a focus for reliable, evidence-based public information that accurately reflects the nature of the risk, fostered within sensitive, respectful and constructive conversations and dialogue.

Agencies across government will also increase public information sharing, and coordinate to ensure consistent, clear information is provided in a timely manner. Several agencies – in particular New Zealand Police and the NZSIS – have a key role in ensuring New Zealanders have the information they need to be aware, engaged and stay safe.



## **mahi tahi** — work together *Partnerships are key*

We work collectively as a nation to reduce the risk of terrorism and violent extremism.

### Objectives:

- » Our capabilities across government are integrated, effective, efficient, and reflect our values.
- » We work in partnership with the public, communities, the private sector and local government.
- » We work with our international partners to identify and prevent terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds.

*Everyone has an important role to play in preventing harm in our communities.*

By taking a partnership approach and building resilience to terrorism and violent extremism together, we will reduce the risk for all New Zealanders.

Government has primary responsibility for preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from terrorist attacks or similar incidents in New Zealand. Government agencies work together on various aspects of counter-terrorism, from prevention and preparation to response and recovery. Agencies will continue to build partnerships with iwi, hapū, whānau, communities, business, academia and society to collectively develop our capabilities.

Our security agencies work closely together to detect and investigate threats, and to share information and resources to enable effective preventative action.

However, the security agencies cannot manage the risk of terrorism and violent extremism alone, and effective prevention involves many agencies outside the security sector. Across government, the implementation of this strategy is coordinated and driven by the multi-agency CTCC.

He Whenua Taurikura, New Zealand's hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism, will provide an annual focal point for working collectively as a nation to reduce the risk. The hui will bring together a wide range of participants and perspectives from across our society, to collectively examine challenges and opportunities, share insights and expertise, and advance solutions.

The National Centre of Excellence for preventing and countering violent extremism will lead a new Advisory Group on Counter-Terrorism to provide advice to government, including on building multi-sector engagement and collaboration. This group will include broad membership from across

a range of sectors with informed perspectives on terrorism and violent extremism.

New Zealand will also continue to work closely with international partners and contribute to global efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. New Zealand is an active participant in regional and multilateral initiatives, and we share information, learning and best-practice with many international jurisdictions and partner nations.

New Zealand, alongside France, leads the global implementation of the Christchurch Call to Action to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. This unique, multi-stakeholder (industry, governments and civil society) initiative has made considerable progress since its launch in May 2019. This includes the reform of the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, and a detailed collaborative work programme to tackle terrorist and violent extremist content online.



## whakahōtaetae — prevent

### *Prevention is our priority*

We focus our efforts and capabilities on effective, long-term prevention.

Objectives:

- » Our inclusive society addresses the causes of violent extremism.
- » We support those in need and promote the disengagement and rehabilitation of people engaged with violent extremist ideologies.
- » Enabled by appropriate legislation, we act early and proportionately to prevent attacks and keep people safe.
- » We safeguard and build resilience in our communities, especially those at higher risk.
- » Those responsible for the safety of others know and meet their obligations.

Our strongest defence against the corrosive effects of terrorism is an inclusive society, resilient to hate and violent extremism. Our shared values

and identity, social cohesion, and stable and inclusive institutions are our greatest strengths.

Promoting and enhancing social cohesion is important for many reasons and will underpin our prevention approach, playing an essential role in helping to address the causes of hate and violent extremism.

We will work collectively to build strong, resilient communities and whānau that are able to help prevent extremism from arising, and identify, challenge and address it should it emerge.

We need to ensure the safety and security of all hapū, iwi, and hāpori in New Zealand. As part of this, the establishment of the New Zealand Police programme Te Raranga, The Weave, will make improvements in Police's frontline practice

to identify, record, and manage hate crime, and deliver a service that is more responsive to victims.

In addition, the government will provide direct support to communities that may be at higher risk of being targeted by violent extremists. The Safer Communities Fund, created in 2019, has provided funding for enhancements to physical sites for improved security at some places of worship across the country. Agencies responsible for security will continue to work in partnership with these communities to jointly develop ways to reduce the risk and build confidence.

New Zealand Police will also lead He Aranga Ake (formerly MACIP), an early intervention programme. This will aim to prevent terrorism and violent extremism by working with individuals displaying concerning behaviour and directing their behaviour away from violent extremism and violent acts of hate by providing wrap around services and support.

Our work to enhance New Zealand's capabilities to prevent terrorism and violent extremism will also include:

- » Strengthening our counter-terrorism laws, to ensure we are able to act early and proportionately to help prevent attacks and work to keep people safe.
- » Continuing to implement "Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack", our strategy to help owners and operators of crowded places to protect the lives of people working in, using and visiting their crowded place.
- » Enhancing the ability of government and non-government partners to deter and respond to objectionable extremist content online.
- » Continuing to combat terrorist financing and support, including through the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009, and our terrorist designations regime.



## takatū — ready to respond and recover

*We're prepared*

We take a victim-centred approach, responding swiftly to protect lives and working in partnership to support recovery.

### Objectives:

- » We focus on protecting lives and supporting victims.
- » We have the right capabilities and legislation to allow us to respond effectively and efficiently.
- » Our National Security System and responsible agencies are coordinated, practiced and responsive.
- » We look after our people, and support the recovery of individuals and communities.

No country can completely eliminate the risk of a terrorist incident occurring. Terrorism can occur at the extremes of any ideology, cause or belief system. We must therefore always be ready to respond and recover if a terrorist incident occurs.

In the National Security System, New Zealand Police are the operational lead agency for responding to a terrorist incident in New Zealand, and are trained and well prepared to achieve this. In any response, New Zealand Police will be supported by other agencies, and ODESC will provide coordination and strategic leadership over national security events.

Terrorism incidents can range from basic opportunistic attacks to more complex, multi-faceted incidents using sophisticated weapons. A variety of specific capabilities are required for responding to them. These capabilities need to be appropriate for

New Zealand to enable us to act cohesively, responsibly, ethically and efficiently.

An effective response to any emergency relies on leadership, clear plans, and staff at all levels being empowered to deliver in their roles. Operational agencies involved in the response need to have the tools to undertake the functions required of them. This requires an enabling legislative framework that is consistent with our democratic values, and that is fit-for-purpose to meet the evolving terrorist threat. It also requires information to be available to government agencies, and to be shared between agencies as needed.

Whānau, hapū, iwi, communities, individuals, charitable and volunteer organisations, and Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups (CDEM Groups) also all play important roles in both the immediate response to any incident and in recovery. Local communities can support each other, and need to feel supported and enabled by government and system responses.

Supporting the recovery and resilience of individuals and communities from a terrorist attack is a long-term process, involving existing support mechanisms and bespoke ones as required. Victims, whānau and communities will have the ability to work directly with government

to discuss the support that they require and how it will be provided.

In many instances, recovery may be helped by understanding how and why an attack occurred. The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain, which reported back in late 2020, was a key milestone in the recovery from the 15 March 2019 attack.

The report, *Ko tō tātou kāinga tēnei*, made recommendations covering both national security, and wider social and community matters. The Government accepted the findings of the report and agreed in principle to all of the 44 recommendations.

# 04

## Our national capabilities

From addressing the causes of violent extremism to recovery from incidents

Our capabilities are the things we need to have in place, and be able to do, to implement this strategy and deliver the vision.

There are seven core capabilities, directly delivering the vision across the four pillars of mōhio — understand; mahi tahi — work together; whakahōtaetae — prevent; and takatū — be ready to respond and recover. These are supported by two enabling capabilities.

Whilst government agencies will often have key contributing roles, these are our national capabilities. A wide range of organisations outside central government provide significant aspects of all seven core capabilities.

### 01. Address the causes of violent extremism and promote social cohesion

- » Engage and work effectively with our communities.
- » Develop, support and promote social cohesion and resilience programmes.

Key contributing agencies: MSD, Ministry for Ethnic Communities (from July 2021), NZ Police

### 02. Understand the threat environment, to inform prevention efforts

- » Research, assess and report strategic trends, threats, risks and mitigations.
- » Understand terrorist and violent extremist ideologies.
- » Understand the drivers, processes, indicators and implications of radicalisation.

Key contributing agencies: CTAG, DPMC (NAB), NZSIS, NZ Police

### 03. Prevent and counter violent extremism, to safeguard and build resilience in our communities

- » Challenge terrorist and violent extremist narratives.
- » Support at-risk groups to resist radicalisation
- » Support people with violent extremist ideologies to disengage.
- » Counter the means and support that enable terrorism.
- » Reduce terrorist and violent extremist content, and address its consequences.

Key contributing agencies: social sector agencies, health sector agencies, NZ Police, DIA, Justice

### 04. Detect and investigate threats, to enable effective preventive action

- » Specify and communicate intelligence requirements.
- » Generate and manage leads.
- » Conduct security intelligence and criminal investigations.
- » Understand the capabilities and intentions of those with terrorist and violent extremist ideologies.
- » Generate and disseminate intelligence reporting.
- » Manage residual risks.

Key contributing agencies: NZSIS, NZ Police, GCSB

### 05. Protect people and places, to keep them safe from harm

- » Protect, support and enable individuals, communities and other groups at increased risk of being targeted.
- » Secure events, locations and infrastructure at increased risk of being targeted.
- » Disrupt threats and illegal activity.

Key contributing agencies: NZ Police

### 06. Respond to incidents, to protect lives and support victims

- » Respond rapidly and proportionately to incidents.
- » Manage incident consequences.
- » Support decision-makers.
- » Manage public and targeted communications.
- » Manage offenders.

Key contributing agencies: NZ Police, NZDF, health sector agencies, DPMC, Justice, Corrections

### 07. Recover from terrorism incidents, to support a return to wellbeing

- » Support the welfare and recovery of victims, families, communities and organisations.
- » Improve system preparedness.

Key contributing agencies: MSD, health sector agencies, NZ Police, DPMC, NEMA, CDEM Groups

## Our enabling capabilities

### 01. Coordinate the system, to ensure our efforts are integrated, effective, and reflect our values

- » Set strategic priorities and plans.
- » Coordinate functions, capabilities and change.
- » Monitor and review system performance.
- » Administer legislation and regulation.
- » Advise and support decision-makers.

Key contributing agencies: DPMC, all agencies

### 02. Collaborate and communicate, to enable us to work together as a nation to reduce the risk

- » Manage stakeholder relationships and engagement.
- » Deliver public information and guidance.
- » Build internal system awareness and understanding.
- » Share and leverage system capabilities
- » Contribute to international efforts.
- » Manage, share and utilise information / data.

Key contributing agencies: DPMC, all agencies

# 05

## Roles and responsibilities

### We all have a part to play

All New Zealanders are responsible for helping to detect and prevent terrorist attacks, as well as having a role in preventing and countering violent extremism.



#### Our communities, iwi and hapū

Those who are closest to vulnerable individuals - such as whānau, friends and community members - are the ones most likely to identify concerning behaviours and be able to seek help and support. Community and iwi leaders, faith communities and interfaith groups, civil society organisations and others across our diverse society can all have a positive, constructive role in preventing and countering violent extremism and keeping all New Zealanders safe.

*In an emergency everyone should phone 111*

- If the information is not time-critical, people can report suspicious behaviour by:
- » completing a report at **105.police.govt.nz**, or calling Police's non-emergency number **105**.
  - » visiting their nearest **Police station**<sup>1</sup>.
  - » phoning Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.
  - » contacting the NZSIS on **0800 747 224** or via their **public contribution form**<sup>2</sup>.

Reporting suspicious or concerning behaviour can save lives.

#### **If you see something, say something.**

<sup>1</sup> [police.govt.nz/contact-us/stations](https://www.police.govt.nz/contact-us/stations)  
<sup>2</sup> [providinginformation.nzsis.govt.nz](https://www.providinginformation.nzsis.govt.nz)



#### Private sector

Private sector organisations have an important role in building resilience to terrorism and violent extremism by ensuring that their spaces and places are not used for the purposes of sharing or promoting violent extremist or terrorist material and content, or as spaces for radicalisation. Some private sector organisations may have crowded places or symbolic sites that may face a higher level of risk from the threat of terrorism, and need to take additional protective measures to build the physical resilience of their spaces and places.

New Zealand universities and other research institutes have a key role in building national understanding and leading constructive dialogue.



#### Local government

Local government has an important role in the safety and wellbeing of New Zealand communities. This includes helping to protect crowded places such as civic spaces, community markets, events and festivals from terrorist attack or similar incidents. Local government can also play a key role in helping and supporting vulnerable individuals, and in supporting victims, whānau and communities if an incident occurs.



#### Media

New Zealand's media play a critical role providing information to the public, including during

a terrorism or violent extremism incident. Government agencies work co-operatively with media to provide timely and correct information that will support accurate, fair and balanced reporting. Media also have an important role to play in fostering greater social cohesion, decreasing the likelihood of inciting radicalisation, avoiding stigmatisation of minority groups, and reducing the intended impact of terror.



#### International

New Zealand is committed to supporting the efforts of the international community to counter terrorism and violent extremism at the global, regional and national levels. Government agencies actively participate in a wide range of international forums and partnerships, including membership of the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) to ensure the closest possible Trans-Tasman coordination and cooperation on counter-terrorism matters.



#### Security sector

Multiple government agencies are responsible for maintaining New Zealand's security. These security sector agencies and other agencies across government work with non-government organisations, businesses and communities to ensure we have a joined up approach to any terrorism threat.

- » **New Zealand Police:** Community engagement, prevention, intelligence gathering and analysis, investigation, emergency response, working with domestic and offshore partners,

operational lead for reducing risk and responding to terrorism threats domestically.

- » **New Zealand Security Intelligence Service** (NZSIS): Detecting, investigating and understanding terrorism threats.
- » **Combined Threat Assessment Group** (CTAG): Providing terrorism threat assessments, including for setting the national terrorism threat level.
- » **Government Communications Security Bureau** (GCSB): Providing specialist intelligence support to NZSIS and New Zealand Police terrorism investigations.
- » **National Assessments Bureau** (NAB, within DPMC): Providing independent and impartial assessments on events and developments relevant to New Zealand's national security and international relations.



### Public sector

The Government has primary responsibility for preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from terrorist attacks or similar incidents in New Zealand. We take a strategic, multi-agency approach to countering terrorism and violent extremism, with roles and responsibilities that include:

- » **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet** (DPMC): Connecting and coordinating New Zealand's counter-terrorism system. This includes coordinating the delivery of this national countering terrorism and violent extremism strategy, and activating coordination mechanisms if a terror attack or similar incident occurs.

- » **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** (MFAT): Aligning counter-terrorism priorities, foreign policy interests and international obligations to champion our values globally and help keep New Zealanders safe offshore.
- » **Ministry of Justice**: Ensuring counter-terrorism legislation is fit for purpose and reflects our values.
- » **New Zealand Customs Service**: Enhancing New Zealand security through risk identification and mitigation across borders.
- » **Ministry of Transport**: Supporting delivery of a resilient and secure transport system.
- » **Ministry of Defence**: Ensuring that New Zealand's defence activities reduce the terrorism threat to New Zealand's interests, and that the Defence Force is well prepared to support Government's response to terrorism events in New Zealand and offshore.
- » **New Zealand Defence Force**: Providing specialist tactical and operational capability to counter and respond to terrorist threats.
- » **Department of Internal Affairs** (DIA): Deterring and responding to objectionable violent extremist content online.

Other key agencies with roles and responsibilities in countering terrorism and violent extremism include the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (from July 2021), the Ministry of Health and wider health sector, the Department of Corrections, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

# 06

## Being aware, engaged and staying safe

### What happens in the event of an attack

The overall aim of any counter-terrorism response is securing a swift resolution that reduces the risk to the public and ensures as little disruption and distress as possible.

The government's response to national security incidents is outlined in the National Security System (NSS) Handbook. In the event of a terrorist threat or attack, the NSS provides a structure that enables effective decision-making at the appropriate levels and a coordinated government response.

*We take a victim-centred approach, responding swiftly to protect lives and working in partnership to support recovery.*

New Zealand Police have primary responsibility for the operational response to a domestic terrorist incident. The frontline response (operational, and management of consequences) to an incident is typically managed locally or regionally, and supported at the national level.

However, the complexity of terrorism requires that the Government be directly involved to harness all national resources to respond to an incident, which may have wide-ranging implications.

### How do we respond?

- » Emergency services respond to any incident to preserve life, neutralise the threat from attacker(s) and secure the incident site(s).
- » Public statements are made by New Zealand Police and/or ministers.
- » The National Security System is 'activated'.
- » The Prime Minister and ministers are continually updated on the incident.

New Zealand Police are trained and well prepared to lead the response to a terrorism incident, where the focus is to ensure public safety and protect human life.

New Zealand Police will provide advice and information to the public via these communication channels:

- » Twitter: [@nzpolice](#)
- » Facebook: [New Zealand Police](#)
- » Website: [police.govt.nz](#)

The response to an incident will often involve multiple other government departments, emergency services, local government, and businesses.

### Our response objectives

 <p>Minimise loss of life through rapid response.</p>	 <p>Treat any casualties. Inform and support families.</p>	 <p>Contain the crime scene and start the Police investigation.</p>
 <p>Identify, locate and detain the people responsible.</p>	 <p>Clarify that the incident is over and no follow-up attacks are anticipated.</p>	 <p>Reassure the public, including to support inter-community relations.</p>

### In the event of an attack



Move quickly and quietly away from danger, but only if it is safe to do so.

Stay out of sight and silence your mobile phone.

Call the Police by dialling 111 when it is safe.

[police.govt.nz/crowdedplaces](#)



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
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