

Domestic Terrorism Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Designation of Threat Category

This document is a model internal Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) document designating Transgender Ideology-Inspired Violent Extremism (“TIVE”) as a Domestic Terrorism Threat Category.

I. Domestic Terrorism Summary

The FBI is the lead United States law enforcement and intelligence agency on terrorism matters. Preventing terrorist attacks in the United States remains a top priority for the FBI. The FBI does not formally “designate” domestic groups as terrorist organizations in the same way it does foreign ones (such as al Qaeda). Instead, it categorizes and then investigates United States-based extremist individuals and groups as domestic violent extremists (“DVEs”) based on their involvement in *violent acts to advance ideological goals* that are rooted in domestic influences like politics, religion, race, or social issues. Under domestic terrorism statute, 18 U.S.C. § 2331(5), the FBI analyzes whether a group is engaged in violating the “criminal laws of the United States or of any State” that “appear to be intended” to:

- o Intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
- o Influence the policy of government by intimidation or coercion; or
- o Affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, **assassination** or kidnapping¹

Currently, one of the most significant sources of DVE violence on American soil is posed by lone offenders and small groups of individuals who commit acts of violence motivated by a range of radical ideological beliefs exacerbated by personal grievances.² Such individuals are often socially isolated with deep-seeded self-esteem issues, often have psychiatric problems, are susceptible to online radicalization, and look to engage in DVE violence with easily-accessible weapons.

¹ See 18 U.S.C. § 2331(5); see also <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/counterterrorism/fbi-dhs-domestic-terrorism-definitions-terminology-methodology.pdf/view>.

² The FBI and DHS define a lone offender as an individual motivated by one or more violent extremist ideologies who, operating alone, supports or engages in acts of unlawful violence in furtherance of that ideology or ideologies that may involve influence from a larger terrorist organization or a foreign actor. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics does not constitute violent extremism and may be constitutionally protected.

Under former FBI Director Christopher Wray, the FBI labeled five categories of persons as DVE threats to include: (1) Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism; (2) Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Extremism; (3) Animal Rights/Environmental Violent Extremism; (4) Abortion-Related Violent Extremism; (5) All Other Domestic Terrorism Threats.³

In September 2025, Director Kash Patel announced the designation of Nihilistic Violent Extremism as a DVE category.⁴

The DVE category designations legally enable the FBI to deploy sophisticated investigative techniques to monitor and track individuals and groups linked to known domestic terrorism threats--thereby preventing imminent threats of violence on U.S. soil. The DVE classification indicates that, due to the intelligence/evidence that led to the DVE status, there is a heightened level of predication that justifies the use of more intrusive investigative techniques. Techniques include but are not limited to the deployment of human sources, undercover operations, and the exploitation of vast databases.

The FBI continually reviews and evaluates intelligence and information from multiple sources to ensure it appropriately identifies and categorizes national security threats to the Homeland. While categories help the FBI better understand the threat associated with broad categories of DT-related criminal actors, the FBI recognizes motivations vary, are nuanced, and sometimes are derived from a blend of ideologies. As part of this continual internal review, the FBI prioritizes threat categories as threats evolve and must be ready to designate new forms of DVEs as they arise.

The United States has seen a recurring pattern of extreme violence committed by perpetrators that appear to have been acting in furtherance of a radical transgender ideology. The statements made by the perpetrators and their supporters show that individuals that espouse to this ideology use violence as a means to intimidate Christians and other groups in their exercise of 1st Amendment-protected speech and religious practice, coerce the population into believing there is more than two genders, and silence Americans that do not espouse to their ideology.⁵ Given this disturbing and violent pattern, the FBI must open a new DVE threat category: Transgender Ideology-Inspired Violent Extremism

³ See <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/counterterrorism/fbi-dhs-domestic-terrorism-definitions-terminology-methodology.pdf/view>.

⁴ See <https://www.newsweek.com/what-nve-fbis-latest-term-tracking-extremist-threats-2130885>.

⁵ On September 16, 2025, Sen. Josh Hawley stated at the FBI Oversight Hearing that there have been over 400 instances of hostility against churches in the U.S. in the Year 2024 including arsons, bomb threats, shootings, and firearms incidents. Sen. Hawley also stated another organization found over 500 attacks on Catholic parishes since May 2020. See <https://www.c-span.org/event/senate-committee/fbi-director-kash-patel-testifies-at-oversight-hearing/436283>.

II. Threat Overview: Transgender Ideology-Inspired Violent Extremism (TIVE)

Definition of Transgender Ideology (TI) and Transgender Ideology-Inspired Violent Extremist (TIVE)

Transgender Ideology (TI) is a belief that wholly or partially rejects fundamental science about human sex being biologically determined before birth, binary, and immutable. **Transgender Ideology-Inspired Violence and Extremism (TIVE):** This threat encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, including incitement to unlawful violence, in furtherance of ideological agendas derived from Transgender Ideology (TI) and related beliefs, including:

(1) the belief that violence is justified against people who oppose TI, who decline to support or affirm TI, or who are silent or indifferent regarding TI; or
(2) the belief that opposing TI, declining to support or affirm TI, or remaining silent or indifferent regarding TI

- (a) itself constitutes a form of violence towards people who identify as any variant of transgender or gender nonconforming;
- (b) is a true threat to the existence of such persons; or,
- (c) poses an imminent threat to such persons' emotional, psychological, or physical safety, including through self-harm or suicide.

TIVE Ideological Views, Grievances, and Propensity for Violence

According to recent estimates, roughly 2.8 million Americans over the age of 13 (less than 1% of the population) identify as transgender⁶ Given the small percentage of the U.S. population that identify as transgender, we have seen an alarming number of serious recent terrorism events perpetrated by transgender ideology-inspired persons. This disproportionate propensity to domestic terror events is the classic criteria for the creation of a new TIVE designation Note that this designation does not apply to all persons that are transgender, or their allies. It applies to those who: (1) believes that any opposition to transgender ideology is a violent and existential threat to the right of transgender people to exist and amounts to an imminent threat to physical safety; (2) believes that this fear justifies violence against those who refuse to affirm transgender ideology; and (3) takes, incites, or promotes violent action based on that ideology. All three criteria must be met. Individuals cannot and will not be investigated solely based on 1st Amendment protected activity alone.

TIVEs typically engage in DVE violence against institutions and individuals that ascribe to religious values and/or to a secular, scientific understanding that male and female are the only two genders. TIVE extremists consider this viewpoint as threatening the rights and physical safety of transgender persons and thus jump to the illogical

⁶ See <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-adults-united-states/>.

conclusion that violence is justified to “defend” transgender individuals. Others justify violence based upon the bizarre belief that to refuse to affirm the claim that one’s sex is not identical with one’s biological sex is to deny transgender person’s right to existence and is therefore indistinguishable from killing the transgender person.

TIVE violence has particularly focused upon Christian institutions and individuals that the TIVEs believe subscribe to paradigms that are in contradiction to and inherently irreconcilable with transgender ideology. TIVE extremists have justified extreme violence based upon the unsubstantiated belief that those who do not accept transgender ideology are actively seeking to physically harm transgender persons. Others justify violence based upon the belief that to refuse to affirm the claim that one’s sex is not identical with one’s biological sex is to deny transgender person’s right to existence and is therefore indistinguishable from killing the transgender person.

Mental illness is typically a feature of TIVE extremists. TIVEs identify with personal isolation or rejection in society. Often, TIVEs have already harmed themselves physically (either directly or via surgical mutilation), are suicidal,⁷ and thereby predisposed to harm others and commit violence. TIVE adherents engage in active discourse on online communities and internet subcultures, like Reddit, Discord, and Telegram where they air perceived societal grievances and radicalize one another to commit violence.

These online echo chambers foster a militant ideology that frames opposition to gender ideology as existential threats, encouraging the creation of propaganda, merchandise, and memes promoting homicide or torture against critics, as seen in viral posts and activist rhetoric. These internet subcultures influence TIVEs to commit violence as the only solution to silence critics and others that are outspoken about gender roles in the United States. Furthermore, this digital infrastructure provides anonymous networks for grooming and coordinating, turning isolated resentment into organized threats, exemplified by the radicalization of figures like Tyler Robinson, who allegedly assassinated Charlie Kirk over views on transgender issues after immersion in leftist online forums.

Notable Attacks and Criminal Acts by TIVE DVEs:

September 10, 2025 (Charlie Kirk Shooting, Tyler Robinson (charged)):

- Charlie Kirk’s alleged assassin, Tyler Robinson, was living with a homosexual partner who is in the process of transitioning from male to female.⁸
- Utah Governor Spencer Cox told the Wall Street Journal “It’s very clear to us and to the investigators that this was a person who was deeply indoctrinated with leftist ideology.” Governor Cox also revealed that a recent family dinner had showcased

⁷ American First Legal obtained documents that revealed Biden’s FDA pushed for approval of puberty blockers for children despite knowledge that the drugs increase risk of depression and suicidality. See <https://aflegal.org/press-release/america-first-legal-obtains-documents-revealing-bidens-fda-pushed-for-approval-of-puberty-blockers-for-children-despite-knowledge-that-the-drugs-increase-risk-of-depression-and-suicidality/>.

⁸ See <https://nypost.com/2025/09/13/us-news/charlie-kirk-shooter-tyler-robinson-lived-with-transgender-partner/>.

Robinson's newfound beliefs, as he and a relative got into it over Kirk's viewpoints and how each "didn't like" the 31-year-old conservative activist.⁹

- Recent text messages revealed that Robinson told his transgender partner the following when asked why he assassinated Kirk, "I had enough of his hatred. Some hate can't be negotiated out."¹⁰
- Shell casing from Robinson bullets had the following messages: One engraving read, "Hey fascist! Catch! ↑ → ↓↓↓," a seeming reference to a video game that's been interpreted as a satire of fascism; On the fired casing, for instance, a message read: "notices, bulges, OWO, what's this?" The writing appears to be a reference to a meme about the online furry subculture and online role-play. Another message read, "Oh bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao," a likely reference to lyrics in an Italian song that is anti-fascist in nature. A fourth casing said, "If you read this, you are gay LMAO."

August 27, 2025 (Annunciation Catholic Church Shooting, Robert Westman):

- The attacker, Robin Westman, who changed his name from Robert as a teenager, opened fire on Annunciation Catholic Church. The application said the then-teen "identifies as a female and wants her [sic] name to reflect that identification." Westman killed two children and injured 17 other individuals before killing himself in the parking lot.¹¹
- In one portion of the video from Westman, he shows an image of Jesus wearing a crown of thorns at the head of the target. Westman then laughs before showing an arsenal of guns laid out on a bed. Several of the guns featured statements such as "Where's your [expletive] God now?" and "Do you believe in God?"¹²

May 4th, 2025 (Stabbing Spree):

- Jared Ravizza was accused of stabbing six people, including three children, and suspected of killing another. Ravizza appears to have been in the process of attempting to change his gender to female. Ravizza described himself as "she" on Instagram and court documents obtained by The Post show paperwork was filed for a legal name change from Jared Christian Ravizza Jones to Jared Love Jones just last month. Ravizza also asked the name change not be made public because "this has been a deeply personal journey for me in the papers dated April 8."¹³

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ See <https://x.com/theblaze/status/1968029572294906025>.

¹¹ See <https://x.com/peterjhasson/status/1960758053625627109>.

¹² See <https://katv.com/news/nation-world/minneapolis-shooting-suspect-used-photo-of-jesus-for-target-practice-video-shows-catholic-church-robin-robert-westman-transgender-christians-violence-terrorism-hate-crime-fbi-investigation-minnesota-guns-rifle-shotgun-pistol-weapons-children-killed-hurt/>.

¹³ See <https://nypost.com/2024/05/27/us-news/mass-stabbing-spree-suspect-jared-ravizza-seen-in-pics-with-lip-gloss-nail-polish-as-court-docs-confirm-name-change/>.

April 2025 (GOP Office Firebombing)

- Jamison Wagner, a lipstick-wearing biological male suspect in both Tesla and GOP office firebombings, was arrested by FBI counterterrorism task force agents.¹⁴

February 2025 (Colorado Tesla Arsonist)

- FBI and ATF arrested Lucy Grace Nelson, aka Justin Thomas Nelson, for using Molotov cocktails in attacking a Tesla dealership.¹⁵

June 18, 2024 (Double Homicide—His Parents, Collin Bailey):

- The suspect was identified as Mia Bailey, whose birth name was Collin. He legally changed his name to Mia and was attempting to transition from male to female. "I would do it again. I hate them," Mia Bailey allegedly told police during the interview. Officers said that he told them he felt no remorse and would not change what he had done.¹⁶

March 31, 2023 (Potential School/Church Shooter, William Whitworth):

- William Whitworth, 19, who identifies as "Lilly," was arrested by the Elbert County Sheriff's Office on March 31, on two counts of suspicion of criminal attempt to commit murder in the first degree, and other charges, according to an arrest report. Whitworth was planning a mass shooting at schools in the Colorado Springs, CO area. A whiteboard with the floor plan of what appeared to be a school was also found in Whitworth's room, according to police. Whitworth had a copy of the "Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx, as well as personal writings with references to "Bad cops," calling them "useless garbage," and "Donald Trump" who was referred to as a "con-man."¹⁷

March 27, 2023 (Covenant Presbyterian School Shooting, Audrey Hale):

- Audrey Hale, 28, a transgender inspired shooter and a biological female killed six people including three students and three teachers.¹⁸
- Hale was also enraged that she hadn't been given puberty blockers – and feared it was too late to start taking them. "I'm mad that no one told me until I was 22. I feel I'm too old and too late to become a man. Now, the process takes months to years. By the time that happens, I'm 30, and then 10 years later I got a bald spot on my head and looked like an old man. Hell no," she wrote.¹⁹

¹⁴ See <https://nypost.com/2025/04/15/us-news/fbi-collars-suspect-in-tesla-gop-office-firebombings-in-dramatic-new-mexico-raid/>.

¹⁵ See <https://www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/lyons-resident-charged-connection-series-incidents-loveland-tesla-dealership>

¹⁶ See <https://www.abc4.com/news/southern-utah/mia-bailey-pleads-not-guilty/>.

¹⁷ See <https://cbsaustin.com/news/nation-world/colorado-trans-teen-arrested-after-police-discover-plans-to-shoot-up-local-schools-churches-transgender-william-whitworth-lilly-colorado-springs>; see also <https://www.scribd.com/document/636723917/RELEASE-23CR17-Whitworth-William-Affidavit>.

¹⁸ See https://www.nashville.gov/sites/default/files/2025-04/Covenant_Final_Summary.pdf?ct=1743609642.

¹⁹ See <https://nypost.com/2025/04/07/us-news/trans-nashville-school-shooter-audrey-hale-ranted-about-wanting-to-kill-all-the-white-kids-in-newly-revealed-diary-entries/>.

June 7-8, 2022 (Foiled Assassination Attempt on Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Nicholas John Roske):

- Roske told investigators that he was upset about the May 2 leak of the Supreme Court draft opinion that signaled the court was poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and he wanted to kill a conservative justice responsible for the decision, the complaint said. Roske said he used Reddit, Google and other online forums to learn the skills he thought were necessary to carry out his plot, which included breaking into Kavanaugh's home and killing the justice before killing himself, the complaint said. A recent FBI application for a search warrant said Roske's Reddit, Google and Discord accounts contained evidence of Roske threatening to murder a U.S. judge and attempting to assassinate a Supreme Court justice (The multiple accounts listed by the FBI are traced to postings by Roske portraying himself as a "trans gamer girl" and "sissy slave" in wanted-type ads, some seeking companionship and others seeking a sexual relationship, according to an analysis by Townhall published Wednesday.²⁰

May 7, 2019 (STEM School in Highland Ranch, Colorado, Alec McKinney)

- A transgender teenager admitted to taking part in a shooting at a Denver-area charter school leaving one student dead and injuring eight others.²¹

September 20, 2018 (Aberdeen, MD Shooting, Snochia Moseley)

- Four people were shot and killed at a Rite Aid distribution center by Snochia Moseley, 26, a transgender African American from Baltimore County.²²

Terminology used by TIVE

"Cisgender / cis"

A person who identifies with their biological sex.

"Deadnaming"

Calling an individual who identifies as transgender or "gender non-conforming" by birth name after he or she has adopted a new name. TIVE extremists claim that deadnaming is a form of violence.

Gillick competence

A term used in medical law to decide whether a child (under 16 years of age) is able to consent to social "transitioning," puberty blockers, cross-sex hormone treatments, removal of healthy sexual organs, or sterilization without the need for parental permission or knowledge. Another term used is Fraser competence.

²⁰ See <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/kavanaugh-assassination-suspect-portrayed-himself-online-trans-gamer-girl-named-sophie>; <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/miacathell/2022/08/10/brett-kavanaugh-assassination-plot-trans-gamer-girl-n2611103>.

²¹ See <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/transgender-teen-sentenced-to-life-in-prison-for-deadly-colorado-school-shooting-idUSKCN24Q03E/>.

²² See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aberdeen,_Maryland_shooting.

“Misgendering”

The intentional or unintentional use of words or names that acknowledge the reality of a transgender person’s biological sex. TIVEs view misgendering as an act of actual violence.

“Right to Exist”

Individuals motivated by TIVE routinely use the phrase “right to exist” or “erased” in online forums and at protests. This life-or-death terminology is consistent with TIVE propaganda justifying violence in the name of self-defense. The denied “right to exist” or “erasure” is equivalent to killing them or genocide as opposed to merely acknowledging there are two sexes or disagreeing with transgender ideology.

“Trans genocide”

A term used by TI activists and academics to describe anyone who makes statements to affirm the reality of biological sex as “genocidal” towards TIVEs.

“You either have a live boy or dead girl (or live girl / dead boy), you choose.”

A phrase commonly used to try to pressure, shame, or cause emotional distress in persons who do not support TI or affirm the reality of biological sex in people who are gender-confused, especially children.