

PRESS RELEASE: Tuesday 22nd September

New Report Exposes Hidden counter-radicalisation project in London Borough of Waltham Forest

Press Release:

Claystone, an independent think-tank, today released a report entitled ‘Building Distrust: Religious Profiling in Primary Schools’ analysing the implementation of the Government’s PREVENT agenda in Primary Schools.

The report found:

- The London Borough of Waltham Forest has implemented the Building Resilience through Integration and Trust project in primary schools with the stated aim of increasing social cohesion. The report demonstrates that this is in fact a covert counter-radicalisation project targeted at primary school children as young as nine.
- At Greenleaf Primary School in Waltham Forest, seven children aged between nine and ten were identified by the BRIT project as vulnerable to radicalisation and selected for ‘targeted intervention.’ Their parents were not informed of this.
- Emails obtained under the Freedom of Information Act indicate parents concerned about the project were knowingly misled in statements issued by the council claiming that the ‘programme was not about *Prevent*’ and ‘was not about extremism’.
- The online version of the BRIT survey is still live (<http://tinyurl.com/lbwfBRIT>) and asks questions such as “Please name your closest friends and their religious affiliations”

The report highlights on-going concerns around flawed radicalisation models being used as a basis to counter extremism resulting in the unfair targeting of Muslim schoolchildren.

Report author Adam Belaon said, “There are numerous projects across Britain’s schools which rely on the same flawed methodology. The new duty placed on schools to have due regard for children being drawn into terrorism is in practice infringing upon the equality duty that all schools must uphold. The idea that Muslim schoolchildren should be singled out for ethnic profiling is highly problematic.”

Claystone continues to urge the Government to publish the evidence base upon which the *Prevent* agenda relies.

Notes to Editors

1. A full copy of the report is available to download here <http://www.claystone.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Building-Distrust-Ethnic-Profiling-in-Primary-Schools.pdf>

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2. For more information, please contact the Claystone Press Office on **020 3417 4464**, email press@claystone.org.uk or alternatively visit our website www.claystone.org.uk/press/

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.