

DERADICALISATION AND THE PSYCHIATRIST: WHAT IS OUR LANE?

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Legal challenge launched against government over 'whitewash' review of counter-extremism programme

Exclusive: Legal action lodged at High Court argues appointment of Lord Carlile violates law requiring review to be independent

Lizzie Dearden Home Affairs Correspondent | @lizziedearden | Sunday 20 October 2019 17:06 | 14 comments



De-Radicalisation
in the UK Prevent
Strategy
Security, Identity and
Religion



HM Government

Prevent Duty Guidance:
Further education
provisions in England
and Wales



Prevent Strategy

Presented to Parliament by the
Secretary of State for the Home Department
by Command of Her Majesty

Radicalisation and Islamophobia: Poverty is the hidden



Tahir Abbas

28 October 2019 14:12 UTC | Last update: 1 week 6 days ago

The UK must do more to address the social and economic challenges facing British Muslims



ANTI-TERROR
HOTLINE

PROBABLY
NOTHING,

BUT... 0800 789 321
YOUR CALL COULD SAVE LIVES

Quick Background...

- UK government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST (2011)
- States following enable terrorism –
 - Conflict and instability
 - Aspects of modern technology
 - Pervasive ideology
 - Radicalisation
- Four arms – Pursue, Prevent, Protect & Prepare

Contest 2011

- Key aspect of CONTEST
- Aims (2011):
 - Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
 - Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
 - Work with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health) where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address

Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015

- Language in this much more aligned to that of safeguarding – “...To safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism...” & “...Re-enforce safeguarding at the heart of Prevent to ensure our communities and families are not exploited or groomed into following a path of violent extremism...”

Prevent

- Emphasis on understanding radicalisation – “...Develop a series of multi-agency pilots to trial methods to improve our understanding of those at risk of involvement in terrorism and enable earlier intervention....”
- Focus on communities – “...Build stronger partnerships with communities, civil society groups, public sector institutions and industry to improve Prevent delivery....”

Role of Health

- Duty on specified authorities – “...must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from drawn into terrorism...”
- Prevent training programme
- All areas of health but psychiatry and mental health services especially so?

RCPsych Position Statement

- PS04/16 – Counter-terrorism and psychiatry (2016)
- Complex area – conceptual issues, definitions, boundaries, evidence base for effectiveness (and harm), need for more research, the role of mental illness...
- And the duty of the psychiatrist

Ethical concerns

- RCPsych Professional Practice & Ethics Committee
- Ethical considerations arising from the government's counter-terrorism strategy – supplement to PS04/16 (Nov 2017)

Many Ethical Concerns!

- At every step
 - Definitional problems
 - Relationship between mental disorder and risk of radicalisation/terrorism
 - Confidentiality/information sharing
 - Risk assessment
 - Fundamental role of psychiatrist
 - And other issues

Definitions

- What is radicalisation?
- What is mental illness?
- Is there an overlap?
- Mental illness vs psychological difficulties
- Psychological difficulties vs isolation, disadvantage, deprivation/abuse/neglect

Confidentiality

- Not an absolute right, can be breached
- Necessary and proportionate disclosure
- However – what thresholds?
- “Ultimate good”

Evidence Base

- For assessments – risk assessments, assessments to identify risk of radicalisation, and risk of radicalised → terrorist acts
- For interventions/treatments

The Role of the Psychiatrist

- Assess, diagnose and treat mental disorder
- Act within expertise
- GMC, RCPsych guidance

So where does this leave us?

- Individual medical duties vs members of society/community
- Duty to help vs duty not to harm
- Perhaps duty to question and challenge?