

CoE HELP – High Level Conference  
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# Deradicalisation/Disengagement Programmes in Prison & Probation – The Challenges Involved

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# Vivian Geiran – 33 years in Irish Probation; 7 years as Director

- ▶ Now:
  - ▶ Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Social Work & Social Policy, TCD.
  - ▶ Sentencing Guidelines and Information Committee (Judicial Council).
  - ▶ Boards: (Chair) Irish Association of Social Workers and Ana Liffey Drug Project.
  - ▶ Council of Europe – Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP).
  - ▶ International Penal & Penitentiary Foundation (IPPF).
  - ▶ Research & writing.
  - ▶ Consultancy.

# Presentation Outline

- ▶ The work of the PC-CP. Updating the work
- ▶ Other experience.
- ▶ Some basic issues, challenges and principles.
- ▶ Some key measures.
- ▶ Resources available.

# Introductory Thoughts

- ▶ Every country is different – background, challenges, structures, resource es etc.
- ▶ Define the scope.
- ▶ Identify the problem/s – nature and scale.
- ▶ Clarify the priorities.
- ▶ Plan for success – based on requirements.
- ▶ So much value in what we know already and what has gone before.
- ▶ Practice v political issues.
- ▶ Fundamentally, the goal is: security, safety, prevent re/offending, offender reintegration

# Sources

## ▶ General:

- ▶ 'Reservoir' of knowledge and experience – CoE, EU, CEP, EuroPris, RAN, research & practice

## ▶ Specific:

- ▶ Recent CEP Webinar – two speakers
- ▶ IPJ (2017) article by Dr. Orla Lynch
- ▶ My own / PC-CP / Ireland experience

# IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY SANCTIONS AND MEASURES



Vivian Geiran  
Ioan Durnescu

Guidelines



ANOTHER COE RESOURCE



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK**

— ON —

**APPROPRIATE USE OF NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES  
FOR TERRORISM-RELATED OFFENSES**



UNITED NATIONS  
Vienna, 2021

**RECENT UNODC RESOURCE**

# Council of Europe

- ▶ **Guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism (2016)**
- ▶ **Council of Europe Handbook for Prison and Probation Services regarding Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2017)**



# Dr. Orla Lynch, *IPJ*, 2017

- ▶ VE –extremist phenomenon. Ireland – ‘historical amnesia.’
- ▶ Not necessarily a clear-cut pathway in, and out. Many pathways & motives possible. Can change /. Be changed retrospectively.
- ▶ Many hypotheses: mental health issues, poverty, oppression, disenfranchisement etc.
- ▶ Separate **terrorism** highly politicised, pejorative label, applied unevenly, from the **terrorist** actor – to be considered in local context, including social network, personal background, ideological affiliations and offending history and day to day life.
- ▶ Key issues of: isolation (conceptual, historic, professional practice); terrorism/radicalisation does not emerge rom nowhere.
- ▶ Radicalisation – loose, vague and imprecise – viewed as having a specific ending / outcome.
- ▶ So: our focus should be a ‘holistic approach to understanding the individual, their interpersonal experiences, and their broader social interactions.’

# How radicalisation occurs

- ▶ Journey of personal change?
- ▶ Process with stages?
- ▶ Key psychological moment?
- ▶ Identity crisis?
- ▶ Contagion type transmission (peers to peer, or leaders and followers?)?
- ▶ Significant issue of ideology.
- ▶ What about non-ideological?
- ▶ Motive?
- ▶ Multiple, diverse and even competing processes?
- ▶ Understanding political violence as primarily law-breaking, interpersonal violence and inter-intra-group activity.

# De-Radicalisation and Disengagement

- ▶ **De-radicalisation:** process of attitudinal change, where cognitions underpinning support for terrorism are addressed. (Implies removal / reduction of the radical ideas themselves).
- ▶ **Disengagement:** intervention focused on the behavioural component of extremism – focused on reducing terrorist activity. (Implies tolerance for the radical ideology, provided not accompanied by violent action).
  - ▶ Position taken will inform how the criminal justice system treats extremists.
  - ▶ Risk assessment can be problematic – ERG22+, VERA/VERA 2.
  - ▶ RAN – Returnee 45: investigative (operational planning & intervention management) rather than assessment/predictor; like VERA 2, includes resilient factors.

# CEP Event – September 2021

- ▶ Presentations by Prof. Luisa Ravagnani and Dr. Sarah Marsden.

# Other Experiences

- ▶ Nothing happens... and then...
- ▶ Interagency connections and cooperation.
- ▶ Communications.
- ▶ Trust.
- ▶ Points of contact.
- ▶ Assess, plan and implement.
- ▶ Structure for assessment, intervention and management.

# Models of Practice, Models of Change

- ▶ Good Lives Model.
- ▶ Cycle / Wheel of Change.
- ▶ (Risk?) assessment.
- ▶ Existing criminal justice protocols.

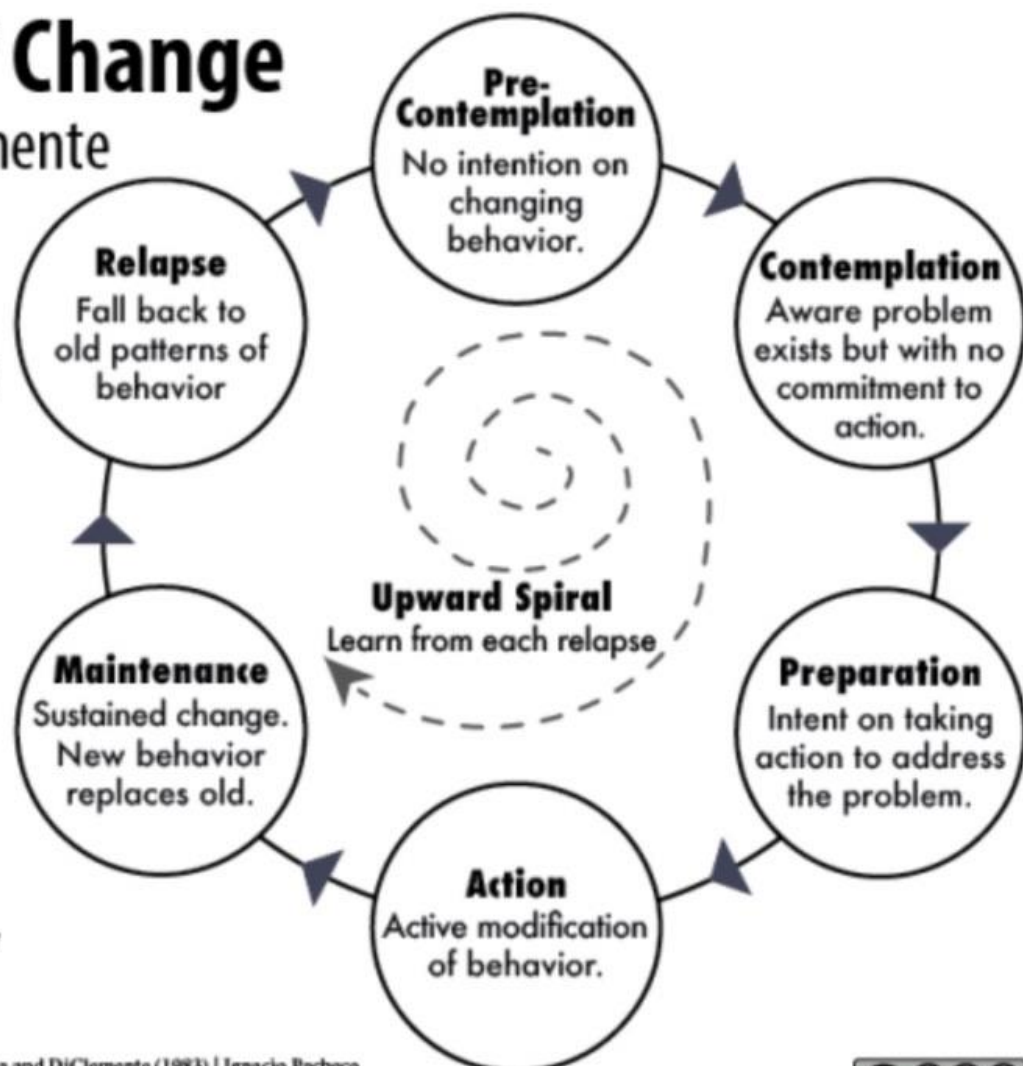
# Good Lives Model (Ward and Maruna)

- 1) life (including healthy living and functioning)
- 2) knowledge
- 3) excellence in work (including mastery experiences)
- 4) excellence in play including mastery experiences)
- 5) excellence in agency (i.e., autonomy and self-directedness)
- 6) inner peace (i.e., freedom from emotional turmoil and stress)
- 7) friendship (including intimate, romantic, and family relationships)
- 8) community
- 9) spirituality (in the broad sense of finding meaning and purpose in life)
- 10) pleasure
- 11) creativity

# The Cycle of Change

## Prochaska & DiClemente

- **Precontemplation:** A logical starting point for the model, where there is no intention of changing behavior; the person may be unaware that a problem exists
- **Contemplation:** The person becomes aware that there is a problem, but has made no commitment to change
- **Preparation:** The person is intent on taking action to correct the problem; usually requires buy-in from the client (i.e. the client is convinced that the change is good) and increased self-efficacy (i.e. the client believes s/he can make change)
- **Action:** The person is in active modification of behavior
- **Maintenance:** Sustained change occurs and new behavior(s) replaces old ones. Per this model, this stage is also transitional
- **Relapse:** The person falls back into old patterns of behavior
- **Upward Spiral:** Each time a person goes through the cycle, they learn from each relapse and (hopefully) grow stronger so that relapse is shorter or less devastating.



The Cycle of Change

Adapted from a work by Prochaska and DiClemente (1983) | Ignacio Pacheco

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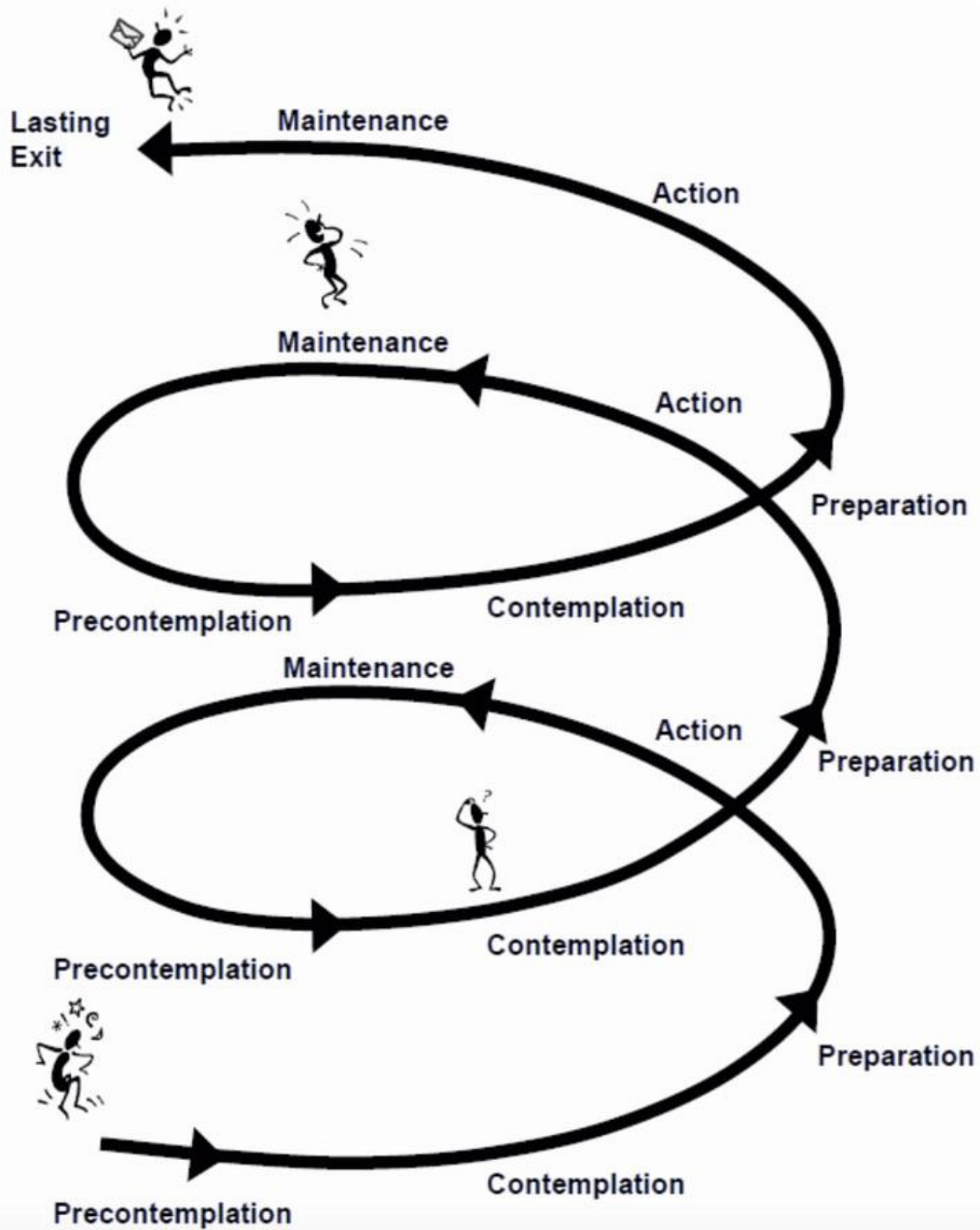
Version 3.3 Updated 09 September 2018



# Model of Change

PROCHASKA &  
DICLEMENTE (1981,  
1982,1992)





# Model of Change

ANOTHER VERSION

# Highlight Points

- Multi-disciplinary approach.
- Interagency cooperation.
- Trust and communication.
- Build the structure – at different / relevant levels.
- Enable escalation of concerns.
- Harness and use existing expertise, experience and approaches.
- Be open to possibilities + flexibility.

# Conclusions

- ✓ Likely that there is no single 'cause' or pathway.
- ✓ Focus on range of psychosocial risk factors.
- ✓ Pointing to resources.
- ✓ Care v control, surveillance v welfare.
- ✓ Key point of Orla Lynch: desistance/disengagement approach, emphasis on individual's social networks, community re/integration, increasing social capital, ensuring opportunities to contribute to society, and ensuring the individual has a voice.
- ✓ Practically, interventions likely to be a combination of de-radicalisation and disengagement approaches.
- ✓ Recognise the strength of existing best practice methods, within established protocols.



END

QUESTIONS / ANSWERS & DISCUSSION