

# Offline Versus Online Radicalisation: Which is the Bigger Threat?

By Nafees Hamid and Cristina Ariza

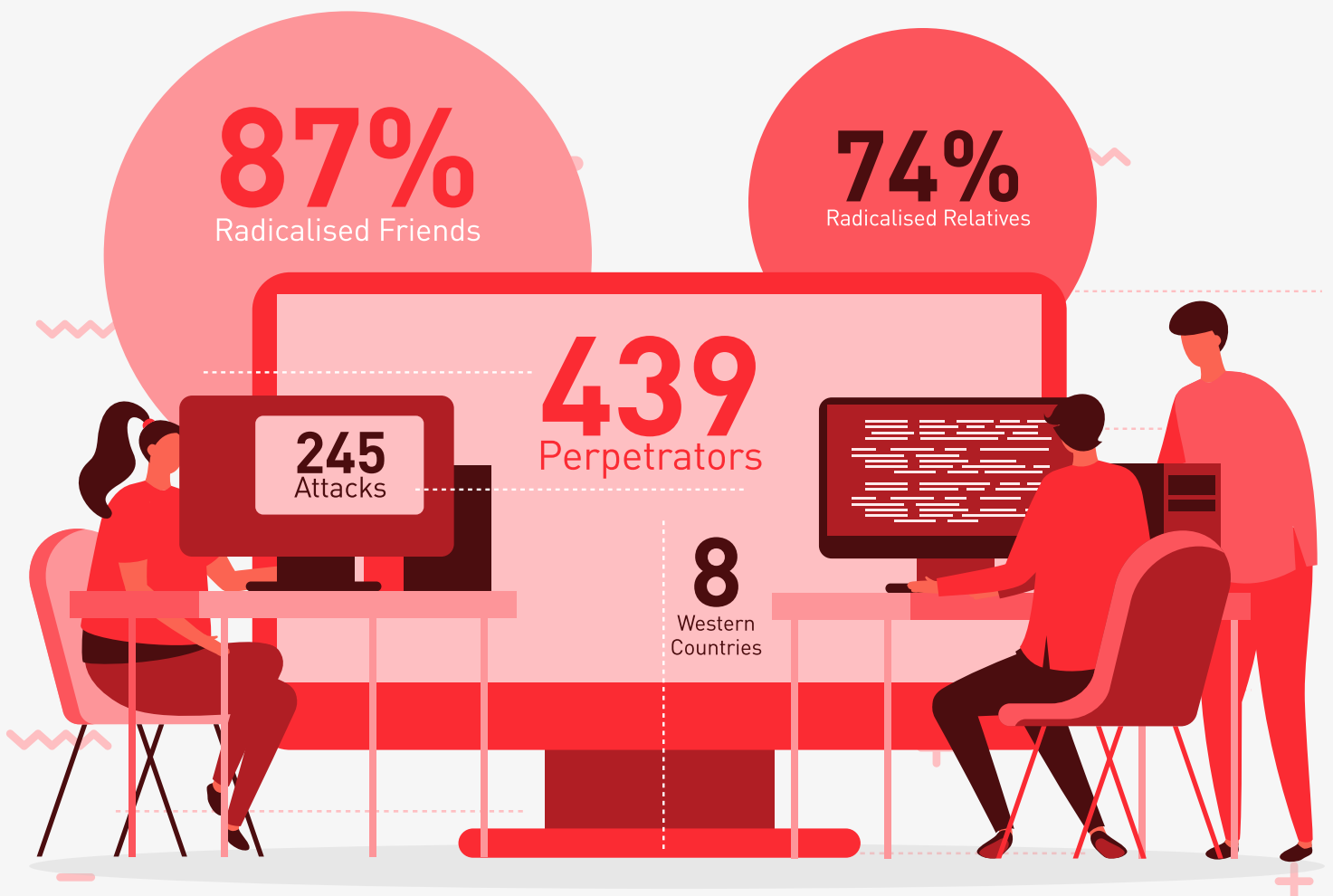


Global Network  
on Extremism & Technology

Those radicalised offline are greater in number, more successful in completing attacks and more deadly than those radicalised online.

We created a database containing 439 perpetrators involved in 245 attacks between 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2021. It includes every publicly known completed attack and an extensive sampling of thwarted attacks. Attacks were all jihadist-linked in eight Western countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Individuals who were radicalised offline were three times more likely than individuals radicalised online to complete an attack successfully. Those radicalised offline are 18 times more lethal than individuals in the online category. Those radicalised online are almost eight times more likely to fail than to succeed.



Some 87% of those with radicalised friends and 74% with radicalised relatives plotted or attacked together.

Women appear to be more likely to have been radicalised online.