**The Prevent duty, ‘extremism’ and ‘radicalisation’**

**PRESS AND COMMENTARY DIGEST, *February 2021***

|  |
| --- |
| **MUST READS**  **The Stansted 15's quashed conviction shows we were never terrorists**  Ben Smoke  <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/feb/02/stansted-15-quashed-conviction-terrorists-deportation-hostile-environment>  **Shawcross Prevent role is Tories' latest salvo in culture war against Muslims**  Peter Oborne  <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/shawcross-prevent-role-tories-latest-salvo-culture-war-against-muslims>  **BBC Trojan Horse report: Failing to put right shocking falsehoods**  Peter Oborne  <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/uk-bbc-trojan-horse-radio-series-islamophobia>  **The Last Stand: Shawcross and the Prevent Review**  Dr Fahid Qurashi  <https://www.cage.ngo/the-last-stand-shawcross-and-the-prevent-review>  **Far-Left influence on Black Lives Matter and Extinction Rebellion to be probed: Warning that Britain 'must be vigilant against a blind spot to the prospect of progressive extremism'**  Lucy Fisher  <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/02/07/exclusive-far-left-influence-black-lives-matter-extinctionrebellion/>  **Head of the government’s politically-charged ‘extremism’ review met with antisemitic neo-fascists**  Tom Coburg  <https://www.thecanary.co/uk/analysis/2021/02/14/head-of-the-governments-politically-charged-extremism-review-met-with-antisemitic-neo-fascists/>  **RIGHTS GROUPS BOYCOTT PREVENT REVIEW**  <https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/issue/rights-groups-boycott-prevent-review/>  **‘FREE SPEECH’ CZAR ROLE LINKED TO Toby Young’s Free Speech Union & US Right-Wing Funding Network**  Nafeez Ahmed  <https://bylinetimes.com/2021/02/16/free-speech-czar-role-linked-to-toby-youngs-free-speech-union-and-us-right-wing-funding-network/>  **Why the Jesus College Student Union is boycotting Prevent**  Imran Mulla  <https://www.varsity.co.uk/opinion/20846>  **New UK laws needed to stop hate speech and extremism, says report**  Vikram Dodd  <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/24/new-uk-laws-needed-to-stop-hate-speech-and-extremism-says-report>  **British law professor under fire over ‘Islamophobic’ statements**  Arwa Ibrahim  <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/25/british-law-professor-under-fire-over-islamophobic-content?fbclid=IwAR2cs8JWzGhzJ9Y0Kp6Pe_e6zsPjsmTUCvkC22iDfNcMXP2iHsqgosvYepg> |

Government

**Commission for Countering Extremism publishes legal review**

CCE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commission-for-countering-extremism-publishes-legal-review>

**GCHQ to use AI to tackle child sex abuse, disinformation and trafficking**

GCHQ

<https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/artificial-intelligence>

Reports and Papers

**RIGHTS GROUPS BOYCOTT PREVENT REVIEW**

<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/issue/rights-groups-boycott-prevent-review/>

<https://www.cage.ngo/ngos-boycott-shawcross-prevent-review-and-announce-a-civil-society-led-alternative?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=Police_brutality_against_Muslim_children!&utm_medium=email>

|  |
| --- |
| 01.02.21 |

**A small boy's retelling of a Fortnite game highlights discrimination in UK government's anti-extremism strategy**

Andrew Shaw

<https://www.thedigitalfix.com/gaming/news/a-small-boys-retelling-fortnite-game-highlights-discrimination-in-uk-governments-anti-extremism-strategy/>

**A four-year-old was referred to the UK's anti-extremism watchdog over Fortnite comments**

Natalie Clayton

<https://www.pcgamer.com/a-four-year-old-was-referred-to-the-uks-anti-terrorism-watchdog-over-fortnite-comments/>

|  |
| --- |
| 02.02.21 |

**The Stansted 15's quashed conviction shows we were never terrorists**

Ben Smoke

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/feb/02/stansted-15-quashed-conviction-terrorists-deportation-hostile-environment>

**Shawcross Prevent role is Tories' latest salvo in culture war against Muslims**

Peter Oborne

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/shawcross-prevent-role-tories-latest-salvo-culture-war-against-muslims>

|  |
| --- |
| 03.02.21 |

**A thousand young, black men removed from Met gang violence prediction database**

Vikram Dodd

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/03/a-thousand-young-black-men-removed-from-met-gang-violence-prediction-database>

|  |
| --- |
| 04.02.21 |

**Does the British state see Muslim children as a threat?**

ELIS GJEVORI

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/does-the-british-state-see-muslim-children-as-a-threat-43840>

**How to Radicalize Your Parents**

Mary Retta

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/n7v53z/how-to-radicalize-your-parents-prison-abolition-anti-capitalism>

|  |
| --- |
| 05.02.21 |

**BBC Trojan Horse report: Failing to put right shocking falsehoods**

Peter Oborne

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/uk-bbc-trojan-horse-radio-series-islamophobia>

**The Last Stand: Shawcross and the Prevent Review**

Dr Fahid Qurashi

<https://www.cage.ngo/the-last-stand-shawcross-and-the-prevent-review>

**Now the Prevent programme is in safe hands**

Robin Simcox

<https://www.thejc.com/comment/opinion/now-the-prevent-programme-is-in-safe-hands-1.511590>

|  |
| --- |
| 07.02.21 |

**Far-Left influence on Black Lives Matter and Extinction Rebellion to be probed: Warning that Britain 'must be vigilant against a blind spot to the prospect of progressive extremism'**

Lucy Fisher

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/02/07/exclusive-far-left-influence-black-lives-matter-extinctionrebellion/>

|  |
| --- |
| 08.02.21 |

**Peer is asked to investigate the activities of extreme right and left**

Clea Skopeliti

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/08/peer-is-asked-to-investigate-the-activities-of-extreme-right-and-left>

**Cornwall teenager sentenced for terrorism offences as UK extremist leader**

Emma Ferguson

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/19073895.cornwall-teenager-sentenced-terrorism-offences-uk-extremist-leader/>

|  |
| --- |
| 10.02.21 |

**Sinister spread of children recruited in their bedrooms: As Britain's youngest neo-Nazi terrorist, 16, is spared jail, a look at how the reach of the far-Right is growing... even during lockdown**

TOM RAWSTORNE and REBECCA CAMBER

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9238199/As-Britains-youngest-neo-Nazi-terrorist-16-spared-jail-look-far-Right-growing.html>

**Overhaul of Prevent must tackle 'self-appointed gatekeepers' fighting counter-extremism policies**

Damien McElroy

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/overhaul-of-prevent-must-tackle-self-appointed-gatekeepers-fighting-counter-extremism-policies-1.1164003>

|  |
| --- |
| 12.02.21 |

**The Clarity and Blurring of the War on Terror**

Tarek Younis

<https://www.cage.ngo/the-clarity-and-blurring-of-the-war-on-terror>

|  |
| --- |
| 14.02.21 |

**How far right uses video games and tech to lure and radicalise teenage recruits**

Mark Townsend

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/14/how-far-right-uses-video-games-tech-lure-radicalise-teenage-recruits-white-supremacists>

**Head of the government’s politically-charged ‘extremism’ review met with antisemitic neo-fascists**

Tom Coburg

<https://www.thecanary.co/uk/analysis/2021/02/14/head-of-the-governments-politically-charged-extremism-review-met-with-antisemitic-neo-fascists/>

|  |
| --- |
| 16.02.21 |

**Human rights groups to boycott government's Prevent review**

Jamie Grierson

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/16/human-rights-groups-to-boycott-government-prevent-review>

**‘FREE SPEECH’ CZAR ROLE LINKED TO Toby Young’s Free Speech Union & US Right-Wing Funding Network**

Nafeez Ahmed

<https://bylinetimes.com/2021/02/16/free-speech-czar-role-linked-to-toby-youngs-free-speech-union-and-us-right-wing-funding-network/>

|  |
| --- |
| 17.02.21 |

**Review of counter-extremism scheme boycotted over chair’s ‘Islamophobic’ comments**

Lizzie Dearden

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/prevent-review-william-shawcross-boycott-b1803079.html>

|  |
| --- |
| 18.02.21 |

**British Muslims know this Government is no fan of free speech**

Taj Ali

<https://metro.co.uk/2021/02/18/british-muslims-know-this-government-is-no-fan-of-free-speech-14093932/?ito=cbshare>

|  |
| --- |
| 22.02.21 |

**UK's anti-terror chief fears rights group boycott threatens Prevent review**

Vikram Dodd

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/21/uks-top-counter-terror-officer-backs-prevent-amid-row-over-review>

**People with extremist views less able to do complex mental tasks, research suggests**

Natalie Grover

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/feb/22/people-with-extremist-views-less-able-to-do-complex-mental-tasks-research-suggests>

**Extremists have bad memories and struggle to change their minds, Cambridge study finds**

Mike Wright

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/22/extremists-have-bad-memories-struggle-change-minds-cambridge/>

**UK counter-terror chief urges rights groups to reconsider boycott of Prevent review**

MEE Staff

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/rights-group-boycott-threatens-prevent-review-says-uk-top-counterterrorism-officer>

**Gavin Williamson’s ‘free speech’ is an attack on our rights to organise**

SW

<https://socialistworker.co.uk/art/51353/Gavin+Williamsons+free+speech+is+an+++attack+on+our+rights+to+organise>

**Extremist minds: these psychological traits might help identify people vulnerable to becoming radicalised**

Leor Zimrod

<https://theconversation.com/extremist-minds-these-psychological-traits-might-help-identify-people-vulnerable-to-becoming-radicalised-155764>

|  |
| --- |
| 23.02.21 |

**Trying to stop extremism isn’t Islamophobic: William Shawcross’s critics think identifying problems in Muslim community is a sign of bigotry**

Melanie Phillips

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trying-to-stop-extremism-isnt-islamophobic-zlfq700fn>

**Why the Jesus College Student Union is boycotting Prevent**

Imran Mulla

<https://www.varsity.co.uk/opinion/20846>

**Councillors updated on Hertfordshire's strategy to reduce the threat of terrorism**

Sol Buckner

<https://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/news/people/councillors-updated-on-hertfordshires-strategy-to-reduce-the-threat-of-terrorism-3144311>

**British PM: climate change could fuel extremism**

Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/idOVE0VD7WH>

|  |
| --- |
| 24.02.21 |

**Government urged to close loophole that allows extremists to radicalise others**

Mark White

<https://news.sky.com/story/government-urged-to-close-loophole-that-allows-extremists-to-radicalise-others-12227282>

**New UK laws needed to stop hate speech and extremism, says report**

Vikram Dodd

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/24/new-uk-laws-needed-to-stop-hate-speech-and-extremism-says-report>

**Jailed terrorist suspected of radicalising Salman Abedi loses key battle in Arena bombing inquiry legal war**

John Scheerhout

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/jailed-terrorist-suspected-radicalising-salman-19902402>

**‘Extremists are able to operate lawfully, freely and with impunity’ – extremism report co-author Sara Khan**

Matt Frei

<https://www.channel4.com/news/extremists-are-able-to-operate-lawfully-freely-and-with-impunity-extremism-report-co-author-sara-khan>

|  |
| --- |
| 25.02.21 |

**Inmates being radicalised by jihadist behind Bluewater plot**

Matthew Bradley, Sean O’Neill

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/inmates-being-radicalised-by-jihadist-behind-bluewater-plot-g26zb72ss>

**New laws needed to tackle ‘shocking and dangerous’ scale of extremism, review finds**

Lizzie Dearden

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/extremism-laws-review-impunity-mark-rowley-b1806349.html>

**London mayor launches ‘report terrorist content’ app**

Mark Say

<https://www.ukauthority.com/articles/london-mayor-launches-report-terrorist-content-app/>

**British law professor under fire over ‘Islamophobic’ statements**

Arwa Ibrahim

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/25/british-law-professor-under-fire-over-islamophobic-content?fbclid=IwAR2cs8JWzGhzJ9Y0Kp6Pe_e6zsPjsmTUCvkC22iDfNcMXP2iHsqgosvYepg>

|  |
| --- |
| 26.02.21 |

**Shamima Begum's radicalisation was our failure to address online extremism and protect our kids**

Susie Alegre

<https://www.cityam.com/shamima-begums-radicalisation-was-our-failure-to-address-online-extremism-and-protect-our-kids/>

|  |
| --- |
| 27.02.21 |

**Gavin Williamson using 'misleading' research to justify campus free-speech law: Cardiff University calls on education secretary to correct the record over claim Germaine Greer was banned**

Anna Fazackerley

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/feb/27/gavin-williamson-using-misleading-research-to-justify-campus-free-speech-law>