



The Extremist Risk Intervention Scale (ERIS) is a practical scoring tool useful for those on Behavioral Intervention Teams, law enforcement, and counter-terrorism teams to assess and intervene with extremist and terrorist violence.

## WHY WOULD A BIT USE ERIS?

- To understand elements of risk associated with vulnerability for radicalization toward extremism and violence.
- To enhance a structured interview process with specific information important to understanding ideological-based violence risks.
- To objectively measure the risks associated with BIT cases including political, religious, or social justice ideological ties.
- To select interventions related to protective elements that decrease vulnerability to extremism.
- To recognize indicators of mobilization toward violent extremism.

**RISK ELEMENTS:** Individual experiences, behaviors, attitudes, and environment that increase vulnerability to extremism and risk of violent action.

**Free Falling: Experience of bleakness.** There is a lack of stability and support, combined with feelings of dissatisfaction, frustration, anger, disillusionment, depression, disenfranchisement, and emotional pain.

**Outsider: Experience of discrimination and societal disengagement.** The individuals begin to feel separated, disconnected, and alienated from larger societal values, and experience social or political frustrations, creating a distortion of how they view the world.

**Roadblocks: Obstacles to goals.** Conditions within the individuals' environments block the ability for them to improve their situations and reach their goals. They lack "off-ramps," or diversions as they progress on the pathway toward violence.

**Hardened Warrior: Development of hardened point of view and justification for violent action.** The individuals begin to selectively attend to their environment, filtering out material or information that doesn't line up with their beliefs. They may harbor grievances and are emotionally drawn to action for perceived "injustices."

**Dangerous Belonging: Seeking reassuring group affiliation with polarizing, extremist ideologies.** The individuals identify and feel a sense of solidarity with extremist messages over friends and family. This makes them feel special, excited, confident, and understood, while reinforcing the justification for violence.

**PROTECTIVE ELEMENTS:** Elements in individual experiences, behaviors, attitudes, and environment that decrease vulnerability to extremism and protect against risk of violent action.

**Firm Foundation: Experience of environmental/emotional stability.** The individuals are engaged in or have achieved professional, career, or academic success. They are a larger part of these communities and possess a psychological steadiness, wellbeing, and resilience.

**Safe Spaces: Experience of social health and connection.** The individuals have a strong connection to family, friends, and community. These connections include positive and supportive role models and provide a sense of safety and security.

**Open Roads: Access to non-violent outlets.** Individuals have access to non-violent outlets for expressing frustrations and resolving grievances. They feel able to have their voice heard and to discuss radical ideas without being labeled or judged.

**Otherness: Development of empathy and inclusivity.** The individuals can empathize through perspective taking and understanding, and embrace equal and inclusive participation. They can hold differing viewpoints without advancing to harmful or contentious debate.

**Critical Awareness: Seeking positive social or individual action.** They have a sense of moral engagement and awareness of how their choices result in positive or negative actions. They use critical decision-making skills and an awareness of information literacy to evaluate information and opportunities for involvement.

**MOBILIZATION FACTORS:** Behaviors, experiences, and attitudes indicating a risk of mobilization toward violent action.

**Direct threat.** Has there been a direct threat made by the individuals in terms of their desire to move forward to an attack?

**Reactivity.** Do the individuals engage in reactive and harmful interactions with others, flowing from a hardened perspective?

**Escalation to action.** Is there an intensifying/escalating pattern of behaviors moving towards violent action and a readiness to act? Is there increasing or intensifying frustration/anger, a glorification of violence as a means to an end, or desire for martyrdom and a willingness to die for a cause or revenge?

**Catalyst event(s).** Have the individuals experienced a tragic or overwhelming event that serves as a potential trigger or springboard for action or change? Is there a loss of the social, financial, emotional, cognitive, spiritual, or psychological support that previously kept them from violence?

**Suicide.** Are the individuals currently suicidal? Have they offered unusual goodbyes on social media or in other written communication to family and friends? Are they becoming increasingly isolated or hopeless about the future?

**Group pressure or rejection.** Is there a renewed pressure to conform to a group's way of thinking and justification of violence? Have they been rejected by a radical group for being too radical?

**Acquisition of lethal means.** Do the individuals have access to weapons, have they researched plans of attack, and/or built up the capability and training that provides a readiness to act? Have they been contacted, or sought contact with, violent extremists?

**Narrowing on target.** Is there a narrowing fixation and focus on a target (such as a person, group or system)? Is there an expressed desire for revenge fueled by a high level of anger and frustration or centered on past injustices?

**Leakage.** Has there been leakage around an attack plan or research, sharing of last-act behaviors, and/or the creation of a legacy token? Have the individuals prepared a last will, manifesto, or martyrdom video/statement or social media post?

**Fantasy rehearsal and preparation for attack.** Are the individuals creating or engaging in simulations of a potential attack, and/or testing processes and operations? Have they explored or implemented counter-surveillance techniques or altered social media postings to protect their plan?

**SCORING:** The ERIS Scoring System has two separate processes, calculating the Readiness Potential (RP) and then the Mobilization Factors (MF). Follow these three steps to obtain your score:

1. Risk Elements (RE) and Protective Elements (PE) should be scored 0 for not present, 1 for partially present, or 2 for fully present. The range of scores for each is 0 to +10. Score the Risk Elements (RE) and Protective Elements (PE).

2. The Readiness Potential (RP) is an estimate of overall vulnerability and openness to being radicalized towards violence. The range of scores for the RP is -10 to 10. Obtain the RP by subtracting the Protective Elements from the Risk Elements. Readiness Potential = Risk Elements - Protective Elements.

3. The Mobilization Factor (MF) is obtained by taking the 10 items in this category and marking them 0 for not present and 1 for present. Scores of 1 and 2 are considered low; scores of 3, 4, and 5 are considered moderate; and scores of 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are high.

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ELEMENTS	SCORE	NOTES
<b>Risk Elements (RE): Score 0 (for not present), 1 (for partially present or unknown), or 2 (for present).</b>		
Free Falling: Experience of bleakness		
Outsider: Experience of discrimination and societal disengagement		
Roadblocks: Obstacles to goals		
Hardened Warrior: Development of hardened point of view and justification for violence		
Dangerous Belonging: Seeking reassuring group affiliation with polarizing, extremist ideologies		
TOTAL RISK ELEMENTS		
<b>Protective Elements (PE): Score 0 (for not present), 1 (for partially present or unknown), or 2 (for present).</b>		
Firm Foundation: Experience environmental/emotional stability.		
Safe Spaces: Experience of social health and connections.		
Open Roads: Access to non-violent outlets.		
Otherness: Development of empathy/inclusivity.		
Critical Awareness: Seeking positive social or individual action.		
TOTAL PROTECTIVE ELEMENTS		
READINESS POTENTIAL (RE-PE)		
<b>Mobilization Factors (MF): Score either 0 (for not present) or 1 (for present) each, then label low (if 1–2 factors are present), moderate (if 3–5 factors exist), and high (if 6–10 factors are present).</b>		
Direct threat		
Reactivity		
Escalation to action		
Catalyst event(s)		
Suicide		
Group pressure or rejection		
Acquisition of lethal means		
Narrowing on target		
Leakage		
Fantasy rehearsal and preparation for attack		
TOTAL MOBILIZATION FACTORS		<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High