

DEFUSE NEWS

A weekly update of relevant issues



A fresh outlook...

Just a very quick introduction. Each week we monitor the news for interesting reports that are relevant to the niche that Defuse aim to add value to. This weekly update is a brief overview of some of this past weeks events with some thoughts from us. I hope it is useful.

Major security scare at Windsor after woman claiming to be engaged to Prince Andrew is allowed into his house...

As bizarre as this seems, less than a week after the high security funeral of HRH Prince Philip there was a security incident at Windsor. It is a timely reminder of the danger and threat posed by fixated persons. Research tell us that prominent figures are more likely to be injured or killed by a fixated person than by a terrorist or criminal. An interesting addition to that research is that those who protect such figures are also more likely to be harmed too.

The lady in question, who called herself Irene Windsor (perhaps something of a clue that all may not be as it seems) even managed to persuade the security to pay for her taxi. It is imperative that those involved in residential or personal security understand and are trained in the threat posed by fixated people.

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National Stalking Awareness Week 2021

Lots of coverage this week by police and charities with regards to the harm caused by stalking. But did you know that there are at least 5 different types of stalkers? Each one poses a differing threat and employing different tactics to target the intended victim.

This wonderful graphic by The Suzy Lamplugh Trust is incredibly important. The psychological impact of being targeted is very often ignored and misunderstood.



Defuse focusses on 3 areas of threat...Physical Threats, reputational Threats and importantly, Psychological Threats. My own experience of working in Parliament and working with MPs who were being targeted and whilst publicly there maintained their composure, behind the scenes they were often breaking down, questioning if they were safe and hesitant how they might vote, fearful of the abuse that followed. It is for that reason that Defuse has its Psychological Support Service. Without managing this area of 'threat' it is quite usual for those targeted to become hypervigilant, paranoid, fearful and for decision making to be impaired. For further information please contact us at enqs@defuseglobal.com

Five types of stalkers



Rejected stalkers

Typically occurring in the context of a broken-down relationship, these stalkers are seeking reconciliation and/or revenge for the rejection.



Resentful stalkers

From their perspective, these individuals believe they have been subject to an injustice or humiliation and therefore are out to seek revenge. They gain a sense of satisfaction and control from persistently harassing their targets.



Intimacy seekers

These are usually lonely individuals seeking love or a confidant. Their targets are, to some people's surprise, usually strangers (including public figures) or acquaintances.



Predatory stalkers

These are your most concerning cohort. They prepare for an attack of their target, usually sexually motivated, though not always.



Incompetent suitors

Usually lonely individuals, just looking to get a date. They long to establish a relationship, though not always intimate. They are blind to signs of disinterest.

– Mullen, Pathé and Purcell (2008)

The use of stalkerware and spyware apps has skyrocketed in the UK since the first lockdown began in spring 2020.

Stalking and harassment increasingly involved technology. The fact is that all of us need to be more aware of our digital security. Whilst many of us are better with our online security, using password managers and regularly changing our passwords, few of us are as diligent when it comes to our home or office security. When was the last time you changed your Wifi password at home? Do you know how to? What about the passwords and codes for your security system? This is especially important in the event of a relationship break up or when sacking a hostile employee.

One of the key elements here is that if something feels wrong, trust your instincts....change your passwords and feel safer!

