

Trends of violent extremism

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Trends of violent extremism: from a security issue to a task for local social work

Abstract

Violent extremism was for a long period of time an issue mainly for the security functions in Swedish society and especially the security service. However, in the 2010:s a change took place in Sweden. A larger number of actors and agencies became involved in preventing violent extremism and a lot of focus was placed on the local level, the municipalities. Within the municipalities, the responsibility for the preventive work varied. In some municipalities it was the security organization who were in charge, but in most cases a function within the social services became responsible. The coordinator to safeguard democracy against violent extremism encouraged the municipalities to make assessment of the situation in their municipality and to conduct a plan of action to address the challenges identified.

Objectives

The objectives of this study is twofolded:

1. to understand the evolution of violent extremism in Sweden and how the preventive work has developed: from being an issue of security to a task for social work.
2. If it has had any implications for the individual function who was assigned to the task



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Research questions

How many municipalities/regions claim they have challenges with violent extremism?

How many of the municipalities who state having challenges also have assessments?

Is it the same municipalities who have problems that also have made assessments?

What kind(s) of extremism are most frequent?

Have there been any kind of unlawful influence connected to extremism in the municipalities?

Method & material

In 2017, the National Coordinator to safeguard democracy against violent extremism, conducted a national survey. The survey was directed toward the local coordinators against violent extremism in Swedish municipalities (#290)

Kommittédirektiv

En nationell samordnare för att värna demokratin mot våldsbejakande extremism



Dir.
2014:103

Preliminary results

Not there yet!

Conclusion:

Not there yet!

Questions for the audience

Suggestions of other areas who have been “incorporated” into the work of social services?

