



The Metanoia Institute and the Prevent Duty

What is the Prevent duty?

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015¹ placed a duty on specified agencies and organisations in the exercise of their functions to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding from other forms of harm.

As an institution on the Office for Students' (OfS's) Register of Higher Education Providers in England, Metanoia submits a Prevent duty return to the OfS annually in accordance with the Regulator's requirements.

What is extremism?

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation is a process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

¹ [Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#)

Metanoia Institute's commitment

The Metanoia Institute recognises its statutory and moral duty to safeguard the welfare of its students and staff. Protection from the risk of terrorism or involvement in terrorist activity forms part of this safeguarding duty.

Metanoia approaches the implementation of the Prevent duty within the spirit and ethos of our mission statement. The implementation is mindful of our commitment to freedom of speech, which is also a statutory duty, academic freedom and our desire to build an organisational culture and tradition that is inclusive and encouraging of diversity.

Glossary of terms

- 'Extremism' is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy (with guidance updated in 2015)² as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of British armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
- 'Interventions' are projects intended to divert people who are being drawn into terrorist activity. Interventions can include mentoring, counselling, theological support, encouraging civic engagement, developing support networks (family and peer structures) or providing mainstream services (education, employment, health, finance or housing).
- 'Non-violent extremism' is extremism, as defined above, which is not accompanied by violence.
- 'Prevention' in the context of this document means reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent includes but is not confined to the identification and referral of those at risk of being drawn into terrorism into appropriate interventions. These interventions aim to divert vulnerable people from radicalisation.
- 'Radicalisation' refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- 'Safeguarding' is the process of protecting vulnerable people, whether from crime, other forms of abuse or (in the context of this document) from being drawn into terrorist-related activity.
- The current UK definition of 'terrorism' is given in the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT 2000). In summary this defines terrorism as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.
- 'Terrorist-related offences' are those (such as murder) which are not offences in terrorist legislation, but which are judged to be committed in relation to terrorism.
- 'Vulnerability' describes the condition of being capable of being injured; difficult to defend; open to moral or ideological attack. Within Prevent, the word describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

² [Home Office: Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales \(2015\), updated May 2024](#)

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'hannah friend', written in a cursive style.

Dr Hannah Friend
Chief Executive Officer