



Incels

Please note, this is a sensitive topic that impacts many people. If you find that this has caused you any upset or distress, please stop and seek appropriate support or feel free to reach out to the Safeguarding team at safeguarding@qa.com

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What are incels?

An incel is a member of an online subculture of primarily heterosexual men who identify as being unable to have romantic or sexual relationships. This self-described inability to form attachments is often expressed as grievance toward women. Incel subculture has been associated with misogyny, extremism, rape culture, and expressions and acts of violence. Incels are a subset of the “manosphere,” which includes other online communities animated by sexism and hostility toward women, such as pickup artists, Men Going Their Own Way (MGTOW), and men’s rights activists.



There has been a large rise in the number of young men referred to the government’s Prevent scheme over the women-hating “incel” ideology, official statistics have shown.

A senior counter-terrorism officer described incel as an “emerging risk” making up 1% of all referrals to the anti-extremism scheme in the year to March 2022 – 77 cases – triggered by concerns that mainly young men were falling for its message. That figure compares with no recorded referrals in the year to March 2000, and just three referrals in the year to March 2021.

Counter-terrorism officials believe the rise in reported cases is because of spread in the UK of its ideology – largely via the internet – and because of a growing awareness of its potential dangers among teachers and others who can refer cases to Prevent after the August 2021 Plymouth shooting. Jake Davison, the man suspected of killing five people in Plymouth had been active on social media platforms discussing the “incel” movement - young men describing themselves as “involuntarily celibate”.

Sex and genetics

The idea that all women are money-grabbing, promiscuous and manipulative comes across strongly on incel threads, where attractive women in particular are referred to as “Stacy’s”.

“Stacy’s” are objects of both desire and ridicule. In their world, incels believe “Stacy’s” will always choose so-called “Chads” over them.

A “Chad” is a caricature of a sexually successful man. And comparisons are not just about personality or confidence. Many incels believe they are genetically inferior to “Chads”.

Chad is often depicted as a successful guy with swathes of blonde hair and pulsating muscles (which he shows off in neon green trousers). He has a sports car, but more than that, he also possesses a physical attribute incels envy - a chiselled jaw line.

These crude caricatures seem laughable - but they are important because they create an “us v them” mentality. Incels believe that sex, love and happiness are out of their reach, available only to others.

The Chad



They're particularly drawn to the nihilistic "black pill" theory - the idea that they are the only ones who realise that the game of sex and attraction is rigged from birth.

Self-help or positivity is frowned upon on incel forums. Anyone who successfully interacts with women is instantly branded a "fakecel" - meaning "fake incel".

The culture of incels

The moderation of incel groups have not been the best. Reddit have made attempts to remove incel communities from their own platform, but many groups have remained online.

There are also individuals who keep tabs on incel forums. A Canadian woman who has been observing the Toronto incel community for years, has posed as a male on Reddit and has tried to engage with the community - she says she's received rape threats from incels. She has been particularly disturbed by conversations she's seen.

There was an incident where a British student who was an incel had posted online that he wasn't let into medical school because he said, 'a woman interviewed him and thought he was too ugly to be a doctor'. She then went on to explain that he was planning to kill himself that night and in the comments section were people encouraging him to take revenge and 'not go down alone'. She expressed the fact that they're encouraging each other to attack people, and no-one is doing anything about it.

How to report it?

- If you've come across a website or online content (including emails, forums or social media) that you feel is of a violent extremist or terrorist nature, please report it using the UK government's quick and anonymous [online tool to report extremist online material](#). Specialist officers will assess your information and, where appropriate, investigate the website and work with partners to remove it.
- Contact Crimestoppers anonymously - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>
- Call **999** if you are reporting a crime that is in progress or if someone is in immediate danger.

Make a referral to the Safeguarding team:

- Call us anytime on 07808 050273 or Email: safeguarding@qa.com
- Complete a [Safeguarding Self-Referral Form](#) if the concern relates to you.
- Complete a [Safeguarding Referral Form](#) if you are worried about someone else.
- Complete a [Low-Level Concern Form](#) if you are concerned about the conduct of a QA employee.



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