



The Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill

HUU Notes

- On 26 November 2014, the Home Secretary Theresa May introduced the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill (CTSB) to Parliament highlighting some revised and new counter-terrorism powers that would be placed on a statutory basis.
- That CTSB seeks to make the controversial the Prevent and Channel strategies statutory.
- That academics and campaigners fear the CTSB will criminalise ideas and create a culture where students are unwilling to speak out.
- The National Union of Students have condemned the Counter terrorism and Security bill and described the Prevent strategy and Channel policies as “further developing a culture of suspicion and surveillance on campuses, whilst also potentially conflicting with institutions’ duties to promote freedom of speech, by making them overly risk-averse and unwilling to engage in important topics of discussion.”
- That Universities UK have expressed concerns about academic freedom in their parliamentary briefing on the counter terrorism and security bill.
- That the Prevent strategy guidance in 2011 stated that university staff, lecturers and chaplains to report to the police any Muslim students who are isolated or depressed.
- That according to the current Prevent Strategy, potential indicators of “radicalism” or “extremism” include:
 1. “A need for identity, meaning and belonging.”
 2. “A desire for political or moral change.”
 3. “Relevant mental health issues.”
- That through the Prevent strategy, Universities will be legally responsible for the ideologies of their students.
- That the Prevent Strategy has been widely criticised for demonising Muslim students on campus.
- That on university campuses Prevent strategy enables the possibility of a No Platform policy being extended to any member deemed “radical” or “extreme” by the university, with no consultation.
- That University College London Union, Leeds University Students Union, Cardiff University Students Union and the London School of Economics Student Union among other have or are in the process of passing similar motions.

HUU Believes

- That students are not suspects.
- That students should be offered help and not victimised for suffering from mental health issues.
- That rushed laws are often ill thought out and poorly scrutinised.
- That any expectation by the state for academic staff to be involved in monitoring their students is deeply worrying, and could have a chilling effect on relations between staff and students.
- That the CTSB could serve to isolate many students who already feel that the only avenue through which the Government will engage them is 'anti-radicalisation' initiatives, resulting in further alienation and disaffection.
- The Counter Terrorism and Security Bill discourages free expression and analysis of ideas.
- Academics, as well as anyone in a public sector job, should not have to be part of this surveillance.
- The implementation of the Prevent strategy on campus will not only isolate Muslim students but undermine the civil liberties of other groups such as environmental, political and humanitarian activists.
- The monitoring and exclusion of ideas from public debate opposes the basic function of universities; introducing students to a variety of opinions and encouraging them to analyse and debate them.
- The policy significantly undermines the freedom and activities of university staff and students.
- Our public services (i.e. hospitals, schools, universities, prison services) should exist to serve the general public and not be used against the very people it exists to serve.

HUU Resolves

- For the President and VP Education to work with campus trade unions lobby in opposition to the Prevent strategy.
- To action the VP Welfare and Community, VP Activities and VP Education and the President to lobby the university to be more open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent, Channel and other similar initiatives. This involves:
 1. The publications of the policy's operation within the University and Student's Union.

2. The publication of materials used to train staff and students.
 3. Consultation with the student body.
- That the President will seek to educate students about the Counter-Terrorism and Security bill and the Prevent strategy.
 - To recommend that HUU's NUS delegates proposes a motion in opposition to the Counter-Terrorism and Security bill at the NUS National Conference 2015.

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