



Union School of Theology Prevent Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The School is required under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to ‘have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’.

Under section 29, it must have regard to guidance issued by the Home Secretary. The *Prevent Duty Guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales* came into effect on 18 September 2015 following approval by Parliament. This document sets out how we are complying with the Duty.

The UST Prevent Officer is the Academic Registrar and can be contacted at academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk

1.2 Scope

The Prevent Policy applies to all members of the Union School of Theology community – its staff, volunteers, lead Mentors and students, hirers of its buildings and visitors.

2 PREVENT POLICY

2.1 Approach

2.1.1 The School welcomes the Government’s intention that the Prevent Duty is implemented ‘in a proportionate and risk-based way’ and that it should not create large new burdens on institutions. We therefore intend to implement our legal responsibilities as part of our existing policies and procedures, which we also consider to be the best way of ensuring a joined-up approach. In doing this we will actively

involve the Student Committee and will continue to consult them should any changes to this policy be required in the future.

2.1.2 We take seriously our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community and as part of this would wish to do all that we can to prevent any member of the School community from being drawn into terrorism. We also value the principles of academic freedom and general freedom of expression and have a statutory duty to protect them. Some of the ways in which we meet these responsibilities are set out in this document.

2.2. Leadership

2.2.1 The School takes seriously at the highest levels the need to prevent terrorism occurring in our community. Our approach has been approved by the UST President and Provost. The Academic Registrar has been identified as the member of staff responsible for ensuring that the School complies appropriately with the Prevent Duty, in liaison with the DfE regional Prevent coordinator and other key stakeholders within and beyond the School. An annual report will be made to HEFCW.

2.3 Risk Assessment and Action Plan

2.3.1 As required by the Prevent Duty, we will carry out an annual assessment of the risk of our students being drawn into terrorism. This risk assessment will be reviewed at least annually. Where any significant risk is identified we will consider what action might mitigate the impact/ likelihood of that risk crystallising, and if necessary include it in the School's Prevent Action Plan.

2.4 External Speakers

2.4.1 In complying with the Prevent Duty the School will not:

- Provide a platform for any proscribed terrorist organisation or encourage terrorism in any way. Further details are contained in UST Use of Buildings Policy

2.4.2 This will be dealt with through our [Safeguarding Policy](#).

2.5. Security Sensitive Research

2.5.1 The School recognises that the research and study of terrorism might be necessary, and that staff and students should be able to undertake this without risk of prejudice. It is therefore acknowledged that certain staff (and exceptionally students) will have need to access material which supports terrorism as part of their work. In such cases it is incumbent on the responsible member of academic staff to ensure via the School's normal ethical review processes that material is only accessed that is appropriate for the research or other work being carried out and that its use will not encourage terrorism in any way. See [UST's Research Ethics Policy](#)

2.6 Staff and Lead Mentor Policy Awareness and Training

2.6.1 All members of Union School of Theology staff and Lead Mentors of Learning Communities should be aware of the School's responsibilities under the UK government's Prevent Duty and of the measures set out above to comply with it.

2.6.2 UST will normally hold annual training events for all staff and Lead Mentors so that they can recognise those who are vulnerable of being drawn into terrorism and potential signs of radicalisation. This training will be carried out after consultation with HEFCW. This will be done by holding regular training and information events about Prevent for staff members on campus, and for Lead Mentors during the annual Union Conference, which they are required to attend. These sessions will be recorded and can be accessed by those who take up their roles after the training event has been held.

2.6.3 UST will make information about Prevent and the School's policy available on the UST website and the staff and student pages of the VLE, and the Lead Mentor pages of the VLE.

2.6.4 UST Staff who are concerned about a student who might be showing any of the risk behaviours in relationship to terrorism highlighted in Prevent training should report this to the Prevent co-ordinator. Lead Mentors in Learning Communities should report any such concerns to the Programme Leader. Students on Campus should share any concerns with the Programme Leader; students in Learning Communities should report any such concerns to their Lead Mentor, who will report them to the Programme Leader. If the Programme Leader feels the case merits further consideration this will be discussed with the Prevent co-ordinator and the Provost. Where necessary information will be shared informally or formally with relevant authorities, including UST's DfE Prevent contact. UST will also make use of the Channel referral process when it considers it is necessary and appropriate to do so in the interests of preventing people from being drawn into terrorism.

2.7. Pastoral Care

2.7.1 Pastoral care is available to students in a variety of ways. All students have a personal tutor and a tutor group of peers which meets regularly with the tutor. The school also has a Welfare Officer who is a trained counsellor. Students are encouraged to contact relevant staff members regarding pastoral issues.

We do not have a Chaplaincy as we are a Christian Theological College. Pastoral care is embedded in our approach, and a lead in this is taken by our Pastoral Dean. Although UST is a Christian theological institution, our students learn about other faiths as part of their programmes of study.

2.8 IT Networks

2.8.1 We consider it unacceptable for our IT networks to be used in any way that supports, promotes or facilitates terrorism. We have referenced Prevent in our [‘Acceptable Use of the Internet’](#) Policy and will keep under regular review the use of filters as a means of restricting access to content covered by the Prevent Duty as part of our risk assessment process and in discussion with other universities. Social media services such as Facebook, Twitter and Reddit provide new avenues for the distribution and accessing of extremist material, and the School takes the challenges presented by social media very seriously. If any misuse of the School’s branding on social media accounts is discovered, then action will be taken in accordance. [See [UST Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy](#)]

2.9 Communications

2.9.1 We will not permit material supporting terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation to be displayed within School premises and will remove any such material if it is found. Likewise, we will seek to ensure that the School’s printed and electronic communications (including its website) do not contain or support terrorist material or material likely to encourage terrorism and will investigate immediately if any such instances are raised. It is acknowledged that there will be legitimate reasons to display materials relating to terrorism as part of legitimate teaching and research activities, and this should be declared under the process described in paragraph 2.5.1 above.

2.10 Student Committee

2.10.1 The School works closely with the Student Committee in ensuring that we provide excellent support to our students. This includes the various matters covered by this document. Student Committee members will participate in the Prevent training being provided by the School.

2.11 Information Sharing

2.11.1 The School is aware of the opportunities for informal and formal sharing of information with relevant authorities. Any cause for concern can be raised with the Provost and if necessary we will seek guidance through our DfE contact. We will also make use of the Channel referral process when we consider it is necessary and appropriate to do so in the interests of preventing people from being drawn into terrorism. Information sharing will only take place with external authorities when this is consistent with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation.

3. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 All members of staff should be aware of the School’s responsibilities under the Prevent Duty and of the measures set out above to comply with it. This will be done by

making information about Prevent and the School's policy available on the staff page of the VLE. Any members of the School community (staff, students, volunteers, Lead Mentors) who are concerned about a student or staff member who might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism should report this to their line manager.

The Lead Mentor of each UST Learning Community must signify in writing their agreement to comply with all of UST's policies and procedures, which includes the Union School of Theology Prevent Policy.

4 RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

4.1 The following policies and procedures are related to the Prevent Policy:

- [Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy](#)
- Public Information Policy
- [Safeguarding Policy](#)