

Violent misogyny

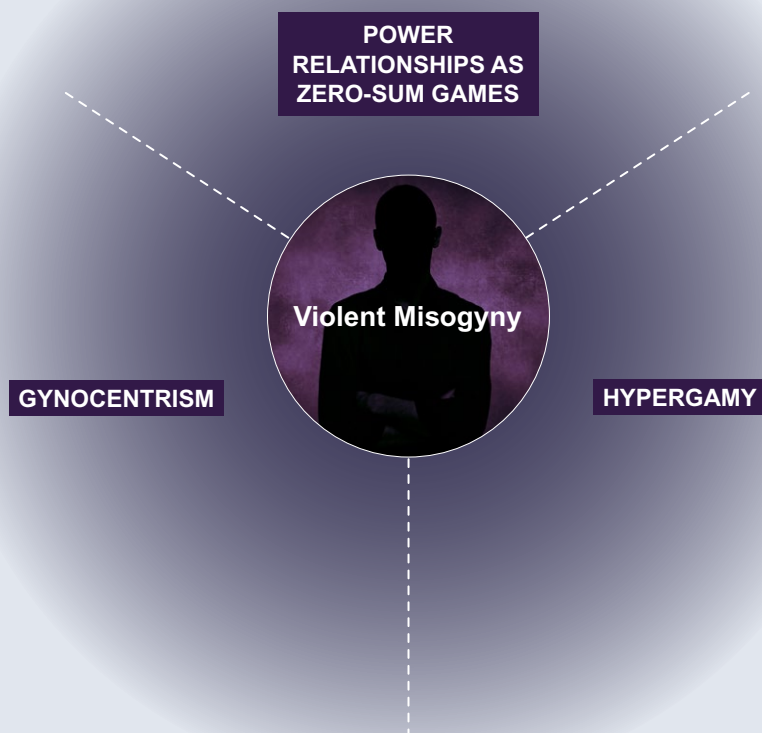
Over the last few years, examples of planned and conducted violent acts have emerged in Sweden and internationally, where the perpetrator has been motivated by misogyny. The cases that have received the most media attention have been carried out in the US and Canada.

The National Centre for Terrorist Threat Assessment (NCT) has analysed violent misogyny from a Swedish perspective and made the assessment that it is unlikely the phenomenon poses a terrorist threat on its own.

Ideology

The basis of the ideology of violent misogyny can be found in the manosphere movement, which is a loosely correlated network of ideas and actors.

- From the manosphere viewpoint, society is seen as **gynocentric** (focused on women), which means that women's needs and perspectives are always prioritised over men's.
- Also, in the manosphere, relationships between men and women are considered to be a **zero-sum game**. Progress in gender equality, according to the manosphere, therefore leads to a society where women gain advantages at the expense of men.
- A reoccurring idea is that all women are **hypergamous**, i.e., they always look for high-status men, often related to appearance or financial standing. This is perceived to reinforce men's loss of autonomy, and further results in an imbalance in the power-balance between men, as only a few individuals will be rewarded.



Misogynist notions appear in society in general, but when these are given an ideological context, the concept misogynist extremism is used. This is an ideology where the main objective is a misogynist society, which comprises strict gender roles and traditional values about gender identity and sexual orientation. When violence is legitimised as a way to actualise this ideology, then the concept violent misogyny is used.

Misogyny may also feature in other types of extremism such as violent right-wing and violent Islamist extremism. In this context, a misogynist society is not a goal in itself

but rather a means to achieve other ideological goals, for instance, the survival of the represented race, nation or religion.

Violent misogyny should therefore be considered as its own phenomenon even if there appears to be overlaps with other violent environments.

Internationally, examples can be found where violent misogyny has resulted in acts of violence that can be described as terrorism. In several well-known cases acts have been carried out by individuals who describe themselves and identify as incels (involuntary celibate).

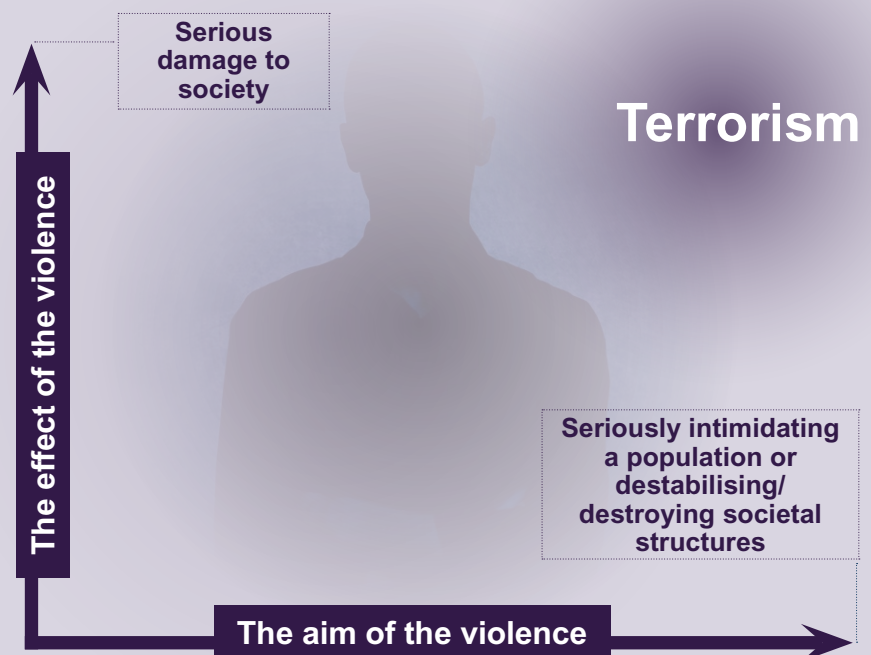
The threat to Sweden

- International acts of violence demonstrate that violent misogyny exists as a stand-alone category of violent extremism, separate from traditional types of extremism, such as violent right-wing and violent Islamist extremism.
- Currently, violent misogyny on its own does not pose a concrete terrorist attack threat in a Swedish context.
- Violent misogyny is assessed to continue to be part of a diversified terrorist threat landscape, i.e., elements from the misogynist extremism may be an aspect of ideologically motivated acts of violence in the future.
- In the long term, it is possible that other violent extremists, primarily violent right-wing extremists, may, to a greater extent, utilise narratives from violent misogyny to radicalise for their own purposes, based on the fact that there are overlaps between the actors' ideologies.

What differentiates violent misogyny from other types of misogynistic violence is the perpetrator's ideological framework. Actors view their own attacks as part of a perceived rebellion against current societal structures and, usually, individuals who have carried out previous attacks are seen as role models. The violence is often targeted towards individuals, repeatedly women, who have no personal relationship with the perpetrator. Society at large is also a target, for instance, through mass shootings in public spaces that are important symbolically for the actor's ideology. This includes locations which are linked to gender equality or environments where the employees or visitors are, to a large extent, women.

It appears that women also participate in misogynist extremism, even if known acts of violence with a link to violent misogyny have, up until now, been carried out by men. The violent acts have primarily been carried out with simple methods such as knives, firearms, and vehicles.

Violent misogyny as terrorism



Internationally, only a few acts of violence with a link to violent misogyny have been prosecuted on terrorist offences. For terrorism to apply, the criminal act would have to have serious implications for a country. The criminal act would also have to be conducted in order to seriously destabilise or destroy fundamental societal structures or alternatively with the purpose of seriously intimidating a population.



The **National Center for Terrorist Threat Assessment (NCT)** produces strategic assessments of the terrorist threat in and against Sweden. The NCT is a joint working group staffed by personnel from the National Defence Radio Establishment, the Military Intelligence and Security Service, and the Swedish Security Service.

Every year, the NCT presents its annual assessment of the strategic terrorist threat in and against Sweden. The NCT also prepares continual assessments on circumstances that affect, or may affect, the terrorist threat in the long term, for the purpose of enhancing the knowledge and thereby the overall capability to counter the development of terrorist threats at an early stage.