



# PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION AND TERRORISM IN CATALONIA

NOVEMBER 2017

**SÍNDIC**

EL DEFENSOR  
DE LES  
PERSONES



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Síndic de Greuges de Catalunya

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Following the terror attacks of August 17th in Barcelona, the Catalan Ombudsman has submitted a report on prevention of radicalization and coordination of security forces.

Radicalization is a complex phenomenon in which there are factors such as the difficulty in building a multiple cultural identity in a country where interculturality is still not well rooted, low expectations of success in school and work environment, low self-esteem and frustration, among others. It is necessary that public policies, at the different levels of the Administration, work on these elements. And they should do it without falling into Islamophobia and social exclusion, in line with what is promoted by Motion 151/XI of the Parliament of Catalonia.

In this sense, the protocols that have been adopted within the framework of the educational system are a tool that, while allowing the training of teachers and professionals of education and the in-depth and real work of interculturality in schools, are very positive for the fight against discrimination and the ideologies of hatred. It should be noted, however, that schools and education professionals cannot become pseudo-judicial entities for the detection of criminal or pre-criminal behaviours, since their main purpose is to educate and create a framework of coexistence and trust between students and the teachers

Catalan municipalities do not have any protocol or specific mechanisms for the prevention and detection of radicalism, although social services carry out prevention or coordination actions with other services. The Citizenship and Migration Plan 2017/2024 of the Secretariat for Equality, Migration and Citizenship can be a useful tool.

The State security forces, and their political leaders, must assume the fullness of the capacities and competences of the Catalan Police, including the fight against terrorism, and improve its coordination through the Security Board, the exchange of information and integration in all relevant cooperation structures at the state and international level.

1. **In general**, the administrations must promote a discourse on integration and prevention of racist conduct, discrimination, exaltation of violence and hatred, with special attention to the young population that is immersed in a process of identity research, and also paying attention to some processes of integration and socialization linked to identity based on religion and the difficulties linked to migration processes.

These are the **main actions recommended for specific areas**.

## 2. In schools:

- In the case of risk factors linked to the school context, continue promoting awareness-raising actions that promote the inclusion and fight against stereotypes and prejudices through the knowledge of different religious cultures and conflict management, through the training of teachers in intercultural education.
- Reinforce the learning of native languages to work the ties between peers in the different spaces of socialization of the students.
- Work on language learning among students and families of foreign origin to encourage the integration of families into school communities.
- Handle any case of suffering that can affect students, first of all, from the educational side, if necessary, with the assistance of the health or social services, and, secondly, if there are indications of radicalization and possible criminal behaviour, defer it to the police forces.
- Address the difficulties and shortcomings in policies to combat school segregation and promote social cohesion -reinforcing actions aimed at this effect, such as “Open high schools for educational success program”- and strengthen actions to deepen in the inclusion, interaction, recognition of diversity and the approach of combating the ideologies of hatred.
- Review the Protocol for the prevention of radicalization in schools in view of the results obtained in the first evaluation

after its implementation in 2016-2017 and the critics received.

3. In the field of **protection of children** and adolescents, work on updating the Protocol of action between the Secretariat for Children and Adolescents and the General Directorate of Police to guarantee the protection of children and adolescents in situations of risk that can be seen immersed in processes of exclusion or extremist radicalization.

4. In **penitentiary centres**, update and launch the new protocols for the detection and prevention of jihadist radicalization in centres of deprivation of liberty, both in regard to adults and juvenile justice centres..

5. Regarding **social services**:

- Implement and reinforce, with the pertinent endowments, the actions envisaged in the Citizenship and Migration Plan 2017/2020, in collaboration with the municipalities and social entities.

- Elaborate and disseminate a protocol for prevention, detection and intervention before processes of radicalization in the field of reception and citizenship, in the terms of the Citizenship and Migration Plan of the Secretariat for Equality, Migration and Citizenship.

6. The **Registry of religious entities** of the Ministry of Justice should be accessible, as a minimum, by the autonomous authorities, in its entirety. In addition, it would be necessary to value the creation of an own register in Catalonia, the more complete the better, that could be shared with the central register.

7. With regards to **security forces**:

- Meet on a regular and standardized basis, and whenever the circumstances advise, the Security Board of Catalonia.

- Consolidate the full presence of the Catalan Police in Intelligence Centre against Organized Crime and Terrorism.

- To immediately make possible the presence of the Catalan Police, with the consideration of competent authority, within Europol, and also to the rest of the coordination and information exchange agencies on an international scale.

- In the case of the Government of the State, remove the obstacles to the necessary extension of the staff of the Catalan Police.

- Convene, as soon as possible, a plenary session of the Parliament of Catalonia or of the Committee of the Interior to analyse and assess the attacks, as well as the actions of the public authorities in this case.

- Promote, as soon as possible, negotiations that may lead to the preparation and subsequent parliamentary approval of the Law of the police system of Catalonia.

- Be accountable for the condition of Abdelbaki Es Satty as a police confidant and analyse if this affected in some way the coordination between security forces.

- In the police action, guarantee that the police force does not use ethnic or religious profiling.



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