

PRESS RELEASE: Tuesday 19th October

Claystone Responds to Government's New Counter-Extremism Strategy

Press Release:

Claystone, an independent think-tank, today responded with concern to the government's latest attempts at tackling the problem of radicalisation within British Muslim communities.

The last decade has seen the introduction, and the development, of the government's Prevent agenda, which is a part of the wider counter-terrorism strategy. This aspect of the strategy seeks to prevent individuals becoming terrorists before any intent to commit acts of crime. The persistence of Prevent comes despite any credible evidence offered to substantiate its effectiveness. At its centre rests the premise that there is a distinct and defined link between religious ideology and illegal acts of terror - a position overwhelmingly discredited by independent academics ([see Claystone report](#)).

Today's latest Counter-Extremism Strategy continues to build on that discredited premise, widening the net of those who are considered extremists, and reinforcing the notion of a 'suspect' Muslim community.

A decade's worth of evidence suggests that an effective counter-terrorism strategy requires engagement and inclusion of various Muslim communities across the United Kingdom; unfortunately this new update of the government strategy repeats many of the mistakes of the past and fails to reflect on the lessons learnt from previous versions.

Notes to Editors

1. A full copy of the report is available to download here 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 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.

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