

What is PREVENT?

PREVENT is part of the government's strategy to prevent extremism. It means every doctor, nurse, teacher, university lecturer, social worker, and every other public service provider has to look for signs of extremism in members of the public. They are essentially spies for the government.

What is Extremism?

1) It is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values*

2) It can be violent or non-violent;

3) It can also be calling for the death of members of the British armed forces.

** 'Fundamental British values' = democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. There are many other things that are being added to this list as and when it suits the government.*

Key problems with PREVENT:

1) It restricts any types of dissent or opposition to the government.

2) It breaks down the

relationship of trust between doctor and patient, teacher and student, etc.

3) The intention is to prevent acts of terrorism, but there is no evidence to show that 'extremist ideas' lead to an individual committing an act of terrorism.

... every doctor, nurse, teacher, university lecturer, social worker, and every other public service provider has to look for signs of extremism in members of the public.

4) It criminalises Muslims as the government sees Islam as 'extreme' at its core. Anyone who practices Islam or 'looks Muslim' can therefore be seen as an extremist.

5) It does not account for the government's own violence (e.g. in its foreign policy), which is often referenced by convicted terrorists as the main reason they are driven to their actions.

6) It creates fear within Muslim communities, further isolating them from wider society.

What happens if you are identified as at risk of engaging in extremism?

1) Your teacher/doctor/social worker/etc will contact your local PREVENT Officer. He or she will either work for your local council or be a police officer.

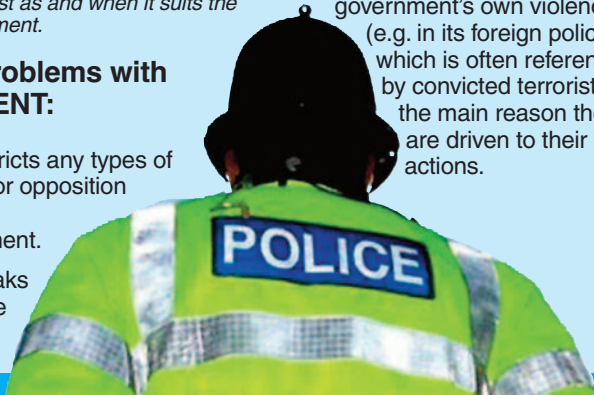
2) You will be contacted by the PREVENT Officer or a police officer. They may visit your home/workplace/school.

3) If your child is identified, the PREVENT Officer/police officer may make contact with your

child at school without informing you first.

4) In all instances, they will want to ask you questions. They may ask you about your religion, your religious practices, what you think about Israel, what you think of terrorists, what you think of gay rights, etc. It will seem like a conversation rather than an interrogation.

5) If you/your child are deemed at risk then you/your child will be put through Channel. This is a non-compulsory deradicalisation programme, where you/your child will be monitored by the police, have regular meetings with your PREVENT Officer, possibly attend workshops.



Remember:

You have not committed an offence just because you have been singled out under the PREVENT programme, and therefore you do not need to engage with the PREVENT officer without a friend or lawyer present.

If you would like information about PREVENT or support in challenging it please contact us:

**Islamic
Human Rights
Commission**



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Wembley HA9 8PA
T: 020 8904 4222
E: info@ihrc.org
www.ihrc.org.uk

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Understanding
PREVENT

rights. Contact IHRC for a referral if necessary.

4) Even if you have not been singled out we recommend you try to understand how PREVENT is being implemented in your organisation / child's school etc. Contact IHRC for help with this.

5) If you belong to a union it is important to push for a union-wide boycott of PREVENT, which will go some way to protecting those who are being targeted.

Please be aware that the government is trying to make these guidelines even more oppressive, so some of this information is subject to change.

2) Should a PREVENT Officer be at any meeting you are in, ask them to identify themselves and the reason for their attendance. Refuse to answer questions until you have spoken to a lawyer.

3) If your employer or educational institution wishes to "informally" discuss any PREVENT related issues, ensure that you have someone with you at the meeting, e.g. union rep, friend, lawyer etc.

What should you do if you are targeted?

You do not have to speak to any PREVENT Officer or police officer (unless the latter details you). If you are approached in the street/your school/home etc you should refuse to speak without a lawyer present.

1) If you are approached by an officer under PREVENT you should contact a solicitor straight away, preferably one who specialises in human

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: