

# Statistical Release

## **Citizenship Survey: April – December 2009, England and Wales Attitudes towards Violent Extremism (experimental statistics)**

This release gives an overview of attitudes towards violent extremism held by citizens in England and Wales. The results are published as '**experimental statistics**' and were derived from the responses to a new set of questions that were included in the first three quarters of the 2009/10 Citizenship Survey following an extensive period of question development and testing.

The release focuses on four questions measuring the extent to which people in England and Wales reject the use of violent extremism in Britain to address political causes. Multivariate analysis was also undertaken to identify the factors which influence attitudes towards violent extremism when the impact of other variables (e.g. age, sex, deprivation and ethnicity) were taken into account.<sup>1</sup>

In the normal course of events, results from the Citizenship Survey are designated as **National Statistics**. The **National Statistics** designation means that this complies with the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. However, these results are published, for the first time, as **experimental statistics** in recognition of the fact that the statistics are new and subject to testing in terms of their volatility and ability to meet customer needs. Further information on the purpose and nature of experimental statistics is available from the Office for National Statistics.<sup>2</sup> The evidence base continues to evolve and we recognise the requirement to continue to build upon our understanding of attitudes towards violent extremism in Britain.

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex D for further information

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=173>

# Contents

1 Introduction .....	4
2 Attitudes towards the use of violent extremism in Britain .....	6
3 Factors that influence attitudes towards violent extremism .....	11
4 Summary and conclusions .....	20
Annex A: Background notes .....	22
Annex B: Tables.....	25
Annex C: Development and testing of violent extremism questions.....	34
Annex D: Multivariate analysis .....	37
Annex E: Violent Extremism Module.....	39

## Experimental Statistics

### Key findings

**In the first three quarters of 2009-10 (April to December 2009), in England and Wales:**

- **Eighty-five per cent** of people said that it was ‘always wrong’ for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust<sup>1</sup>
- **Ninety-five per cent** of people said that it was ‘always wrong’ for people in Britain to use violent extremism *in the name of religion* to protest or achieve a goal
- **Ninety-two per cent** of people said it was ‘always wrong’ for political campaigners in Britain to write and distribute leaflets that encouraged violence towards different ethnic groups
- **Eighty-one per cent** of people said that it was ‘always wrong’ for animal rights protestors in Britain to use violence to protect animals
- Multivariate analysis showed that respondents’ **age, socio-economic background, income, religion, country of birth** and **gender** were associated with their likelihood to reject the use of violent extremism in Britain.

**Note:**

<sup>1</sup> ‘Violent extremism’ was defined as ‘taking actions to cause injury or death to people in order to make a political protest’.

## Chapter 1

# Introduction

This release gives an overview of attitudes in England and Wales to the use of violent extremism in Britain. Following an extensive period of question development and testing, new questions measuring attitudes towards violent extremism in Britain were included on the Citizenship Survey from April 2009. The release presents **experimental statistics** from the first three quarters of the Citizenship Survey in recognition of the potential public interest in these new data.

The release focuses on questions measuring the extent to which people in England and Wales reject the use of violent extremism in Britain to address political causes. Multivariate analysis was also undertaken to identify the factors which influence attitudes towards violent extremism when the impact of other variables (e.g. age, sex, income and ethnicity) were taken into account.

Working alongside other departments and agencies, Communities and Local Government has responsibility to contribute to building a strong society that rejects violent extremism. Cohesive, empowered, confident communities can effectively challenge and confront violent extremist views and offer positive alternatives in order to support integration and community empowerment.

The questions in the Citizenship Survey help to develop understanding of the factors associated with rejecting violent extremism of any sort, and to explore the factors which may influence the extent to which violent extremist views are likely to be challenged by individuals.

We recognise that the evidence base continues to evolve, and recognise the requirement to continue to build upon our understanding of attitudes towards violent extremism in Britain

## Measurement of attitudes towards violent extremism

The use of the term 'violent extremism' in a government survey was first considered following a CLG feasibility study. Although the feasibility study questionnaire did not use the term 'violent extremism' - believing that it would not be understood outside of government - interviewers subsequently advised that the survey respondents themselves used the term 'violent extremism'. Extensive testing was then undertaken to ensure that the term would be understood by all respondents and to ensure that all respondents would be willing and able to answer questions measuring their attitudes towards it (see Annex C for further details).

In order to ensure that all respondents understand the questions in the same way a show-card is used throughout the violent extremism module and highlights both the seriousness and the political aspect of violent extremism:

### Definition of Violent Extremism

Taking actions to cause **injury or death** to people in order to make a **political protest**

The questions ask about the use of different types of violent extremism 'in Britain' (see Chapter 2 for the precise text of the questions).

Responses to the questions in the first three quarters of the 2009-10 Citizenship Survey suggest that respondents are both able and willing to answer questions on violent extremism. No more than two per cent of respondents were unable to provide an answer and less than 1 per cent of respondents refused to answer any of the four key questions measuring attitudes towards violent extremism (for item non-response data on all four questions see Annex B Table 8).

## Structure of the report

The analysis in this release is covered in three chapters.

**Chapter 2** presents general population estimates for the four types of violent extremism.

**Chapter 3** discusses the results of multivariate analysis to identify the demographic and socio-economic factors which influence attitudes towards general violent extremism.

**Chapter 4** presents some conclusions of the analysis, including some of the caveats about what the data can and cannot tell us.

## Chapter 2

# Attitudes towards the use of violent extremism in Britain

The 2009-10 Citizenship Survey asked respondents four key questions which aimed to measure attitudes towards violent extremism. The module on violent extremism also included other questions including whether people had taken action to reduce support for violent extremism; whether they had seen anything which tried to encourage people to support violent extremism *in the name of religion*; and whether people thought that there were groups who supported violent extremism *in the name of religion* in their local area (see Annex E for the questions included in the violent extremism module).

This release focuses on the four main questions which measure attitudes towards violent extremism. The definition of violent extremism was included on a show card which respondents could refer to throughout the module. The show card defined violent extremism in the following way:

### Definition of Violent Extremism

Taking actions to cause **injury or death** to people in order to make a **political protest**

The four questions asked people how 'right or wrong' the following were:

- People using violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust
- Animal rights protestors in Britain using violence to protect animals
- Political campaigners in Britain writing and distributing leaflets that encourage violence towards different ethnic groups
- People in Britain using violent extremism, in the name of religion, to protest or achieve a goal.

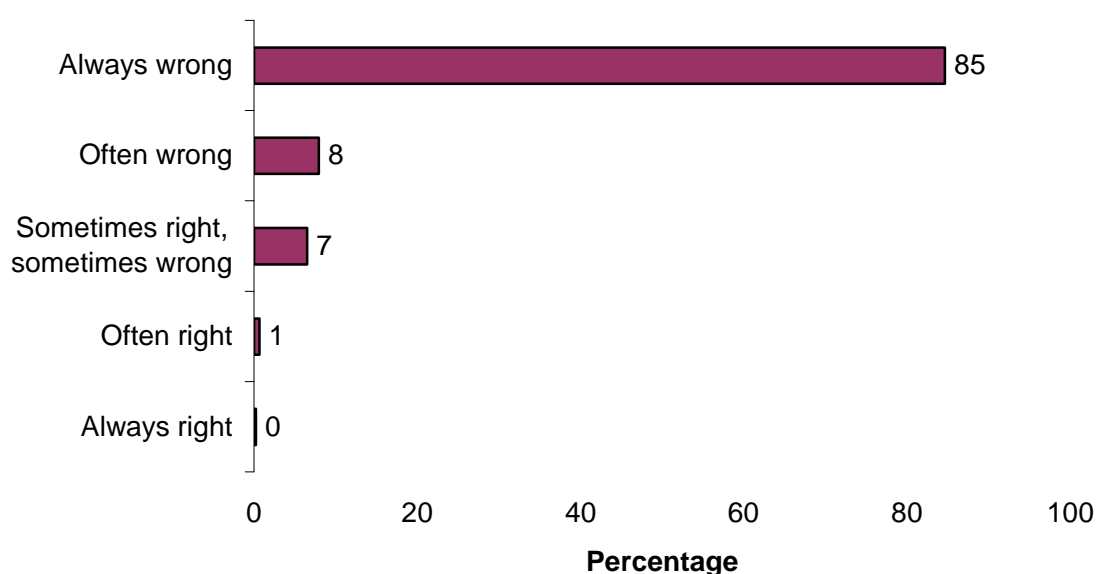
Respondents were asked to select one of the following answers from a show card:

- Always right
- Often right
- Sometimes right, sometimes wrong
- Often wrong
- Always wrong.

This chapter explores the extent to which people in England and Wales rejected the use of violent extremism in Britain; that is, the proportion of people who said that violent extremism was ‘always wrong’.

In April-December 2009, 85 per cent of people in England and Wales said that it was ‘always wrong’ for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust. Eight per cent felt that it was ‘often wrong’ and 7 per cent felt that it was ‘sometimes right, sometimes wrong’. One per cent felt that it was ‘often right’ while less than half a per cent felt that it was ‘always right’ (Figure 2.1).

**Figure 2.1 Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

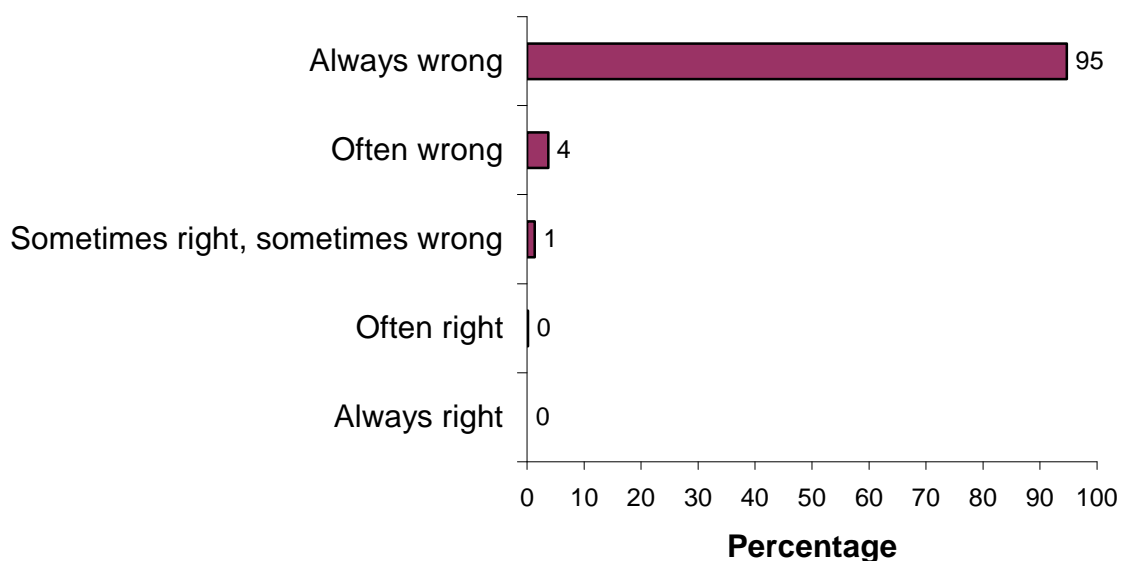


Base: Core sample in England and Wales, April to December 2009 (6,963)  
Citizenship Survey 2009-10

The questions were not designed to ascertain what people were thinking of when they rejected, or declined to fully reject, the use of violent extremism in Britain. However, responses to the next three questions show that rejection of violent extremism varied according to the perceived cause.

In April-December 2009, the vast majority of people in England and Wales rejected the use of violent extremism *in the name of religion*. Ninety-five per cent of people said that it was ‘always wrong’ for people in Britain to use violent extremism, *in the name of religion*, to protest or achieve a goal. Four per cent of people felt that it was ‘often wrong’, one per cent felt that it was ‘sometimes right, sometimes wrong’ and less than half a per cent felt that it was ‘often’ or ‘always’ right (Figure 2.2).

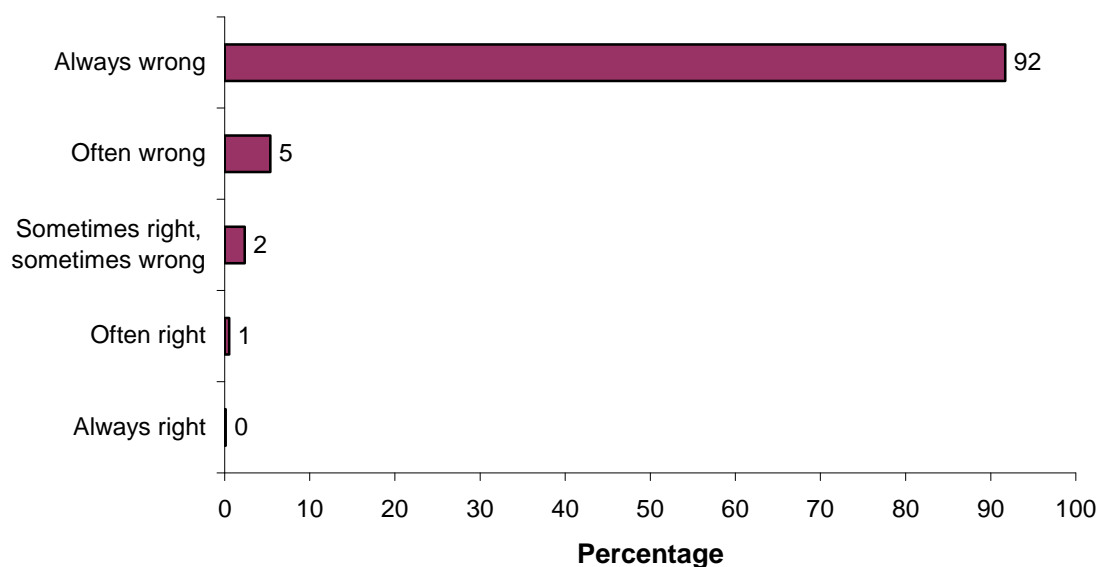
**Figure 2.2 How right or wrong are people in Britain using violent extremism, in the name of religion, to protest or achieve a goal, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



Base: Core sample in England and Wales, April to December 2009 (6,975)  
Citizenship Survey 2009-10

In April-December 2009, the vast majority of people in England and Wales also rejected political campaigners in Britain writing and distributing leaflets that encourage violence towards different ethnic groups. Ninety-two per cent of people said that writing and distributing leaflets that encourage violence towards different ethnic groups was 'always wrong'. Five per cent of people felt that it was 'often wrong'; two per cent felt that it was 'sometimes right, sometimes wrong'; one per cent felt that it was 'often right' and less than half a per cent felt that it was 'always right' (Figure 2.3).

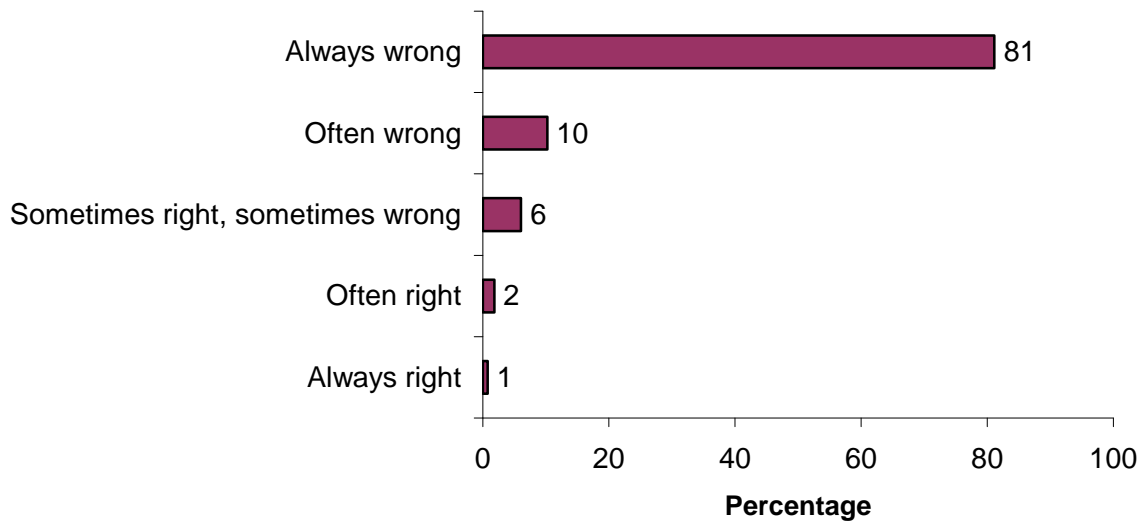
**Figure 2.3 How right or wrong are political campaigners in Britain writing and distributing leaflets that encourage violence towards different ethnic groups, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



Base: Core sample in England and Wales, April to December 2009 (6,982)  
Citizenship Survey 2009-10

In April-December 2009, people in England and Wales were less willing to fully reject the use of violent extremism in Britain to protect animals. Eighty-one per cent of people said that it was 'always wrong' for animal rights protestors in Britain to use violence to protect animals. A further 10 per cent of people felt that it was 'often wrong' to use violence to protect animals; 6 per cent felt that it was 'sometimes right, sometimes wrong'; two per cent felt that it was 'often right'; and one per cent felt that it was 'always right' (Figure 2.4).

**Figure 2.4 How right or wrong are animal rights protestors in Britain using violence to protect animals, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



Base: Core sample in England and Wales, April to December 2009 (6,968)  
Citizenship Survey 2009-10

It is not possible to tell from these data what types of causes, events or scenarios respondents considered when they formed their answers to these hypothetical questions. Chapter 3 considers some of the demographic and socio-economic factors which influence peoples' attitudes towards violent extremism in general.

## Chapter 3

# Factors that influence attitudes towards violent extremism

This chapter discusses the results of multivariate analysis used to explore some of the key demographic and socio-economic factors which influence attitudes towards violent extremism.

## Multivariate analysis<sup>3</sup>

There is often interest in exploring whether attitudes on any given measure vary between different groups – for example, among people from different age, sex or ethnic groups. A simple breakdown of responses to a question by any individual factor will often reveal differences between groups. Hence it may reveal that being young, being male, being from a minority ethnic group and being poor are all associated with being more likely to hold a particular view. However, it is not possible to identify from a simple breakdown which of these factors is most important in determining whether someone holds a particular view. In addition, it is not possible to establish whether each factor is *independently* associated with holding a particular view or whether one *common* factor explains people's views. For example, if the key factor which influenced people's views was age, with young people being most likely to hold a particular view, we might find that minority ethnic groups and low-income groups were more likely to hold a particular view simply because young people are over-represented among ethnic minority groups and those on low incomes.

Multivariate analysis allows us to explore which factors are associated with particular outcomes *when the impact of other related factors are taken into account*. In this way we can identify the key factors which are independently associated with holding particular views. Further information on the methodology is provided in Annex D.

Multivariate analysis was undertaken in order to identify which socio-economic and demographic factors were associated with **rejecting** general violent extremism. Respondents who said that it was 'always wrong' for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust were coded as rejecting violent extremism. Eighty-five per cent of people rejected violent extremism on this measure.

The variables were chosen because they are the key demographic and socio-economic variables used to classify and differentiate the population, and as such are likely to be possible underlying factors which influence people's attitudes.

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<sup>3</sup> See Annex D for further information on multivariate analysis

## Results of the multivariate analysis

The following variables (listed in no particular order of importance) were statistically significant in the model:<sup>4</sup>

- Age
- Socio-economic group
- Annual income.

The following variables were also statistically significant in the model although the relationship was weaker:

- Religious affiliation
- Gender
- Country of birth.

Age, socio-economic group and income were the strongest predictors of whether someone rejected violent extremism. The next section discusses the relationship between the key statistically significant variables and rejection of violent extremism.

## Factors associated with rejecting violent extremism

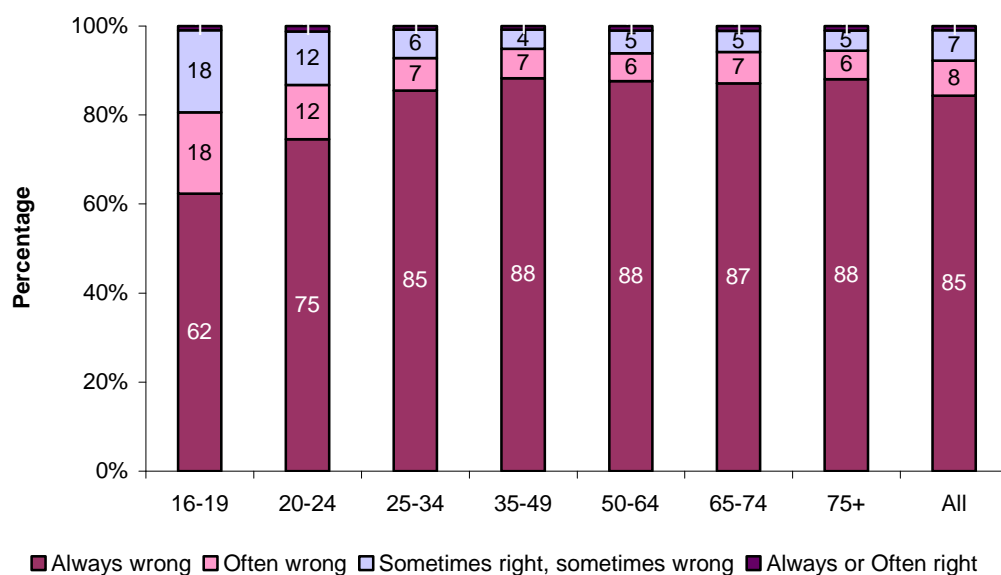
### Age

Age showed a strong relationship with whether someone rejected the use of violent extremism in Britain to protest against things that are very unfair or unjust. Young people aged 16 to 19 years and 20 to 24 years were less likely than their counterparts aged 25 and over to reject the use of violent extremism (Figure 3.1).

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<sup>4</sup> For a definition of 'statistically significant' please refer to Annex A

**Figure 3.1 Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by age, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



Base: Core sample in England and Wales, (6,963)  
Citizenship Survey April to December 2009

Young people aged 16 to 19 years were least likely to reject violent extremism. Sixty-two per cent of people aged 16-19 said that it was 'always wrong' for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust; a further 18 per cent said that it was 'often wrong' and the same proportion (18%) said that it was 'sometimes right, sometimes wrong'. (Figure 3.1).

## Socio-economic group

Respondent's socio-economic group also showed a strong relationship with their attitudes towards violent extremism. People in managerial and professional occupations were most likely, and students were least likely, to reject the use of violent extremism in Britain (Figure 3.2)

**Figure 3.2 Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by socio-economic group, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Managerial and profession include higher & lower managerial

<sup>2</sup> Intermediate occupations includes small employers

<sup>3</sup> Semi-routine includes lower supervisory & technical

Base: Core sample in England and Wales, (6,963)

Citizenship Survey April to December 2009

People in managerial and professional occupations were more likely than all other occupational groups to reject the use of violent extremism in Britain. Ninety per cent of people in managerial and professional occupations said that it was ‘always wrong’ for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust compared with 86 per cent of people in intermediate or semi-routine occupations, 83 per cent of people in routine occupations and 80 per cent of those classified as ‘never worked or long term unemployed’ (Figure 3.2).

The group with the lowest levels of rejection of violent extremism were students, who were less likely than all other occupational groups to say that violent extremism was always wrong – 63 per cent said that it was ‘always wrong’ for people to use violent extremism in Britain, 18 per cent said that it was ‘often wrong’ and 17 per cent said that it was ‘sometimes right, sometimes wrong’.

## Income

Income was also an important factor in explaining attitudes towards violent extremism. An increase in annual income was accompanied by an increase in the willingness to reject violent extremism (Figure 3.3).

**Figure 3.3 Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by income, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



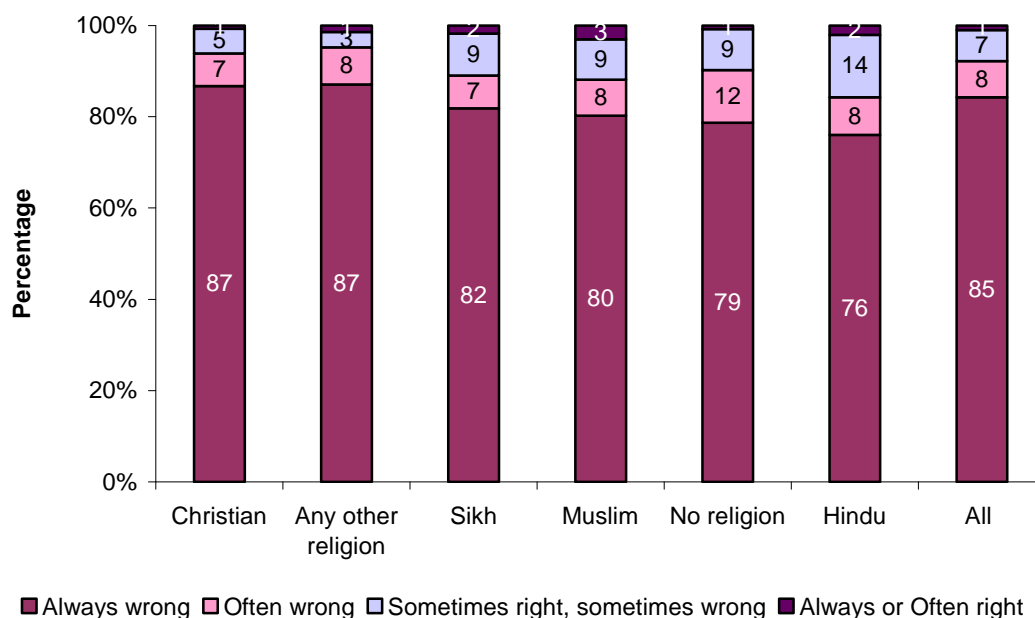
Base: Core sample in England and Wales, (6,963)  
Citizenship Survey April to December 2009

People earning under £5,000 per annum were least likely to reject violent extremism. Seventy-five per cent of people earning less than £5,000 per annum felt that it was ‘always wrong’ for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust; a further 11 per cent said that it was ‘often wrong’; a similar proportion (12%) said that it was ‘sometimes right, sometimes wrong’; and two per cent said that it was ‘always right’ or ‘often right’ (Figure 3.3).

## Religious affiliation

Religious affiliation was also a significant factor in the model. If religious groups are compared *without taking account of the substantial variations between populations* (for example age and socio-economic differences), Christians (87%) were more likely than Muslims (80%), people with no religion (79%) and Hindus (76%) to say that it was ‘always wrong’ for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust (Figure 3.4). There were no statistically significant differences between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and people with no religion.

**Figure 3.4 Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by religious affiliation, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



Base: Core sample in England and Wales, April to December 2009 (6,963); full sample (11,822)  
 Citizenship Survey 2009-10  
 Excludes Jewish and Buddhist as sample sizes were too small for reliable estimates

However, people with no religion were the only group that were significantly different from Christians *in the multivariate analysis* once age, income, social class and other factors were taken into account. This tells us that while Muslims and Hindus are, as a group, less likely than Christians to reject violent extremism, the differences may be explained by their younger age profile and/or socio-economic profile. The Christian population has an older age profile and would therefore contain a larger proportion of people who rejected violent extremism. It may therefore be age, rather than faith, which explains differences between Muslims, Hindus and Christians.

This is not true for the 'no religion' group, which is significantly less likely than the Christian group to reject violent extremism in the multivariate analysis, even allowing for age and socio-economic differences. However, this does not mean that the absence of religious beliefs contributes to greater support for violent extremism. There may be other factors, which were not included in the multivariate analysis, which explain the difference between Christians and people with no religion.

## Country of birth

Country of birth was also related to attitudes towards violent extremism although to a lesser extent than age, socio-economic group and income. People born in the UK were more likely than their counterparts born in India to reject violent extremism in Britain (Figure 3.5).<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 3.5 Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by country of birth, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



Base: Core sample in England and Wales, April to December 2009 (6,963); full sample (11,798)  
 Citizenship Survey 2009-10  
 Other countries excluded as sample sizes were too small for reliable estimates  
 NCW' New Commonwealth countries

Eighty-five per cent of people born in the UK said that it was 'always wrong' for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust compared with 76 per cent of people born in India. Apparent differences between people born in the UK and their counterparts born in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jamaica, East Africa or the other New Commonwealth countries were not statistically significant (Figure 3.5).

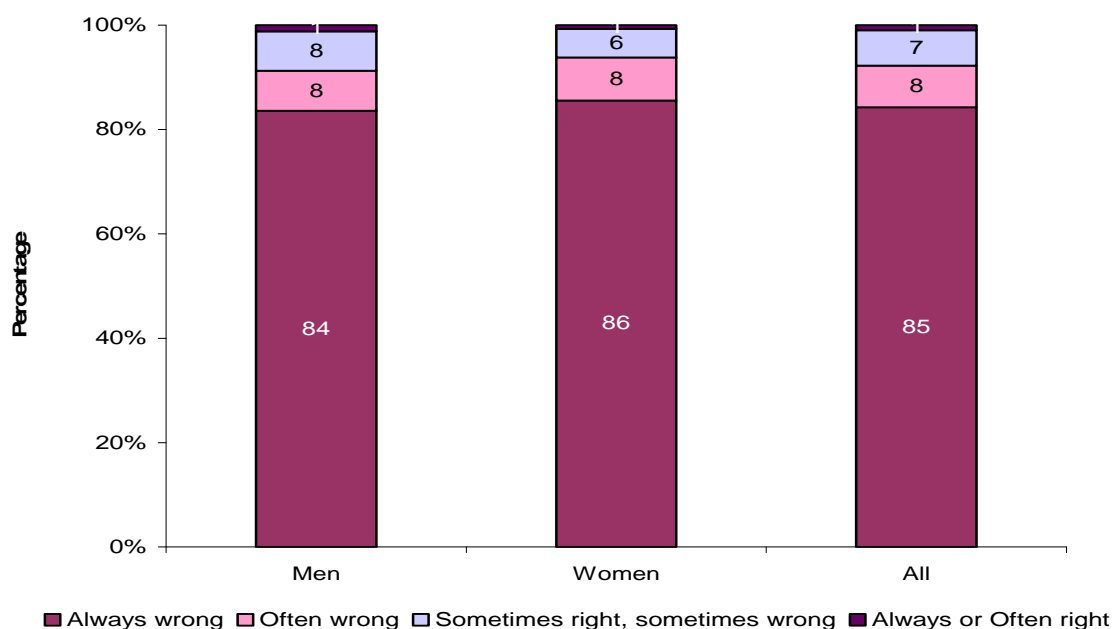
Differences between the non-UK-born groups were not statistically significant with the exception that those born in East Africa were more likely than their counterparts born in India to reject the use of violent extremism in Britain (88% and 76% respectively).

<sup>5</sup> The difference between people born in the UK and those born in India was statistically significant in the multivariate analysis and when estimates were tested separately. This suggests that the difference is not explained by variations in the age, socio-economic, income or faith profile of the two populations. However, the difference may be due to other factors not included in the multivariate analysis.

## Gender

Gender showed a statistically significant association in the model with whether someone rejected the use of violent extremism in Britain. Eighty four per cent of men and 86 per cent of women said that it was ‘always wrong’ for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust (Figure 3.6). However, although the difference between men and women was statistically significant in the model, the differences are small and do not achieve statistical significance when tested separately.

**Figure 3.6 Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by gender, England and Wales, April to December 2009**



Base: Core sample in England and Wales, (6,963)  
Citizenship Survey April to December 2009

The analysis in this chapter shows that all of these factors – socio-economic group, age, income, religion, country of birth and gender – are independently associated with the rejection of violent extremism in Britain although age, socio-economic group and income are more important in explaining attitudes than the other factors. The variations are not explained by ethnicity (which is distinct from country of birth)<sup>6</sup> or educational levels as these factors were included in the multivariate model but were not statistically significant.

<sup>6</sup> Country of birth and ethnic group should be treated as distinct as many people belonging to minority ethnic groups were born in the UK. For example, the 2001 Census showed that 46 per cent of the population identifying as belonging to the Indian ethnic group had been born in the United Kingdom – *Focus on Ethnicity and Religion*, ONS, 2006, Table 2.16, p29

Chapter 4 concludes with a brief discussion of what the data, and the analysis, tells us about attitudes towards violent extremism as well as the limitations of the data in explaining *why* people express particular views.

## Chapter 4

# Summary and conclusions

Chapter 2 showed that in the first three quarters of 2009-10 (April-December 2009) the vast majority of people in England and Wales unequivocally rejected the use of violent extremism in Britain, whether for the protection of animals, in the name of religion, in the case of racist groups or as a general principle.<sup>7</sup>

Among those respondents who did not unequivocally reject violent extremism, the majority said either that violent extremism in Britain was 'often wrong' or that it was 'sometimes right, sometimes wrong'. Neither of these responses suggested that these respondents had strong *support* for violent extremism. Very few respondents gave an answer which might indicate support for violent extremism, saying either that it was 'often right' or 'always right'; no more than one per cent of respondents said that any type of violent extremism was 'always right' in Britain.

Chapter 3 demonstrated that age, socio-economic group, income, religious affiliation, country of birth and gender were associated with attitudes towards the use of violent extremism in Britain, with age, socio-economic group and income having the strongest relationship to attitudes. However, while some groups were more likely than others to reject violent extremism this does not suggest that any groups expressed high levels of *support* for violent extremism. Even among the groups that were less likely to reject violent extremism, very small proportions said that violent extremism in Britain was 'always' or even 'often' right.

## Other factors which might explain attitudes towards violent extremism

As with all areas in which there is limited data, emerging findings need to be treated with caution. While this data is robust in measuring attitudes towards different types of violent extremism, the questions asked were hypothetical and were not designed to explain *why* people expressed particular views or what situations or events they were thinking of when they did so.

Furthermore, while the multivariate model is able to identify which factors (of those that were included in the model) are associated with these attitudes, there may be other factors, not included in the model, which are equally or more important. These may include other socio-demographic factors which are not measured through the Citizenship Survey. They might also include attitudinal variables or variables related to people's experiences which are important in influencing people's attitudes towards violent extremism. For example, people's attitudes towards the use of violent extremism may be related to factors such as their trust in government or the deprivation levels of the areas in which they live. It is plausible that if other variables were included

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<sup>7</sup> Unequivocal rejection is defined as saying that violent extremism was 'always wrong'

in the multivariate model, factors such as county of birth or religious affiliation may no longer be significant.

## Annex A

### Background notes

#### Definitions of key terms

<b>Sample size</b>	The number of people interviewed for the survey. Between April and December 2009 this was 7,028 core sample (general population) interviews and an additional 3,904 interviews from an ethnic minority boost sample and 1,157 interviews from a Muslim boost sample. The core and boost samples together produced a total of 12,089 interviews.
<b>Statistical significance</b>	Because the survey uses responses from a random sample to estimate responses from the population, differences between estimates from successive years and between sub-groups may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In these reports, tests at the five per cent significance levels have been applied (the level at which there is a one in 20 chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance). All reported differences are statistically significant to the 95 per cent level, unless otherwise stated.
<b>Violent extremism</b>	Survey respondents were given a show card with the following definition of violent extremism: <i>Violent extremism - Taking actions to cause <b>injury or death</b> to people in order to make a <b>political protest</b>.</i>

#### Data quality

1. The 2009-10 Citizenship Survey is run by Ipsos MORI and TNS-BMRB on behalf of Communities Analysis Division within Communities and Local Government. It is a household survey covering a representative core sample of 10,000 adults in England and Wales each year. There is also an ethnic minority boost sample of 5,000 and a Muslim boost sample of 1,200 each year, to ensure that the views of these groups are robustly represented. It asks about a range of issues including views about the local area, community cohesion, racial and religious prejudice and

discrimination, values, interaction/mixing, political efficacy, civic engagement, volunteering and charitable giving.

2. The data are collected through face-to-face interviews. Since 2007-08, the survey has moved to a continuous design, allowing the provision of headline findings on a quarterly basis. This statistical release is based on the first three quarters of data (April 2009-December 2009) from the 2009-10 survey.
3. Data from the Citizenship Survey are designated as 'National Statistics' which means that they are judged to be fully compliant with the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This release presents statistics from the first three quarters of the Citizenship Survey, designated as **experimental statistics** in recognition of the public interest in these new data.
4. The data are weighted to correct for unequal sampling probabilities and non-response by sub-group. The weighting ensures that the sample matches the 2001 census population figures in terms of their age, sex and regional distribution.
5. The Citizenship Survey is measured against a set of quality standards. Details of these quality indicators are available in the full technical report published for each year of the survey.

## Notes on analysis and data presentation

6. For most measures, the core sample provides more robust estimates than the combined sample (including the core and ethnic minority boosts), so tables are based on the core sample. If data are presented by ethnic group or religious affiliation, the combined sample is used.
7. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. All reported differences are statistically significant to the 95 per cent level, unless otherwise stated. Where one group is described as being 'more likely' or 'less likely' than another group to express a particular attitude the differences between the two groups are statistically significant at the 95 per cent level. In some cases apparently large differences in rates are reported as being the same; this is because the differences were not found to be statistically significant at the 95 per cent level. Often this is because the sample size for one of the groups is too small to produce reliable estimates.
8. Cells in a table based on a small number of respondents are more likely to breach confidentiality. The same cells are also likely to be unreliable. Confidentiality protection is provided by releasing only weighted estimates and by suppressing the values for unsafe cells. Information on the exact number of sample respondents is restricted. The effect of disclosure control on the quality of data that can be released is very small because data that is disclosive is generally also of low quality.

## Further information

This Statistical Release can be accessed and all text, tables and charts downloaded electronically, from the Communities and Local Government website:

[www.communities.gov.uk/statistics/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/statistics/)

Further details are available from:

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## Annex B

### Tables

#### List of tables

- Table 1: Attitudes towards violent extremism, England and Wales, April to December 2009
- Table 2: Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by age, England and Wales, April to December 2009
- Table 3: Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by socio-economic group, England and Wales, April to December 2009
- Table 4: Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by income, England and Wales, April to December 2009
- Table 5: Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by religious affiliation, England and Wales, April to December 2009
- Table 6: Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by country of birth, England and Wales, April to December 2009
- Table 7: Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by gender, England and Wales, April to December 2009
- Table 8: Item non-response (un-weighted data), Violent Extremism questions, England and Wales, April to December 2009

**Table 1: Attitudes towards violent extremism, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	<i>Percentages</i>					<i>Respondents</i>
	Always right	Often right	Sometimes right, sometimes wrong	Often wrong	Always wrong	
How right or wrong is it for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust?	*	1	7	8	85	6,963
<b>How right or wrong are each of the following?</b>						
People in Britain using violent extremism, in the name of religion, to protest or achieve a goal?	**	*	1	4	95	6,975
Political campaigners in Britain writing and distributing leaflets that encourage violence towards different ethnic groups?	*	1	2	5	92	6,982
Animal rights protestors in Britain using violence to protect animals?	1	2	6	10	81	6,968
<b>Notes:</b>						
* Less than 0.5 per cent						
** Data suppressed as cell size is less than 5						
Excludes respondents with missing answers						

**Table 2 : Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by age, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	<i>Respondent's age</i>							<i>Percentages</i>
	16 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over	All
Always right	0	**	0	*	*	**	**	*
Often right	**	**	1	*	1	1	1	1
Sometimes right, sometimes wrong	18	12	6	4	5	5	5	7
Often wrong	18	12	7	7	6	7	6	8
Always wrong	62	75	85	88	88	87	88	85
<i>Respondents</i>	<i>268</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>978</i>	<i>1,887</i>	<i>1,709</i>	<i>949</i>	<i>830</i>	<i>6,963</i>

**Notes:**

\* Less than 0.5 per cent

\*\* Data suppressed as cell size is less than 5

Excludes respondents with missing answers

**Table 3 : Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by socio-economic group, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	<i>Respondent's socio-economic group<sup>1</sup></i>							<i>Percentages</i>
	Managerial and professional <sup>2</sup>	Intermediate <sup>3</sup>	Semi-routine <sup>4</sup>	Routine	Never worked/long-term unemployed	Full time students	Not stated/classified	All
Always right	**	**	*	**	**	**	**	*
Often right	*	*	1	1	**	**	0	1
Sometimes right, sometimes wrong	3	6	6	8	8	17	**	7
Often wrong	6	7	7	9	10	18	13	8
Always wrong	90	86	86	83	80	63	76	85
<i>Respondents</i>	<i>2,260</i>	<i>1,372</i>	<i>1,743</i>	<i>839</i>	<i>378</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>6,963</i>

**Notes:**

\* Less than 0.5 per cent

\*\* Data suppressed as cell size is less than 5

<sup>1</sup> National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NSSEC)

<sup>2</sup> Managerial and professional includes higher & lower managerial

<sup>3</sup> Intermediate occupations includes small employers

<sup>4</sup> Semi-routine includes lower supervisory & technical

**Table 4 : Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by income, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	<i>Respondent's personal income in the last 12 months</i>								<i>Percentages</i>
	Under £5,000	£5,000 to £9,999	£10,000 to £14,999	£15,000 to £19,999	£20,000 to £29,999	£30,000 to £49,999	£50,000 to £74,999	£75,000 or more	All
Always right	1	0	**	**	0	**	0	0	*
Often right	1	1	**	1	**	**	0	**	1
Sometimes right, sometimes wrong	12	7	7	5	5	2	3	4	7
Often wrong	11	8	8	8	6	6	5	**	8
Always wrong	75	85	84	86	89	91	92	93	85
<i>Respondents</i>	<i>1,188</i>	<i>1,202</i>	<i>976</i>	<i>715</i>	<i>1,006</i>	<i>822</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>6,963</i>

**Notes:**

\* Less than 0.5 per cent

\*\* Data suppressed as cell size is less than 5

Personal income in the last 12 months excluding any deductions for tax etc. Includes earnings, self employment

benefits, pensions, and interest from savings

Excludes respondents with missing answers

**Table 5 : Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by religious affiliation, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	Respondent's religious affiliation						Percentages
	Christian	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Any other religion	No religion	All
Always right	*	**	*	0	**	**	*
Often right	1	1	3	**	**	1	1
Sometimes right, sometimes wrong	5	14	9	9	3	9	7
Often wrong	7	8	8	7	8	12	8
Always wrong	87	76	80	82	87	79	85
<i>Respondents</i>	<i>6,445</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>2,708</i>	<i>237</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>1,613</i>	<i>6,963</i>

**Notes:**

\* Less than 0.5 per cent

\*\* Data suppressed as cell size is less than 5

Estimates for 'All' are based on the core sample. All other estimates are based on the full sample.

Excludes Buddhist and Jewish as sample sizes are too small for reliable estimates.

Excludes respondents with missing answers

**Table 6 : Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by country of birth, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	<i>Respondent's country of birth</i>							<i>Percentages</i>
	UK	India	Pakistan	Bangladesh	Jamaica	East Africa (New Commonwealth)	Rest of New Commonwealth	All
Always right	*	**	1	**	**	0	**	*
Often right	1	1	2	6	**	**	**	1
Sometimes right, sometimes wrong	6	11	6	8	5	8	9	7
Often wrong	8	10	9	7	14	4	6	8
Always wrong	85	76	82	78	80	88	83	85
<i>Respondents</i>	<i>7,894</i>	<i>474</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>229</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>6,963</i>

**Notes:**

\* Less than 0.5 per cent

\*\* Data suppressed as cell size is less than 5

Estimates for 'All' are based on the core sample. All other estimates are based on the full sample.

Excludes respondents with missing answers

Other countries excluded as sample sizes were too small for reliable estimates

**Table 7 : Whether it is right or wrong for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust, by gender, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	<b>Gender</b>		<b>Percentages</b>
	Men	Women	All
Always right	*	*	*
Often right	1	*	1
Sometimes right, sometimes wrong	8	6	7
Often wrong	8	8	8
Always wrong	84	86	85
<i>Respondents</i>	3,116	3,847	6,963

Notes:

\* Less than 0.5 per cent

\*\* Data suppressed as cell size is less than 5

Estimates are based on the core sample.

Excludes respondents with missing answers

**Table 8 Item non-response (un-weighted data), Violent Extremism questions, England and Wales, April to December 2009**

	<i>Percentages</i>							
	Valid response	Refusal	Don't know	(Spontaneous) I don't understand the concept/ I am unfamiliar with the concept	Total item non-response <sup>1</sup>	Item not applicable	Total	All respondents (full sample)
How right or wrong is it for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust?	97.92	0.04	1.78	n/a	1.82	0.26	100	12,089
<b>How right or wrong are each of the following?</b>								
People in Britain using violent extremism, in the name of religion, to protest or achieve a goal?	98.03	0.07	0.00	1.62	1.70	0.26	100	12,089
Political campaigners in Britain writing and distributing leaflets that encourage violence towards different ethnic groups?	97.94	0.00	0.06	1.74	1.80	0.26	100	12,089
Animal rights protestors in Britain using violence to protect animals?	97.39	0.05	0.00	2.30	2.35	0.26	100	12,089
<b>Notes:</b>								
1 The combined percentage of respondents that gave a refusal, 'don't know' or 'don't understand' answer								

## Annex C

# Development and testing of violent extremism questions

The use of the term 'violent extremism' in a government survey was first considered following a CLG feasibility study. Although the feasibility study questionnaire did not use the term 'violent extremism' - believing that it would not be understood outside of government - interviewers subsequently suggested that the term was used and understood by respondents. Interviewers also suggested that the term 'violent extremism' would be better understood by respondents than the alternative terms that had been used in the feasibility study questionnaire.

Following the feasibility study, extensive testing was undertaken to ensure that the term 'violent extremism' was understood by all respondents and to ensure that respondents would be willing and able to answer questions measuring their attitudes towards it.

The testing included focus groups, cognitive testing<sup>8</sup> and two pilot studies.<sup>9</sup> The testing demonstrated that respondents shared a fairly consistent understanding of what was meant by 'violent extremism', referring to:

- *Violent acts against property or people based on extremist views;*
- *A "narrow term" referring to specific crimes, such as 9/11 and 7/7*
- *Terrorism*
- *'Islamic terrorism' or 'Muslim Terrorists'*
- *Resorting to violence as a result of a belief or an excessive passion*
- *Taking extreme violent actions to make a point/get your voice heard*
- *Where an individual or group decides to take an action to an extreme: "Unrestrained acts of violence"; and*
- *The use of violence in the name of religion.*

(CLG focus group report)

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<sup>8</sup> Cognitive testing is undertaken on all new questions to ensure that respondents understand the questions in the same way. Respondents are taken through the questions and then interviewers probe their answers to explore what respondents thought they were being asked and how they went about answering the questions.

<sup>9</sup> Early versions of some questions were tested in Quarter 4 (Jan-March) of the 2008-09 Citizenship Survey (see the 2008-09 Citizenship Survey Technical Report for further details). Revised, and additional, questions were tested as part of the pilot for the 2009-10 Citizenship Survey.

Some of the groups people associated with Violent Extremism included:

- *'animal activists'*;
- *the IRA*
- *ETA; and*
- *'the BNP targeting Jews'*.

(CLG focus group report)

The testing did not identify difficulty in understanding by any particular age, ethnic or faith group. However, a panel of translators concluded in their review of the questions that the concept of 'violent extremism' may not be as well understood by respondents interviewed in non-English languages. In addition, analysis of responses to the questions in the pilot study suggested that some respondents could misunderstand the concept and think that it referred to personal violence, for example in self-defence.

In order to ensure that all respondents understand the questions in the same way a show-card was introduced. The show-card is used throughout the violent extremism module and highlights both the seriousness and the political aspect of violent extremism:

#### Definition of Violent Extremism

Taking actions to cause **injury or death** to people in order to make a **political protest**

The questions then ask about the use of different types of violent extremism 'in Britain' (see Chapter 2 for the precise text of the questions). For the questions on violent extremism in the name of religion, in protection of animals and in relation to different ethnic groups, interviewers can also use a spontaneous code - '*I don't understand the statement/ I am unfamiliar with the concept*' - if respondents do not understand the concept or questions.

Responses to the questions in the first three quarters of the 2009-10 Citizenship Survey suggest that respondents are both able and willing to answer questions on violent extremism. Just two per cent of answers were coded to 'Don't know' or '*I don't understand the statement/ I am unfamiliar with the concept*' and less than 0.5 per cent of respondents refused to answer any of the four violent extremism questions (Annex B Table 7).

Data from the first two quarters of the 2009-10 Citizenship Survey (April to September) were examined by an analytical panel to assess whether data met the quality standards required of a National Statistics product. The panel concluded that data did meet the quality requirements. Following this, three external topic experts were invited to undertake a peer review of the quality

assurance process. They shared the view of the panel that data were robust. Their comments, and our responses, are published together with the Statistical Release for information.

## Social desirability bias

Respondent's willingness and ability to answer questions is an important measure of robustness in statistics. In general social researchers make the assumption that respondent's answers are an accurate reflection of their true opinions, beliefs and behaviours. However, researchers acknowledge that questions on some topics may be vulnerable to *social desirability bias*. This means that respondents give what they believe to be the most favourable answer, one which portrays them in the most positive light. For example, respondents may claim to have given more money to charity than was actually the case; alternatively respondents may not admit to behaviours or attitudes which are viewed as socially unacceptable. Examples may include, for example, questions on sexual orientation and criminal convictions.

Violent extremism is a very sensitive topic in Britain, particularly given relatively recent incidents such as the July 7 2005 Tube Bombings. Given the public reaction to events such as this it is inevitable that respondents will feel some pressure to give a socially acceptable answer; in this case, expressing rejection of the use of violent extremism in Britain. Extensive efforts have been made to produce questions which are neutral and non-leading, and to ensure that the questions are asked by interviewers in a way that is non-judgemental. However, the possibility remains that some respondents may express greater rejection of violent extremism than they perhaps actually feel. This is a potential source of error, the effect of which is likely to be an over-estimate of the levels of rejection of violent extremism. Based on the testing undertaken on the questions we do not expect this to be substantial.

Despite the possibility of social desirability bias, the data nevertheless provide a useful measure of variations between different groups and, in the longer term, variations over time. An increase in levels of rejection of violent extremism over time may indicate a change in attitudes or, to some extent, an increase in the proportion of respondents who feel under some social pressure to reject violent extremism. Both scenarios are informative about attitudes towards violent extremism in society at large. Conversely, a reduction in levels of rejection over time, whether it indicates a reduction in rejection across society or a reduction in the social pressure to reject violent extremism, would nevertheless be important information for Government. Similarly, differences between groups, for example age groups, are of interest even if they reflect, to some extent, differences in the *social acceptability* of violent extremism.

## Annex D

# Multivariate analysis

There is often interest in exploring whether attitudes on any given measure vary between different groups – for example, among people from different age, sex or ethnic groups. A simple breakdown of responses to a question by any individual factor will often reveal differences between groups. Hence it may reveal that being young, being male, being from a minority ethnic group and being poor are all associated with being more likely to hold a particular view. However, it is not possible to identify from a simple breakdown which of these factors is most important in determining whether someone holds a particular view. In addition, it is not possible to establish whether each factor is independently associated with holding a particular view or whether one factor alone – which is common to all – is independently associated with holding a particular view. For example, if the key factor which influenced people's views was age, with young people being most likely to hold a particular view, we might find minority ethnic groups and low-income groups were also more likely to hold a particular view simply because young people are over-represented among ethnic minority groups and those on low incomes.

Multivariate analysis allows us to explore which factors are associated with particular outcomes when the impact of other related factors are taken into account. In this way we can identify the key factors which are **independently** associated with holding particular views.

For the multivariate analysis, a forward stepwise logistic regression model was undertaken to identify the key demographic and socio-economic factors associated with **rejecting** general violent extremism. Respondents who said that it was 'always wrong' for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust were coded as rejecting violent extremism. Eighty-five per cent of people rejected violent extremism on this measure.

The following variables were entered into the model:

- Age
- Sex
- Ethnic group
- Religious affiliation
- Country of birth
- Economic status (employed/unemployed/economically inactive)
- Socio-economic group

- Qualifications
- Household tenure
- Income

The above variables were chosen because they are the key demographic and socio-economic variables used to classify and differentiate the population, and as such are likely to be possible underlying factors which influence people's attitudes. The full sample was used and weights were applied to the data.

## Results of the multivariate analysis

The following variables were significant in the model:

- Income
- Age
- Socio-economic group
- Religious affiliation
- Country of birth
- Sex

The remaining variables –ethnic group, economic status, qualifications and tenure – were not significantly associated with rejection of violent extremism once other factors were taken into account.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> A second model was undertaken on the **core sample** only, excluding ethnicity, religion and country of birth. In this model, qualifications and tenure were significant, in addition to age, socio-economic group and income. However, qualifications and tenure were not significant in the full sample model once ethnicity, religion and country of birth were included.

## Annex E

# Violent Extremism Module

### 2009-10 Citizenship Survey Questionnaire

The following questions are about violent extremism; that is taking actions to cause **injury or death** to people in order to make a **political protest**.

INTERVIEWER: NOW HAND LAMINATED CARD WITH DEFINITION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM TO RESPONDENT.

---

#### VERtRng

SHOWCARD 50

How right or wrong do you think it is for people to use violent extremism in Britain to protest against things they think are very unfair or unjust?

- (1) Always right
  - (2) Often right
  - (3) Sometimes right, sometimes wrong
  - (4) Often wrong
  - (5) Always wrong
  - (6) Don't know
- 

SHOWCARD 50

**I'd like to ask you about some of the things people do to protest against things they feel are very unfair or unjust. Please tell me how right or wrong you think each of the following is...**

---

#### VEAnml

SHOWCARD 50

Animal rights protesters in Britain using violence to protect animals?

- (1) Always right
  - (2) Often right
  - (3) Sometimes right, sometimes wrong
  - (4) Often wrong
  - (5) Always wrong
  - (6) SPONTANEOUS ONLY: I don't understand the statement/ I'm unfamiliar with the concept.
-

## VEPol

### SHOWCARD 50

Political campaigners in Britain writing and distributing leaflets that encourage violence towards different ethnic groups?

- (1) Always right
  - (2) Often right
  - (3) Sometimes right, sometimes wrong
  - (4) Often wrong
  - (5) Always wrong
  - (6) SPONTANEOUS ONLY: I don't understand the statement/ I'm unfamiliar with the concept.
- 

## VERel

### SHOWCARD 50

People in Britain using violent extremism, in the name of religion, to protest or achieve a goal?

- (1) Always right
  - (2) Often right
  - (3) Sometimes right, sometimes wrong
  - (4) Often wrong
  - (5) Always wrong
  - (6) SPONTANEOUS ONLY: I don't understand the statement/ I'm unfamiliar with the concept.
- 

## VERelol

In what circumstances do you feel that it would be right for people in Britain to use violent extremism, **in the name of religion**, to protest or achieve a goal?

OPEN RESPONSE. RECORD ANSWERS VERBATIM.

---

## VESup

### SHOWCARD 51

In the last five years, have you done any of the things on this card in order to reduce or lower support for violent extremism **in the name of religion**?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

- (1) Disagreed with violent extremist beliefs in conversations I've had with people I know
  - (2) Spoken out publicly against people who encourage others to support violent extremism
  - (3) Signed a petition against violent extremism
  - (4) Joined a campaign against violent extremism
  - (5) Attended a public meeting to talk about how the community can protect itself against violent extremism
  - (6) I have done something else (specify)
  - (7) I have done none of the above
- 

### **VESupO**

What else have you done?

OPEN RESPONSE.

### **VESupNo**

SHOWCARD 52

You mentioned that you have not taken any action in order to lower or reduce support for violent extremism **in the name of religion**. Which of the reasons on this card applies to you?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

- (1) I don't feel violent extremism is a problem in Britain
  - (2) I don't feel violent extremism is a problem in my community
  - (3) I was worried about getting involved
  - (4) I don't really care enough about violent extremism to do anything
  - (5) I didn't know what to do
  - (6) It has never occurred to me to do anything
  - (7) I don't think it would make any difference
  - (8) Other (specify)
- 

### **VEIntro3**

Still thinking about violent extremism; that is taking actions to cause injury or death to people in order to make a political protest.

MAKE SURE THE RESPONDENT STILL HAS THE CARD WITH THE DEFINITION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN FRONT OF THEM.

### **VERLSup**

Have you personally seen anything which has tried to encourage people to support violent extremism **in the name of religion**?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Don't know

#### **VERLMat**

##### **SHOWCARD 53**

Which of the materials on this card have you seen that tried to encourage violent extremism **in the name of religion**?

PROBE IF NECESSARY: Anything else?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

- (1) Books
  - (2) Leaflets
  - (3) Videos
  - (4) DVDs
  - (5) Emails
  - (6) Internet sites
  - (7) Something else (specify)
- Don't know

#### **VERLot1**

What other materials have you seen that tried to encourage violent extremism **in the name of religion**?

OPEN RESPONSE.

#### **VERLWch**

##### **SHOWCARD 54**

You said that you've seen materials that tried to encourage people to support violent extremism **in the name of religion**. What religion or religions was this?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

- (1) Christianity
- (2) Buddhism
- (3) Hinduism
- (4) Judaism
- (5) Islam
- (6) Sikhism
- (7) Other religion (specify)

Don't know

**VERLot3**

What other religion was this?

OPEN RESPONSE.

**VcoI**

**SHOWCARD 55**

Where did you come across the materials encouraging violent extremism **in the name of [Islam/name of other religion]**? Please read out the letter or letters that apply.

CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

- (A) In a school, college or university
- (B) In a religious school or college
- (C) In a place of worship
- (D) At home
- (E) At a friend or relative's home
- (F) At work
- (G) In a community centre
- (H) On the street
- (I) Somewhere else (specify)
- Don't know

**Vot1**

Where else did you come across the materials?

OPEN RESPONSE.

**Vrwi**

When you saw the materials encouraging violent extremism **in the name of [Islam/name of other religion]**, would you say you...?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY.

- (1) read or watched all or nearly all of what you saw,
- (2) read or watched most of it,
- (3) read or watched a small section,
- (4) just glanced at it,
- (5) or didn't look at it at all?

**Vthi**

What did you think of the materials?

SPONTANEOUS, RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE.

**VERLOrg**

**SHOWCARD 56**

Some people say there are organised groups in their local area who support violent extremism **in the name of religion**. Do you think there are any such groups in **your** local area? By local area, I mean the area within a 15-20 minute walk from your home. Please read out the letter that applies.

SINGLE CODE ONLY.

- (A) I know there are groups
- (B) I suspect there are groups
- (C) I doubt there are groups
- (D) There are definitely no groups
- Don't know

**VERLWha**

**SHOWCARD 57**

What religion or religions do these groups support? Please read out the letter or letters that apply?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

- (A) Christianity
- (B) Buddhism
- (C) Hinduism
- (D) Judaism
- (E) Islam
- (F) Sikhism
- (G) Other religion (specify)
- Don't know

**VERLOt4**

What other religion or religions do these groups support?

OPEN RESPONSE.

Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU  
Telephone: 0303 444 0000  
Website: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

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