

**PRESS RELEASE: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**Claystone Responds to Government's Latest Extremism Strategy**

The threat of terrorism continues to blight our communities despite over a decade worth of counter-terror legislation. A new approach to tackling terror is needed desperately given the failure of past initiatives. However, there exists in this speech no real change from the existing and demonstrably flawed analysis of the causes of terrorism. Our concern therefore is that we will be no closer to the outcome we all desire, of making our country safer.

A report on radicalisation and extremism, commissioned by Claystone, authored by Professor Arun Kundnani, has highlighted the on-going difficulty in challenging terrorism through the sole prism of religious ideology. Recognising that the route to terrorism is complex and multi- factorial affords us a more comprehensive approach to tackling the problem by seeking to address those factors. This, we believe, allows us to better protect our country from the risk we all face from terrorist attacks.

We continue to urge the Prime Minister to relook at the evidence base underpinning the current counter-terror strategy with a view to moving away from the discredited 'conveyor belt theory' as a cause of terrorism and adopting a more holistic approach to tackling this pressing issue.

***Notes to Editors***

1. A full copy of Professor Kundnani's report is on the Claystone website <http://www.claystone.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Claystone-rethinking-radicalisation.pdf>

2. For more information, please contact the Claystone Press Office on **020 3417 4464**, email [press@claystone.org.uk](mailto:press@claystone.org.uk)

3. Claystone is an independent think tank formed to offer research, analysis and reasoned solutions to foster social cohesion in relation to Muslims in Britain.

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