

# Global Extremes & Religious Diversity



Governance of Religion  
Violent Radicalisation & Extremism  
Polarisation  
Building Resilience

More information at: [globalgovernanceprogramme.com](http://globalgovernanceprogramme.com)

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## Introduction

The EU-funded GREASE and BRaVE projects seek to unravel some of the most critical issues of our times. A research and innovation action, GREASE investigates governance of religious diversity and religion as a factor in radicalisation. BRaVE is a coordination and support action exploring polarisation and radicalisation more generally. While BRaVE focuses on Europe, GREASE compares developments in multiple cultures on different continents. Both projects emphasise strategies for fostering resilience.

In order to address challenges associated with radicalisation and religious diversity, it helps to understand how different regions around the world deal with them. With this in mind, the GREASE and BRaVE projects

bring together academics and stakeholders from many parts of the world. Together, we are learning how countries respond to polarisation and violent extremism, how they approach the task of governing religious diversity and how they go about building resilience.

Our overall goal is to help societies become more effective at countering violent radicalisation while upholding fundamental rights.

This booklet provides an overview of some of the work being carried out by these separate but related projects, both of which are coordinated by the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute.



**Coordinator: Professor Anna Triandafyllidou, European University Institute, Italy, Florence. Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada**



Radicalisation,  
Secularism and the  
Governance of  
Religion: Bringing  
Together European  
and Asian  
Perspectives



**GREASE**

Religion, Diversity  
and Radicalisation

**Find out more at the  
GREASE website:**

[GREASE.EUI.EU](http://GREASE.EUI.EU)

# Project Overview

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What can Europe learn from other parts of the world about governing religious diversity? What insights can research yield to help prevent religious radicalisation? Researchers in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific region are exploring these essential questions and much more as part of the GREASE project.

The ten-partner consortium is looking at how religious diversity is governed in a broad range of cultures (23 countries in total), comparing relevant norms, laws and practices. Within this process, the project considers the relative success of various regimes in integrating minorities and migrants. The aim is to deepen understanding of religious diversity governance,

emphasising insights for countering radicalisation trends.

In addition to comparing current models of religious diversity governance, GREASE is analysing historical influences affecting them. Specifically, the project is looking at how norms and practices for governing religious diversity have been transferred between Europe and the regions mentioned above. Particular attention is being paid to the legacy of colonialism.

The GREASE project delivers innovative academic thinking on secularisation and radicalisation and offers insights for governance of religious diversity, with a special focus on preventing radicalisation.

# Building Resilience against Violent Extremism and Polarisation

BRAVE  
2019-2021



Building Resilience against Violent  
Extremism and Polarisation

**Find out more at the  
BRaVE website**

[WWW.BRAVE-H2020.EU](http://WWW.BRAVE-H2020.EU)

# Project Overview

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BRaVE is a European research project bringing together researchers and stakeholders with a view to understanding which factors drive polarisation and violent extremism in European societies, as well as identify strategies in response that build resilient communities.

The project explores what European countries can learn from the studies, policies and programmes implemented so far to counter violent extremism and polarisation, as well as what tools can be developed to support practitioners, policymakers and stakeholders across Europe in building resilient communities.

This research comes at a time of great global uncertainty when European societies are at risk of becoming increasingly polarised.

Vulnerable social groups – including ethnic minorities, migrants and a growing number of people disenfranchised by perceived and real inequality – may be seduced by the powerful sense of belonging and purpose offered by joining extremist groups or movements.

The BRaVE project aims to create an analytical framework that helps understand processes of violent extremism and polarisation both towards the Far Right and towards religiously attributed radicalisation. It works on creating relevant policy indicators on polarisation to assess trends on national and European-wide levels. It aims to produce key insights and policy recommendations on the use of interfaith and intercultural education, arts and sports, with a special focus on youth, to build resilient communities and prevent polarisation.

# Blog

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Global Extremes is an online media initiative exploring key issues in contemporary society such as violent extremism, governance of religion, polarisation and counter-radicalisation. A joint undertaking of the GREASE and BRaVE projects, the blog is hosted by openDemocracy, a content platform widely read in policy and academic communities.

Contributors to Global Extremes include researchers from both the GREASE and BRaVE projects. The blog provides consortium members with an opportunity to reflect on current developments of relevance to the two projects and to contextualise their research findings for a broader audience.



**Find out more at the website  
of openDemocracy**

[OPENDEMOCRACY.NET/EN/GLOBAL-EXTREMES](https://opendemocracy.net/en/global-extremes)

4. Is central Europe  
afraid of religious  
tolerance?



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Submissions are also solicited from outside contributors working in fields related to the two research projects.

Global Extremes provides a range of insightful commentaries on the role of religion in public and political life in Europe and other world regions. It addresses the rise of the far-right, looks at the phenomenon of religiously justified (or attributed) violent radicalisation, and explores how our societies and governments can find ways of building more resilient communities.



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5. Germany: Is banning  
far-right groups  
enough?



6. In India: secularism or multiculturalism?

# Online Training

## Find out more

[FUTURELEARN.COM/PARNERS/EUI](https://futurelearn.com/parners/eui)

Researchers involved in the GREASE and BRaVE projects have produced a series of free online courses to support learning and engagement with our research findings. These have been disseminated with the online learning platform Future Learn. Three courses have been produced so far:

- ✱ Religion, Radicalisation, Resilience (GREASE)
- ✱ Governing Religion: European Challenges and Asian Approaches (GREASE)
- ✱ Interfaith Dialogue for Combating Extremism among Young People (BRaVE)

**7. Governing Religion: European Challenges and Asian Approaches**

**8. Interfaith Dialogue for Combating Extremism among Young People**

**9. Religion, Radicalisation, Resilience**



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## Religion, Radicalisation and Resilience

This course examines violent radicalisation and religiously attributed violence. It explores issues related to violent radicalisation and suggests ways to build resilience in communities and schools.

In addition to discussing various terrorist events, Religion, Radicalisation and Resilience considers their consequences and tells the stories of the perpetrators. It also provides basic training in developing community resilience against radicalisation and terrorism.

## Governing Religion: European Challenges and Asian Approaches

Considering different models of state-religion relations, this course reviews examples from both European and non-European countries. It explores ways of governing religion and what religious diversity looks like today.



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Governing Religion: European Challenges and Asian Approaches encourages learners to see how different models of governance have emerged out of historical processes of nation formation and asks learners to debate ideal models for governing religion and religious diversity in today's world.

## Interfaith Dialogue for Combating Extremism among Young People

An introduction to the concept of interfaith, this course shows how to implement interfaith initiatives to encourage understanding between faiths and communities.

It explores the concepts of radicalisation and violent extremism, as well as discussing how interfaith can contribute to community resilience. Learners develop their own interfaith projects to respond to violent extremism in their local community.

# Country Reports and Country Profiles

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Reflecting the project's broad geographical scope, GREASE has produced critical dossiers on religious diversity governance, state-religion relations, and religiously inspired violent radicalisation in 23 countries.

Each dossier consists of a 6-page Country Profile and a lengthier Country Report which offers detailed

analysis. Eight macro-regions are considered, four within Europe and four outside of Europe.

On the basis of these reports, GREASE is preparing a handbook on The Governance of Religious Diversity (Triandafyllidou and Magazzini eds.) to be published by Routledge in 2021.

**All Country Reports and Country Profiles are freely available at**

[GREASE.EUI.EU/PUBLICATIONS/COUNTRY-REPORTS-AND-PROFILES](https://grease.eui.eu/publications/country-reports-and-profiles)

10. National flags of the 23 countries covered in the GREASE country reports



### Regions covered in Europe:

- ✦ WESTERN EUROPE (BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, THE UK)
- ✦ SOUTHERN EUROPE (GREECE, ITALY, SPAIN)
- ✦ CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPE (HUNGARY, LITHUANIA, SLOVAKIA)
- ✦ SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE (ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA)

### Regions covered outside the EU:

- ✦ EURASIA (RUSSIA)
- ✦ THE MENA REGION (EGYPT, LEBANON, MOROCCO, TUNISIA AND TURKEY)
- ✦ SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (INDIA, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA)
- ✦ THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION (AUSTRALIA)

# Counter-extremism Database



COVERS 10 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

There have been varied approaches throughout Europe in responding to concern over violent extremism and polarisation, which have looked to create more cohesive, resilient societies. Exploring these approaches gives us a clue as to how different states, governments and regions have conceptualised the causes of violent extremism and polarisation and helps us to consider good practices across the whole of Europe.

The BRaVE Database and Digital Map have been developed to help researchers, practitioners, policymakers and the wider public easily discover counter-extremism activities taking place across Europe. It highlights counter-extremism projects, policies and institutions active between 2014 and 2019, as well as relevant studies published since 2000. These have been turned into an interactive map, making the database easy to use and visually accessible.



# BRAVE

Building Resilience against Violent  
Extremism and Polarisation

## Find out more

[BRAVE-H2020.EU/DATABASE](https://brave-h2020.eu/database)

The database and map explore counter-extremism in ten different countries – Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. It provides an overview of how different countries across Europe view violent extremism and polarisation, as well as how regional, national and local responses are similar or differ.

It provides key information on project and policy approaches to violent extremism and polarisation across Europe, as well as detailing project and policy funding, timescale, focus, impact and assessment.



11. Interactive map of countries covered in the BRAVE database



12. Explore counter-extremism in 10 countries in Europe

# Indicators and Toolkits

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THE BRAVE AND GREASE PROJECTS HAVE PRODUCED DIFFERENT BUT COMPLEMENTARY SETS OF INDICATORS THAT CAN HELP US MONITOR POLARISATION AND THE GOVERNANCE OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY.

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PRODUCED BY THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH  
AND EVIDENCE ON SECURITY THREATS (CREST)  
UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER

## BRaVE Polarisation Indicators

Researchers at the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST), the University of Lancaster, working with the BRaVE project, put together a set of indicators to further understand how polarisation is occurring and being articulated throughout Europe.

The indicators were drawn from previous European projects and a review of relevant literature, studies and practice. They were divided into

the level on which they occur – micro, meso and macro – as well as into four key conceptual categories:

- ✱ socio-economic » indicators relating to financial and welfare factors of polarisation
- ✱ historical » indicators relating to state factors and historic conflicts and politics
- ✱ cultural » indicators relating to identity and cultural practices
- ✱ communication-based » indicators relating to offline and online content and interaction





### 13. Understanding Polarisation in Europe



### Types of Polarisation and Resilience

- Ethnic/Racial
- Religious
- Political
- Gender/Sex/Orientation
- Socio-Economic

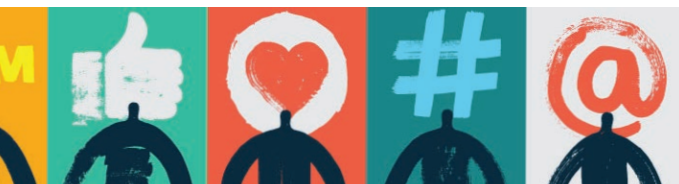
BRaVE researchers isolated 20 indicators, taking place from the very top to the very bottom of European societies, which help to establish how and why polarisation occurs. Factors include the level of state welfare and segregation in any given society, the individual voting patterns of its citizens, how widely minority cultures are understood, the restrictions placed on minority identities by the state, and the levels of hate speech legislation and national media monitoring taking place.

## BRaVE Toolkit

The Polarisation Indicators have been further developed during a workshop at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, where counter-extremism stakeholders and similar research projects from across Europe were invited to attend and contribute.

Following this intensive process of research, design and testing, a toolkit was developed and is hosted on the BRaVE project online platform. Exploring issues on all levels of society, the toolkit supports stakeholders and researchers in understanding and responding to trends in polarisation.

### 14. Artwork of Spirit Boom Cat.



## GREASE Indicators and Toolkit

The GREASE consortium has developed a set of state-religion governance indicators that can offer a toolkit for experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to assess trends on secularism and radicalisation within a country and across countries.

Our indicators allow for the assessment of unitary vs federal states in order to capture the complexity of different state structures.

Each set of indicators includes up to 10 specific measurements which should be seen as an integral whole.

Single sub-indicator assessments should not be used in isolation as they would take away the contextual aspect.

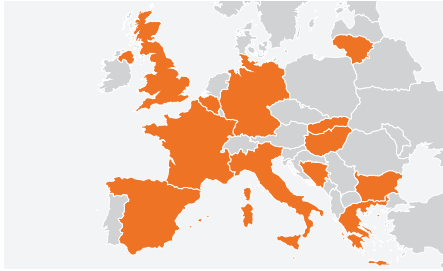
We have created four sets of indicators, assessing:

- ✦ the institutional, legal and policy aspects of governing religion;
- ✦ the guarantees and privileges (or lack thereof) afforded to religious minority groups;
- ✦ the level of the challenge of religiously inspired or religiously attributed violent radicalisation;
- ✦ and the policies and practices implemented to prevent and combat such phenomena.

### GREASE's indicators assess:

- ✦ Relations between the State and Religious Institutions
- ✦ Religious Diversity and Status of Religious Minority Groups
- ✦ Scale and Intensity of Religiously-inspired Violent Radicalisation and Extremism
- ✦ State Efforts to Prevent and Combat Religiously-inspired Violent Radicalisation and Extremism

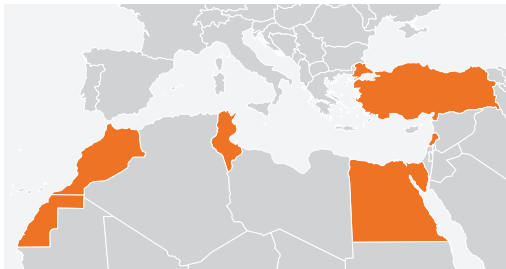


**15. Europe**

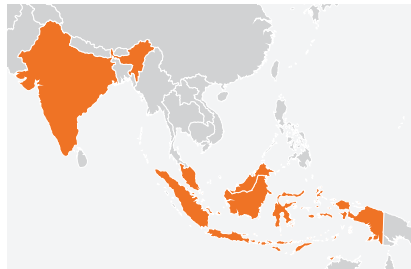
Historically in Europe, religion and politics have enjoyed various linkages. How do they fare today, as a result of state-building processes, demographic changes and migration flows?

**16. Eurasia (Russia)**

The ethno religious composition of the Russian federation is quite diverse, with religious institutions playing an important role in the government of its domestic and international affairs.

**17. The Middle East and North Africa**

Almost a decade after the Arab spring, how is the MENA region governing its religious diversity?

**18. South and Southeast Asia**

South and Southeast Asia are home to the most populous Muslim-majority state, Indonesia, and the world's most densely populated and multicultural democracy, India.

**19. Asia Pacific (Australia)**

Australia's commitment to multicultural secularism has been challenged by far-right, anti-religious minority sentiments in recent years.

Producing indicators has been a complex task for GREASE as the project includes countries from different world regions, where data availability and comparability is a challenge and where even the way in which issues are discussed and policies developed can vary significantly. Most importantly, the countries that we study include Christian, Muslim and Hindu majority countries with large religious minority populations. These countries have faced complex challenges in terms of religious attributed radicalisation and violence.

The GREASE Indicators Toolkit is available upon request ([grease@eui.eu](mailto:grease@eui.eu)) and will be available through the project's website, alongside our country assessment reports, from June 2020.

# GREASE Documentary



FILMED BY DIEGO D'INNOCENZO  
(TERRA PRODUCTIONS)

Watch the interviews and documentaries on the **GREASE project website**

[GREASE.EUI.EU/FILMS/](http://GREASE.EUI.EU/FILMS/)

The GREASE project has produced two professional quality films exploring religious diversity and counter-radicalisation approaches in various parts of the world. Created with the help of an experienced international filmmaker, the documentaries feature exclusive interviews shot in seven countries in Europe, Eurasia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific region.

## Religion and Society: How Faith Fits in Around the World

Covering a range of faiths and viewpoints, this film offers a fascinating collection of personal insights into how religion and secularism are experienced in vastly different contexts. The interviews also reveal some of the tensions that arise in connection with religious diversity.

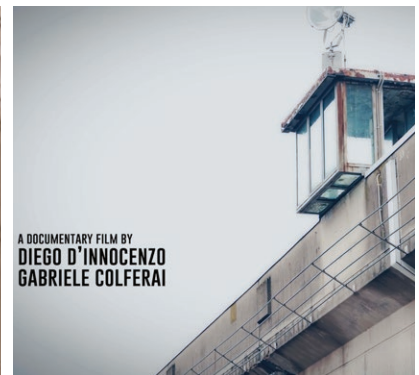


Religion and Society: How Faith Fits in Around the World" A TERRA documentary film.  
54 minutes.

## Countering Religious Extremism: Pathways to Peace

This documentary examines different approaches to building resilience against religiously justified or attributed radicalisation. Seen through the eyes of educators, social workers and activists, the film identifies factors that drive radicalisation across different settings and continents, suggesting what is being done in response.

The films are being made freely accessible on a dedicated interactive platform on the GREASE website. They are explicitly designed for use in educational settings and are intended to generate discussion. All country and interview segments can be accessed and shown individually.



Countering Religious Extremism: Pathways to Peace" A TERRA documentary film. 25 minutes



# Concept Papers

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THREE CONCEPT PAPERS WERE AUTHORED AS PART OF THE GREASE PROJECT AND ONE BY THE BRAVE PROJECT. THESE PAPERS WERE PRODUCED BY KEY ACADEMICS FROM THE PROJECT CONSORTIUMS, REFLECTING THE PROJECTS' CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS. THEY EXPLORE CRUCIAL ISSUES, INCLUDING SECULARISM AND RELIGION, RADICALISATION, VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND POLARISATION, AND RELIGIOUS GOVERNANCE IN THE MODERN NATION STATE.

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**Download BRaVE Concept Paper**  
[brave-h2020.eu/publications](https://brave-h2020.eu/publications)

## BRaVE Concept Paper

**POLARISATION, VIOLENT EXTREMISM  
AND RESILIENCE IN EUROPE TODAY:  
AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK**

Through a review of studies, policies and programmes on polarisation, violent extremism and resilience to these phenomena, the BRaVE concept

paper develops a relevant analytical model. Richard McNeil-Willson, Vivian Gerrand, Francesca Scrinzi and Anna Triandafyllidou identify vulnerabilities and resilience factors operating on macro, meso and micro levels, which may either increase or decrease the likelihood that communities become fragmented and polarised within a European context.

## GREASE Concept Papers

### 1. SECULARISM AND THE GOVERNANCE OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Tariq Modood and Thomas Sealy offer an analytical reflection on the normative basis for state-religion relations and the governance of religious diversity. They also provide a sociological reflection on viable forms of religious diversity governance. The paper offers a basis for discussion around models and varieties of secularism (the governance of religion) and religion-politics relations.

### 2. A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RADICALISATION, RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

Reviewing the role of religion in radicalisation theories, H. A. Hellyer and Michele Grossman delineate three main schools of conceptualising radicalisation. Their paper offers a conceptual framework for exploring the complex relationship between radicalisation, religion and violence.

### 3. NATION AND RELIGION: REFLECTIONS ON EUROPE, THE MENA REGION AND SOUTH ASIA

Anna Triandafyllidou, Haldun Güllalp, Marat Iliyassov, Gurpreet Mahajan and Egdunas Raciūnas examine nationalism and the role of religion within it in light of more fervent forms of nationalist discourses across the world over the last decade. In addition to considering countries with growing nationalism in Europe, the paper takes account of developments in Turkey, Russia and India where nationalism has evolved in different guises.



**Download GREASE Concept Papers**  
[grease.eui.eu/publications/concept-papers](http://grease.eui.eu/publications/concept-papers)

## The GREASE Project

Radicalisation, Secularism and the Governance of Religion: Bringing together European and Asian Perspectives

Funding Source: European Union Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme

Grant agreement number: 770640

Coordinator: Professor Anna Triandafyllidou, European University Institute, Florence, Italy / Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

Budget: 2.2 million euros

Duration: 42 months

[www.grease.eui.eu](http://www.grease.eui.eu) | [grease@eui.eu](mailto:grease@eui.eu) | @projectGREASE



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 770640.

## The BRaVE Project

Building Resilience against Violent Extremism and Polarisation

Funding Source: European Union Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme

Grant agreement number: 822189

Coordinator: Professor Anna Triandafyllidou, European University Institute, Florence, Italy / Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

Budget: 1.5 million euros

Duration: 30 months

[www.brave-h2020.eu](http://www.brave-h2020.eu) | [brave@eui.eu](mailto:brave@eui.eu) | @BRaVEProjectEU



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 822189.

### GREASE partners



### BRAVE partners

