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# Gender and the far right

## Understanding far-right narratives to develop successful counternarratives

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**Policy Futures**



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1

# Context

How (and when) the far right talks about gender



# Why is gender important to the far right?



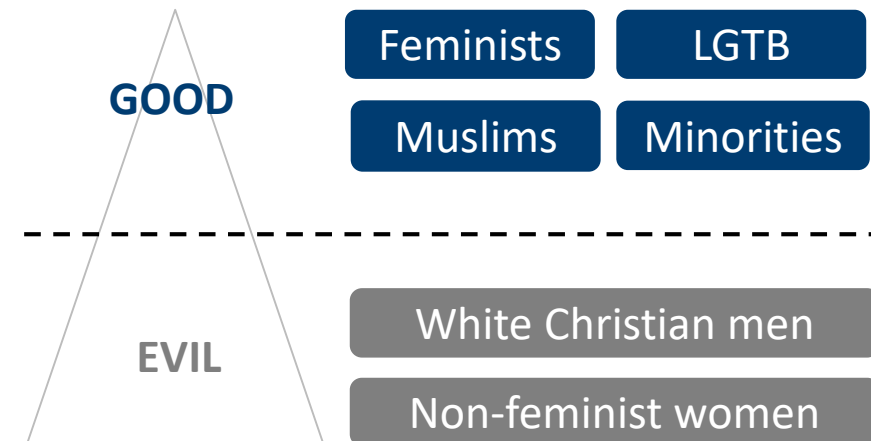
- Gender has become another instrument for the far right to **promote its rhetoric**
- This takes **many forms**: from misogynistic groups that target women to movements that use women to portray the groups as more palatable or even use them as an excuse to promote anti-Muslim sentiment



# Gender is framed to fit the far-right's worldview

- In general, the far right subscribes to a **traditional and patriarchal view** on the role of women and men in society and promote enhanced ideals of masculinity and femininity
- The far right believes that movements that call for more equality between sexes, such as feminism, are part of a **cultural Marxist conspiracy that seeks to subjugate men**

Anders Breivik's perception on what modern society (influenced by cultural Marxism) really looks like





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# Narratives of the far right: The hyper-masculine man



# Some men-only far-right groups have articulated a modern understanding of hyper-masculinity

- Most groups in the far-right have men as leaders and subscribe to a patriarchal notion of society – yet their aesthetics have changed over the years
- Prospective members are encouraged to work out, look a certain way and avoid from taking drugs or drinking excessive alcohol
- There are some groups in the far right that are men-only and misogynistic –the Manosphere





# Involuntary celibates (incels) are an exception as they do not see themselves as hyper-masculine







# Incels also divide women in two categories, which in some cases justifies violence against them

## The Becky

feminist

needy

needs to be dominant one in relationship

average 6/10



will likely die hair green, pink or blue after attending college

friends are white knights that defend her stupid opinions online  
Post provocative pictures because she needs attention

## The Stacy

hates basic bitches like becky

Always had attention, enjoys alone time

Let's Chad dominate her

10/10 qt 3.14



Lushes natural blonde hair

Cucks every man she ever knew when Chad shows up

shows off body online because she knows she can make big money off virgin losers



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# Narratives of the far right: The anti-feminist woman



# Women in the far right are gaining more agency

- Women traditionally have had a supportive role in far-right groups, usually as mothers and wives
- However women are progressively becoming involved, both in fronting movements and developing women-only activism and even plotting attacks





# Women in far-right groups are very vocally anti-feminist and embrace ultra-femininity

- Several women in high-profile far right groups have condemned feminism as an attack on men and have celebrated femininity as a counterbalance
- Ultra-feminine women are usually used as a means to soften the image of the far right and to recruit new members, particularly males





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# Successful counternarratives: The way forward

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# Existing programmes



Training on gender and extremism to schools, universities, youth welfare organisations, municipalities and media



Aimed at preventing extremism and fostering critical dialogue with students and young people, including discussions on gender roles



Supports families dealing with far-right extremism while incorporating a gender perspective



Pilot project (2013-2014) aimed at pinpointing the gaps in our understanding of gender and extremism and suggesting recommendations



# Policy recommendations

1

Compile **gender-specific data** on radicalisation and recruitment patterns

2

Incorporate a **gendered approach** to the development of preventative and deradicalisation programmes

3

Not **perpetuate gender stereotypes** in our response as well as understanding how **harmful** they can be for the communities involved