



Department
for Education

November 2020

FE/HE Prevent News: London

Your monthly Prevent update for Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) providers in London.



Dear FE and HE providers,

As the dark nights close in earlier and earlier and the temperature drops significantly, it seems as if winter is truly approaching. We've stocked up on blankets, candles, and various flavours of hot chocolate to see us through the cold dark nights of lockdown that seem to start at about 4pm these days. We hope everyone is feeling as okay as they can about the current lockdown, though we have included our usual section on Your Welfare with some

resources you may find helpful.

The past month has been a troubling one, with the horrific murder of a teacher in Paris, the attack at a church in Nice, and the shooting in Vienna. These attacks resulted in a total of 17 injured and eight tragically losing their lives. I know everyone shares our sadness and express condolences to the victims and their families and friends. We're aware that the attacks in France have brought to the surface some ongoing conflict between French values and that of some Muslims. This in turn has fed into disputes between France and some Muslims countries. This conflict could seep into campuses and places of education so please do let us know should you pick up on that sentiment.

You may have also seen in the news the sentencing of Harry Vaughan, a young man heavily involved in the online world of the far right. Commander Richard Smith released the [following statement](#), saying:

"Harry Vaughan is an intelligent young man who was predicted A-star grades and aspired to study computing at university. Yet online, he was an enthusiastic participant of right-wing terrorist forums. He made and published vitriolic graphics encouraging terrorism and signposted people to violent terrorist guidebooks online.



His case illustrates it is possible for any young person to be susceptible to radicalisation, so today I really want to appeal to everyone to be as vigilant as possible for signs that a young, loved one may be in trouble."

As always, we are here to support the sector with any concerns so do get in touch to not only discuss any potential concerns but to book trainings, briefings, or for another pair of eyes on a policy. It may also be feasible for us to be involved in the delivery of teaching where Prevent is a part of the curriculum/course (e.g. teacher training). SO15 colleagues have let us know they may also be available to be involved in relevant subjects (e.g. policing or security studies). This will always be dependent on availability and resourcing, but do let us know if this would be of interest to you and we can put you in touch with the relevant team.

It would be impossible to talk of current events and not mention the US election which after a long period of campaigning and vote counting has ended in victory for Joe Biden, who at the time of writing has 279 of the 270 electoral college votes needed to win. Boris Johnson has congratulated the president-elect's running mate, Kamala Harris, on "her historic achievement" as Kamala Harris has become America's first female, first black and first South Asian vice

president-elect.

The DfE Coronavirus helpline is still active and information is below, along with an option for support with a positive Covid-19 case in your setting:

HM Government

Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline
For questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care from staff, parents and young people.
0800 046 8687
For support with a positive case in your education setting, select option 1
8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday

We hope everyone is safe and well,

Jennie and Jake

Jake Butterworth

FE/HE Regional Prevent Coordinator for London

jake.butterworth@education.gov.uk; **07795 454 722**

Jennie Fisher

FE/HE Regional Prevent Officer for London

jennie.fisher@education.gov.uk

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Sector specific information

Further Education

We'd like to extend our thanks to those who attended our FE networks in October. Both the FE College and the Independent Learning Provider networks were well attended and those who did attend were also very engaged with the content. We will be in touch in due course with dates for the next networks.

Ofsted have released a report as part of their Covid-19 series focussed on further education and skills, this is available to read at [this link](#).

Votes for Schools have developed three lessons which would be appropriate for college/16+ learners. These lessons are on What is Extremism? (using the Hollyoaks radicalisation storyline), conspiracy theories, and online radicalisation. They are designed to be delivered by professionals who receive a lesson plan along with a lesson presentation. If you would like access to these resources, please get in contact and we can share with you.

Higher Education

We're sure OfS-registered HE providers will be turning their minds towards the Annual Data Return. The OfS have released guidance around this, available at [this link](#). There have been some changes to reporting so do have a read through. If you've got any clarification questions, you are able to reach out to your OfS contact or alternatively I am sure you could also contact Jennie/Jake.

Universities UK have released guidance around '[Managing Risks in Internationalisation: Security related risks in HE](#)' which those in the HE sector may find both a useful and interesting read.

Prevent Survey Findings

We wanted to make you aware of the recently published findings from the '[Prevent Public Knowledge and Interactions](#)' survey, now available on Gov.uk.

The research was commissioned by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism as part of the continuous evaluation processes to ensure that Prevent is as effective, informed and transparent as it can be. Leading independent research company [ICM Unlimited](#) was appointed to conduct two online surveys; a 'public' survey and a 'professionals' survey. In total there were over 2,700 respondents across England and Wales, all of whom were already aware of the Prevent programme. This represents some of the most robust data yet on knowledge and attitudes towards the Prevent programme, and offers crucial findings on how delivery can be improved.

Some interesting statistics to come out of the survey include "58% view Prevent favourably compared to 8% who view it unfavourably" and that "spotting signs of radicalisation increases by 20-30% after training". This highlights the need for training in order to ensure all staff can comfortably recognise the signs of radicalisation. Myself and Jake can provide awareness raising training for your institution so do get in touch if you'd like to book this in.

Threat Level Increase

Following the attack in Vienna, the UK Terrorism Threat Level was raised to SEVERE, and a statement on this decision from the Head of Counter Terrorism Policing, Neil Basu, is available [here](#).

The threat level being SEVERE means an attack in the UK is considered highly likely, but **does not mean** that there is specific intelligence of an imminent incident. We'd like to remind providers of the need to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police, either by calling 999 in an emergency or calling the Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789 321.

This may also be an appropriate time to ensure that Prevent is on the agenda and also covered in robust policies. Myself and Jake are as always available to review policies so do let us know if you'd like to take advantage of the extra feedback.

Conspiracy Corner: New World Order Part 2

As mentioned last month in Conspiracy Corner, the New World Order (NWO) conspiracy theory is so vast that it needs to be broken down into multiple parts in order to form a full picture of the many aspects that the theory comprises of. This month will be a focus on the anti-Semitic aspects of the theory, including the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and the Fourth Reich.



The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is, at its simplest, a fabricated anti-Semitic text originally published in Russia in 1903. Since then the text has not only been debunked as being fraudulent as early as 1921 by The Times, but has been translated from the original Russian into multiple languages and disseminated and presented as a genuine document by multiple groups.

The content of the Protocols is presented in the format of minutes of a meeting, in this case a meeting of "world Jewish leaders known as the Elders of Zion" who are conspiring to take over the world. The document details various fictitious plans such as Jewish bankers aiming to control the world economies, plans for Jewish control of the press, and ultimately a plan for the Elders to achieve world domination. All of which are completely false, but were extremely appealing to anti-Semites both of the time up to the current day. Parts of the text were assigned by some German teachers to be read by students as fact after the Nazis came to power in 1933. It was also utilised as an instrument to blame Jews for the Russian Revolution, alleging that the Bolsheviks - who were depicted as Jewish - were simply executing the plan described in the Protocols. The document is believed to have been produced around 1902-1903, which would place it at the time of the anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire, where thousands of Jews were killed or fled the country.

The Fourth Reich arm of the NWO conspiracy focusses on an idea that Nazis

who were given a place in the USA post-World War Two have been working behind the scenes to incorporate aspects of Nazism into American culture and business. It also believes that America will overthrow the plot perpetrated by Jews to take over the world and instead install a new way of life - the Fourth Reich - based on Hitler's ideas of a New Order which at its core is a predominantly White Supremacist idea. The basis for the Fourth Reich would be annihilation of all Jews, along with all others deemed to be "unworthy of life" under the New Order along with enslavement of those considered to be "racially inferior".

So, why are we delving into the NWO conspiracy theory? The main reason is that it feels particularly relevant at the moment amongst conspiracy theorists and extremist enclaves online. Many of the conspiracy theories you may have seen recently (Covid-19 is a government creation, anti-vaccination, some election conspiracy theories) have either subtle links to NWO theories or it's rather more overt as in the image above. If you have any concerns or queries in relation to this or indeed any other conspiracy please do get in touch.

Channel Guidance

We'd like to draw your attention to the [Channel Duty Guidance](#) which has been updated very recently. You may find this particularly useful if called upon to attend a Channel panel, or as background information when discussing Channel with staff and students.

Disinformation & Misinformation Resources

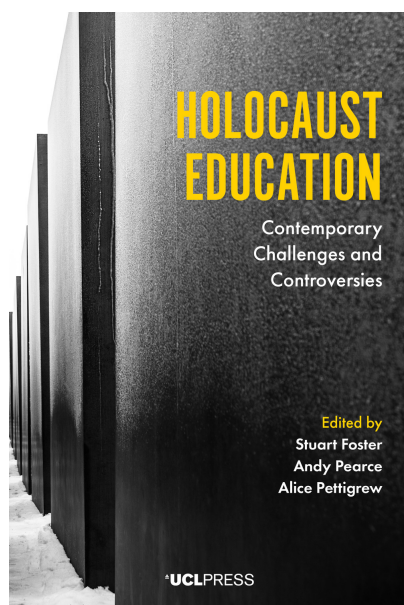
Many of you may have seen efforts from both Facebook and Twitter during the US election to inform users of content where the claims being made were disputed.

Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process. [Learn more](#)

[View](#)

While this is a helpful step in aiding greater understanding on topics frequently being utilised for disinformation purposes, we are still aware of the positive impact of ensuring learners and staff alike have the skills to not only spot disinformation but to stay safe online.

The London Grid for Learning has an entire directory of resources dedicated to online safety, fake news, and disinformation available at [this link](#). Some of the resources include videos demonstrating "deepfakes" which are remarkably accurate videos of famous people saying anything that the deepfake generator wants them to. Other resources include Ted Talks on fake news, critical thinking resources, and links to external sites such as Full Fact and BBC Fact Checking.



A large part of the discourse around disinformation and Covid-19 has been focussed on conspiracy theory narratives, many of which have predominantly anti-Semitic undertones or origins. UCL's Institute of Education's Holocaust Education department have produced a book including key lessons for teaching

the Holocaust including helping to combat myths and misconceptions held by students. Even if the Holocaust isn't part of your particular curriculum the myths and misconceptions are very useful to be aware of when dealing with anti-Semitic narratives. A link to a free PDF download of the book is available [here](#).

Tony Blair Institute Reports

The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change has released a recent report that we'd like to draw your attention to. The focus is around the scale of both Islamist and Far-Right extremism among British young people.

[Resonating Narratives: The Scale of Islamist and Far-Right Extremism Among British Young People](#)

Although released in July, we would also like to link you to the below report which focusses on how Far-Right movements have reacted to Covid-19 on a worldwide scale.

[From the Fringes to the Forefront: How Far-Right Movements Across the Globe Have Reacted to Covid-19](#)

We are still able to offer a training session with a focus on the utilisation of Covid-19 by extremists so do get in touch if this is something you would be interested in for your staff.

Your Welfare

As the second national lockdown begins there's no doubt that it can affect your mental health. Although there is a potential end point in sight of 2 December it may feel as if this month will last an abnormally long time.

One thing to consider during this period is the use of social media. Although social media is of course a fantastic way to keep in touch with friends and family, it can also be easy to fall into the trap of repeatedly viewing news - specifically bad news - which has been unofficially termed "doomscrolling". Keeping up with the news is valuable, but this shouldn't be to the detriment of

your mental health.



It can be difficult to break the habit of doomscrolling, particularly when the news is updated so regularly and on so many sites. A few tactics to consider include creating a plan for your time to incorporate non-screen time and other positive activities whether those be drawing, reading, playing video games, while segregating social media time to specific slots. Contacting friends and family via phone or video call can also help as a distraction and also offers that human connection. Unfollowing accounts is also helpful, where you find yourself particularly affected by their content, and turning off push notifications is also an option.

As always, the NHS has [multiple links to mental health assistance](#). We hope this month passes quickly and easily for you all.

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Our mailing address is:

Department for Education, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

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