



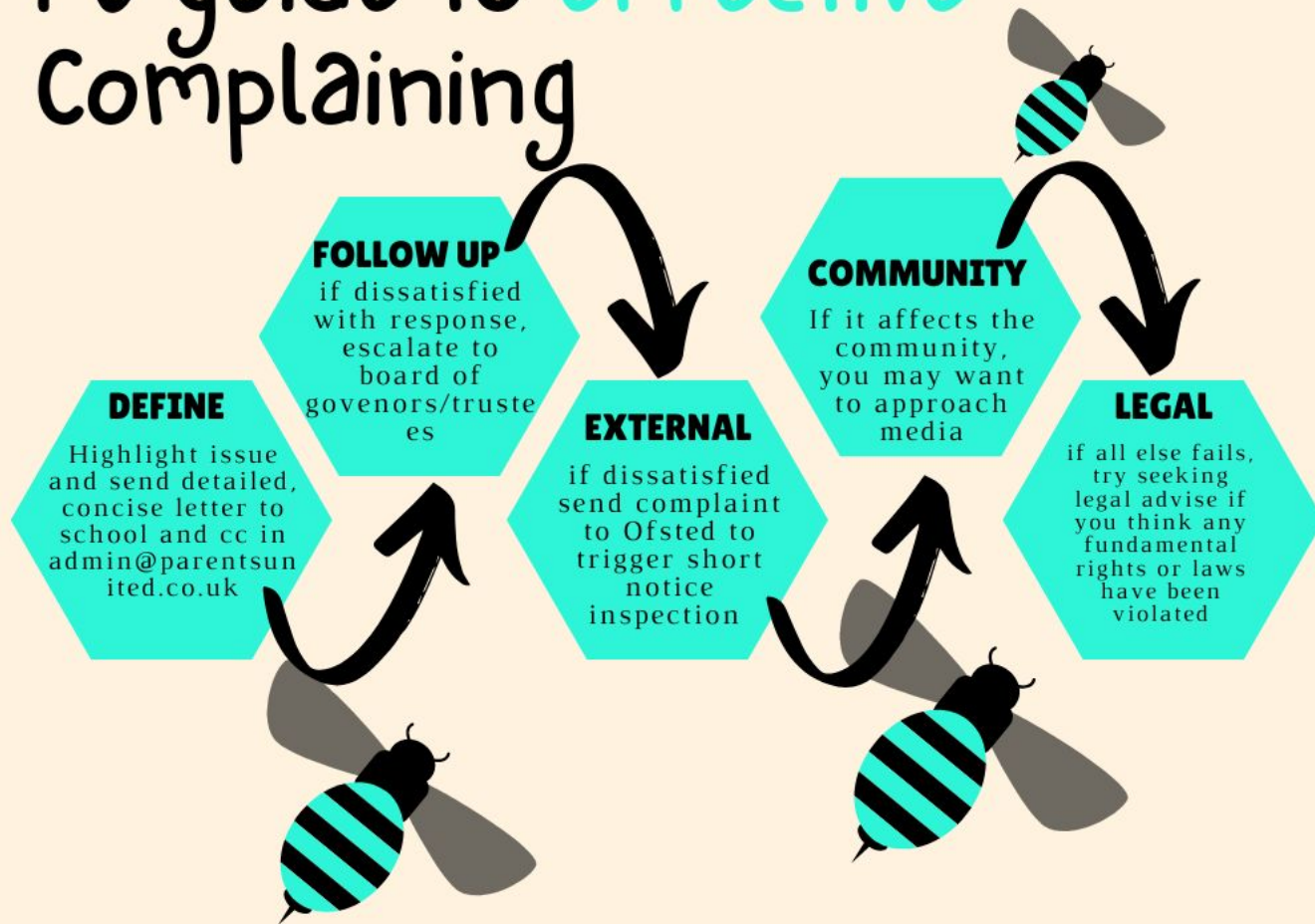
PARENTS UNITED

Parents United Conference '22

5th November 2022

Key points

PU guide to effective Complaining





Layla Aitlhadj: Prevent

Prevent in theory

Why is prevent distinct and unique?

- **Prevent objective** is to “stop people from supporting terrorists, becoming terrorist, being drawn into terrorism.”
- Prevent is a **legal duty upon all public sector workers** since 2015- teachers, doctors
- It's **firmly embedded in safeguarding policy**- there is a lot of references to extremism and radicalisation. Now it is the norm to discuss radicalisation an terrorism **on par** with abuse and grooming.
- **Identifying** people ‘vulnerable to radicalisation’ is how the duty is carried out by teachers , doctors etc
- Definitions of radicalisation and extremism are **deliberately vague and fluid**.



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Engagement	Intent	Capability
1. Need to redress injustice	14. Over-identification with group, cause	20. Personal knowledge, skills, competencies
2. Need to defend against threats	15. Us & them thinking	21. Access to networks, funding, equipment
3. Identity, meaning & belonging	16. Dehumanisation of the enemy	22. Criminal history
4. Need for status	17. Attitudes that justify offending	
5. Excitement, comradeship & adventure	18. Harmful means to an end	
6. Need to dominate others	19. Harmful end objectives	
7. Susceptibility to indoctrination		
8. Political, moral motivation		
9. Opportunistic involvement		
10. Family and/or friends support extremism		
11. Transitional periods		
12. Group influence and control		
13. Mental health Issues		

22 Identifying factors /risk factors for Prevent referrals.

- These are deliberately vague with loose wording in terms of qualification for referral.

Criticised by human rights , academics, non government organisations.

- There doesn't need to be a combination of these. **Any single one is enough.**
- They are legally required to identify these and report and have to undergo training on these.



2. Prevent in practice

Schools make up the largest proportion of referrals.

Muslims make more than half the referrals

- If a teacher has a concern about a child he/she **will report to the safeguarding lead** who then almost always fills out a referral.
- Every referral is **vetted** by a prevent officer from the counter terrorism group then **a physical visit** by a prevent officer in school or at home .
- Every **child under 18** referred, will also get **visited by social services**, as now it is by default a safeguarding issue
- If upon that vetting, if a genuine referral, will be put on Channel Program which involves a mentor and a program to deradicalise.
- A referral will stay on the record and very unclear on how long an what databases they will sit in.



Advice to Parents

- **Early** intervention is **key** when children are first signposted
- Get everything in **writing** including informal conversation
- Teach children to **not talk to anyone** without a parent present
- **Contact Prevent Watch at the first instance** if you feel that there is any concern about being referred to Prevent or conversations around extremism or radicalisation are being referred to by your school..
- Organise as parents before you **NEED to organise** yourselves - chat group is easiest
- Read your school policies especially the safeguarding policy and the behaviour policy- readily available on their website
- Know your rights around Prevent - on the Prevent Watch website <https://www.preventwatch.org/>
- If you are unsure or need support call Prevent Watch **sooner** rather than later - **free helpline 0333 344 3396**



- **We have not seen actual cases** related to the changes in RSE and Prevent referrals out of thousands of Prevent Referrals, only 615 made contact with Prevent Watch. There could be referrals we are not aware of.
- **However there is potential based on the islamophobic nature of Prevent** for the Islamic beliefs and arguments used for challenging aspects of RSE to result in a Prevent referral. There is no real way to avoid this from happening and it is unfortunate.
- **The best way forward is to just know about what Prevent** is and why it is so high in Muslim majority areas - it has been designed that way from concept to execution as it is inherently Islamophobic.
- **Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy and there should be no crossover with RSE** and your participation in engaging with the school on any aspect of your child's life. But in practice, as RSE is normalised so too will Islamic views and practices be seen as more strange.
- **Terms to look out for are varied** but can also be captured under what they may refer to as “safeguarding concerns” or issues around “British values and inclusivity or tolerance”.
- Be cognisant of the **terminology** being used. Contact us if in **doubt, our helpline is free and the support is free and even if it is just reassurance** it is better to know if your concern is genuine or otherwise.

:



How can Prevent Watch assist

- Preventing a referral at the early stages
- Knowing your rights with regards Prevent Officers and Social workers
- Assist in drafting letters to school/social/Prevent
- Put you in touch with our network of lawyers, activists or other NGOs to assist



For the parents who were concerned about your child confidently expressing themselves and their pride in being Muslim,

- I think this type of expression is **normal and not necessarily reason** to be referred to Prevent.
- It is important that we **teach our children their religion confidently** because only in that confidence will they be able to express themselves rather than confuse different concepts and ideas which are more likely to get them into trouble.
- Furthermore, **self censoring or censoring children has never been a reason to avoid Prevent**, we have had parents speak about how they don't even really teach their children much about Islam yet a referral was made.
- **Our children are more intelligent and more confident than we ever were at their age** mashaAllah and it is important they feel supported rather than feel that their parents are constantly worried.
- As Parents United kept emphasising '**You are not alone**' there is support from a number of individuals and organisations and we at Prevent Watch are also happy to be part of that support network should you require us.



Jacob Williams: Interfaith

Pitfalls when resisting LGBT promotion in schools:

- a. Accusations of 'homophobia' → impossible to defend against rationally. They are denying that there is any logical basis to object to LGBT.
- b. Appearance of 'separatism' → discourse of minority rights can backfire long term
- c. Consequently -- it can look like an impossible bind, but better ways do exist

Language choices and strategies

a. Ideas and phrases to emphasise

- i. **'Age appropriateness', 'biological sex'** (as opposed to genderfluidity), 'reality of womanhood'
- ii. **Philosophical/religious pluralism over minority rights** or ethnic/racial angles
- iii. **Don't say 'we are not homophobic'** -- say 'I don't know what you mean by that term'. This will put them on the wrong footing and will make the speaker rethink its meaning.



a. Ideas and phrases to emphasise contd...

- iv. **Compare opposition to same-sex relationships to opposition to eating pork or drinking alcohol** -- we don't hate people who do it, but it's deeply important to us to be able to pass on to our children why we don't do it
- v. **Religious freedom** - does not include the right to practice and pass on values that pertain to sex/gender, it doesn't really exist.
- vi. **Freedom, liberty, British values** -- these mean that the government doesn't enforce or promote any specific worldview -- whether pro or anti same-sex relationships or transgenderism. What is freedom if we cannot pass on our deeply held values?
- vii. **Downplay the LGBT aspect in our overall view of relationships** -- As Muslims, we don't support sexual relationships outside of marriage between men and women -- this can be onerous for many groups of people, but we don't single any group out. There is no special hatred here.



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b. Ideas and phrases to avoid (for strategic and other reasons):

i. **Implying that only Muslims object to LGBT** or that we want special arrangements. There are other communities.

ii. **Suggesting LGBT lifestyles spread disease or corruption** -This can be toxic and unhelpful

iii. **'Being gay' or other terms that create an identity** -- it's about actions that we don't endorse so don't want to teach our children this as appropriate. It's not about identities or groups. It's about the right of everyone to have their own belief system and pass on these to their children. If those beliefs cannot be about the best forms of sexual conduct there is no real freedom.



To sum up:

- **Spokespeople who emphasise these issues are likely to become targets of hate** -- no matter how carefully we use our language
- **But there is strength in numbers.**
- **Recent backlash against transgenderism is a positive point.** Even those without religion find it hard to accept that we can abolish biological sex
- **By using these ideas in the right way,** success is possible in protecting our religious freedom in schools, inshaAllah.



Yusuf Patel: Parenting

We are sitting on a ticking time bomb with schools and society imposing their values on sexuality on our children. How to pre-empt these issues before it affects our homes

Danger 1- Foundational Weakness

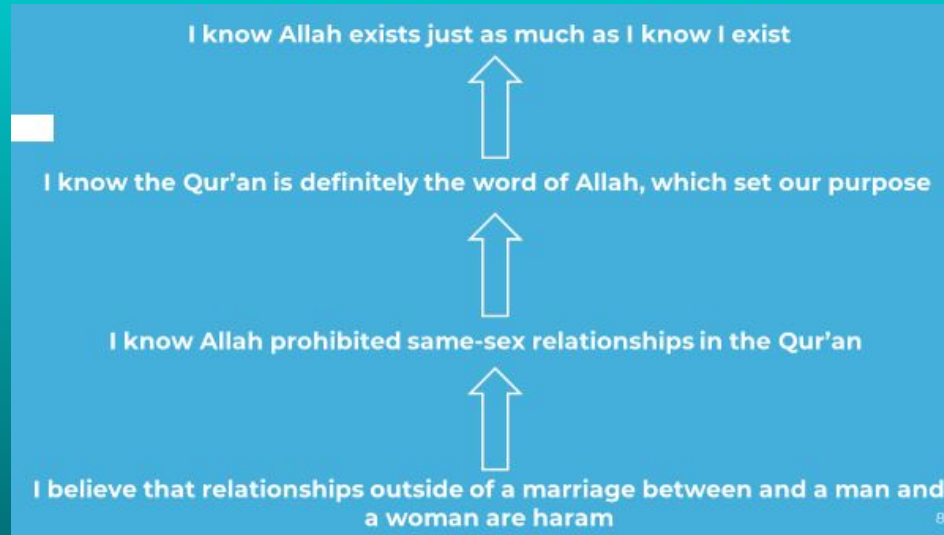
Manifestation in children - 'I am Muslim because my parents are. Why can't I do what my friends do?' Slogans like 'be true to yourself, speak your truth', liberal secular ideas adopted as 'THE' truth.

Solutions

- **Strong buildings stand on strong foundations** - laying foundation for a strong conviction that Islam is the truth
- **Change "I'm a Muslim because my parents are" to "I'm a Muslim because it's the truth"**
- **Change meaningless rituals to meaningful relationships** - Approaching for eg. salah with conviction rather than rote ritual .



- **Children are able and should have clear and strong conviction in their faith-** Allah created us with a purpose and humans are incapable of deciding what is right and wrong without personal bias. So we turn to Allah.





Danger 2: Emotional insecurity

Happens because the love of a father is most often missing in our homes - due to not being emotionally and/or physically present, or not showing love in ways that children understand it.

This message is primarily for fathers.

Evidence has shown that same-sex relationship tendencies stem from lack of a father figure, father too strict or lack of masculine role model due to absent fathers-physically/emotionally



Danger 2: Emotional insecurity - Solutions

- **Love your child and show that love in a way your child understands it - children understand love visibly - the 5 love languages**
- **Remember the 5 love languages: physical touch [hugs, cuddles, kisses], affirming words, quality time [focused, undivided attention, undeserving /unexpected gifts and acts of service- [services for your child that *they* see as valuable]**
- **This message is primarily for fathers**
- **It's never too late to fix relationships and to seek help.**



Danger 3 - Absorption of uncontested norms

- **Teach about sex and LGBT at home** - where we can have these discussions in a way that conforms to our values. Otherwise they will only learn the versions of society and school.
- **Give the balanced Islamic view on sex- i.e** In Islam sex is NOT dirty, unlike in other religions. Halal relationships are rewarded. If done in a haram way, it's a sin.
- **Teach that love is beautiful, innocent and not sexual** - but this society has made it sexual eg. two best friends - society would say they must be gay.
- **Teach that every behaviour is changeable-** if your favourite football team can change, a night person can change into a morning person. But in this society same-sex relations is the only thing that cannot change!!! Not correct.
- **Teach that sexual attraction/Desires are external drives, they are not a part of you- You can and must come back from sinful behavior through TAWBA** - Do tawba after every sin ASAP.Tawba prevents normalisation of sin.



Danger 3 -Absorption of uncontested norms cont..

- **Teach that male, female exist** - Research shows there are male/female behaviours that are not influenced by the environment.
- **Teach that masculinity and femininity should not be taken from society's idea of masculinity and femininity** because they are not Islamic. Educate yourself on how to communicate this in an Islamic way to the child. [not discussed in detail today]
- **Teach that man-made terms like 'sexual orientation, gay, lesbian' are fully-loaded terms and not real** - When you use these labels, you give life to the false premises, so don't use them.
- **Idea that Love is Love - a brother and a sister in inappropriate relationship would not be accepted** Love **has** boundaries. Every society has rules on sexual conduct. So does Islam.





MEND

Aims of MEND

- To stand for Muslim Engagement & Development
- Dedicated to tackling Islamophobia
- Primarily by raising awareness, educating and empowering Muslim community particularly in the spheres of politics and media
- Secure a Muslim future for children in Britain by making sure they are confident in their identity, reaching full potential without compromising their deen.



Two Resources - to utilise in homeschooling & promoting to your schools to use

1. Educate against Islamophobia - an Islamophobia curriculum for schools and homeschoolers.

- www.eai.org.uk-parents can also download and start using
- Available for early years, primary, Key stage 1-4
- Need parents to promote usage in PSHE lessons, MEND will support.

2. Nurturing Muslim Identities - Easy read guides to educate parents.

- To know rights of Muslim children to practice in school-Halal food, fasting in Ramadhan, salah facilities, hijab etc
- Enable parents to engage in positive dialogue with schools so children can practice in school



Our Call for Action

- Remember -**You are not alone.**
- **Act fast** as soon as something happens. **Reach** out for help.
- **Write a complaint** to school with full details of offence **copy** Parents United in.
- If you are not on a school RSE group or your school doesn't have one, **create one** and start adding parents. So taking action becomes faster.
- **Request** the school RSE curriculum and safeguarding policy and ask questions when your child goes into their new secondary or primary school next year.
- **Don't** wait till something happens to make your views known.

If you need help with any of the above contact us at the first instance.

Website -

www.parentsunited.org.uk

Follow us on social media

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/parentsunited.org.uk>

Twitter -

[@parentsuniteduk](https://twitter.com/parentsuniteduk)

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