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Owner: Senior Compliance Officer
Author: Krishna Songara
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Prevent Duty Policy

The 'Prevent' strategy, published by the UK Government in 2011 is one element of the counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The other strands of CONTEST are Prepare (to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack), Protect (to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack) and Pursue (to stop terrorist attacks).

In February 2015 Parliament passed the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. As a Higher Education Institution the AA is subject by law under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

The UK Government has defined extremism in the 'Prevent' strategy 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces'.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes to individual behaviour which could indicate individuals may be in need of help or protection. Individuals at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

Individuals may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. The Prevent duty does not require academic staff or administrators to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk; they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

AA Procedure for Referrals

It is important to be consistently vigilant, staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' when concerns arise.

The AA has appointed a Prevent Lead – Krishna Songara (Senior Compliance Officer 0207 887 4090, krishna.songara@aaschool.ac.uk) and established a Prevent Working Group. The Prevent Lead is the point of contact for Prevent operational matters.

The Prevent Working Group will in principle meet once a year, the group may also meet ad hoc to consider specific cases of individuals who may be considered to be at risk of radicalisation, should this arise.

The Prevent Working Group will not refer any individual in this context outside of the AA without the recommendation of this group and the express approval of the AA Director. The proposed working assumption is that the group should regard itself as empowered to take decisions up to the point at which it feels comfortable relating to the internal compliance of the School with the relevant legislation, but should on no account take a decision itself to refer any individual to an external party.

Working in Partnership

The AA President is the Accountable Officer with regard to the Prevent Duty. The School Director oversees the management of Prevent Duty regulations and the realisation of all compliant activities to support the AA's obligation are being undertaken by the School Registrar's Department, delegated as a defined responsibility to the Prevent Lead. The School Director provides assurance to the AA Council, the Trustees with overall responsibility for the Prevent Duty. As part of an established reporting process, the AA Council receive quarterly updates and will be assured should any issues to the Prevent Duty arise.

The AA has engaged and consulted with students when implementing the Prevent duty,

The Prevent Lead leases with Jennie Fisher who is the DfE Regional Prevent Co-Ordinator for London.

External Speakers and Events

Compliant with the Education (No 2) Act 1986 (Section 43) the AA "shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment for visiting speakers".

The AA's Public Programme consists of an extensive series of public events dedicated to contemporary architectural culture: exhibitions, members' events, lectures, seminars, conferences, and book launches and publications activities. All Events are booked via the Public Programme and Exhibition Curator of the AA Public Programme. Please refer to the

Freedom of Speech Code of Practice. The weekly Events List is available in hard copy, online and circulated by email to all students, staff (and members) All staff and students are fully aware of the Event, date, time and location.

Any Events organised by Student Forum or by any student that is to be promoted on the AA website is first sent for approval to the Communications Team.

(Additionally, the AA has consolidated a defined procedure for booking and conducting events when external speakers are invited to speak. Please refer to the [Booking and Conduct of Events held on AA premises](#)).

Physical Security

The AA operates a swipe card system when accessing buildings and specific rooms, facilities and teaching spaces. Nos. 32 and 36 Bedford Square have designated opening times with the provision of on-site Security personal to monitor entry/exit. The AA has a published Health and Safety Policy; students undergo an induction with regards to Hazardous Substances.

The AA's premises at 1 and 1A Montague Street have designated opening times with the provision of on-site Security personal to monitor entry/exit.

IT Policy

In support of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy, the AA School recognises that research can be conducted on issues that are controversial and where information may be deemed security-sensitive. Equally, that the academic output of such research is sometimes open to misinterpretation by the authorities, and can put authors in danger of arrest and prosecution under counter-terrorism legislation. To support academic oversight and provide guidance on the storage and circulation of such material/s, the Prevent Lead working with the Head of IT Infrastructure & Support has provided a guidance document and awareness agreement which clearly defines what is and what is not permissible, please refer to [Security Sensitive Research Projects at the AA](#). Please also refer to the [AA Information Security Policy – Student document](#) which sets out acceptable usage policy for the internet, emails and personal devices.

Pastoral Support

Students of the AA School receive an intensive, highly supervised teaching experience with access to staff at all levels. This is supported by a 1:3 staff/student ratio The School Director has an "Open Door" policy students and staff can see the Director or make an appointment to see the Director. The School Registrar provides pastoral support which is confidential and

conducted in a secure environment. The School Registrar can arrange for referrals to off-site counselling services which are conducted privately and confidentially.

The AA has a designated Meditation Room in Number 39 Bedford Square this room facilitates all faiths.

Staff Training

Statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

To support the awareness across the full staffing structure, all employees (temporary/sub-contractors) full-time and part-time staff will have access to the AA intranet and access to our Prevent training video.

Risk Assessment and Action Plan

The AA has developed a Risk Assessment and Action Plan.

Further Guidance from the UK Government

The UK Government has produced guidance with regards to Prevent Duty. For more information, please refer to:

[Counter-terrorism - the Prevent duty - Office for Students](#)

[Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Making a referral to Prevent - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

