

MANCHESTER ATTACK



A TERROR attack hit Ariana Grande's concert in Manchester on Monday evening (22 May).

What happened?

Police have confirmed that a number of people were killed in the explosion at the concert at Manchester Arena. Some of them were children. A further 59 people were injured and were being treated at eight hospitals.

Greater Manchester Police said the explosion was set off by one man who died in the bombing. Now they are working to find out more about him – and people he knew. One man was arrested on Tuesday morning.

The blast was reported to have hit the foyer of the building at about 10:30pm as people were leaving the concert. Around 21,000 people are thought to have been at the concert at the time of the explosion.

Greater Manchester Police Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said more than 400 police officers had worked through the night. Thousands more are working across Britain to try to stop anything like this happening again.

Prime Minister Theresa May said her thoughts were with the victims and families of those affected. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron have expressed their sympathies for the victims.

Who are Islamic State (Daesh) and why are they hurting innocent people?

Islamic State (known as IS or Daesh) is a group of fighters who want to create their own state where their version of the religion Islam is strictly followed. IS has taken over big areas, mainly in Syria and Iraq, and uses extreme punishment and violence against anyone or any country that disagrees with its beliefs. IS spreads its ideas on social media. Other extreme people and terrorist groups have started to support IS.

The person who attacked Manchester on Monday night is suspected to have been an IS supporter, and on Tuesday morning IS claimed responsibility for the attack. There have been attacks in other countries by a small group of IS supporters, in Paris in 2015 and in Brussels last year. The threat of more attacks like this has led to 62 countries, including Britain, joining together in a major military fight against IS. This group of countries targets IS areas in Syria and Iraq and arrests their supporters around the world.

Islamic State's version of Islam is condemned by most Muslims, and many Muslim countries are among those fighting against IS in Iraq and Syria.

Try not to worry

Nicky Cox, editor in chief of *First News*, wants to try to help you understand when the news is scary. After the Manchester Arena attack, it can be hard to understand what is happening in the world – and why.

1 Don't cover up your feelings if you are scared. Don't worry quietly inside. Talk to someone – adults who you know, love and trust – if you are worried about frightening news events like the attack at Manchester Arena after the Ariana Grande concert.

2 When there is a big event in the news, lots of inaccurate information ends up on the internet, so try to avoid it. Make sure you get your news from a trusted place like *First News*, our website *First News Live!* (live.firstnews.co.uk) or BBC Newsround. Things that happen in the news will be talked about in the school playground or lunch hall, or in online chats. Better that you know the real facts, rather than hearing exaggerated or confused versions from other people. You need correct information, not misinformation.

3 Remember that terrorism has always been there – as far back as Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot in 1605. There were seven assassination attempts on Queen Victoria during her 63-year reign in the 1800s. For 30 years, Britain lived with bomb attacks from the IRA over the Northern Ireland troubles. But there is always a solution. Right now, Islamic State (known as IS or Daesh) and other terror groups are trying to frighten the world into doing what they want. But they will be defeated. There will be a solution. In the meantime, children will continue going to school, parents will continue to go to work, families will continue to go to sports events, concerts and on holiday. Life continues.

4 Remember that events like the Manchester attack are extremely rare, which is why they are in the news. We haven't seen a big explosive attack like this in Britain since the London bombings in 2005 – many of you won't even have been born, because it was such a long time ago. The likelihood of being caught up in an event like this is so, so small, you can't even do the sum to calculate the risk.

5 The police are doing all they can to make sure that you are safe. More than 400 police were working through the night after the attack. Thousands more are working to try to stop events like this happening again.

6 Remember, too, that there is much more good news than bad news happening. And that there are many more good people than bad people.

7 Hug your family a little bit closer and for a little bit longer. Love is stronger than hate.