



# STUDENT THREAT ASSESSMENT

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## SCHOOL SAFETY ALERT: UNDERSTANDING GORE GROUPS & THE 764 TERRORIST GROUP

### PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM ONLINE RADICALIZATION & EXPLOITATION

Online extremist groups are actively targeting minors, coercing them into harmful and illegal activities, and exploiting them for notoriety and control. The 764 terrorist network and GORE groups are particularly dangerous, using online platforms to radicalize, manipulate, and endanger children and teens. These groups rely on social media, gaming platforms (Roblox, Animal Crossing, Minecraft, Fortnite, etc...), and encrypted messaging apps to lure minors into their networks, often using blackmail, threats, and extortion tactics. Their goal is to desensitize young people to violence, encourage criminal behavior, and increase societal chaos. Read the newest FBI update (updated March 2025).

These groups seek to:

- Exploit and manipulate minors into producing self-harm, animal abuse, and explicit content.
- Encourage violent and criminal activities as a form of "initiation."
- Use coercion and extortion, including threats of doxxing (revealing private information) or swatting (making false emergency calls to police).
- Radicalize youth into adopting extremist and violent ideologies.

According to law enforcement agencies, these groups systematically target young people who feel disconnected or are seeking validation online. They often use coercion, blackmail, and psychological manipulation to influence behavior.

### WARNING SIGNS & PREVENTION STRATEGIES

**School personnel and parents should be aware of these behavioral and online indicators:**

#### Online Red Flags:

- Sudden obsession with violent or extremist content.
- Engaging in secretive online behavior, using multiple social media accounts.
- Expressing fascination with gore, animal abuse, or extremist groups.
- Receiving unusual messages from unknown accounts.
- Using coded language or symbols (e.g., numbers or symbols carved into skin).

#### Behavioral Warning Signs:

- Withdrawal from friends and family, increased isolation.
- Sudden mood changes, increased aggression, or depression.
- Wearing long sleeves or pants in hot weather (potentially hiding self-harm scars) and engagement in self-harm (cutting, burning, or carving symbols on skin).
- Expressing extreme beliefs or talking about death or violence.

**How Schools and Parents Can Help Prevent Radicalization**

Prevention starts with awareness, monitoring, and open communication.

#### 1. Monitor and Educate on Online Safety

- Schools should educate students on responsible online behavior and the dangers of extremist groups.
- Parents should regularly check children's online activity and enable parental controls.
- Discuss why anonymity online can be dangerous and how predators manipulate youth.

#### 2. Identify and Report Early Warning Signs

- Teachers and counselors should look for students exhibiting signs of distress, isolation, or unusual online behavior.
- Encourage students to report concerning online interactions to a trusted adult.
- If a student is displaying extremist language, ideologies, or harmful behavior, notify school safety teams and law enforcement.

#### 3. Foster Strong School and Family Support Systems

- Create safe spaces for students to discuss challenges and seek mental health support.
- Educators and parents should reinforce positive social connections to reduce the appeal of extremist groups.

### REPORTING

Report concerns to school administrators, local law enforcement, or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (<http://www.ic3.gov>).

If it is an immediate, life-threatening emergency, dial 9-1-1 or seek immediate help if a student shows signs of self-harm or suicidal ideation (call 9-8-8 for mental health support).

For more resources, visit:

- FBI Field Office: 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324)
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: [www.cybertipline.org](http://www.cybertipline.org)



# Clicks to Cliques:

## How Gangs Use Social Media & Gaming to Recruit Youth

In an era where social media and gaming platforms are deeply woven into the fabric of young people's lives, gangs are adapting their recruitment tactics. They increasingly rely on online channels to reach youth who might otherwise be off-limits or less accessible in person. These digital platforms provide a sense of anonymity and community, which can be appealing to vulnerable teens searching for belonging or excitement.

### Social Media's Role in School Safety & Violence Prevention

The National Gang Center, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, reports that 30% of gang-related violence in some communities stems from social media disputes—a number that continues to rise with the growing influence of digital platforms. A 2022 Rand Corporation Report indicates that 40% of gang-involved youth were recruited online, a significant increase from previous decades when recruitment was largely in-person. This highlights the critical need for schools to stay vigilant, recognize online threats, and conduct thorough threat assessments, whether the risks are gang-related or not.

### How Gangs Are Using Social Media and Online Gaming to Recruit Youth

According to the FBI's 2015 National Gang Report, social media has become a primary driver of gang recruitment, contributing to an uptick in cyber threats and interstate coordination of criminal activities. The Department of Homeland Security also warns that transnational gangs often rely on digital platforms to maintain ties and expand their influence across borders.

#### Viral Appeal:

Gangs post music videos ([learn more about Drill Rap here](#)), "lifestyle" content, or memes that glamorize gang membership, often highlighting money, power, and loyalty.

#### Direct Messaging & Online Communities:

Platforms like Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, or Telegram are used for private recruitment conversations. Gangs may target teens who engage with certain content or show signs of vulnerability (e.g., family strife, isolation). Gangs can also infiltrate gaming chat platforms (e.g., Discord, Xbox Live, PlayStation Network) to recruit. Shared in-game experiences can quickly establish trust or camaraderie.

#### Challenges & Hashtags:

Some gangs create viral "challenges" or hashtag campaigns that subtly encourage violent or criminal behavior, acting as a funnel for youth curiosity.

#### Encrypted Apps & Forums:

Apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, or Signal can be used to coordinate real-life activities, share target information, and plan violent acts. Some extremist or gang-affiliated forums require an invite, making it harder for outsiders—including law enforcement—to track them.

### Action Steps for School Safety Teams and Community Partners

#### **Encourage Reporting & Documentation**

- Train teachers, coaches, and staff to identify red flags and escalate concerns quickly.
- Create a safe, anonymous reporting system for students.

#### **Implement Community Outreach & Education**

- Hosting sessions both to educate parents and educate students on responsible digital citizenship by highlighting how their online actions—such as sharing, reposting, or engaging with gang-related content—can impact their future opportunities and personal safety. Emphasize that even if they are not personally involved in gang culture, idolizing or promoting this content can create the perception that they are, potentially putting them at risk. Interactive discussions and real-life examples can help students understand the long-term consequences of their digital footprint and how their choices online can shape their reputation, relationships, and personal security.

#### **Collaborate with Law Enforcement**

- Partner with school resource officers (SROs) and local gang task forces for intelligence sharing on current gang trends, and understand legal frameworks—social media threats may constitute criminal acts and require immediate law enforcement involvement.

#### **Foster Positive Student Connections**

- Encourage extracurriculars, mentoring programs, or after-school activities that offer supportive peer networks. Develop a school culture of inclusivity, where students at risk feel they belong and have alternatives to gang involvement.
  - [Read more about Drill Rap and additional resources here](#) and [here](#)