

“We are Generation Terror!” Youth-on-youth Radicalisation in Extreme-right Youth Groups

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Young people are no longer just passive consumers of online terrorist content by adult groomers but are themselves propaganda creators, group organisers, peer recruiters, extremist financiers and terrorist convicts.

This process, called “youth-on-youth radicalisation”, emphasises the agency that young people have in a digital era in which the information hierarchy is increasingly flattened.

Instagram, Twitter, Tik Tok and Telegram are useful tools for young racial nationalists, providing them with a powerful opportunity to recruit, reach young audiences and present striking visual content.



This report analyses ten extreme-right youth groups, all of which have emerged since 2018, have an average membership age of under 25 and are associated with arrests for hate crimes, incitement to violence or acts of violence.

These groups demonstrate racial nationalist ideologies with a youth-centric focus, often using unique framings that differentiate them from other, older groups.

Young extremists use mainstream social media platforms to “funnel” users to accounts on platforms with increasingly extreme content and ecosystems.

Offline presence continues to be a vital tool for the majority of extreme-right youth groups in this study, who engage in fitness or martial arts and organise community service in order to foster an in-group identity. They incite against out-groups through expertly styled propaganda and aggressive, often racist rallies, protests and banner drops.