

ENGAGEMENT | TRUST | COLLABORATION | PARTNERSHIP

Current Threat

The threat posed by violent extremism is neither constrained by international borders nor limited to any single ideology. Groups and individuals inspired by a range of religious, political, or other ideological beliefs have promoted and used violence against the United States. Increasingly sophisticated use of the internet, traditional and social media, and information technology by violent extremists add an additional layer of complexity.

LA Context

Foundational work in Los Angeles cultivating an environment promoting engagement is credited to academic institutions and local community based organizations whose contributions to building healthy and resilient communities continue to be an invaluable asset. Coordinated interagency efforts between LAPD, LASD, City of LA Human Relations Commission and federal partners including DHS, DOJ, and FBI specifically on the issue of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) started in 2008. The focus of these efforts continue to be strengthening community partnerships through diverse engagement efforts and a series of forums, conferences, workshops, advisory groups and dialogue exchanges with community leaders.

Approach

The LA Framework emphasizes the strength of local communities with the premise that well-informed and well-equipped families, communities, and local institutions represent the best defense against violent extremist ideologies. The conceptual framework is dynamic in nature guided by on-going community input. The framework offers three overarching components: Prevention, Intervention, and Interdiction. Through each of these components the framework aims to meet communal needs, individual needs, and security needs.

CVE efforts in Los Angeles aim to address all forms of extremist ideologies that promote violence and criminal activity. The concepts presented in the Los Angeles CVE Framework are designed to be applied across a broad spectrum of violent extremism. This document, however, highlights foundational partnerships with American-Muslim communities because some of the most developed prevention and intervention efforts are currently being led by these communities.

Safeguards

The preservation of civil rights and civil liberties is a key pillar of the LA Framework. The Framework seeks to mitigate the risk presented by violent extremist groups while preserving individual liberty, fairness and equality under the law. The LA Framework also clearly differentiates between law enforcement intelligence gathering operations versus engagement for the sake of good governance. Community engagement programs by law enforcement and government agencies under the LA CVE Framework are intended to establish trust and build community partnerships aimed at effectively addressing community needs and concerns.

Future

The proposed framework takes full consideration of multiple challenges moving forward. These include the development of a community-led comprehensive intervention program, availability of resources for community-driven initiatives, capacity building for government, law enforcement and NGOs, and resolving multiple legal considerations. Overcoming these challenges requires transparent community partnerships and continued intergovernmental collaborations. Above all, these efforts will need to ensure strict protections of individual civil rights and civil liberties and maintain strong safeguards to individual privacy, while also preserving our core values as a nation and ensuring the safety of our communities.