PROFITING FROM PREJUDICE:
How Mend’s ‘IAM’ Campaign Legitimised Extremism

By Emma Fox
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Executive Summary

- A recent report by The Henry Jackson Society provided an extensive overview of the UK advocacy group Mend (Muslim Engagement and Development) and its links to extremism. Entitled ‘Mend: “Islamists Masquerading as Civil Libertarians”’, the research illustrated how the organisation has met the government’s own definition of extremism, as outlined by the national Counter-Extremism Strategy. A considerable number of employees have espoused disturbing views with regard to terrorism, anti-Semitism and minority Muslim sects. This includes senior management staff who have supported terrorists overseas, dismissed recent attacks in the UK and promoted anti-Jewish conspiracy theories.

- This report demonstrates how Mend’s Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) campaign has provided an uncontested platform for extremism across the UK’s public and charity sector. This falls contrary to the national Counter-Extremism Strategy, which requires local authorities to ensure that “publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views”. It is therefore concerning that the majority of IAM events took place on public property, with most on university campuses, where Prevent guidance necessitates the implementation of risk assessment policies to ensure that extremist speakers are subject to mitigation procedures.

- During IAM, Mend hosted exhibitions, presentations and workshops which claimed to inform the public about the roots of anti-Muslim hatred, and its institutional and civil manifestations. Locations included faith centres, schools, universities, a hospital and the UK Parliament. Throughout these events, Mend purported that Islamophobia results from biased media reporting, lack of Muslim political participation and discriminatory legislation that targets the Muslim community. Literature on the Mend website warned that without intervention, the current trajectory of Islamophobia in the UK could lead to genocide, making a comparison with the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. This fits with Mend’s broader alarmist and divisive narrative: that the government, drivers of government policy and vast sections of British society are inherently anti-Muslim.

- The IAM campaign afforded a mainstream platform to Mend’s affiliate partners, often individuals with a high-profile extremist history. These include Abdullah al-Andalusi, Hatem Bazian and Shakeel Begg, in addition to representatives from Cage and the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC). Extremist views include incitement of violence, sympathy with convicted terrorists and support for corporal punishments against Jews, homosexuals, minority Muslim sects and “disbelievers”.

- IAM events also played host to various parliamentarians, academics and activists who provided a layer of legitimacy to Mend’s campaign and organisation as a whole. This report highlights how many speakers have appeared sympathetic to Mend’s narrative, having worked with the organisation or an affiliated extremist partner in the past, or, in some cases, have defended the group against attacks from the mainstream media. It is therefore plausible to assume that Mend,
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and other problematic IAM speakers, were largely on uncontested platforms in which their divisive ‘them v us’ worldview and conspiratorial messaging, having permeated into anti-Semitism and intolerance on previous occasions, were insufficiently addressed. This is particularly concerning, as panels featuring an amalgamation of ‘experts’, with representatives from extremist organisations, enhance the credibility of the latter with the aesthetic of equal expertise. If unchallenged, extremist views can be aired as moderate and mainstream.

• The most senior high-profile speaker during Mend’s 2017 IAM campaign was Jeremy Corbyn, who was involved with the group under its initial brand of iEngage. Corbyn spoke at the first IAM launch event in 2012 and the annual launch the following year, and was the guest speaker at its Parliamentary event in 2017. Moreover, Corbyn has had several points of contact with Mend activists in the past, most notably (former) director Azad Ali, in addition to Mend’s affiliate partners, including Shakeel Begg, Hatem Bazian and the Islamic Human Rights Commission. In his current capacity as Leader of the Opposition, Corbyn’s sustained engagement with the group has almost certainly contributed to its legitimacy and growing prominence on mainstream platforms.

• The report concludes with several policy recommendations to reduce the impact of non-violent extremist groups in the public and civil society sector. Universities’ risk mitigating procedures, required as part of the Prevent statutory duty, ought to become more transparent in order to highlight why extremist groups continue to appear unchallenged on campus. Events hosted at public institutions featuring a speaker linked to extremism should be recorded and take place on balanced panels. This would evince whether extremist messages were promoted, ensure audience members felt free to challenge the views presented, and hold speakers to account. Moreover, extremist groups must be banned from profiting financially at events held at public institutions, particularly university campuses. Lastly, a guidance framework is required for politicians, members of the police and civil society groups, to raise awareness of how extremist groups operate and to ensure a unified stance against those who threaten societal cohesion, liberal values and individual freedoms.
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1. Introduction

This report details the Mend activities that took place during its November 2017 Islamophobia Awareness Month campaign (IAM). The research has arisen, in part, due to the alarming number of events Mend hosted at public institutions featuring unchallenged platforms. It also emerged that Mend profit financially from their events, with their student volunteers raising money for the local Mend Working Group. The organisation's controversial history has been well documented - the anti-Semitic conspiracies, the vocal support for overseas terror groups, and the partnership with individuals who have promoted jihad and corporal punishments for homosexuals and adulterers. Notwithstanding the former Head of Engagement who expressed his “love” for Al-Qaeda ideologues, and the CEO who spoke of the “links” between Zionism and Islamophobia, Mend’s highly publicised intolerance has elicited much press coverage over the years, including statements from NGOs and community groups.

Despite this, Mend’s aesthetic objective of tackling Islamophobia has succeeded in exploiting genuine concerns of anti-Muslim hate, while providing a platform for extremism on the mainstream stage. The messages promulgated and speakers advertised during its six-week campaign are alarming, yet indicative of how Mend operates. Partnering with both credible and extremist speakers demonstrates the fallacious nature of the group’s ‘moderate’ image, while providing an undue guise of legitimacy.

The majority of IAM events took place across the public and charitable sector. Activity focused on the student level, with most events hosted on university premises; however, several workshops occurred in schools and council-owned locations. This appears in direct contravention of the Counter-Extremism Strategy, established to restrict public institutions from providing undue legitimacy and publicity to extremist groups. The report will further shed light on the regions in the UK that formed a ‘hotspot’ for Mend and extremist-related activity, while detailing the network of individuals that repeatedly partnered with Mend over the course of the campaign.

A report released by Tell MAMA in 2017 showed that there were 2,840 Islamophobic crimes and incidents recorded across the UK in 2016, with a 5% proportional increase in the number of attacks occurring in public areas from the previous year.

Seeking to prevent anti-Muslim prejudice is a necessary and crucial endeavour, and public officials, activists and academics seeking to highlight Islamophobia in all its forms should not be deterred from doing so. Indeed, whilst extremist groups may exploit genuine causes to achieve support and legitimacy, most faith, community and charitable groups work tirelessly to combat bigotry without fostering grievances to generate distrust, intolerance and social isolationism.

One noteworthy initiative is ‘Islam Awareness Week’ (distinct from IAM), a community project that raises awareness of the positive contribution British Muslims make to society. This report intends to demonstrate why collaborating with extremist-linked organisations to promote social cohesion and tolerance elicits an antithetical effect.

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2. Methodology

Due to evidence presented in The Henry Jackson Society report ‘Mend: “Islamists Masquerading as Civil Libertarians”’, this paper considers that Mend meets the criteria of a non-violent extremist group, as laid out in the national Counter-Extremism Strategy. The UK government defines extremism as the:

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, whether in this country or overseas.

Criteria for inclusion

This paper covers Mend activity throughout its 2017 Islamophobia Awareness Month campaign. Events that hosted Mend speakers or other individuals linked to extremism or featured explicit promotion of Mend and its IAM brand are included. Activity seeking to raise awareness of Islamophobia during this period without explicit link to Mend or extremism are omitted. This avoids tarnishing several events that used the Islamophobia Awareness Month slogan for promotional purposes, with no other endorsement or connection to extremism.

A note on sources

Events have been recorded predominantly using advertisements on Mend’s website and social media page, corroborated with other social media sources if possible. The recording of events not hosted by Mend relied upon social media promotion that used the IAM branding, which were included if they met the criteria above. This report does not claim to be an exhaustive account of all Mend activity during this period. The disproportionate amount of information surrounding the events is recognised, with speakers often not advertised, and photographs rarely uploaded online by audience members or host groups. No official recordings of the events were published; the only footage available was taken by a member of the public who, it is presumed, did not have prior permission to film (see entry 4.1.43).

All of the information used in this report is open source.

3. History of Islamophobia Awareness Month

Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) was created in 2012 by an alliance of organisations and activists. These included iEngage (Mend), the Muslim Council of Britain and the Enough Coalition, which consisted of several Islamist and extremist organisations.

Since its inception, the Enough Coalition has been at the core of various controversial campaigns. In 2012, it ran an event seeking to highlight “insulting” and “provocative” depictions of Mohammed in the press, with the advertisement singling out *Charlie Hebdo*’s “profoundly racist and offensive” cartoons, which took place three years prior to the attack in Paris. The talk was supported by the Muslim Brotherhood-linked Cordoba Foundation and the London Muslim Centre. Later in 2012, the Enough Coalition announced that IAM officially endorsed Justice Week, a campaign led by pro-terrorist group Cage and the Queen Mary Islamic Society. This campaign supported individuals convicted of terror offences, including Aafia Siddiqui, Talha Ahsan and Babar Ahmad, as well as Shaker Aamer who was detained by the US government for being a “recruiter, financier and facilitator” of terrorism. The following year, the Enough Coalition held another talk on free speech and Islamophobia featuring several hate preachers as speakers, including Haitham al-Haddad, Abdurraheem Green, Hamza Tsörtzis, Zaheer Mahmoud and Uthman Lateef. Several extremist-linked organisations sponsored the event.

The first IAM launch event took place in the London Muslim Centre on 2 November 2012. Speakers included Jeremy Corbyn, Sahar Al-Faifi, Daud Abdullah and Lutfur Rahman. (Abdullah has declared support for the terror group Hamas, and Rahman was subsequently removed from his Mayoral post for bribery and corruption.) The brother of Talha Ahsan, convicted in the US for aiding terrorists, was also invited to speak. It is unclear when the Enough Coalition disbanded, although by the time of the IAM campaign in November 2014, the newly rebranded Mend was the principal organiser.

Controversy has also surrounded the IAM graphic, a finger pointing upward, for bearing similarity to the gesture used by Islamic militants. It is said to signify the “oneness of God”, but has more recently been used in the jihadi propaganda of Al-Qaeda and Islamic State. In 2016, Bedfordshire Police removed their social media posts promoting the IAM logo, despite Mend insisting that the finger represented the ‘I’ in Islamophobia.
4. List of events: 1 November to 16 December 2017

The following list documents the event organiser/s, speakers present and their professional associations, location and region. It is alphabetised according to location. Background information about the speakers and any additional details related to the events themselves are provided where possible. The campaign focused on four areas, into which the list is split accordingly: events held at universities, in schools, at public institutions and in wider civil society. Unless otherwise stated, the events are presumed to have gone ahead as planned.

4.1 Events at Universities

As part of the 2015 Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, public bodies are subject to a statutory duty to ensure that they have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Universities are required to have effective welfare support systems for students, including the adoption of a safeguarding lead, and risk assessment procedures for external speakers who use their premises. This stands alongside universities’ existing responsibilities surrounding free speech protection, equality and diversity welfare and gender discrimination laws. Prevent Duty guidance stresses the need to challenge extremist views, and is clear that identifying risk to violent extremism includes non-violent extremism, which can “create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views that terrorists exploit”.

4.1.1 Aston University – Exhibition – 13/11/2017

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Aston University Campus
Region: Birmingham, West Midlands

4.1.2 Aston University – ‘Counterterrorism and Islamophobia’ – 30/11/2017

Host: School of Languages and Social Sciences
Speakers: Moazzam Begg – Cage, Malia Bouattia
Location: Lecture Theatre MB155, Main Building, Aston University
Region: Birmingham, West Midlands

This event was advertised as part of Islamophobia Awareness Month. The organiser, Tom Mills, is a lecturer at the University and a supporter of Cage.

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* For the region of ‘Greater London’, the Borough Council is also included.
Cage is an advocacy group that defends individuals convicted of terrorism. Senior figures have praised Islamic militants and refused to condemn brutal practises such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and stoning. David Cameron condemned the group for claiming Mohammed Emwazi was radicalised as a result of harassment from MI5.  Cage regularly hosts Salafist-Islamist preachers such as Haitham al-Haddad, Shakeel Begg and Abu Qatada at its events. A Cage event in 2009 attempted to video link Al-Qaeda ideologue Anwar al-Awlaki. Moazzam Begg is Cage’s Director of Outreach. He has argued that Al-Qaeda clerics are “the most credible voices against IS” and described two men imprisoned after joining an Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group as “really good brothers”. According to a 2016 article in The Telegraph, Begg has encouraged people to go to Syria to “defend the revolution” against Assad, and accused the government of using ISIS as “a stick to beat” Muslims with.

Malia Bouattia, the former National Union of Students (NUS) President, has been criticised for making anti-Semitic remarks and for her links to extremist organisations. She has said that the Prevent Strategy was fuelled by “all manner of Zionist and neo-con lobbies”, described the University of Birmingham as a “Zionist outpost”, and said that “Zionist-led media outlets” have convinced the public of Muslims’ “non-violent and peaceful nature, so that we’re ... dangerously condemning the resistance”.

4.1.3 University of Birmingham – ‘Islamophobia: This is How It Feels’ – 30/11/2017

Host: University of Birmingham Islamic Society

Speakers: ‘Mend speaker’, Shahin Ashraf, Inam Malik, Ozlem Young

Location: Arts Lecture Theatre, University of Birmingham

Region: Birmingham, West Midlands

The advertising for this event promoted Mend as an organisation dedicated to human rights and empowering Muslim communities.

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The text contains footnotes and references to various sources, which are not fully visible in the image. The footnote numbers included in the text are as follows:


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4.1.4 University of Bradford – ‘Islamophobia: Don’t Hate What You Don’t Understand’ – 16/11/2017

Host: Mend, Bradford Students’ Union, Bradford Islamic Society


Location: Student Central, 0.51 Lecture Theatre, University of Bradford

Region: Bradford, West Yorkshire

The Human Relief Foundation sponsored this event, 81 a charity linked to terror fundraising body Union of Good. 82

Manzoor Khan and Salman Sayyid both spoke at two other IAM events this year. 83 Manzoor Khan’s poem ‘A Virtue of Disobedience’ features in Cage director Asim Qureshi’s upcoming book of the same name. 84

Mend has had considerable interactions with Police and Crime Commissioners, particularly those of Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Lancashire. 85 Mend is involved with multiple Hate Crime forums, and has hosted several law enforcement officials at its events 86 including representatives from the West Yorkshire Police. 87 In 2016, the organisation produced a manifesto and arranged hustings for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections. 88 The 2017 IAM campaign received “support” from the Hate Crime Action Plan strategy for Greater Manchester, although it is unclear how much such support was manifest. 89

4.1.5 Bradford College – Exhibition – 29/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: David Hockney Building, Bradford College

Region: Bradford, West Yorkshire

Mend and the exhibition were promoted by Bradford College. 90 The advertisement suggests that volunteers would be available as guides, who are usually from the local Mend working group. 91
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### 4.1.6 University of Bristol - ‘IAMBristol: Reporting and Resilience Workshop’ - 15/11/2017

**Host:** Mend, Bristol Students’ Union  
**Speakers:** Sahar Al-Faifi  
**Location:** Richmond Building, University of Bristol  
**Region:** Bristol, South West

Sahar Al-Faifi is the South Wales and West England Regional Manager at Mend. She has posted anti-Semitic tweets on social media, expressed disdain for Shia and secular Muslims, and peddled conspiracy theories with regard to terrorism. Al-Faifi has claimed that ISIS was created by “power structures” in the West, and insinuated that the terror group is loyal to America. In displays of anti-Semitism, she has claimed that there is an “islamophobia industry” consisting of several Jewish philanthropists and members of the Conservative Party. She has also tweeted, “What about the Rothschild Jews and their branches in Palestine, would such genetic research effect their banking empire[?]” Al-Faifi displayed support for Islamism and contempt for Muslim minorities with the tweet, “Nothing worse than a Shia who flipped and became a secularist attacking Islamists! Combining the worst of the two”

As part of the workshop promotion, a media clip of Al-Faifi was shared on the Facebook event.

### 4.1.7 University of Bristol - ‘What is Islamophobia: the UK Counter-Terrorism Matrix’ - 28/11/2017

**Host:** Bristol Students’ Union BME Network  
**Speakers:** Asim Qureshi – Cage  
**Location:** Richmond Building, Bristol Students’ Union  
**Region:** Bristol, South West

Originally advertised as a University of Bristol event, this talk appears to have taken place at the Students’ Union. It was promoted as part of the #IAMBristol campaign.

#IAMBristol was a student-oriented campaign driven by the UWE Student Union, who partnered with Mend to host an event programme in Bristol for Islamophobia Awareness Month. Zain Choudhry, the UWE Union President who led the campaign, has had several points of contact with extremist-linked organisations.

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65. Mend Community, @Mendcommunity, Twitter, 27 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/Mendcommunity/status/933770573153977376, last visited: 20 February 2018.  
68. Ibid., p.25.  
71. Ibid.  
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Speakers. He has previously spoken alongside Sahar Al-Faifi and Moazzam Begg,12 and the Islamic Society of which he was Vice President invited Al-Faifi to speak in February 2016.13 The following month, his society promoted a course by the extremist cleric Abu Easa Niamatullah.14 Choudhry also promoted the charity Human Appeal in 2016,15 exposed two years previous as having links to Hamas.16 During the campaign for internal union elections, Choudhry urged students on Whatsapp not to vote for a candidate he saw as “a very Zionist type person who pushes for Israel flags to be put up outside of the SU [student union] and wants to end the BDS campaign”.17 On 11 January 2017, UWE announced that Choudhry had received a month-long suspension for the comments.18

Asim Qureshi is Research Director at Cage. He has been filmed promoting violent jihad,19 refused to condemn FGM and stoning,20 and has described a British suicide bomber’s death as “selfless and sacrificial”.21 Qureshi described ISIS killer ‘Jihadi John’ as a “beautiful young man”, and blamed his radicalisation on British authorities.22 He has also expressed support for militants in Iraq and Afghanistan who wage war against British soldiers.23

Promotion for the talk included a Cage video of Qureshi appearing on Newsnight shared on the event Facebook page.24

4.1.8 Brunel, University of London – Exhibition – 03-08/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Hamilton Atrium and Eastern Gateway Atrium, Brunel University

Region: London Borough of Hillingdon, Greater London

This event was advertised as an educational exhibition dispelling “common myths” about Muslims, and highlighting the “media’s role in perpetuating anti-Muslim prejudice.”

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The advertisement suggests that volunteers would be available as guides, who are often from the local Mend working group. A “hijab experience” stall accompanied the exhibition.

4.1.9 Brunel, University of London - 'Islamophobia Awareness Discussion' - 29/11/2017

Host: University of Brunel Students’ Union, Brunel Islamic Society

Speakers: Abdullah Al-Andalusi – Muslim Debate Initiative

Location: Lecture Theatre 067, Brunel University

Region: London Borough of Hillingdon, Greater London

This event was rescheduled from 14 November to 29 November for reasons unknown.

Al-Andalusi has contended that “democracy, secularism, feminism, humanism, and liberalism” are “blatantly un-Islamic” concepts, and has criticised Muslims who participate in democracy. He is an advocate for the implementation of Sharia Law, has claimed that ISIS fighters are “no different to western armies,” and stated that Kafir [disbelievers] will be “punished in hell.” Furthermore, it has been reported that Al-Andalusi has been “closely associated” with the extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Invited to speak as part of Islamophobia Awareness Month, Al-Andalusi was promoted on the Union website as “an international speaker, thinker and intellectual activist.”

Mend has hosted Al-Andalusi at previous events.

4.1.10 University of Cambridge - 'Islamophobia: Causes and Cures' - 29/11/2017

Host: Cambridge Students’ Union, Cambridge University Islamic Society

Speakers: Maz Saleem, Daisy Eyre – Cambridge University Students’ Union, Aman Ali – Mend, Mohammad Shoaib – Mend, Ilyas Nagdee – NUS

Location: Cripps Court Auditorium, Magdalene College

Region: Cambridge, East England

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7 ibid.
10 Mend working group.
11 Profiting from Prejudice: How Mend’s ‘IAM’ Campaign Legitimised Extremism
4.1.11 University of Cardiff – Exhibition – 03/11/2017

Host: Mend, Cardiff University Students' Union
Speakers: Unknown
Location: VJ Gallery, Main Building, Park Place, Cardiff University
Region: Cardiff, South Wales

4.1.12 University of Cardiff – ‘IAM: Causes and Cures’ – 09/11/2017

Host: Mend, Cardiff University Students’ Union
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Main Building, Lecture Theatre 1.122
Region: Cardiff, South Wales

This event was advertised as a presentation and Q&A session on Islamophobia. The IAM graphic and Mend logo featured on the promotional material.

4.1.13 University of Cardiff – ‘Women Leaders’ – 13/11/2017

Host: Cardiff University Careers and Employability
Speakers: Sahar Al-Faifi – Mend (see entry 4.1.6)
Location: Council Chamber, Main Building
Region: Cardiff, South Wales

It is unclear which, if any, other speakers joined Al-Faifi at the talk.

4.1.14 Cardiff Metropolitan University – Exhibition – 30/11/2017

Host: Mend and Cardiff Metropolitan Islamic Society
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Management Building, Cyncoed Campus
Region: Cardiff, South Wales

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The advertisement suggests that topics such as “British Values”, “Shariah Law” and “Extremism” would be discussed, in addition to Mend’s activities and ways they can be supported.

The IAM graphic and Mend logo appeared on the advertisements. A link to Mend’s Facebook page was also shared.101

4.1.15 De Montfort University - Exhibition and Presentation - 27/11/2017

Host: Mend, De Montfort University Islamic Society

Speakers: Azhar Qayum – Mend, ‘University Muslim Chaplain’, ‘Head of University Security’, Ahtesham Mahmood – De Montfort Union

Location: De Montfort Students’ Union Atrium

Region: Leicester, East Midlands

This two-day event was advertised as an educational exhibition, with Mend’s Midlands Manager Azhar Qayum as the keynote speaker. The advertising promoted the Mend logo and the IAM graphic.

4.1.16 University of Exeter - ‘Causes and Cures of Islamophobia’ - 16/11/2017

Host: Mend and the University of Exeter Islamic Society

Speakers: Sahar Al-Faifi – Mend (see entry 4.1.6)

Location: Laver Building, Lecture Theatre 3

Region: Exeter, South West

Advertising featured Mend’s logo and the IAM graphic, alongside the Exeter Islamic Society logo.

4.1.17 University of Exeter - 'Islamophobia Resilience Workshop' - 30/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Northcote House, The Queen’s Drive, University of Exeter

Region: Exeter, South West


4.1.18 Goldsmiths, University of London – ‘What does Islamophobia look like in 2017?’ – 30/11/2017**

**Host:** Goldsmiths’ Student Union

**Speakers:** Narzanin Missouri, Tom Mills – Aston University,118 Ibrahim Mohamoud – Cage, Aiysha Qureshi – UCL Students’ Union

**Location:** Goldsmiths Student Union

**Region:** London Borough of Lewisham (see entry 4.3.6), Greater London

This event was described as part of IAM, and a “discussion on the manifestation of Islamophobia, including the role of the state in enabling and enforcing it and exploring the concept in the context of racial oppression and empire.”119 The IAM logo with the upward finger was used as the promotional graphic. Cage was promoted as a “Human Rights NGO” and a link to its website was provided on the Facebook event page.

Ibrahim Mohamoud is the Communications Officer at Cage. In 2015, when the group faced criticism for failing to condemn the ISIS attacks in Paris, he contended that he and his colleague were at a restaurant and “very busy”.120

Tom Mills and Narzanin Missourí have publicly supported119 Cage and defended114 its activism.116 Mills organised the Aston University IAM event with Cage (see entry 4.1.2).

4.1.19 King’s College London (KCL) – Exhibition – 13-14/11/2017***

**Host:** KCL Islamic Society121

**Speakers:** Unknown

**Location:** The Shed, Guy’s Campus (13/11) and The Lobby, Strand Campus (14/11)122

**Region:** City of Westminster, Greater London

This event was advertised as an informative guide about British Muslims, disposing of “common myths” and “highlighting the media’s role” in the portrayal of Muslims.

The advertising suggests endorsement from the NUS Activities Fund.117 The online promotion featured Mend’s IAM graphic alongside the KCL Islamic Society logo.

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123 Tom Mills and Narzanin Missourí have publicly supported119 Cage and defended114 its activism.116 Mills organised the Aston University IAM event with Cage (see entry 4.1.2).
126 London Borough of Lewisham (see entry 4.3.6), Greater London
127 City of Westminster, Greater London
128 Facebook event page.
4.1.20 King's College London (KCL) - 'Muslim Women in the West: Islamophobia Awareness Month' - 14/11/2017

Host: KCL, Intersectional Feminist Society, KCL Women & Politics, Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS), NUS Women's Campaign

Speakers: Arzu Merali - Islamic Human Rights Commission, Irene Zempi - Nottingham Trent University, Suhaymah Manzoor Khan - (blogger), Montaza Mehri - (blogger), Huma Malik - Mend, Hareem Ghani - NUS

Location: Stamford Street Lecture Theatre, King's College London

Region: City of Westminster, Greater London

The KCL Middle East Department endorsed the event online.

Suhaymah Manzoor Khan and Hareem Ghani spoke at several other IAM events in November 2017.

Huma Malik is Mend's Islamophobia Response Unit (IRU) Caseworker.

Arzu Merali is co-founder and Director of the Islamic Human Rights Commission. The charity has campaigned for the release of convicted terrorists, shown support for the Iranian Hezbollah militia and, in 2017, director Nazim Ali blamed the Grenfell fire on “the Zionists”. In March 2015, two months after the murder of twelve staff members at the Charlie Hebdo offices, the charity awarded the satirical magazine “Islamophobe of the year”. In February 2017, the organisation lamented the death of Omar Abdel Rahman, imprisoned for his role in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, claiming “the world has lost a man of principle and unshakeable faith”. The charity jointly organise the annual Al-Quds Day march, which has attracted controversy for its “brazen” support of Hezbollah.

An IAM event with the same title drew criticism in 2015, when Islamophobia in the UK was compared to the plight of Jewish people in Nazi Germany. Sahar Al-Faifi, a speaker at the event, also suggested that ISIS was a creation of “power structures” in the West “as we’re only interested in fuel Islamophobia.”

4.1.21 King's College London (KCL) - 'Weaponisation of Language' - 14/11/2017

Host: KCL, Islamic Society

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Lecture Theatre 2, New Hunts House, Guy's Campus
PROFITING FROM PREJUDICE: HOW MEND’S ‘IAM’ CAMPAIGN LEGITIMISED EXTREMISM

Region: City of Westminster, Greater London

The advertisement featured Mend’s IAM graphic. The event was sponsored by the NUS Activities Fund.

4.1.22 King’s College London (KCL) - ‘From Fear to Freedom: Combating the Psychosocial Determinants of Islamophobia’ – 16/11/2017

Host: KCL Islamic Society, KCL Psychiatry Society

Speakers: Dr Ahmed Hankir - Mend

Location: G73, Franklin-Wilkins Building, Waterloo Campus

Region: City of Westminster, Greater London

Ahmed Hankir is Chair of Mend’s Leeds Working Group. He later spoke at two IAM events in Leeds (see entries 4.1.26, 4.4.15). This event was advertised as a talk on the mental health effects of Islamophobia. Mend’s IAM logo featured in the online promotion alongside the logos of KCL Islamic Society, KCL Islamic Society ‘Welfare’, and KCL Psychiatry Society.

4.1.23 King’s College London (KCL) – ‘Dismantling the Machine’ – 17/11/2017

Host: KCL Islamic Society

Speakers: Asim Qureshi - Cage (see entry 4.1.7), Muhammad Rabbani - Cage, Sahar Al-Faifi - Mend (see entry 4.1.6), Chris Allen - University of Birmingham

Location: New Hunts House, Lecture Theatre 2

Region: City of Westminster, Greater London

King’s College London has previously defended Cage speakers on its campus. In 2015, it released a statement justifying comments made by Moazzam Begg, after allegations emerged that he had encouraged support for jihadi groups at a KCL talk. The University stated that the talk took place after “robust” risk assessments, and denied Begg had made any such comments.

Chris Allen spoke at a Cordoba Foundation event in 2015, sponsored by Mend, alongside Shenaz Bunglawala, Alain Gresh and Catherine West MP. The event was chaired by the Cordoba Foundation.

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135 Ibid.

Foundation’s CEO Anas Altakriti, who has expressed support for Hamas. Allen had spoken at one of their earlier events in 2010, alongside IAM2017 speakers’ Peter Oborne and Jeremey Corbyn. The Cordoba Foundation has been labelled a “political front for the Muslim Brotherhood” by David Cameron. Allen later spoke at an IAM event in Finsbury Park (see entry 4.4.11).

Muhammad Rabbani is a Director at Cage. He was recently arrested and convicted for wilfully obstructing a stop-and-search under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act.

The KCL ‘Safe Space’ poster seemed to be on the walls of the event. From social media posts uploaded after the talk, it appeared to be largely gender segregated, which has become a concern at campuses where Islamist organisations operate. Mend has worked closely with Islamist speakers who espouse misogynistic views, while attacking liberal Muslims who have criticised gender segregation. Mend frequently hosts female-only events, three of which took place during IAM in 2017. One event in Armley had a separation curtain to gender-segregate the audience.

4.1.24 Kingston University – ‘Manufacturing Hate’ – 16/11/2017*

Host: Kingston Students’ Union, Kingston Islamic Society

Speakers: Moazzam Begg - Cage (see entry 4.1.2), Bashir Ibrahim - KCL Alumni

Location: John Galsworthy Building, Kingston University

Region: Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Greater London

This event was advertised as part of IAM, and the Mend graphic featured on the promotional material.

Bashir Ibrahim has claimed that the UK government is seeking to engineer “a Government sanctioned Islam” and that the security services’ “modus operandi” is harassing Muslims, using ISIS executioner Mohammed Emwazi and Lee Rigby murderer Michael Adebolajo as examples to that effect. He has
PROFITING FROM PREJUDICE: HOW MEND’S ‘IAM’ CAMPAIGN LEGITIMISED EXTREMISM

spoken alongside speakers known to have espoused extremist views, such as Suleiman Gani and Uthman Lateef, on previous occasions at Kingston University.

4.1.25 University of Leeds - Exhibition - 16/11/2017

**Host:** Mend

**Speakers:** Unknown

**Location:** University of Leeds

**Region:** Leeds, West Yorkshire

4.1.26 University of Leeds - ‘Women and Islamophobia’ - 22/11/2017

**Host:** Mend, University of Leeds Students’ Union, Leeds University Islamic Society, Leeds University Ahlul-Bayt Society

**Speakers:** Salman Sayyid - University of Leeds, Ahmed Hankir - Mend, Amina Easat-Daas - University of Leeds, Zahra Hankir (journalist), Conor Ibrahiem (director), Rania Awaad - Stanford University (video)

**Location:** Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, University of Leeds

**Region:** Leeds, West Yorkshire

At this event, Mend literature was placed on every seat in the lecture theatre, its billboard was placed at the front and its logo appeared on the digital slides.

Salman Sayyid and Ahmed Hankir both spoke at two other Mend events this month.

Ibrahiem spoke about his upcoming film, ‘Freesia’. It was previously screened at a Cage event in August with Moazzam Begg and Sahar Al-Faifi. A later showing, advertised as part of IAM, hosted controversial activist Lauren Booth (see entry 4.4.2).
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4.1.27 Leeds Beckett University - ‘Challenge Islamophobia’ - 02/11/2017**
Host: Mend and Leeds Beckett Youth Work
Speakers: Shahab Adris – Mend
Location: Leeds Beckett University Campus
Region: Leeds, West Yorkshire

Student society Leeds Beckett Youth Work posted photos of this event alongsidem alongiside promotion of Mend and the speaker present.***

4.1.28 Leeds Beckett University - Exhibition - 28/11/2017**
Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Leeds Beckett University campus
Region: Leeds, West Yorkshire

Mend lauded students at this event for their “standout performance” in hosting the exhibition, and raising £285 for the Leeds Working Group.*** It is therefore evident that Mend profit financially from their exhibition events. Furthermore, it was suggested that students who volunteered with the exhibition attain academic credits, in some form, for doing so."**

4.1.29 Leeds City College - Exhibition - 13/11/2017**
Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Park Lane Campus, Leeds City College
Region: Leeds, West Yorkshire

The event appears to have been organised by the Students’ Union Deputy President.

" ibid.
4.1.30 Leeds City College – ‘Causes and Cures’ Presentation – 15/11/2017”

Host: Mend
Speakers: Mend representative
Location: Park Lane Theatre, Leeds City College
Region: Leeds, West Yorkshire

The event appears to have been organised by the Students’ Union Deputy President.

4.1.31 University of Leicester - Exhibition - 06/11/2017

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Leicester University Campus
Region: Leicester, East Midlands

A Mend stall with promotional literature accompanied the exhibition.

4.1.32 London School of Economics (LSE) – Exhibition – 08/11/2017”

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: London School of Economics campus
Region: City of Westminster, Greater London

4.1.33 University of Newcastle - 'Islam and Muslims in Britain' – 10/11/2017”

Host: Mend and Newcastle University Islamic Society
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Student Union Building, Newcastle University
Region: Newcastle, North East

The promotion for this event revealed that Mend provides training for students who express interest in volunteering at its events.

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41 Ibid.
43 Rukhsana Hussain, @RukiHussain, Twitter, 9 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/RukiHussain/status/928661424922157057, last visited: 20 February 2018.
4.1.34 Queen Mary University - Exhibition - 20/11/2017’
Host: Queen Mary Students’ Union
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Queen Mary Students’ Union
Region: London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Greater London

4.1.35 Queen Mary University - ‘Causes and Cures of Islamophobia’ – 24/11/2017’
Host: Queen Mary Students’ Union
Speakers: Mohammad Shoiaib - Mend, Aman Ali - Mend
Location: Francis Bancroft Building, David Sizer Lecture Theatre, Queen Mary University
Region: London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Greater London

Mohammad Shoiaib is a London Regional Coordinator of Mend, and Aman Ali is its Regional Manager.

4.1.36 School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) - ‘From Orientalism to Islamophobia...Where Next?’ - 03/11/2017 ’
Host: Ramadan Tent Project (RTP), SOAS Islamic Society
Speakers: Shenaz Bunglawala – Mend (former), Dr Rimla Akhtar – Kick It Out/FA/Muslim Women’s Sports Association, Hussein Kesvani – Theos, Dr Hatem Bazian – University of California, Berkeley (Skype)
Location: Main Building, Khalili Lecture Theatre
Region: London Borough of Camden, Greater London

Rimla Akhtar, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Muslim Women’s Sports Association, spoke at Mend’s Islamophobia Awareness Month 2017 launch in Parliament.††

Shenaz Bunglawala is the former Head of Research at iEngage/Mend. Concerns about the group’s links to extremism †† led to her removal as secretary for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Islamophobia in 2011.

Hatem Bazian founded the controversial groups American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)†† and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).†† He has been heavily criticised for his “sustained record” of intolerance

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‡ ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’, Queen Mary University of London Students’ Union, available at: https://www.qmsu.org.uk/; last visited: 20 February 2018.
‖ ‘From Orientalism to Islamophobia...where next?’ Eventfoot, available at: https://www.eventfoot.co.uk/from-orientalism-to-islamophobia/where-next-tickets-39838326212; last visited: 20 February 2018.
¶ Oscar Salad, @os_salad, Twitter, 3 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/os_salad/status/926380444281283200; last visited: 20 February 2018.
towards Jews.\textsuperscript{58} This includes equating Israel to the Nazis, claiming that Jewish and pro-Israel groups are the driving force behind Islamophobia,\textsuperscript{59} and posting tweets that Israel harvests organs.\textsuperscript{60} He has also been filmed at a rally calling for a violent uprising in America.\textsuperscript{61} In 2017, the Islamic Human Rights Commission hosted Bazian to launch his book at an event chaired by the Iranian Press TV and which was attended by Jeremy Corbyn.\textsuperscript{62}

This event was advertised as a panel discussion and Q&A for Islamophobia Awareness Month. Mend’s IAM logo was used on the promotional material.\textsuperscript{63}

\textbf{4.1.37 School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) – Exhibition – 06/11/2017}\textsuperscript{64}

\textbf{Host:} Mend

\textbf{Speaker:} Unknown

\textbf{Location:} SOAS Campus

\textbf{Region:} London Borough of Camden, Greater London

\textbf{4.1.38 School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) – 'The Others: Legal Discrimination in the UK' – 28/11/2017}\textsuperscript{65}

\textbf{Host:} SOAS Islamic Society

\textbf{Speakers:} Moazzam Begg – Cage (see entry 4.1.2), Muhammad Rabbani – Cage (see entry 4.1.23), Malia Bouattia (see entry 4.1.2)

\textbf{Location:} DLT Lecture Theatre, Main Building, SOAS

\textbf{Region:} London Borough of Camden, Greater London

This was a charity event for Muntada Aid’s Rohingya Appeal.\textsuperscript{66} The event was advertised as part of Islamophobia Awareness Month.\textsuperscript{67}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{59} Promoting Islamophobia - OccupY AIPAC 2012 Workshop, YouTube, 2 May 2012, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80Fs_pPscxHYo&feature=youtu.be&t=11m10s, last visited: 20 February 2018.
\item \textsuperscript{60} ‘Zice, T. ‘UC Berkeley Jewish Students Demand Action Over “Antisemitic” Professor’, The Jerusalem Post, 3 December 2017.
\item \textsuperscript{62} ‘Radical Hatem Bazian calls for Intifada (armed uprising) in the USA!!’, YouTube, 23 March 2015, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mf%54o%54Yo, last visited: 20 February 2018.
\item \textsuperscript{64} SOAS Islamic Society, Facebook, 1 November 2017, available at: https://www.facebook.com/soasisoc/posts/913684382113611, last visited: 1 March 2018.
\item \textsuperscript{66} ‘The Other: Legal Discrimination in the UK’, Eventbrite, available at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-other-legal-discrimination-in-the-uk-tickets-299660321902, last visited: 20 February 2018.
\item \textsuperscript{67} ‘Abid Hamid Faruki, @TjpAbdul, Twitter, 28 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/search?q=%22legal%20discrimination%20in%20the%20uk%22%20soas%20OR%20moazzam%20OR%20begg%20OR%20Rabbani%20OR%20Bouattia%20OR%20antisemitic%20UK%20OR%20antisemitic%20UK%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20OR%20anti%20IAME%202017%20OR%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisem... %20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisemitic%20Mend%20IAME%202017%20antisem... 22018
\item ibid.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
PROFITING FROM PREJUDICE: HOW MEND’S ‘IAM’ CAMPAIGN LEGITIMISED EXTREMISM

4.1.39 University of Sussex - Exhibition - 27/11/2017™

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Library Square, University of Sussex
Region: Sussex, South East

4.1.40 University College London (UCL) - Exhibition - 03/11/2017™

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: UCL Campus
Region: London Borough of Camden, Greater London

4.1.41 University College London (UCL) - ‘IAM: Students not Suspects’ - 15/11/2017™

Host: UCL Students’ Union, NUS, FOSIS
Speakers: Muhammad Rabbani - Cage (see entry 4.1.23), Ilyas Nagdee – NUS Black Students’ Officer, Hareem Ghani – NUS, Ayo Olatunji – UCL, Saffa Mir – FOSIS, Alia Malak – Palestine Solidarity UK™
Location: Cruciform Building, Lecture Theatre 2, UCL
Region: London Borough of Camden, Greater London

Advertised as part of Mend’s Islamophobia Awareness Month™, this event was part of the wider ‘Students Not Suspects’ campaign against Prevent. Mend’s extensive involvement with this initiative, and its opposition to counter-terror and counter-extremism legislation, is well documented.™

4.1.42 University of West England (UWE) Bristol - ‘Students Not Suspects’ - 22/11/2017™

Host: Mend, NUS, FOSIS
Speakers: Representatives from the NUS, UWE Students’ Union, University of Bristol Students’ Union™

™ Students not Suspects join us to up the fight against Prevent, National Union of Students, 8 November 2017, available at: https://www.unisonconnect.org.uk/articles/students-not-suspects-join-us-to-up-the-fight-against-prevent, last visited: 20 February 2018.
PROFITING FROM PREJUDICE: HOW MEND’S ‘IAM’ CAMPAIGN LEGITIMISED EXTREMISM

Location: Frenchay Campus, UWE Bristol
Region: Bristol, South West

This event was part of the wider #IAMBristol campaign.  

4.1.43 University of West England (UWE) Bristol – ‘Islamophobia Conference’ – 25/11/2017

Host: Mend and UWE Bristol Students’ Union

Speakers: Sahar Al-Faifi – Mend (see entry 4.1.6), Rizwan Ahmed – Bristol University, Harceem Ghani – NUS, Mubarak Mahmoud – UWE Bristol, Abdul Malik, Alex Nunns, Ajmal Miah, Almas Talib

Location: UWE Bristol Exhibition and Conference Centre
Region: Bristol, South West

This conference was part of the wider #IAMBristol campaign. The video footage of Sahar Al-Faifi’s presentation was posted online by an audience member. The digital slides used for the talk may prove indicative of other Mend presentations delivered during its recent campaign.

In her presentation, Al-Faifi made problematic assertions with regard to anti-Muslim hatred in the UK. Feeding into genuine and legitimate concerns, she informed students that the main causes of Islamophobia are “biased media reporting”, “weak legislation protecting Muslims” and a “lack of Muslim participation”. However, she then used misinformation to qualify her statement, claiming that public support for a burka ban, antipathy towards the term ‘Islamophobia’ and government proposals to close down Mosques hosting extremists confirm institutional and societal prejudice toward Muslims. Furthermore, in her explanation for why the Prevent Duty is an exemplar case of state-sanctioned racism, Al-Faifi falsely alleged that the public are now at liberty “to detect the undefined signs of extremism, which can be from wearing a headscarf, to converting to Islam and so on”. Informing students about “institutional islamophobia” is particularly concerning given Al-Faifi’s endorsement of the conspiracy that there is an “islamophobia industry”, comprised of several Jewish and Conservative politicians.

Moreover, the accompanying slide, entitled ‘Counter Terrorism’, feeds into Mend’s alarmist and conspiratorial narrative that Britain’s security laws are a covert means of targeting the Muslim community. The slide features graphics of a crown, passport and camera to depict how the government uses the “Extremism Analysis Unit” [Home Office department], “Passport Seizure” powers and the “PREVENT” Strategy to propel an anti-Muslim agenda. The centre of the slide features an icon of a mosque beside the caption “Mosques shut down?” suggesting that security measures provide the

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96 McBryde, @mariyahzaman, Twitter, 22 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/mariyahzaman/status/933440907659119801, last visited: 20 February 2018.
government a pretext to close down Islamic faith centres. The corner picture sees a protester hold a sign calling for “NO MORE MOSQUES”, explained by Al-Faifi as a depiction of the Far Right who obtain only “little focus” with regard to Counter Terrorism, furthering the notion that the Muslim community is whom the laws are intended to affect. Al-Faifi continued by stating that laws sanctioning incitement to religious hatred do not apply to the Muslim community. She argued that the designation as a group of faith, as opposed to a race, prevents Muslims from gaining legal protection against insults or prejudice in the same way as the Sikh, Jewish or Black community. She argued that this “loophole in the law” sees Muslims left more vulnerable to hatred or abuse.

4.1.44 University of West England (UWE) Bristol – ‘What is Prevent’ – 29/11/2017

Host: Mend and UWE Bristol Students’ Union

Speakers: Abu Ahmed – Home Office (pictured), Douglas Chalmers – UCU Vice President (pictured)

Location: Frenchay Campus, UWE Bristol

Region: Bristol, South West

This event was hosted by Mend and was part of the wider #IAMBristol campaign (see entry 4.1.7).

It appeared to be a debate between Ahmed and Chalmers on the Prevent Strategy. This event exposes the erroneous assumption that all speakers who appear at IAM events share Mend’s wider worldview. It is clear that Ahmed was present to challenge misconceptions regarding Prevent, where Chalmers could give voice to the legitimate concerns raised by many members of the academic community.

4.1.45 University of Wolverhampton – ‘Mend Presentation’ – 07/11/2017

Host: Mend, Wolverhampton Students’ Union

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Wolverhampton Students’ Union

Region: Wolverhampton, West Midlands

This event was part of Wolverhampton’s Islamophobia Awareness Month campaign (#WolvesIAM), driven by the Community Officer Majid Akhtar of the Students’ Union.

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13 ‘What is Prevent?’, The Students’ Union at UWE, 29 November 2017, available at: https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/ent/event/7860/#.WgXS503zyaY.twitter last visited: 20 February 2018.
14 Zain Choudhry, @TheSUPresident, Twitter, 29 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/TheSUPresident/status/935945039653502976/photo/1 last visited: 20 February 2018.
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4.1.46 University of Wolverhampton - ‘Muslim Women in the West’ - 14/11/2017

Host: Mend, Wolverhampton Students’ Union

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Wolverhampton Students’ Union

Region: Wolverhampton, West Midlands

This event was part of the wider #WolvesIAM campaign.

4.1.47 University of Wolverhampton - Exhibition - 21/11/2017

Host: Mend and Wolverhampton Students’ Union

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Millenium City Building, City Campus

Region: Wolverhampton, West Midlands

This event was part of the #WolvesIAM campaign.

Social media event promotion regularly cited Mend. This included daily video entries filmed by Community Officer Majid Akhtar during the campaign and posted on to social media, citing and tagging the organisation. On one occasion, Akhtar filmed a tour of the exhibition, informing his audience of the Mend literature available and advertising its stall at the event.

It is unclear which, if any, Mend representatives were at the exhibition.

4.1.48 University of Wolverhampton - ‘IAM: 5 Pillars of Islamophobia’ - 28/11/2017

Host: Mend and Wolverhampton Students’ Union

Speakers: Muslim Chaplain

Location: Ambika Paul Building, City Campus

Region: Wolverhampton, West Midlands

It is unclear who spoke alongside the listed speaker.

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As cited:

1. ibid.
4.1.49 University of York – ‘Islamophobia Hurts’ – 24/11/2017"

**Host:** Mend, York Islamic Society, York St Johns’ Islamic Society

**Speakers:** Unknown

**Location:** Alcuin College, Seebob Rowntree Building, University of York

**Region:** York, North Yorkshire

The advertising promoted Mend social media accounts, used Mend graphics and pictured the Mend logo alongside those of the two Islamic societies hosting the event.

4.2 Events in Schools

Publicly funded schools in the UK are subject to the Prevent Duty that seeks to safeguard institutions from becoming uncontested spaces for extremism. Compliance includes the implementation of safeguarding procedures to reduce the risk of radicalisation to terrorism, and the promotion of fundamental British values and community cohesion in accordance with the Education Act 2002. Independent schools are subject to similar requirements through the Independent Schools Standards. Prevent Duty Guidance is clear that being drawn into terrorism “includes non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views that terrorists exploit”.

Mend hosted three events in schools: at The Fatimah Elizabeth Cates Academy, Grangewood Independent Primary School and Leyton Sixth Form College. The two schools in Waltham Forest have a history of hosting high-profile extremist speakers. Two events were for women only.

4.2.1 Fatimah Elizabeth Cates Academy (FEC) – ‘Islamophobia Causes and Cures: Parents Workshop’ – 19/11/2017"

**Host:** Mend

**Speakers:** Unknown

**Location:** Fatimah Elizabeth Cates Academy (FEC), Frederick Bremer School, Siddeley Road

**Region:** London Borough of Waltham Forest, Greater London

The FEC delivers weekend classes of Islamic studies on the Frederick Bremer school premises, a community school for 11–16-year-olds.

The FEC has previously hosted Friends of Al-Aqsa, who ran a workshop at the school entitled ‘History and the Importance of Masjid Al-Aqsa’. The government recently criticised the organisation for the...
extremist links of its senior leaders, and its public support of Hamas and Hezbollah.242 The FEC was planning to conduct a similar session on 4 February 2018, although it is unclear whether external speakers were invited.243

The school has also participated in a fundraiser with Muslim Aid:244 Muslim Aid has funded groups close to the proscribed Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The group is banned in Israel for funding terrorism, and is closely linked to the extremist Islamic Forum of Europe, where Azad Ali served as community affairs coordinator.245

The school has also hosted Muslim Belal,246 a performer linked to the extremist charity HHUGS,247 who co-wrote a nasheed [song] in praise of Al-Qaeda associate Aafia Siddiqui.248

The FEC Headteacher, Hamid Mahmood, is a signatory249 on the ‘Free Shaker Aamer’ campaign.250 The US government believes Shaker Aamer to be a “recruiter, financier and facilitator” of Al-Qaeda, “close associate of Usama bin Laden [and] other senior extremist members”, with a “history of participating in jihadist combat”.251

The description of the Mend event asked: “Are we and our children living in an increasingly Islamophobic society?” and “What role does the media play in anti-Muslim hatred?” The FEC promoted the talk several times,252 including one tweet advertising an “excellent and insightful workshop in partnership with Mend. Add the dates to your diary!!”253

### 4.2.2 Grangewood Independent Primary School – ‘Launch of the IRU: Sisters Afternoon Tea’ – 25/11/2017

**Host:** Mend

**Speakers:** Unknown

**Location:** Grangewood Independent School, Chester Road, Forest Gate

**Region:** London Borough of Newham, Greater London

This was a female-only event.

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4.2.3 Leyton Sixth Form College - ‘Mend: Women’s Badminton Tournament’ - 12/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Tuba Mazhari – Mend, Hafisa Patel – Muslim Sports Association

Location: Leyton Sixth Form, Essex Road, Leyton

Region: London Borough of Waltham Forest, Greater London

This event was promoted by Leyton College. Medals engraved with the Mend logo were awarded at the event.

Leyton College has previously been criticised for hosting extremist speakers. During its 2012 ‘Discover Islam’ week, the college invited Hitit Institute’s Adnan Rashid and Hamza Tzortzis to speak, in addition to cleric Haitham al-Haddad, who had been banned from the London School of Economics two months earlier.

Leyton College’s Islamic Society has promoted literature by iERA, an organisation whose advisors include Zakir Naik and Bilal Philips, both of whom were banned from the UK by former Home Secretary Theresa May for extremist views. Naik’s leaflet is pictured at the event stall in 2016. The society has also raised money for the controversial Unmah Welfare Trust.

This was a female-only event.

4.3 Events at Public Institutions

Mend hosted several events at venues owned by the local authority, including libraries, council community centres and a hospital. For all events that take place on public property, the local authority is required under the Prevent Duty Guidance to ensure that its premises do not provide a platform for extremists or for the dissemination of extremist views. With this in mind, it was particularly concerning that Lewisham Council’s Deptford Lounge hosted Shakeel Begg, who has promoted violent jihad and...
In July 2017, Mend’s Lubaba Khalid posted a violent anti-Semitic message online. With reference to


Mend’s extensive history of collaboration with Stand Up To Racism is not within the scope of this report.⁷⁰

Nahella Ashraf has spoken alongside Ismail Patel,⁷¹ the founder of Friends of Al-Aqsa who has been filmed supporting Hamas.⁷²

In July 2017, Mend’s Lubaba Khalid posted a violent anti-Semitic message online. With reference to Israel she stated, “I can only pray for the destruction of the people who are killing my people!!”⁷³

4.3.2 Caerphilly Leisure Centre – ‘Ask a Muslim’ – 21/11/2017⁷⁶

Host: Mend

Speakers: Sahar Al-Faifi – Mend (see entry 4.1.6), Amanda Morris – Mend⁷⁷

Location: Caerphilly Leisure Centre, Virginia Park⁷⁸

Region: Caerphilly, South Wales

Amanda Morris is Chair of Mend’s Cardiff Working group. She also works at the Welsh affiliate of the Muslim Council of Britain, and has shown considerable⁷⁹ support for Cage.⁸⁰ In 2015, Morris wrote a
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piece in defence of extremist cleric Abu Easa Niamatullah, after a Muslim woman criticised his misogynistic views.\textsuperscript{270}

4.3.3 Fulwell Cross Library – Exhibition – 01/11/2017”

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Fullwell Cross Library, Ilford

Region: London Borough of Redbridge, Greater London

This event took place in the constituency of Wes Streeting MP. Streeting has had several points of contact with Mend, both on a national and local level (see entry 4.4.22).

4.3.4 Grandstand Community Centre – ‘Islamophobia: what can we do?’ – 02/12/2017”

Host: Mend and The Islamic Association of Lincoln

Speakers: Unknown

Location: The Grandstand Community Centre, Carholme Road, Lincoln

Region: Lincoln, East Midlands

The Grandstand Community Centre is owned by Lincoln Council. The Islamic Association of Lincoln is a registered charity.

4.3.5 Redbridge Museum and Library – Exhibition – 15/11/2017”

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Redbridge Central Library, Clements Road, Ilford

Region: London Borough of Redbridge, Greater London

Volunteers were advertised as part of this event although it is unclear which, if any, Mend representatives were present.

This event took place in the constituency of Wes Streeting MP (see entry 4.4.22).

\textsuperscript{270} Stand Up To Racism Wales, Facebook, available at: https://www.facebook.com/events/714927315378814/permalink/721910934675452/, last visited: 21 February 2018.


\textsuperscript{274} Mend, Facebook, available at: https://www.Facebook.com/events/1398178763626394/, last visited: 21 February 2018.
4.3.6 Stand Up To Racism - 'Deaths in Custody, Rising Islamophobia - The Fight Against Racism' - 08/11/2017

Host: Stand Up To Racism - South East London

Speakers: Shakeel Begg - Lewisham Islamic Centre, 'Mend speaker', Kedisha Burrell-Brown (activist), Stephanie Lightfoot-Bennett (activist), Jair Tavares (activist), Shakira Martin - NUS

Location: Deptford Lounge, 9 Giffin Square, London

Region: London Borough of Lewisham, Greater London

This event took place at the Deptford Lounge, a council-owned community centre.

Shakeel Begg is Head Imam at the Lewisham Islamic Centre. In 2016, he lost a libel suit against the BBC and was declared “an extremist Islamic speaker who espouses extremist Islamic positions” by the ruling High Court Judge. This was in relation to nine public statements in which Begg promoted and encouraged violent jihad. The Lewisham Islamic Centre disputed the judgement and Begg remains in his position as Head Imam, and on the board of trustees.

Despite Shakeel Begg’s highly publicised extremist statements, and promotion of violence, Lewisham Council has had several points of contact with Begg and the Islamic Centre. Of particular note is Begg’s former membership of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). He has spoken at local schools and served as chaplain at the local Lewisham hospital. In addition, the Islamic Centre’s records show that the Local Authority has awarded financial grants to the Lewisham Mosque. In 2015 the Islamic Centre received £99,210 in grants, and in 2016 the Mosque received £83,190. Later that year, the deputy mayor made a public visit to the Islamic Centre.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) has hosted Shakeel Begg on previous occasions. In March 2016, Begg spoke on a SUTR panel at Goldsmiths University alongside the Labour MP for Lewisham and Deptford. Also, Begg was invited to speak at its vigil against Islamophobia in December 2016 with the former Lewisham mayor.

Shakeel Begg has been hosted, and received support from, senior figures at Cage and Mend. Azad Ali spoke alongside Begg at a Cage event where he condemned the High Court ruling and used the hashtag #istandbymyimam. Notably, it was a Cage fundraising dinner in 2010 that was cited in the judgement, for it was there that Begg praised Muslims who travelled to conflict zones for jihad. Begg has also been hosted by Unite Against Fascism, where Ali is Vice-Chair. Jeremy Corbyn MP spoke alongside him at the University of London Union.

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4.3.7 Wanstead Library – Exhibition – 09/11/2017

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Rd, London
Region: London Borough of Redbridge, Greater London

4.3.8 Whittington Hospital – Exhibition – 04/11/2017

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Whittington Hospital, Atrium Area A1, London
Region: London Borough of Islington, Greater London

The Whittington Health NHS Trust is a registered charity.

This event took place in the constituency of Jeremy Corbyn MP.

4.4 Civil Society and Political Engagement

Mend held several events with other campaign groups such as Stand Up To Racism and the NUT, as well as faith centres and registered charities. The IAM launch in Parliament elicited particular controversy, with negative publicity surrounding the event in the press, and high-profile MPs pulling out a few days prior. The event itself hosted the Leader of the Opposition as a keynote speaker alongside representatives from the political, media and charitable sectors. The event questioning the ‘Trojan Horse’ scandal in Birmingham also drew considerable criticism, prompting the venue to pull out and the local council to issue a statement. The event sought to cast doubt on investigations by Birmingham City Council and the Department for Education which revealed that there had been a “co-ordinated, deliberate and sustained” attempt to introduce an “intolerant and aggressive Islamic ethos” into schools in Birmingham. Among the speakers was Tahir Alam, the former chair of governors at Park View School at the centre of the controversy, who is permanently barred from education. Of additional concern was the promotion of Mend at Al Manaar and Finsbury Park Mosque, owing to the vast history of extremism at both faith centres.

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4.4.1 Al Manaar - 'Sisters: Causes and Cures of Islamophobia and Self Defence Class' - 11/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Al Manaar - The Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, Ladbroke Grove

Region: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Greater London

This was a female-only event.

Al Manaar Mosque faced criticism after it was linked to nine British Islamic State fighters. These included Mohammed Emwazi ("Jihadi John") and Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary (the "hip-hop Jihadist"). It was reported that Emwazi had formed a relationship with Aine Davis and Alexandra Kotey at the Mosque, who formed part of the Islamic State "Beatles" cell. An interview with Kotey's friend revealed that he had "advocated suicide bombing" outside the Mosque, "arguing with those who said it was forbidden by the Qur'an". It was revealed during the trial of Davis’ wife, convicted of funding for terrorism, that she had met her husband at the Mosque. Jihadi fighters Hamza Parvez and his best friend Mohammed Nasser are believed to have worshipped at Al Manaar. Their neighbour Mohammed el-Araj, an engineering student who died fighting with Syrian jihadist groups, and his friend Choukri Ellekhlifi also worshipped there. The "Shalaku Brothers", Flamur (a Greenwich University Student) and Fatnum (a pupil at Holland Park School), were also part of the Ladbroke Grove Mosque group that fled to Syria.

Al Manaar is a registered charity.

4.4.2 Arakan Creative - 'Freesia Movie: Special Guest Q&A' - 24/11/2017

Host: Mend, Arakan Creative, Ento TV Live

Speakers: Conor Ibrahim - Freesia (director), Lauren Booth - (activist), Rob Ferguson - NUT/Stand Up To Racism, Aqib Khan - Freesia (actor), Affie Dehrouyeh Dehrouyeh - Freesia (actress), Samantha Mesagno - Freesia (actress)

Location: Courthouse Hotel, Soho

Region: City of Westminster, Greater London

Lauren Booth has expressed several anti-Semitic sentiments, including assertions about “Jewish supremacy”, the “Jewish, Zionist lobby” and the promulgation of anti-Semitic tropes in praise of...
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Holocaust-denier Gilad Atzmon, Booth has worked for the Iranian-run Press TV, and in 2008 was awarded a VIP passport to Gaza by Iranian-backed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Rob Ferguson was exposed in The Telegraph for working with representatives from Mend, Cage and a former Hizb ut-Tahrir activist in its campaign against Prevent. Ferguson’s previous work with Mend is well documented. 

‘Freesia’ was previously screened at a Cage event, with Moazzam Begg and Sahar Al-Faifi.

4.4.3 The Atrium - ‘Mirror to the State: Spoken Word’ - 18/11/2017

Host: Cage

Speakers: Sahar Al-Faifi - Mend (see entry 4.1.6), Moazzam Begg - Cage (see entry 4.1.2), Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan - blogger (see entries 4.1.4 and 4.1.20), Leanne Mohamad - activist, Usaa Minhas - blogger

Location: The Atrium, Cheshire Street, London

Region: London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Greater London

This event was promoted as a ‘Spoken Word’ competition. The advertisement for applicants stated: “In a time where words and expression itself are incriminated... speak your truth.” The theme centred upon the UK’s counter-terror legislation and institutional racism.

Aside from the speakers listed above, it is unclear who spoke at this event.

4.4.4 Bolton Council of Mosques (BCOM) - ‘Let’s get reporting - Islamophobia’ - 18/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Bolton Council of Mosques, Vicarage Street, Bolton

Region: Manchester, North West

BCOM is an affiliate of the Muslim Brotherhood-linked Muslim Council of Britain, and a registered charity.

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**Footnotes:**


75 Wilson, T., ‘Mend “Islamists Masquerading As Civil Libertarians”’, The Henry Jackson Society, October 2017, p. 45.


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4.4.5 Bordesley Centre (Muath Trust) - ‘Trojan Horse: The Facts’ - 03/11/2017”

**Host:** Mend

**Speakers:** Salma Yaqoob, Peter Oborne, Kevin Courtney – *General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers*, Shamim Miah – *University of Huddersfield*, John Holmwood – *University of Nottingham*, Tahir Alam – *Park View School* (former)

**Location:** Bordesley Centre (advertised)

**Region:** Birmingham, West Midlands

In 2014, findings by both Birmingham City Council and the Education Commissioner Peter Clarke demonstrated that there was a concerted effort by Islamists to gain influence over a number of schools in Birmingham. This came in response to a leaked document boasting the removal of secular school leaders “corrupting... children with sex education, teaching about homosexuals, [making] children pray Christian prayers and [play mixed] sport” in favour of those that would implement strict Islamic principles, and outlining ways in which other schools could follow.

The allegations were the subject of challenge, although investigations revealed that there had indeed been a “coordinated, deliberate and sustained” attempt to introduce an “intolerant and aggressive Islamic ethos” into several schools in the area.

These findings are consistently rejected by Mend, who question the authenticity of the leaked document, and contend that the affair was a “hoax”, a “witchhunt” against Muslims and an example of “power, politics and systematic racism”. The organisation often cites a report for the Education Select Committee which concluded that there was “no evidence of a conspiracy ... to promote violent extremism” as this had been found on only one occasion, yet the original document accepted that there had been a promotion of a culture that would lead children to be culturally isolated and vulnerable to extremism. The report was subsequently criticised by the government for “downplaying” the seriousness of events.

The event hosted several speakers who have been particularly vocal in their opposition to the investigation’s findings.

Tahir Alam, the former chair of governors at Park View school, was labelled by *The Telegraph* as the “ringleader” in the Trojan Horse controversy. He has called for “girls [to] be covered except for their hands and faces”, advocated gender segregation and argued that homosexual relationships should not be taught as acceptable practices. He is permanently barred from education.

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**Footnotes:**


Salma Yaqoob was former leader and vice-chair of the Respect Party. She leads the ‘Hand off Birmingham Schools’ group that rejected Ofsted’s findings.128 Peter Oborne has been affiliated with Mend for several years. He spoke at IAM’s initial launch in 2012, iEngage’s rebrand event in 2014 and Mend’s Conservative Party fringe events in 2014 and 2017.129 Shamim Miah spoke at a Mend event in January 2015 with Azad Ali.130 That same year he spoke at an IAM event with Sufyan Ismail.131

The Muath Trust has previously hosted extremist-linked speakers, including cleric Yasir Qadhi132 and representatives from Cage and the Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPACUK).133 The Telegraph reported that at one event, MPACUK chairman Raza Nadim praised jihad and compelled audience members to donate to Cage.134 The Muath Trust is a registered charity. Birmingham City Council published a statement clarifying that it unequivocally did not endorse the event, and pointed to the indisputable “facts and findings of the 2014 Kershaw and Clarke inquiries … which must not be forgotten”.135

This event went ahead as planned, although the location was changed.

4.4.6 Broomhall Centre – ‘Sheffield Against Islamophobia’ – 25/11/2017

Host: Mend
Speakers: Paul Blomfield MP – Sheffield Central
Location: Broomhall Centre, Broomspring Lane, Sheffield
Region: Sheffield, South Yorkshire

The event advertised a ‘Causes and Cures’ presentation and a talk by the local MP, The Broomhall Centre is a registered charity.

4.4.7 Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House – ‘How do we understand Islamophobia?’ - 29/11/2017”

Host: Mend, Leeds Quakers, Concord Interfaith Leeds

Speakers: Shahab Adris – Mend, David Randolph-Horn – Concord

Location: Carlton Hill Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds

Region: Leeds, West Yorkshire

Leeds Quakers are part of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), a registered charity.

4.4.8 Castleland Community Centre – ‘Ask a Muslim’ – 14/11/2017”

Host: Mend

Speakers: Sahar Al-Faifi – Mend, Amanda Morris – Mend

Location: Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry

Region: Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales

Castleland Community Centre is a registered charity.

Representatives of the police were present.32

4.4.9 The City Retreat Leicester – ‘Islamophobia: Causes and Cures’ – 19/11/2017”

Host: Mend

Speakers: Irfan Mohamed

Location: The City Retreat, Church Gate, Leicester

Region: Leicester, East Midlands

This event was promoted by iERA’s Yusuf Chambers who has worked with Mend in the past.33

The City Retreat is a registered charity.


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4.4.10 Craven Development Education Centre - 'Countering Islamophobia' - 02/11/2017

Host: Craven Development Education Centre (CDEC)

Speakers: Mend speaker

Location: St Andrew’s Church, Skipton

Region: Skipton, North Yorkshire

CDEC is part of the Consortium of Development Education Centres that deliver “global learning” to schools and communities. CDEC is a registered charity.

CDEC has previously hosted Mend at a workshop for primary and secondary school teachers. Mend literature was distributed at the event.

4.4.11 Finsbury Park Mosque - 'Confronting Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes in Britain: Challenges and Opportunities' - 29/11/2017

Host: Finsbury Park Mosque


Location: Finsbury Park Mosque, The Meeting Room, St Thomas’ Road

Region: London Borough of Islington, Greater London

Finsbury Park Mosque has been at the centre of controversy surrounding extremism for several years. Once described as an “al-Qaeda guesthouse in London”, the mosque was previously headed by extremist cleric Abu Qatada, and assisted in the radicalisation of “shoebomber” Richard Reid and one of the 9/11 terrorists. Under new leadership, the Mosque vows dedication to diversity, tolerance and community cohesion, and in 2014 won an award for tackling extremism. Despite this, current chairman Mohammed Kozbar, who has had previous contact with Mend, has called for Israel to be destroyed and is the vice President of the Muslim Brotherhood-linked Muslim Association of Britain. Furthermore, Mohammed Sawalha, described by the BBC as a “fugitive Hamas commander”

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and “the most influential” Muslim Brotherhood member in Britain,\textsuperscript{357} is listed as an active director and Mosque trustee.\textsuperscript{358}

Finsbury Park Mosque is a registered charity. The Mosque is located within the constituency of Jeremy Corbyn MP (see entry 4.4.22).

This event was advertised as having the support of several higher education institutions and NGOs. Directly below these listed partners it was promoted as part of IAM. Mend also advertised this event as part of its campaign.\textsuperscript{359}

Both Allen and Sayyid have spoken at Mend events in the past.

\textbf{4.4.12 Goodge Street Mosque – ‘Islamophobia Sisters Afternoon Tea’ – 16/12/2017\textsuperscript{360}}

\textbf{Host:} Mend

\textbf{Speakers:} Unknown

\textbf{Location:} Goodge Street Mosque, London

\textbf{Region:} London Borough of Camden, Greater London

Guest speakers are advertised, although it is unclear who spoke at the event.

Goodge Street Mosque is a registered charity.

\textbf{4.4.13 Indian Muslim Welfare Society (IMWS) – ‘Tackling Islamophobia Together’ – 26/11/2017\textsuperscript{361}}

\textbf{Host:} Mend and IMWS

\textbf{Speakers:} Sufyan Ismail – Mend

\textbf{Location:} IMWS, Track Road, Batley

\textbf{Region:} Batley, West Yorkshire

Sufyan Ismail is the former CEO of Mend. He has made several anti-Semitic comments, including reference to a 300-year-old “Israeli lobby”,\textsuperscript{362} and the assertion that there is a “meaningful link between Zionism and Islamophobia”.\textsuperscript{363} He has also drawn an equivalence between fighting for ISIS and the...
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Israel military." Ismail has been further criticised for claiming that British society “hates” Muslims, and that the law sanctions violence against the Islamic Community while protecting other groups.  

IMWS is an official affiliate of the Muslim Council of Britain and a registered charity.

4.4.14 Jamia Masjid Ghousia Armley - 'Islamophobia: Causes and Cures' - 18/11/2017

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Jamia Masjid Ghousia Armley, Brooklyn Terrace, Leeds
Region: Leeds, West Yorkshire

Mend literature was placed on every seat in the room, and two Mend billboards were erected at the front. The event had a separation curtain to gender-segregate the audience.

Jamia Masjid Ghousia Armley is a registered charity. It has failed to meet its financial legal obligations and a warning notice is displayed on the Charity Commission website.

4.4.15 Leeds Minster Church - 'Mend at The Minster' - 04/11/2017

Host: Mend
Location: Leeds Minster Church
Region: Leeds, West Yorkshire

The Mend website reveals some details from the event. The Reverend of the Church provided an opening address, followed by Richard Burgon, Labour MP for Leeds East, who “praised” the Mend Leeds working group, the organisation as a whole, and said that he was “proud” that Jeremy Corbyn had attended the IAM launch in Parliament in spite of criticism. Following this, the two Mend speakers delivered talks.

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\*\* Farha Moghul, @farhamoghul, Twitter, 28 September 2014, available at: https://twitter.com/farhamoghul/status/516134195374997504, last visited: 21 February 2018.
\*\* Harris Muhammad, @HarrisGTJ, Twitter, 18 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/harrisGTJ/status/893910441416488832, last visited: 21 February 2018.
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Mr Burgon attended Mend's Leeds hustings in 2015 and promoted the IAM campaign last year. In 2016, he was reported to have encouraged his Labour colleagues to quit the Labour Friends of Israel group, contending, “Zionism is the enemy of peace.”

Leeds Minster is a registered charity.

4.4.16 Newcastle Central Mosque – ‘Islam and Muslims in Britain’ – 12/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Newcastle Central Mosque, Grainger Park Road, Newcastle

Region: Newcastle, North East

The event held stalls and activities including ‘Try a Hijab’, a ‘Quran Corner’, a film screening, a ‘Food and Medicine’ stall and a quiz.

Newcastle Central Mosque is a registered charity. It was previously investigated by the Charity Commission for failing to meet its legal financial obligations.

4.4.17 Newport Train Station – Exhibition – 01/11/2017

Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Newport Train Station

Region: Newport, South Wales

4.4.18 NUT Black Teachers’ Conference – ‘Keynote Speaker: Sahar Al-Faifi’ – 03/11/2017

Host: NEU – NUT Black Teachers

Speakers: Sahar Al-Faifi (see entry 4.1.6), Phyll Opoku-Gyimah

Location: Birmingham Conference & Events Centre

Region: Birmingham, West Midlands

Sahar Al-Faifi was the keynote speaker.
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4.4.19 R2R Wellbeing Centre – ‘Revert Experiences’ – 18/11/2017**

Host: Mend

Speakers: Tuba Mazhari – Mend, Jay Ananthan – Mend

Location: R2R Wellbeing centre, Leabridge Road, Leyton

Region: London Borough of Waltham Forest, Greater London

The event advertised two speaker panels chaired by representatives of Mend’s Waltham Forest Working Group. Revert2reality is a registered charity.


Host: Mend

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Foster Hall, Saint Barnabas Church, Wellesley Road, London

Region: London Borough of Waltham Forest, Greater London

The event was advertised as a ticketed games and networking event as part of IAM.

Stephen Saxby is the vicar of Saint Barnabas Church. He has been accused of “defend[ing] extremists” and speaking alongside representatives from Cage and the Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPAC). He has also been criticised for comments appearing to dismiss the threat of extremism, and focusing on the Israel–Palestine conflict during a talk on Holocaust Memorial Day.

4.4.21 Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) – ‘IAM2017: Fighting Islamophobia with Moazzam Begg’ – 21/12/2017**

Host: Stand Up To Racism, Camden Stand Up To Racism, Student Stand Up To Racism

Speakers: Moazzam Begg – Cage (see entry 4.1.2), Colette Levy, Naima Omar – Stand Up To Racism, Mend speaker advertised**

Location: Friends Meeting House, London

Region: London Borough of Camden, Greater London

This event was promoted as a collaboration with Mend as part of IAM. The Mend IAM logo was the advertising graphic for the talk.


** Ibid.

** Stand Up To Racism, @AntiRacismDay, Twitter, 19 November 2017, available at: https://twitter.com/AntiRacismDay/status/932262845957406720, last visited: 21 February 2018.

Naima Omar has spoken alongside Azad Ali, and at a Cage event, alongside Moazzam Begg and Suleiman Gani.

Friends Meeting House is part of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), a registered charity.

4.4.22 UK Parliament – ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month 2017 Launch’ – 01/11/2017**

Host: Mend

Speakers: Jeremy Corbyn MP, Stephen Kinnoch MP, Wes Streeting MP, Naz Shah MP, Afzal Khan MP, Kate Green MP, Lord Brian Paddick, Shakira Martin – NUS, Hareem Ghanu – NUS, Hashi Mohammed – Barrister, Rimla Akhtar – Muslim Women’s Sports Foundation (see entry 4.1.36), David Miller – Spinwatch, Shazad Amin – Mend, Sulyan Ismail – Mend (see entry 4.4.13), Peter Jukes – Byline Media, Rev. Steven Saxby, Evan Harris – Hacked Off

Location: Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House

Region: City of Westminster, Greater London

In spite of Mend’s highly publicised links with extremism, and the controversy surrounding its outing from the APPG on Islamophobia in 2011, several MPs have continued to engage with the group. Mend has hosted talks in Parliament on four occasions, attended by Kate Green, Wes Streeting and Naz Shah. Each elected politician who gave an address at the 2017 launch has previously spoken at Mend events, and has voiced support for the organisation’s campaign work.

Wes Streeting spoke at a 2016 Mend event in Ilford, alongside Shenaz Bunglawala (see entry 4.1.36) and chaired by Mend’s Ilford coordinator Vaseem Ahmed, whom Streeting has met on previous occasions. Ahmed has promoted several anti-Semitic posts on social media, including his Twitter background picture which, at the time of writing, depicts Israel gradually taking over the United Kingdom. Streeting also met with Mend’s Redbridge group in July 2017.

Naz Shah was suspended by the Labour Party for anti-Semitic posts shared online in 2014. These included supporting the deportation of Israelis to the US, equating Israel to the Nazis, and claiming that Zionism “groom[s]” Jews to “exert political influence at the highest levels of public office”. Shah attended the IAM launch in 2016, spoke at Mend’s 2017 fringe event at the Labour Party
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Kate Green spoke at a Mend event in 2015, alongside Baroness Warsi, which was addressed by Abu Easa Niamatallah.** Abu Easa has called British people “animals”**, demurred that women should not work,*** and said that Jews “blow up babies like ... a computer game”.****

Jeremy Corbyn’s history with IAM can be seen from 2012. The Enough Coalition (EC), with which iEngage/Mend was involved, hosted Corbyn as a speaker at a Finsbury Park Mosque event in February 2012.** In November of the same year, he spoke at the first IAM launch event (see Executive Summary) and then at another IAM event in Finsbury Park Mosque with Azad Ali.** He was also a key speaker at IAM’s 2013 launch.** Corbyn’s affiliation with Mend expands beyond the IAM campaign. His support of Unite Against Fascism, of which Ali is Vice-Chair, has seen him speak at several events with activists from Mend, such as the 2013 UAF rally***(where Shackle Begg also spoke – see entry 4.3.6), and later remarks by Ali suggest the two have known each other for a long time.**** Corbyn has also spoken at Muslim Brotherhood-linked Cordoba Foundation events, two of which were chaired by Anas Alakriti**, who has expressed support for Hamas.** Representatives from the Cordoba Foundation frequently share platforms with Mend activists and its affiliate partners. Another Cordoba Foundation event saw Corbyn speak alongside Moazzam Begg,** Corby was not listed on the 2017 IAM launch event advertising** averting the negative press that surrounded his parliamentary colleagues.****

David Miller was criticised for an article he wrote in 2015 claiming that Jewish groups drive Islamophobia and influence government policy.** He co-authored the piece, and several others defending Cage,** with Tom Mills and Narzanin Missouri (see entry 4.1.18).** Miller apologised in 2010 after publishing work by anti-Semitic Kevin MacDonald on his website ‘Spinwatch’.** The site has


*** Wilson, T., Mend "Islamos Masquerading As Civil Libertarians", The Henry Jackson Society, October 2017, p.78.

**** It is unclear whether this event went ahead.

***** Gilligan, A., “Muslim group with links to extremists hosts of influencing election”, The Telegraph, 4 April 2015.


******* Ibid.


received funding from Mend (£12,000), the Cordoba Foundation (£5,000), Friends of Al-Aqsa (£10,000) and the Middle East Monitor (£5,000).

Peter Jukes is the CEO of the Byline media platform. Byline has published articles making light of anti-Semitism, and is partnered with Norman Finkelstein who has argued that the terror group Hezbollah has the "right to target Israeli civilians". Byline is set to publish Asim Qureshi’s new book, A Virtue of Disobedience, in April 2018.

Suleiman Gani is pictured at the event. He was listed on Mend’s website as the Group Coordinator for South London until early 2017. He has opposed homosexuality, described women as subservient to men, and spoken disparagingly towards the Ahmadi Muslim community. He spoke at a rally for the convicted Al-Qaeda terrorist Aafia Siddiqui, and photographs appear to show him attending an al-Muhajiroun rally preceding its proscription as a terrorist group.

Prior to the IAM 2017 launch, Conservative MP Crispin Blunt, Liberal Democrat MP Sir Ed Davey and Scottish National Party MP Joanna Cherry pulled out, citing the "controversy over Mend's record and claims of links between the organisation and extremist views". Anna Sourby MP, co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims, also refused to attend, stating that Mend “don’t have the best of reputations”. After the event, Mend posted a video depicting Jeremy Corbyn, Vince Cable and Sayeeda Warsi voicing support for the organisation and the IAM campaign.

4.4.28 Vue Cinema Romford - ‘Freesia Movie: Special Guest Q&A’ - 17/11/2017

Host: Mend and Arakan Creative

Speakers: Unknown

Location: Vue Cinema Romford, Brewery Road, Romford

Region: London Borough of Havering, Greater London

This event was advertised as a film screening and discussion on Islamophobia. An earlier screening organised by Cage hosted Sahar Al-Faifi and Moazzam Begg.

This event was cancelled owing to lack of ticket sales.
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4.4.24 Waltham Forest Mend – ‘Football Tournament’ - 11/11/2017”

Host: Mend
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Wadham Lodge, Kitchener Road, London
Region: London Borough of Waltham Forest, Greater London

This event was hosted by Mend’s Waltham Forest Working Group. It was advertised as a community tournament, followed by an informative discussion on Islamophobia in football culture.

4.4.25 Z-arts Manchester – ‘Community Curry and Solidarity Social’ – 30/11/2017”

Host: Mend, Stand Up To Racism Manchester
Speakers: Unknown
Location: Z-arts Centre, Stretford Road, Hulme, Manchester
Region: Manchester, North West

This event was advertised as a social, with speeches and campaign stalls.
Z-arts Centre is a registered charity.

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5. Analysis

Throughout the Islamophobia Awareness Month campaign, Mend utilised genuine concerns about Islamophobia to promote its brand and to provide a platform for extremism on the mainstream stage. Mend’s campaign saw academics, politicians and senior officials - many of whom with a genuine concern to combat anti-Muslim prejudice - sit alongside individuals with a history of extremist views paying lip service to the values of tolerance and cohesion. This report highlights the network of organisations and individuals that are sympathetic to Mend’s worldview, have worked closely with the organisation in the past, have defended the group against critique, or have themselves expressed extremist opinions. Nevertheless, the endorsement of such perceived authorities in the political, criminal justice and education sectors awards Mend undeserved legitimacy as an organisation tackling prejudice and promoting tolerance.

Over the course of the IAM campaign, 85 events across public and civil institutions were advertised in partnership, or with promotion of, Mend. Forty-nine events occurred on university campuses, three in schools and eight in council-owned locations. The statutory Prevent duty is clear: public institutions are required to avoid providing legitimacy or uncontested spaces for those who promote extremism. There is little evidence to suggest that the narratives promoted at the events, by the speakers present or literature distributed, were subject to challenge or critique. A further 24 events took place at the civil society level (one was cancelled), and the majority of these saw Mend partner with a registered charity. Greater London hosted the largest number of events (37), followed by Yorkshire (15) and South Wales (7) – the region where Mend’s Sahar Al-Faifi is based. Of note, the City of Westminster saw the highest activity of any London Council, with eight events. Al-Faifi was the organisation’s most active speaker in November, representing Mend at nine events, followed by Cage’s Moazzam Begg, who spoke on five separate occasions during the course of the campaign.

Mend continually promulgated its divisive and conspiratorial narrative with regard to anti-Muslim bigotry throughout the IAM campaign. The causes of Islamophobia are reduced to three factors: the “media”, “weak legislation” and “a lack of Muslim political participation”. Given that the organisation has promoted the conspiracy that Jewish, pro-Israel and liberal Muslim groups drive anti-Muslim sentiment, enjoying significant influence in government and “the media”, it is deeply problematic that Mend spoke on university campuses with a view to informing students about “those behind the multi-million pound Islamophobia industry”.

Moreover, these three factors conflate intention with effect as sensationalist media headlines and controversial legislation are used to demonstrate that societal institutions deliberately target Muslims, stoking misunderstanding and fear.

During the campaign, Al-Faifi warned that the Prevent Strategy, proposals to close down mosques hosting extremists, and antagonism towards the term ‘Islamophobia’ prove indicative of institutional and societal bigotry. Literature on Mend’s website states that “ridiculing our religion” and “inciting hatred towards Islam and Muslims” are also manifestations of Islamophobia – conflating hatred towards Muslims as people and disagreement with, or descent from, beliefs in the Islamic religion. False allegations of prejudice sow misunderstanding, feed into the ‘them versus us’ narrative, and undermine genuine cases of discrimination. Moreover, Al-Faifi claimed that the Prevent duty holds that signs of extremism include “wearing a headscarf” or “converting to Islam”, which lies in direct contravention to...
policy guidance and strengthens the notion that British society views the Muslim community with suspicion and hostility.

Mend’s alarmist and divisive narrative is further evinced by the ‘Islamophobia Khutbah’ [sermon] published on its website, dated from 2014 and still available at the time of publication. The sermon instructs Muslims to “ACT! Immediately!” on the “harm”, “evil” and “oppression” in the UK, otherwise “those that hate us will create that narrative for us!” Muslims are portrayed as a persecuted people living under British tyranny, fuelling the divisive ‘us versus them’ mentality, while stoking undue anxiety and resentment. The speech continues by cautioning Muslims to “do SOMETHING”, otherwise Islamophobia may reach “what we saw in Bosnia”. These proclamations portray a frightening state of pervasive suffering to which Muslims must respond, otherwise an ethnic genocide is imminent. Worse still, the narrative of grievance deepens vulnerability to extremist ideologies. These scaremongering tactics stand in stark contravention of an organisation promoting social cohesion and integration.

On review of the campaign, it is clear that Mend spent considerable focus on brand promotion. IAM events appear to have been officially endorsed by several universities, teachers’ unions and local councils. Speakers sat on panels between Mend billboards, the talks and stalls distributed Mend guides and leaflets, and the sports events saw prizes engraved with the Mend logo. One picture from a university event shows every seat in the lecture hall covered with Mend literature.

In contrast, when publishing details about the events themselves, Mend exercised particular caution. No official recordings, speeches or presentations have been made publicly accessible, and events were consistently advertised with no mention of who was to speak or further evidence that they went ahead. Extensive focus on event publicity seems indicative of IAM’s primary function to further Mend’s credibility.

Of greater concern was the promotion of Mend by external partners and institutions. Bradford College thanked Mend for its work, and one school publicised an “excellent and insightful workshop” in partnership with the group on its Twitter feed. The campaign launch in Parliament provided Mend with the optimum stage to raise its profile and enhance its mainstream credibility. In a display of naivety with the way in which Mend operates, politician Wes Streeting praised the organisation and its “laudable” aims, while his colleague Stephen Kinnock commended its values “rooted in equality, pluralism and community”. As the IAM campaign appeared to be largely a marketing exercise for Mend to present itself as a moderate representative voice for the Muslim community, the support of high-profile Parliamentarians rewards the group a wholly undeserved respectability. With several employees having attacked minority Muslim sects, supported anti-Semitic terror groups, and hosted speakers who promote jihad and homophobia and legitimise the killing of “infidels”, Mend ought not to be praised for its purported promotion of tolerance and cohesion.

Another worrying trend was the number of events hosted at centres with a problematic history of extremism. The Fatimah Elizabeth Cates Academy had previously invited Friends of Al-Aqsa to deliver a workshop, an organisation condemned by the government for supporting terror groups, and had participated in a fundraiser for the Hamas-linked charity Muslim Aid. Similarly, Leyton Sixth Form had

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442 ibid.
once hosted Adnan Rashid, Hamza Tzortzis and Haitham al-Haddad at its school, the latter of whom was barred from the LSE two months prior.\textsuperscript{448} The School Islamic Society had distributed literature from the Islamist iERA charity, including leaflets by banned cleric Zakir Naik.\textsuperscript{449} Moreover, Al Manaar Mosque has a disturbing connection to nine Islamic State fighters, including reports that it was where Mohammed Emwazi formed a relationship with members of the ISIS “Beatles” cell, and under Abu Hamza, Finsbury Park Mosque had been labelled the “al-Qaeda guesthouse in London”. It is alarming that both Mosques, having vowed to shed their associations with extremism, continue to host\textsuperscript{450} or endorse\textsuperscript{451} Mend at their institutions.


6. Policy Recommendations

**Issue:** Universities’ risk assessment procedures have not succeeded in ensuring that external speakers with a history of extremist views are challenged on campus.

**Recommendation:** Universities should review their procedure for determining external speaker risk, and publicise the mitigating actions carried out for escalated events.

As part of the Prevent statutory duty, universities are required to implement risk assessment procedures in order to reduce the risk of radicalisation to terrorism, and to ensure that non-violent extremist views are challenged. The Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) is the regulatory body tasked with ensuring that these duties are met, and its report analysing Prevent implementation in 2015–2016 stated that 95% of providers demonstrate due regard for the duty.\(^*\)

These statistics confirm that higher education institutions have in place the appropriate mechanisms to comply with their legal duties. However, they fail to demonstrate whether these procedures are effectively enforced. Details surrounding external speaker ‘high-risk’ events, such as the circumstances in which risk mitigation is triggered or the steps put in place remain vague and evidently flawed.

Despite Mend’s highly publicised links to extremism, 49 IAM events were advertised on university campuses over the course of November 2017, with only one appearing to be on a balanced platform. Twenty-four events were promoted without listing the speaker present, and Mend literature seems to have been freely distributed. Of greater concern, it is evident that Mend ‘trained’ students who expressed an interest in volunteering at their events, presumably attracting many young people wishing to raise awareness of islamophobia, and used their exhibitions as a means to raise money for the local Working Groups. It must be factored into due diligence assessments should extremist groups be found recruiting students for their cause and gaining financially from events at universities. Furthermore, there was no evidence to suggest that any form of mitigation was employed at the events, or that the universities were aware of Mend activity on their campus and could assure students that action was being taken. Greater transparency is necessary to determine the precise failings with the policy and procedure implementation.

**Issue:** Details about the content of extremist-linked events remain unclear.

**Recommendation:** Public bodies that host extremist or problematic speakers should record event proceedings, and ensure a balanced platform, as part of risk mitigation and monitoring requirements.

It is evident that organisations and individuals who have met the definition of extremism are being hosted at public institutions on uncontested platforms. Reliable evidence that speakers promote extremist narratives, or intolerance of any kind, is difficult to obtain without video or audio recordings, and events of this nature ought not to be clandestine. Moreover, these records could be used for future reference when evaluating risk mitigation for events of a similar nature.

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Despite Mend’s heavy focus on brand promotion, the organisation released little video footage of its events, and only sparingly uploaded a blog for its website or a picture on social media. The recording of Sahar Al-Faifi’s presentation at the Bristol IAM Conference, taken covertly by a member of the public, proved particularly illuminating for detailing how Mend’s divisive and misleading messages are promulgated.

Nonetheless, a policy of balanced platforms must be the first and most preferable action of risk mitigation. The Prevent Strategy emphatically states “There should be no ‘ungoverned spaces’ in which extremism is allowed to flourish without firm challenge”, yet of the forty-nine events in November promoting Mend, only one appeared subject to robust opposition. Presenting an alternate viewpoint through the imposition of an interlocutor, panel or individual speaker compels audience members to discern between, and critically engage with the views propagated. This further serves to increase resilience to extremist ideologies and hold speakers to account.

The promotion of extremist views can induce a hostile climate in which audience members feel intimidated to speak out or criticise the views presented. Of equal concern, there have been instances where the promotion of violence has been alleged and subsequently disputed by the various parties involved. Requiring public institutions to record events at risk of promoting extremism, and implement a policy of balanced platforms, ensures clarity on occasions of dispute, speakers are held responsible for their views and spectators feel able to vocalise dissent. These proposals complement existing mandatory risk mitigation procedures and are a step forward in exposing and challenging intolerance.

Issue: Politicians, charities and civil society groups continue to provide extremist-linked organisations with publicity and legitimacy.

Recommendation: The production of a guidance framework for public officials.

The IAM campaign saw Mend partner with elected politicians and representatives from the police and the charitable sector, alongside schools and universities. Although educational institutions are subject to Prevent statutory requirements, a guidance framework should be produced that outlines how civil society groups can avoid hosting extremist speakers, with advice on due diligence and resources for working with reputable bodies on campaigns. Many individuals who engaged with IAM would have done so based on a genuine commitment to tackling islamophobia, and such guidance would reduce the exploitation of a laudable endeavour for extremist purposes.

The foreword to the Prevent Strategy emphatically states, “we will not work with extremist organisations that oppose our values of universal human rights, equality before the law, democracy and full participation in our society”. Elected parliamentarians should have a unified stance against working with those who have met the definition of extremism, pose a threat to social cohesion, disregard minority rights and liberties, and promulgate divisive and alarmist messaging to achieve their aims.

A guidance framework produced for Members of Parliament, with reference to officials in the public and civil society sector, would raise awareness of how extremist groups use high-profile actors to

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enhance their legitimacy and expand their audience. Much like the mainstream political alienation of extremist organisations on the Far Right, this ought to be consistent for all those who seek to undermine liberal values and individual freedoms.
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7. Conclusion

The 2017 IAM campaign provided a platform for extremism at the public and civil society level. Utilising genuine concerns about anti-Muslim prejudice, Mend hosted events at universities, schools, faith centres, an NHS hospital and the UK Parliament. While hosting events with senior officials and academics, Mend gave its affiliated partners linked to extremism an uncontested space to promote their views and organisations. This includes individuals who have incited violence, expressed sympathy with terrorists and voiced contempt for Jews, homosexuals and ‘disbelieving’ Muslims. One event saw a terror-linked charity promoted (see entry 4.1.4).

The IAM campaign provided ample opportunity for Mend to increase its credibility, raise money and promote its brand to a wider audience. Mend literature was distributed at talks and stalls in exhibitions, and the advertising suggested official endorsement from several universities and city councils. The report also reveals how Mend offers training to students who express an interest in its events, who subsequently raise money for the organisation. In addition, speaking alongside academics and senior officials within the police and charitable sector furthers the aesthetic of equal expertise. Gaining the vocal support of politicians serves only to increase its legitimacy as a positive force against hate crime and a model for community cohesion. It is therefore indicative that Mend’s 2017 campaign, a marketing strategy to rejuvenate its image, came just before its National Community Head Azad Ali’s move to Cage. Ali had praised Al-Qaeda ideologues, voiced support for Hamas, suggested that Islamic religious law should supersede democracy, and justified the killing of British troops. It is reasonable to assume that Ali’s highly publicised comments were a constant thorn in the side of the organisation’s efforts to present a moderate image.

The campaign saw Mend promulgate its divisive ‘us and them’ narrative that risks alienating British Muslims from their society. Audience members were told of the institutional crusade of Islamophobia stemming from the government and ‘the media’, warned that Muslims are not protected against hate crimes, and cautioned that, without intervention, society is bearing towards ethnic genocide. This is indicative of how Mend use genuine concerns, such as biased media reporting and discriminatory government legislation, to foster grievances and generate distrust, before making wider conspiratorial claims around state-sponsored suffering and encroaching genocide. Their alarmist and divisive narrative creates undue fear and tension. Contending that Muslims are inherently unsafe and unwanted within their own society, prevented from equal access to the law and the subject of discrimination from the media fuels divisions and exploits anxiety. Contending that Jews and members of the Conservative Party prop up these institutions incites further resentment and suspicion.

The Government Counter-Extremism Strategy stresses that public bodies should avoid providing uncontested spaces for extremism and giving extreme groups an “air of legitimacy” by meeting or working with them. Responsible public figures, civil society groups and charities should also avoid legitimising those who side with extremism and intolerance. Raising awareness of anti-Muslim hate is vital, yet hosting extremist-linked groups in order to do so has the antithetical effect, deepening intra-societal divisions and hostility.

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459 ibid.
8. Appendix

Figure 1: Number of 2017 IAM events according to location

- University
- Local Authority/NHS Trust
- Civil Institution (Other)
- School
- Civil Institution (Charity)

Figure 2: Number of 2017 IAM events according to region

**The event that was cancelled is excluded.**
Figure 3: Number of 2017 IAM events in Greater London, according to Borough Council

![Bar chart showing the number of IAM events in Greater London by borough.]

Figure 4: Number of 2017 IAM events on university campuses

![Bar chart showing the number of IAM events on university campuses by university.]
Figure 5: **Individuals who spoke on more than occasion at an IAM 2017 event.** (Note that 44 speakers were unknown and may or may not account for some of the individuals listed below).
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About the Author

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About Student Rights

A project of The Henry Jackson Society, Student Rights is a non-partisan group dedicated to supporting equality, democracy and freedom from extremism on university campuses. We were set up in June 2009 as a reaction to increasing political extremism and the marginalisation of vulnerable students on campus.

About the Centre for the Response to Radicalisation and Terrorism

The Centre for the Response to Radicalisation and Terrorism at The Henry Jackson Society (CRRT) is the first-of-its-kind institute providing top-quality, in-depth research coupled with the execution and implementation of targeted, tangible and impactful activities to combat the very real threat radical Islam poses to our society.

About The Henry Jackson Society

The Henry Jackson Society is a think tank and policy-shaping force that fights for the principles and alliances which keep societies free – working across borders and party lines to combat extremism, advance democracy and real human rights, and make a stand in an increasingly uncertain world.
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