

# INVOLUNTARY CELIBATES: "INCELS"

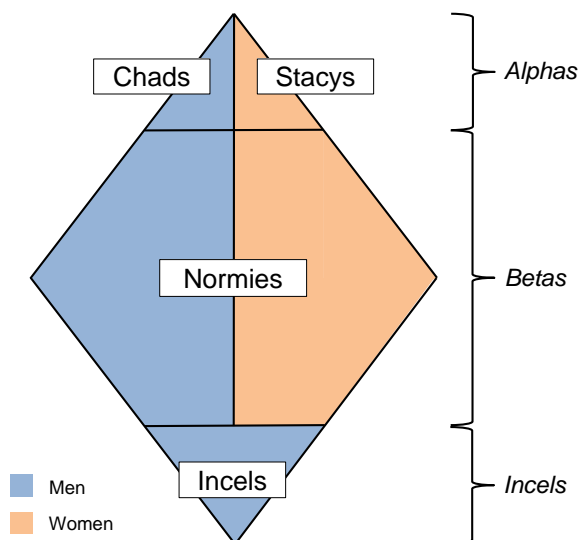
## FACTSHEET

The incel worldview is based on the belief that attractiveness is genetically pre-determined and that women are genetically programmed to seek out the most attractive males ('Chads'). Incels see themselves as lacking (through no fault of their own) the physical traits needed to be sexually, or indeed socially, successful and believe that they are therefore doomed to a life of involuntary celibacy in a society that marginalises and devalues them.

Some (but not all) incels endorse a misogynistic view of women as genetically inferior to men and as shallow for preferring superior males based on their looks alone. They berate society for its perceived promotion of feminism and female empowerment at the expense of unattractive (but, in their eyes, worthier) men such as themselves.

### The incel worldview

Incels view society as a three-tiered hierarchy based on biologically predetermined physical appearance. 'Chads' (alpha males) and 'Stacys' (attractive women) are at the top; the majority of average-looking 'betas' (or 'normies') are in the middle; and incels (exclusively male) at the bottom:



Some 'red-pilled' incels (see next page) believe they can 'ascend' this structure (e.g. through self-improvement or pick-up artistry techniques); by contrast, 'black-pilled' incels typically see it as rigid and unchangeable.

### Incels and terrorism

The incel subculture is not a proscribed terrorist organisation: it is not an organised group and has no formal structure or leadership. Rather, it is a loosely affiliated online community forming part of the wider 'manosphere'\*. This means that the identification of someone as holding incel-related views does not necessarily imply involvement in terrorism. An individual's involvement with the incel community should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Some of the threatening or violent acts committed by incels serve personal ends (e.g. cathartic revenge on those perceived to have slighted them) and constitute criminal acts. However, personal motivations do not exclude an act from being an act of terrorism, and it is possible for an incel to cross the terrorism threshold if they use, threaten or encourage violent action seeking to influence government policy (e.g. relating to perceived feminism) or intimidate a section of the public (e.g. women or sexually successful men).

An incel-inspired attack in the UK would most likely be committed by a male self-initiated terrorist.

### Incels and violence

Some incels believe they are being denied an entitlement to sex from women. This typically manifests in the form of (often highly personalised) grievances towards women, feminism, 'gynocentric' society and attractive men. Violent rhetoric is found on the fringes of some incel online communities. In such spaces, lack of romantic or sexual success is experienced as an *injustice suffered* and not simply as a fact.

However, the subculture as a whole does not advocate the use of violence. Even some 'black-pilled' incels believe that violence will not change the oppressive life situation in which they believe they find themselves (because it is biologically pre-determined). Partly for this reason, discussion on blackpill-influenced incel forums frequently turn to suicide as a 'solution' to inceldom, highlighting the risk incels may pose to themselves.

#### SELECTED INCEL TERMINOLOGY

Term	Meaning
Chad/Stacy	The male and female ideals: physically attractive, sexually promiscuous, intellectually inferior
Femoid/Foid	Dehumanising term for a female
'Go ER'	'Go Elliot Rodger': commit a mass casualty attack
Hypergamy	Alleged female predisposition to seek out Chads
A 'cope'	A (futile) attempt to alleviate the incel predicament (e.g. by improving one's physical appearance)
Ropefuel	Reasons to commit suicide (to 'rope')
Gynocentrism	Things being centred on or overly influenced by women and/or feminism at the expense of men

\* The manosphere is a collection of online websites, forums and blogs that promote or discuss men's rights, involuntary celibacy and, in some cases, misogynistic and anti-feminist views.

## Selective timeline

- May 1997 The term 'Incel' (later shortened to 'Incel') coined by a Canadian woman on her website "Alana's Involuntary Celibacy Movement", which was intended as an inclusive support community for those struggling to find relationships
- Aug 2009 In response to years of perceived rejection by women, and his own sexual frustration, George Sodini conducts a mass shooting at Collier Township fitness center, Pittsburgh, killing 4 and injuring 9
- May 2014 Elliot Rodger publishes a manifesto outlining his loathing of women before committing a vehicle, firearm and bladed weapon attack in Isla Vista, California; incels refer to Rodger as "Saint Elliot" and coin the phrase 'Going ER' (i.e. 'doing an Elliot Rodger')
- Oct 2015 Inspired by Rodger, Chris Harper-Mercer commits a mass casualty attack at a college in Oregon, killing 9 and injuring 8
- Apr 2018 Alek Minassian praises Elliot Rodger and calls online for an 'Incel Rebellion' before conducting a vehicle attack in Toronto, killing 10 and injuring 13
- Nov 2018 Scott Beierle, having posted videos exhibiting hatred of women, conducts a mass shooting at a Tallahassee yoga studio in Florida, killing 3 and injuring 4
- May 2019 Christopher Cleary found guilty of terrorism charges in Utah after threatening online to "kill as many girls as I see" because he was a virgin and never had a girlfriend
- Mar 2020 In England, Anwar Drouich is imprisoned for explosives offences. Drouich researched mass casualty attacks, including incel attackers, online
- Dec 2020 In Scotland, Gabrielle Friel is imprisoned for terrorist offences. Friel was suspected of planning a mass casualty attack; he researched 'incels' online and was fixated on Elliot Rodger
- Aug 2021 In England, Jake Davison kills 5 and injures 2. Some of his online posts suggested engagement with the incel community; but no motive has been identified for the shootings



### THE BLUE PILL

Represents the naïveté of the general population ('normies') who have not taken the red or black pill. The blue pill worldview sees life as essentially fair: personality triumphs over attractiveness, and kindness and hard work lead to success. Incels believe this to be misguided, and an excuse used as a coping mechanism by people unable to handle the harsh reality of life



### THE RED PILL

Widely referenced in the manosphere, the red pill represents 'waking up' and 'seeing the truth' about the world. It maintains that women hold power over men and that society is structured in a way that oppresses unattractive, genetically inferior men (i.e. incels). Unlike the black pill, the red pill promotes seduction and manipulation strategies as tools to help the red-pillled achieve social and sexual success



### THE BLACK PILL

A set of fatalistic theories largely based on (faulty) biological arguments. The core belief is that physically unattractive men are permanently condemned to a life of isolation, loneliness, unhappiness and social rejection, and cannot hope to change this situation. While black-pillled incels see themselves forever at the bottom of the social hierarchy, they generally consider all men (including incels) to be superior to women

## Black pill theories...



#### Society is 'lookist'

Society discriminates based on physical attractiveness. Men's looks influence others' perceptions of their personality and are correlated with popularity, sexual success and economic opportunity. Looks, money and status ('LMS') are pre-determined and dictate women's dating choices, to the detriment of incels

#### Men face worse discrimination than women

Women exaggerate the difficulties associated with misogyny, to advance ahead of men; sexual harassment and rape are over-reported; and if women perceive a man as attractive, harassment is simply considered flirting. Women oppress unattractive men through their control of the 'sexual marketplace'



#### Dating choices are biologically pre-determined

Historically, women were dependant on men; they were forced to overlook men's flaws to obtain security, reducing the need for men to be physically attractive to acquire a mate. Women's liberation has led to the dominance of a small (attractive) percentage of men to whom women are attracted purely on the basis of appearance – a phenomenon labelled 'female hypergamy' (a biologically determined drive to reproduce with attractive men and pass on 'good genes')

#### Loneliness affects unattractive men the worst

Selected data indicates isolation and celibacy among men is at a record high. This leads to worse health outcomes, depression and higher suicide rates. As physical attractiveness determines how society perceives men, unattractive men will be lonelier and unhappier than others

