EXTREME SPEAKERS AND EVENTS: IN THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR
INCLUDES THE UNIVERSITY EXTREME SPEAKERS LEAGUE TABLE

BY EMMA FOX
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About the author

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Executive Summary

- This report catalogues 204 events promoted to students in the academic year 2017/18 featuring speakers with a history of extreme or intolerant views, or representatives of extremist-linked organisations. It subsequently compares these findings to those recorded in the previous two academic years. The majority of events promoted in 2017/18 were associated with Islamist or Salafist networks in the UK, and a small number of activists and groups dominated the scene with recurrent events, courses or campaigns.

- Some of the speakers’ views include: supporting convicted terrorists; animosity towards Jews, minority Muslim sects and “disbelievers”; advocating for an intifada [violent uprising] in America; the use of sharia-sanctioned slaves and strict hudud punishments such as stonings, amputations and capital punishment for homosexuals; the establishment of an Islamic caliphate; defending Hamas’ employment of suicide bombings; and promoting violent jihad. One speaker was listed as an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

- Several events acted as fundraisers for charities with past extremist associations, such as the Ummah Welfare Trust (UWT) and the Al-Muntada Trust’s affiliate Muntada Aid. Charities that sponsored events include Interpal, which is a US-designated fundraising body for Hamas, and Human Appeal, whose ‘field offices’ have been linked to Hamas and Al-Qaeda associates. Preachers representing the charity iERA, institutionally associated with extremism, represented 15.3% of all recorded activity in 2017/18, while Haitham al-Haddad’s Muslim Research and Development Foundation (MRDF) was linked to two events across the 2017/18 academic year. It is evident that extremist-linked charities are able to raise funds, sponsor events and promote speakers to students without contest, likely evading risk-assessment escalation at universities due to their charitable status.

- In 2017/18, seven extremist-linked organisations accounted for 83.2% of all catalogued activity (158 events). These organisations are: Muslim Engagement and Development (Mend) (44), Sabeel (40), iERA (29), the Al-Maghrib Institute (17), Cage (12), the Hittin Institute (9) and the Muslim Debate Initiative (7). This relatively high figure suggests that counterering extremism within the higher education sector remains a feasible and attainable objective, provided the appropriate steps are taken.

- In 2017/18, the six most prolific speakers accounted for 29.5% of all recorded events. This represents a marked decrease from the previous academic year when the six most prolific speakers accounted for 52.7% of all recorded events, demonstrating that there is more variety in the number of extremist-linked individuals promoted. Considering only a few organisations dominate extremist-linked activity, this variation may indicate that such groups are electing to diversify their speaker roster in order to avoid scrutiny and institutional oversight.

- In 2017/18, extremist-linked activity spiked between November and March, with events most commonly scheduled to occur in November (55), followed by February (50), March (29) and January (17). Fewer events occurred in December owing to the semester end and holiday season.

- As per the academic year 2016/17, in 2017/18 London was the region with the highest number of promoted events (95), and the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) was the most common institutional host, accounting for 43 (21.2%) of all data entries in 2017/18. The extent to which SOAS hosted the largest number of events, with a large
disparity between it and the institution with the second largest number (University of Birmingham – 10), may be attributed to the weekly course Sabeel’s Asif Uddin taught there. This course was advertised on 27 occasions between November and April.

- The most common topic of all extremist-linked events during 2017-18 was ‘Grievances’, with a total of 53 appearances. This was followed by ‘Religious Jurisprudence’ (53) and ‘Religious Apologetics’ (31), the latter of which was the highest featured category the previous year. It is likely that the focus on ‘Grievance’ is a consequence of the considerable presence on campus of groups such as Mend and Cage. Both groups were accused by the former National Lead for Counter Terrorism Policing Mark Rowley in February 2018 of “fostering grievances and isolation”.

- In order to reduce the impact of extremist groups and narratives within institutes of higher education, a number of policies ought to be developed by practitioners in the sector. Dedicated Prevent and Safeguarding leads should review their procedure for determining external speaker risk, develop a detailed case report for escalated events and be given specialised Working to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training, with a focus on local risk. Safeguarding leads should also work closely with the Charity Commission to ascertain risk with regard to registered charities previously investigated for, and currently associated with, extremism or terrorism overseas. Moreover, risk assessment criteria used by universities must adapt to the changing methodologies of extremist groups who target UK campuses. This includes prohibiting the promotion of events without an identified speaker and considering the contextual factors that surround events. Such influences include the exposure and socialisation with extremist speakers and groups, the dissemination of extremist literature, and off-campus advertisements of meetings with speakers’ more extreme affiliate partners.
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Higher education institutions have historically been targeted by extremist organisations to further their cause and engage young audiences. The revised Government’s Prevent strategy, published in 2011, highlighted the extent to which extremism can flourish at universities, acknowledging the fertile ground that UK campuses provide for the purposes of radicalisation and recruitment.\(^1\) Counter-terror legislation began to reflect this shifting reality, particularly in the wake of the 7/7 attacks and the trajectory and various forms of Islamism influence in the UK.

Previous Henry Jackson Society research has documented the various types of threat Islamist extremism has posed to university students, from the front-groups established by Hizb ut-Tahrir\(^2\) and the influence of Jamaat-e-Islami and Muslim Brotherhood activists in the formation of student associations,\(^3\) to the number of individuals with links to British universities who joined terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq.\(^4\) Whilst this report re-asserts that Islamist-associated extremism remains the most widespread and systematic form of extremist-related activity on university campuses, the increasing popularity of far-right movements must not be neglected. Neo-Nazi group National Action and its subsequent front-bodies were proscribed in December 2016, after defacing some campuses with racist, white-supremacist and fascist propaganda.\(^5\) On a wider scale, recent research published by the Henry Jackson Society in October 2018 found that both far-left and far-right terrorism is rising in western states, totalling 20.6% of all incidents recorded in 2016-17, with an emerging pattern of far-right offenders emulating the tactics of Islamist assailants.\(^6\) Whilst other extremist ideologies have yet to carve out the same foundational and systemic roots as Islamist networks with student groups, isolated incidents are demonstrably rising and must be continually monitored.\(^7\)

In January 2018, the Office for Students (OfS) was established, absorbing the regulatory functions of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). This includes overseeing the Prevent strategy’s implementation at universities – the statutory duty imposed on public bodies to safeguard individuals from being drawn into terrorism. All ‘relevant higher education bodies’ (RHEBs) must comply, which includes ensuring effective welfare systems are in place; arranging Prevent training for relevant staff; having a compliant IT policy; and engaging with students through unions and societies.\(^8\) Of particular relevance to this report, all RHEBs must implement systems for assessing and mitigating external speaker risk, whilst maintaining the existing duty to promote freedom of speech.\(^9\) In July 2018, the OfS published

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1. Introduction

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\(^{9}\) Ibid.
their monitoring report of the 2016-17 academic year, concluding that 97% of providers satisfactorily demonstrated due regard to the duty.\footnote{Monitoring of the Prevent duty, Office for Students, 11 July 2018, available at: https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/160fe2df-d737-419c-8071-19fa2dab0ee4/ofds2018____.pdf, last visited: 6 January 2019.} Whilst they may be fulfilling their legal obligations, extremism in the higher education sector evidently remains unchallenged, pervasive and increasingly sophisticated.

This report illustrates the extent of the problem with regard to external speaker risk. It catalogues all speaker events promoted to students in the 2017/18 academic year that have a link to political or religious extremism, concluding with an analysis of the regional areas and institutions at which such events most regularly occur, and the extremist-linked actors whose views students are most frequently exposed to. These findings are then compared with Student Rights’ data for the previous two academic years. The paper is structured as follows: the next section outlines the research methodology, including a note on definitions, sources, categorisation and criteria for inclusion. This is followed by a comprehensive list of all events promoted to students within the 2017/18 academic year, including relevant known details surrounding the events, and short profiles on speakers, organisations and their extremist associations. Subsequently, there is a section of data analysis for which the events are broken down by month, topic, region, institution and speaker – highlighting the areas of particular concern and comparing the findings with those in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. The penultimate section provides a series of policy recommendations the UK’s higher education sector can adopt in order to close the loopholes utilised by extremist groups that continue to obtain uncontested access to students on campus. The report concludes with an overview of the findings and trends established throughout.
2. Methodology

To ensure the viability of an accurate comparative study, this report uses the methodology applied in the previous Student Rights report on campus extremism, “Extreme Speakers and Events Promoted to Students: 2016-17”. All information is drawn from open-source material and social media sites.

This report catalogues events promoted to students in the academic year 2017-18 that featured speakers with a history of extreme or intolerant views, or representatives of organisations that have a history of promoting such speakers. This report does not purport to offer an exhaustive list of all events that took place with an extremist dimension.

In accordance with the UK government, this paper 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.11

Recent court cases, including Shakeel Begg v British Broadcast Corporation (2016) and Salman Butt v Secretary of State for the Home Department (2017), in addition to guidance from the Prime Minister’s Extremism Taskforce, have also been employed for clarification purposes.

Criteria for inclusion

Events that were sponsored by, or raised funds for, an organisation linked to extremism are included. Events that took place off campus, but were organised by students or a student organisation, were also documented. Events that featured or endorsed extremist views were equally included. Promoted events that were recorded by Student Rights throughout the year but which were subsequently taken down from the internet (with no other sufficient record) are excluded from the report. Should an event occur on a regular basis, it would hold a single entry in the main body of the report, yet be represented fully in the following data analysis section. This is only applicable to the weekly course delivered by Sabeel’s Asif Uddin at SOAS (see entry no. 3.14).

Categorisation

The events have been categorised as follows: date; university; speaker/s; affiliate organisation; topic; location; and region. Key background information is mentioned once to avoid repetition, with cross-references for clarity. Consistent with previous Student Rights research,12 events have been divided into eight categories:

1. Dawah Training - Lectures or workshops which sought to teach students the fundamentals of preaching to others.
2. Geopolitics - Events focusing on international political issues, including the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Syrian Civil War and Western foreign policy towards the Islamic world in general.
3. Grievances - Lectures or workshops that addressed perceived attacks on Muslims and Islam in the UK; called for the scrapping of Prevent and other

government counter-extremism measures; and critiqued the arrest and detention of terrorism suspects.

4. **Personal Stories and Wellbeing** – Events where speakers outlined their personal experiences or journeys to religion, as well as events which addressed issues affecting students on campuses, such as relationships, careers, academic success, and mental health and wellbeing.

5. **Religious Apologetics** – Lectures that aimed to challenge ideas such as atheism and scepticism, and highlight the rational reasons for religious belief.

6. **Religious Governance** – Lectures that examined the details of religious socio-economic governance, focusing on the role of religion in fields such as legislation, justice and finance.

7. **Religious Jurisprudence/ Exegesis / History** – Lectures where religious rulings or interpretations, religious verses or other texts, important historical or scriptural figures, and historical events were discussed.

8. **Miscellaneous** – Events that had no topic, had a vague title, or did not fall under the other seven categories.

For the avoidance of any doubt, it should be stressed that these categorisations are designed to aid the understanding of general themes, and are not intended to suggest that either the topics themselves or their discussion is inherently extreme.

**Additional note**

Where it is known that extremist-linked speakers were joined by other individuals at the event, whether to promote a similar worldview or provide contest, there is clear indication given throughout.

Previous research demonstrates that extremists speak primarily on ‘unchallenged platforms’.\(^{13}\) This is usually in the form of a lecture or panel discussion through which individuals of the same ideological persuasion provide the illusion of critical discourse and debate. Whilst providing profiles of all speakers present at the events would be useful in this regard, it remains beyond the scope of this paper.

This paper considers a ‘balanced platform’ an event in which robust opposition is present to challenge the views of a controversial speaker, ideally through an independent moderator.

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\(^{13}\) ‘Extreme Speakers and Events: In the 2016-17 Academic Year’, *Student Rights*, 2017, p.4.
3. List of Events – September 2017 to June 2018

The following is a list of events promoted to students between September 2017 and June 2018. The list documents the event organiser/s, notable speaker/s present and their professional associations, location and region. Events are listed in chronological order, beginning in September 2017. Background description about the speakers and any additional details related to the events themselves are provided where possible. Cross-references are used to highlight where aforementioned information can be found that further attests to why the event is of concern. Unless otherwise stated, the events are presumed to have gone ahead as planned.

3.01 13/09/2017 – University of London, SOAS – ‘The Lynching – A One Woman Show’

Speaker/s: Jackie Walker
Organisation: Momentum (former)
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was co-hosted by SOAS Palestine Society and a group entitled ‘Free Speech on Israel’. The panel discussion after the event was chaired by Victoria Brittain, and included Ken Loach and Jonathan Rosenhead.

Walker was advertised as a “Black Jewish anti-racist campaigner” although she has previously claimed that Jews were “chief financiers of the sugar and slave trade”, criticised Holocaust Memorial Day, and questioned why Jewish schools need particular security to prevent a possible attack. Her comments led to two suspensions from the Labour Party and the removal of her position as vice chair of Momentum.

Audio files obtained from the event suggest Walker accused the Jewish Chronicle newspaper of spearheading a witch-hunt against her and equated segments of the Jewish community with racists and white supremacists. She stated that “those people who write in the Jewish Chronicle, who do the harassing, those people, they are not the friends of the Left ... these people are often protofascists ... One thing I know, the same people who are Jewish essentialists are the same sort of people who are white nationalists – and they are all our enemies.” Later in the talk, Walker accused the Campaign Against Anti-Semitism (CAA) and the Community Security Trust (CST) – two monitoring groups on anti-Jewish hatred in the UK – of “churn[ing] out their biased surveys all the time”.

Video footage from the Q&A session shows that spectators who attempted to challenge the panel were shouted down by other audience members.
Walker toured her show across various venues. Reports from other events detail how Walker performed with a banner across the stage that read “Anti-Semitism is a crime, Anti-Zionism is a duty”, and included props such as a golliwog, a picture of a lynching, and a ragdoll with a noose around its neck. The show was criticised by the Jewish Labour Movement for “comparing Jews and others who oppose antisemitism to racist gangs who hanged black people from trees”.

3.02 28/09/2017 – University of Edinburgh – ‘Miko Peled in Edinburgh’

Speaker/s: Miko Peled
Organisation: N/A
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: Scotland

This event was hosted by the Scottish Palestinian Forum.

Miko Peled, an Israeli-born anti-Zionist activist, has drawn controversy for making several anti-Semitic remarks, including arguing that one should be allowed to question whether the Holocaust took place. Peled has called for the complete destruction of Israel, stated that “Jews have a reputation for being sleazy thieves”, and that with regard to Jeremy Corbyn “Israel and its multiple tentacles around the world will stop at nothing”.

3.03 30/09/2017 – University of Glasgow – ‘MEND: Mending Islamic Societies’

Speaker/s: Unspecified Mend speakers
Organisation: Mend
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: Scotland

This event was organised by the Glasgow University Muslim Students Association (GUMSA), and was supported by several extremist-linked organisations, including UK Islamic Mission (UKIM), the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) and the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS). The event description includes a quote by Yasir Qadhi, a cleric who has said that to “kill... the homosexual – this is also our religion”.

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28 UKIM has been described as Jamaat-e-Islami’s “main British network”, and both the MAB and FOSIS were founded by UK-focused Muslim Brotherhood activists. For more information, see: Bowen, I., Medina in Birmingham, Najaf in Brent: Inside British Islam, (London: Hurst & Company 2015).

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In the past, senior figures in Mend have expressed support for overseas terror groups, promoted anti-Semitic conspiracies, showed disdain for minority Muslim sects and partnered with individuals who have promoted jihad. 30

EXTREME SPEAKERS AND EVENTS: IN THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR


Speaker/s: Ajmal Masroor
Organisation: N/A
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: Off Campus
Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was organised by the University of Bradford Islamic Society. Several other speakers joined the above panellist.

Ajmal Masroor first came to prominence during the UK 2005 general election, when he resigned as a Liberal Democrat candidate after posting an appeal for support on the anti-Semitic Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPAC) website. 32 In 2014, Masroor was recorded telling audience members at Palmers Green mosque about “abusers” in the UK “Jewish lobby”, the “Jewish supremacist ideology” that “holds our government hostage” and how Obama was “brought” by “Zionists”. 33 Masroor ended the speech by claiming that spectators must “keep struggling” or they “won’t enter paradise”. 34 Masroor has also praised Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh as a “true and honest” leader. 35

3.05 05/10/2017 – Kingston University– ‘What’s Your Vision in Life?’ 36

Speaker/s: Asim Khan
Organisation: Sabeel
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was organised by the University of Kingston’s Islamic Society.

Asim Khan is an author for Islam21C, contributor to the Islam Channel and Eman Channel, and official supporter of HHUGS. 37 He holds positions at the Muslim Research and Development Foundation (MRDF) and Sabeel, both of which are projects founded by extremist cleric Haitham al-Haddad. Khan has referred to homosexuality as “evil”, an “abomination”,

34 Ibid
“wretched”, “shameful”, “disgusting”, a “sin” and a “criminal act”. He has also compared it to incest and “burglary, theft and sexual abuse”.

3.06 06/10/2017 – Middlesex University – ‘Get to Know’

Speaker/s: Musa Adnan, Shabbir Hassan, Mend speakers (unspecified)

Organisation: Mend, Islam Channel

Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was organised by the Middlesex Islamic Society.

Musa Adnan has made several derogatory comments about Jews and Shia Muslims on social media. He tweeted “#Stupid Shia” in reference to a post which has since been removed, and stated that the “majority of Shia are twelvers, twelvers are Rafidha [rejectors], Rafidha are not Muslims, don’t get it twisted”. A later tweet clarified “Rafidhis are the filth of this world, they are worse than Christians and Jews”. Adnan has made comparisons between Nazis and Jews that breach the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and, bridging the two, he tweeted “Wallahi Jews and Shia have a striking similarity in their behaviour in my opinion!” On his social media channel, Adnan has promoted controversial speakers including Haitham al-Haddad, Mufti Menk, Hamza Tzortzis, Muslim Belal and his father, Adnan Rashid. Adnan is also heavily involved with Rashid’s charity The Convivencia Trust, which has hosted Abudrraheem Green, Uthman Lateef, Lauren Booth and Muslim Belal.

Shabbir Hassan (“Shabbir the poet”) is a public speaker and presenter at the Islam Channel. Hassan has spoken alongside several figures linked to extremism, most recently at an event that included Wasim Kempson, Moazzam Begg, Asim Khan and a representative of Hizb ut-Tahrir.
He also appeared with Yusuf Chambers at a SOAS event sponsored by Human Appeal (see entry no. 3.53). The Islam Channel itself has been criticised for promoting extremism. A 2010 report by the Quilliam Foundation details how the channel has been found to promote Wahhabi-influenced attitudes to women; intolerance towards other sects and religions, including preachers urging viewers to “reject the practices of non-Muslims and non-Wahhabi Muslims alike”; and extremist individuals and groups, such as advertising lecturers by Anwar al-Awlaki. In addition, the Islam Channel’s chief executive Mohammed Ali Harrath was previously sought by Interpol and the Tunisian authorities for terrorism-related concerns.

3.07  06/10/2017 – University of Greenwich – ‘Lost Your ID? Islamic Identity Seminar’

Speaker/s: Uthman Lateef

Organisation: Hittin Institute

Topic: Personal Stories

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was organised by the University of Greenwich Islamic Society.

Uthman Lateef is senior lecturer at the Hittin Institute, a presenter on the Islam Channel and an author at Islam21C. During the Begg v British Broadcasting Corporation [2016] case, Justice Haddon-Cave listed Lateef as an “extremist speaker”. Lateef has expressed support for convicted terrorists including Mohammed Hamid and Aafia Siddiqui. In 2009, he shared a platform with Al-Qaeda recruiter Anwar al-Awlaki and they taught a course together in East London with the Al Wasatiyyah Foundation, alongside Murtaza Khan. Lateef has promoted the idea that there is a war between Islam and the West, and he has appeared to discourage Muslims from co-operating with the police and the law. Lateef has stated that the devil “will come from the Jews of Isfahan [in Iran] and he will have with him 70,000 Jews”, and has appeared to support violent jihad, stating that “The Muslims will take for their army a people…they will for fight for death, they will fight to die, for martyrdom in Allah’s cause”. Lateef has expressed support for several concerning organisations including...
HHUGS, Islamic Help, Cage and Interpal (see entry no. 3.72), and has shared platforms with extremist cleric Shakeel Begg and former Al-Muhajiroun member Usman Ali.

**3.08 06/10/2017 – University of Sheffield – ‘Protect This House Weekend Seminar’**

**Speaker/s:** Abu Eesa Niamatulluah  
**Organisation:** Al-Maghrib Institute  
**Topic:** Religious Governance  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Yorkshire and Humberside

Abu Eesa Niamatullah is an instructor for the Al-Maghrib Institute. He has called Zionists “dogs”, British people “animals” and said that “Jews blow up babies like as if it’s a computer game [sic]”. He has also called liberal Muslims “the biggest danger within our community”, opposed the notion of women in the workplace and criticised Muslims who are more “loyal” to the state than their “primary nation which is the nation of Islam”.

Other instructors at Al-Maghrib include Abudllah Hakim Quick, who was listed as an extremist speaker by Justice Haddon-Cave in the case of Shakeel Begg v British Broadcasting Corporation (2016), and the ‘hardline’ cleric Yasir Qadhi.

**3.09 11/10/2017 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Guidance through Uni Life’**

**Speaker/s:** Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)  
**Organisation:** Sabeel  
**Topic:** Personal Stories and Wellbeing  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was organised by the SOAS Islamic Society.

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69 Ibid.  
3.10 13/10/2017 – University of Birmingham – ‘Mental Health Day – The Conference’

Speaker/s: Alyas Karmani, Ahmed Hankir

Organisation: Mend

Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing

Location: On Campus

Region: West Midlands

This event was organised by the University of Birmingham Islamic Society and an additional speaker joined the above panellists.

Ahmed Hankir is chair of Mend’s Working Group in Leeds.

Alyas Karmani was director at Street UK, a “radical Islamic group” with links to the Trojan Horse scandal in Birmingham. Street UK had funding from the government cancelled in 2011, after paying for the publication of an ultra-conservative Salafi booklet that included fatwas opposing secular laws, calling participation in parliament a “sin” and describing “those who speak in the name of ‘freedom of religion’ as enemies of Islam. Street UK’s website also published advice from anti-Semitic and extremist Salafi clerics, although it has since been dissolved. Karmani is a former Respect Party – now independent – Bradford councillor who is involved with the Bradford Muslim Education Forum, which holds meetings with “all the key figures” of the Trojan Horse scandal. In a recorded speech about the Islamic State, Karmani claimed that the terror group adopt the “Zionist methodology”, and that there is a “direct parallel” between ISIS and Zionism, from militarism to ethnic cleansing.

3.11 16/10/2017 – University of Cambridge – ‘MEND Islamophobia Resilience workshop’

Speaker/s: Unspecified Mend speakers

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: East of England

This event was organised by the Cambridge Islamic Society.
3.12 19/10/2017 – University of London, Queen Mary – ‘Maghfirah – The Story of Yunus AS’

Speaker/s: Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)

Organisation: Sabeel

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was organised by the Queen Mary Islamic Society.

3.13 19/10/2017 – University of Sheffield – ‘Deen and Dissertations: Balancing University Life with Islam’

Speaker/s: Alya Karmani (see entry no. 3.10)

Organisation: N/A

Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing

Location: On Campus

Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was organised by the University of Sheffield Islamic Circle. The Facebook post of the event stated that the topic of the talk had been “slightly changed” due to popular demand.


Speaker/s: Asif Uddin

Organisation: Sabeel

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was promoted as a weekly course, with 27 dates secured between 20 October 2017 and 20 April 2018.

Asif Uddin is a lecturer at Sabeel and chief editor of Islam21C – both projects founded by Haitham al-Haddad’s MRDF charity. In an interview with *Hiba* magazine, Uddin praised al-Haddad as “inspirational” and noted that the scholar had a “very strong impact” on him. In the past, Uddin has appeared as a representative of the ‘Justice for Anis Sardar’ campaign, despite Sardar’s conviction for murder in May 2015 for his role in an attack on US forces in Iraq. Uddin has also described Jews as one of the “outside conspiring forces stifling progress for Muslims”.

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3.15 20/10/2017-22/10/2017 University of Birmingham – ‘Fitnah: Tafsir of Surat Ale Imran’
Speaker/s: Abu Easa Niamatullah (see entry no. 3.08)
Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute
Topic: Religious Governance
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands
This two-day course was run by the Al-Maghrib Institute and offered University of Birmingham Islamic Society members a reduced price. The advertisement stated “Fitnah, Trials, Tribulations...how does one recover or protect themself? [sic] The Answer...Amazingly...is in The Qur’an”. The post also included links to the Al-Maghrib social media pages.

3.16 23/10/2017 – Nottingham Trent University – ‘Nasheeds by Muslim Belal’
Speaker/s: Muslim Belal
Organisation: N/A
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: East Midlands
This event was organised by Nottingham Trent Islamic Society. Event ticket prices were donated to a designated charity for their ‘Charity Week’ campaign. Charity Week is a national campaign run by Islamic Relief that is hosted at a vast number of UK universities.
Ashley Belal Chin [“Muslim Belal”] is a performer linked to the “institutionally problematic” charity Helping Households Under Great Stress (HHUGS), who co-wrote a nasheed [song] in praise of Al-Qaeda associate Aafia Siddiqui.

3.17 25/10/2017 – University of Manchester – ‘The Lynching’
Speaker/s: Jackie Walker (see entry no. 3.01)
Organisation: Momentum
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: North West
This event was organised by the University of Manchester BDS Campaign, in association with BME Manchester [campaign for Black and Minority Ethnic students]. The event description states that “Jackie’s black mother and Jewish father fought for civil rights in 1950s US. Now history repeats itself as a witch hunt threatens the Corbyn movement and Jackie a main target. [sic] Despite being Jewish, she is attacked as anti-semitic [sic] soon after she starts to talk about the injustice Palestinians face under decades of Israeli occupation.”

3.18 26/10/2017 – St George’s, University of London – ‘SGUL Charity Week Dinner 2017’

Speaker/s: Muslim Belal (see entry no. 3.16)

Organisation: N/A

Topic: Miscellaneous

Location: Off Campus

Region: London

This event was organised by St George’s, University of London Islamic Society for its annual ‘Charity Week’ campaign.

3.19 02/11/2017 – University of London, Queen Mary – ‘Adhaab – The Story of Saalih (AS)’

Speaker/s: Abu Haneefah Sohail

Organisation: N/A

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was organised by the Queen Mary Islamic Society.

Sohail has written extensively for Islam21c, the “online platform” of the Muslim Research and Development Foundation (MRDF) with connections to Haitham al-Haddad. The website has also been described by anti-extremist activist Sara Khan as following a “Salafi-Islamist editorial line”. Sohail has described Israel as “a Zionist military outpost in the Middle East masquerading as a nation state” and claimed that the “foundation of this genocidal masquerade is a fabricated religious dogma which seeks to annihilate the sacred sanctuary of al-Haram al-Sharif and replace it with a 2000 year-old mythical temple”. He has also warned of “the relentless onslaught of the LGBT movement in schools to impose their outlook on sexuality on the rest of the community”. Whilst remaining critical of the actions of the Islamic State, Sohail has also argued that “it would be more [original emphasis] of a moral obligation to condemn terrorism carried out by one’s own state, than that carried out by ISIS”.


3.20 02/11/2017 – University of Birmingham – ‘Doctors, Ethics, Torture and Guantanamo’ with Moazzam Begg and Shaker Aamer.

Speaker/s: Moazzam Begg, Shaker Aamer

Organisation: Cage

Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing

Location: On-Campus

Region: West Midlands

This event was organised by University of Birmingham honorary senior lecturer and consultant neurologist, David Nicholl. Nicholl arranged for Moazzam Begg and Shaker Aamer to speak to medical students at the University of Birmingham on the subject of ethics and torture.

Cage is an advocacy group that defends individuals convicted of terrorism. Senior figures have praised Islamic militants, advocated for the implementation of sharia [Islamic law] in the UK, and refused to condemn brutal practises such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and stoning. Cage has hosted Salafi-Islamist preachers such as Haitham al-Haddad, Shakeel Begg and Abu Qatada at its events, and in 2009 attempted to video link with Al-Qaeda ideologue Anwar al-Awlaki.

Moazzam Begg is Director of Outreach at Cage. He has argued that Al-Qaeda clerics are “the most credible voices” against the Islamic State, and described two men imprisoned after joining an Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group as “really good brothers”. He was alleged by the US government to have been a member of Al-Qaeda, who provided financial, material and recruitment support for the terror group. Begg was detained in Guantanamo Bay for nearly three years, although he was never charged with an offence and denies any involvement with terrorism. In 2008, he wrote an article for the Cordoba Foundation praising Al-Qaeda founder Abdullah Azzam’s “magisterial discourse on jihad”. He was re-arrested with terrorism offences in 2014 after travelling to Syria, and believed to have attended a terrorist training camp and facilitated terrorism overseas, although the case eventually collapsed. Begg has described jihadist Anwar al-Awlaki, who Cage has supported since 2006 and who Begg

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has personally interviewed, as a “prominent figure...who had had the US War on Terror mechanism affect him.” In 2016, the Telegraph reported that Begg had encouraged people to go to Syria and “defend the revolution” against President Assad, and accused the government of using the Islamic State as a “stick to beat us [Muslims] with”. He has likened the Prevent strategy to the Stasi secret police, and reportedly told students that they should have sympathy for jihadists fighting for Al Nusra.

Shaker Aamer was determined by the US Government to be a “member of al-Qaeda tied to the European support network” and a “close associate of Usama bin Laden” with “connections to several other senior extremist members.” He was believed to be a recruiter, financier and facilitator for the terror group, with a history of participating in jihadist combat. Aamer was detained in Afghanistan and held at Guantanamo Bay from 2002 until 2015 – although never charged – during which time he claims he was tortured. Aamer denies he was an associate of terrorism and maintains he was in Afghanistan working for a charity, and his case was taken up by human rights groups including Amnesty International and Reprieve.

3.21 03/11/2017 – University of London, SOAS – ‘From Orientalism to Islamophobia...What Next?’

Speaker/s: Shenaz Bunglawala, Hatem Bazian (Skype)
Organisation: Mend, Zaytuna College
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: London

The event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society and the Ramadan Tent Project (RTP), and two other speakers also featured on the panel.

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.

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125 ‘Shaker Aamer – Overview’, Reprieve, available at: reprieve.org.uk/case-study/shaker-aamer/?gclid=CjwKCAiw6__eBRBXEiwA-SzHab8TT7v5yZfiQyolDK08CqOs06aqj_09WtL52IMkOD755QrQqTe1yh9oCxcQVQd_BwE, last visited: 5 January 2019.
126 ‘From Orientalism to Islamophobia...where next?’, Eventbrite, www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/from-orientalism-to-Islamophobiawhere-next-tickets-39268326622#, last visited: 5 January 2019.
Hatem Bazian co-founded the controversial Zaytuna college (see entry no. 3.47) in Berkeley, California. He has equated Israel to the Nazis, claimed that Jewish and pro-Israel groups are the driving force behind Islamophobia\(^{128}\) and posted tweets that Israel harvests organs.\(^{129}\) He has also been filmed at a rally calling for an intifada \(\text{[violent uprising]}\) in America.\(^{130}\)

This event was part of Mend’s 2017 Islamophobia Awareness Month campaign (IAM). The campaign provided a mainstream platform for Mend’s affiliate partners, often those with a high profile extremist history.\(^{131}\)

\textbf{3.22 03/11/2017 – University of Greenwich – ‘Jumu’ah Service: The Importance of Charity’}\(^{132}\)

\textbf{Speaker/s:} Uthman Lateef \(\text{(see entry no. 3.07)}\)

\textbf{Organisation:} Hittin Institute

\textbf{Topic:} Miscellaneous

\textbf{Location:} On Campus

\textbf{Region:} London

This event was part of Greenwich Islamic Society’s ‘Charity Week’ that raised funds for the Ummah Welfare Trust (UWT).\(^{133}\)

The UWT has had its bank account closed by Barclays in 2008 and HSBC in 2014, with the latter stating that the charity’s accounts fell “outside of their risk appetite”,\(^{134}\) with a risk likely related to money laundering or terrorism.\(^{135}\) In 2004, the UWT described the British government as “an enemy to Islam and the Muslims”, called the Police and Intelligence services “filthy human beings”, and claimed that should “a ‘Muslim’ officer or ‘scholar’ ‘question you; he is on their side, not yours. It is a trap’.\(^{136}\) The UWT has eulogised Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader and founder of Hamas, and shared material praising martyrdom. The charity has been further criticised for providing funds to groups linked to Hamas.\(^{137}\)

\textbf{3.23 03/11/2017-08/11/2017 – Brunel University – ‘Uxbridge Islamophobia Exhibition’}\(^{138}\)

\textbf{Speaker/s:} Unspecified

\textbf{Organisation:} Mend \(\text{(see entry no. 3.03)}\)


**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.139

3.24 **06/11/2017-08/11/2017 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Central London Islamophobia Exhibition’**140  
**Speaker:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.141

3.25 **07/11/2017 – University of West England (UWE) – ‘Bristol Islamophobia Exhibition’**142  
**Speaker:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** South West

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.143

3.26 **07/11/2017 – University of Wolverhampton – ‘Mend Presentation’**144  
**Speaker:** Unspecified Mend speakers  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** West Midlands

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.145

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3.27 07/11/2017-09/11/2017 – University of Cardiff – ‘Cardiff Islamophobia Exhibition’\textsuperscript{146}

**Speaker:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Wales  
This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.\textsuperscript{147}

3.28 08/11/2017-09/11/2017 – London School of Economics – ‘Central London Islamophobia Exhibition’\textsuperscript{148}

**Speaker:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London  
This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.\textsuperscript{149}

3.29 08/11/2017-11/11/2017 – Cardiff Metropolitan University – ‘Cardiff Islamophobia Exhibition’\textsuperscript{150}

**Speaker:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Wales  
This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.\textsuperscript{151}

3.30 09/11/2017 – University of Roehampton – Isoc Charity Week Dinner ‘Seeking Redemption: A Journey Back to Your Lord’\textsuperscript{152}

**Speaker:** Muslim Belal (see entry no. 3.16), Yahya al-Raaby  
**Organisation:** N/A

\textsuperscript{146} ‘Cardiff | Islamophobia Exhibition’, Facebook, available at: https://www.facebook.com/events/1982655761948268/, last visited: 5 January 2018.  
This event was hosted by the University of Roehampton Islamic Society.

Yahya al-Raaby has called Shia Muslims “devils”, described them using the derogatory term *rafida* [rejectors] and tweeted “Shia doing dawah in Africa, guys we need to step up...we cant let this happen [sic]”. Al-Raaby has promoted the Ummah Welfare Trust (see entry no. 3.22), co-organised an event at Greenwich University with “hate preacher” Yusha Evans, and was a speaker for the ‘Read and Ascend’ tour with Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05).

3.31 10/11/2017 – University of London, UCL – ‘Segregated and Unequal: Palestinian Life in Apartheid Israel’

**Speaker:** Azzam Tamimi, Miko Peled (see entry no. 3.02)

**Organisation:** N/A

**Topic:** Geopolitics

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** London

Azzam Tamimi is a former Muslim Brotherhood spokesman in Jordan, who has been labelled Hamas’ “special envoy” to Britain. At a Queen Mary University event in 2012, Tamimi said that sacrificing his life as a “martyr” for Palestine would be “a noble cause”, and that it would be “the straight way to pleasing my God and I would do it if I had the opportunity.” Tamimi has stated “I have a great honor to be close to Hamas”, lamented that he does not have a leadership role within the organisation and described political leader Khaled Meshal as a close childhood friend.

The event faced heavy criticism yet went ahead with a security presence. Tamimi was recorded claiming he had been “silenced” for previous comments defending Hamas’ suicide bomb attacks.

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163 Ibid.


bombings, laying blame on the “efforts of the pro-Israel lobby.”\textsuperscript{166} He claimed that Zionism is a “racist ideology” which determines a chosen land for a select group of people. In one heated exchange, Peled argued “Why should we tolerate Zionists?...Would we allow any members of the KKK? Would we allow Nazis? No. On that same token, Zionists do not deserve a platform.”\textsuperscript{167}

According to the \textit{The Jewish Chronicle}, when a student asked Tamimi about his comments regarding suicide bombing, other audience members began to “shout in outrage”, saying “shut your mouth”, and security started “converging” on the student.\textsuperscript{168} Tamimi responded in anger, asking “What do you expect [Hamas] to do? Of course, they will rebel, they will fight, they will do something”, while Peled added “I’m not going to tell [Hamas] how they need to respond. The expectation that Palestinians will not respond with violence is absurd. Is it right or is it wrong is not the question”, to which the audience applauded.\textsuperscript{169}

3.32 10/11/2017 – University of Newcastle – Newcastle Islamophobia Exhibition\textsuperscript{170}

\textbf{Speaker:} Unspecified

\textbf{Organisation:} Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

\textbf{Topic:} Grievances

\textbf{Location:} On Campus

\textbf{Region:} North East

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.\textsuperscript{171}

3.33 13/11/2017-14/11/2017 – University of London, King’s College London – ‘Central London – Islamophobia Exhibition’\textsuperscript{172}

\textbf{Speaker/s:} Unspecified

\textbf{Organisation:} Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

\textbf{Topic:} Grievances

\textbf{Location:} On Campus

\textbf{Region:} London

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.\textsuperscript{173}

3.34 14/11/2017 – Cardiff Metropolitan University – ‘Cardiff – Islamophobia Exhibition’\textsuperscript{174}

\textbf{Speaker/s:} Unspecified

\textbf{Organisation:} Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{167} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{168} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{169} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{170} ‘Newcastle University Islamic Society’, Facebook, 6 November 2017, available at: https://www.facebook.com/NclISoc/photos/pb1465763726793676/1465763646793684/?type=3&theater, last visited: 5 January 2019.
\item \textsuperscript{171} ‘Profiting from Prejudice: How Mend’s ‘IAM’ Campaign Legitimised Extremism’, \textit{The Henry Jackson Society}, 2018.
\item \textsuperscript{172} ‘Central London | Islamophobia Exhibition’, Facebook, available at: https://www.facebook.com/events/373713243064769/, last visited: 5 January 2019.
\item \textsuperscript{173} ‘Profiting from Prejudice: How Mend’s ‘IAM’ Campaign Legitimised Extremism’, \textit{The Henry Jackson Society}, 2018.
\item \textsuperscript{174} ‘Cardiff | Islamophobia Exhibition’, Facebook, available at: https://www.facebook.com/events/873830836114081/, last visited: 5 January 2019.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
EXTREME SPEAKERS AND EVENTS: IN THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Wales

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign. The event was subsequently cancelled for reasons unknown.

3.35 14/11/2017 – University of London, King’s College London – ‘Muslim Women in the West: Islamophobia Awareness Month’

**Speaker/s:** Arzu Merali, Huma Malik  
**Organisation:** Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRc), Mend  
**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was hosted by various King’s College London campaign groups, and was endorsed by the university’s Middle East department. This event formed part of Mend’s IAM campaign, and four other speakers also featured on the panel.

Huma Malik is Mend’s Islamophobia Response Unit (IRU) Caseworker. Arzu Merali is co-founder and Director of IHRc. 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 2015, the organisation awarded the Charlie Hebdo magazine “Islamophobe of the year” two months after the attack on their offices. The IHRc jointly organise the annual Al-Quds Day march, which has attracted controversy for its “brazen” support of Hezbollah.

3.36 15/11/2017 – UCL – ‘Students Not Suspects Tour: UCL Stop’  
**Speaker/s:** Muhammad Rabbani  
**Organisation:** Cage

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This event was organised by the NUS Black Students Campaign, and formed part of the wider ‘Students not Suspects’ campaign against Prevent. Other speakers included: Hareem Ghani (NUS); Ayo Olatunji (UCL BME), Ilyas Nagdee (NUS), Saffa Mir (FOSIS) and Alia Malak (Student Palestine Solidarity Project).

Both Ayo Olatunji and Ilyas Nagdee have been embroiled in controversies surrounding anti-Semitism. Olatunji has condemned the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, compared Israeli policy to that of the Nazis and was criticised for “continuing to indulge in a racist trope” after repeatedly endorsing the ‘Rothschilds’ conspiracy theory. He has since resigned as a member of the NUS’ national executive committee.

Nagdee was criticised after appearing to support violence against Israelis, posting on social media “The people of Palestine do not need to show anger on your terms. Their resistance does not need to be palatable to you...no resistance to an occupying force has happened through friendly natter.”

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

Sahar Al-Faifi is the South Wales and West England Regional Manager at Mend. At a controversial SOAS event in 2015, Al-Faifi is reported to have claimed that ISIS was created by “power

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192 For more information on this event, see: Facebook, available at: https://www.facebook.com/events/388095018287954/, last visited: 5 January 2019.
structures” in the West, and compared Islamophobia in contemporary Britain to the anti-Semitism directed at Jews during the rise of the Nazis. On social media, Al-Faifi has insinuated that ISIS is loyal to America, suggested that British authorities intentionally fail to prevent terror attacks if the perpetrator is Muslim, and claimed that there is an “Islamophobia industry” consisting of several Jewish philanthropists and members of the Conservative Party. Indulging in a further anti-Semitic conspiracy, Al-Faifi tweeted “What about the Rothschild Jews and their branches in Palestine, would such genetic research effect their banking empire [sic]”, and an alarming tweet during the 2012 conflict between Israel and Hamas read “Zionists ran away since the first rocket fell! YOU KNOW WHY? Because it is not their land! They do not know HOW to die for it #GAZA”. Moreover, Al-Faifi has 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!” and later expressed support for Jamaat-e-Islami convicted war criminal Abdul Qader Molla as a "symbol of resistance against oppression".

3.38 15/11/2017 – University of Leicester – ‘Survivor’
Speaker/s: Moazzam Begg (see entry no. 3.20)
Organisation: Cage
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: East Midlands
This event was organised by the University of Leicester Amnesty International Society.

3.39 16/11/2017 – University of Exeter – ‘Causes and Cures’
Speaker/s: Sahar al-Faifi (see entry no. 3.37)
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: South West
This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

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3.40 16/11/2017 – University of Bradford – ‘Islamophobia: Don’t Hate What You Don’t Understand’

Speaker/s: Unspecified Mend Speakers
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was organised by the University of Bradford Union and the University of Bradford Islamic Society. Five speakers featured on the panel.

The Human Relief Foundation sponsored the event.

3.41 16/11/2017 – Kingston University – ‘Manufacturing Hate’

Speaker/s: Moazzam Begg, Bashir Ibrahim
Organisation: Cage
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by Kingston Islamic Society and was advertised as part of Mend’s Islamophobia Awareness Month.

Bashir Ibrahim is a Kingston University alum. He has spoken alongside extremist speakers Uthman Lateef and Suleiman Gani on previous occasions at the university, claimed that the UK Government is seeking to engineer “a Government sanctioned Islam” and stated that the security services’ “modus operandi” is harassing Muslims – in which he uses ISIS executioner Mohammed Emwazi and Lee Rigby murderer Michael Adebolajo as evidence of such treatment.

3.42 16/11/2017 – Queen Mary University – ‘Shukr – The Story of Ayyub’

Speaker/s: Alomgir Ali
Organisation: Muslim Research and Development Foundation (MRDF)
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

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207 KingstonISOC, @KingstonISOC, Twitter, 30 December 2015, available at: https://twitter.com/kingstonisoc/status/68227820651778048, last visited: 20 February 2018.

208 KingstonISOC, @KingstonISOC, Twitter, 30 December 2015, available at: https://twitter.com/kingstonisoc/status/68227820651778048, last visited: 20 February 2018.


MRDF was founded by extremist cleric Haitham al-Haddad, who has been labelled “one of the most dangerous men in Britain” by the head of the counter-extremism think tank Quilliam Foundation. The government’s counter-extremism commissioner has stated that “Haitham al-Haddad’s views are misogynistic, racist and homo-phobic. They promote a supremacist ‘us versus them’ world view that wrongly makes Muslims feel that they can’t be fully British.”

Along with six speakers the Prime Minister’s Extremism Taskforce named as “on record as expressing views contrary to British values.”

3.43 17/11/2017 – University of London, King’s College London ‘Dismantling the Machine’

Speaker/s: Asim Qureshi, Muhammad Rabbani (see entry no. 3.36), Sahar al-Faifi (see entry no. 3.37)

Organisation: Cage, Mend

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by King’s College London Islamic Society and was part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign. The three speakers were joined by academic Chris Allen. It appeared to be largely gender-segregated.

Asim Qureshi is Research Director at Cage. He has been filmed promoting violent jihad, refused to condemn Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and stoning, and has described a British suicide bomber’s death as “selfless and sacrificial”. Qureshi described ISIS killer ‘Jihadi John’ as a “beautiful young man”, blamed his radicalisation on British authorities and has expressed support for militants in Iraq and Afghanistan who wage war against British soldiers. In an interview on TRTWorld in October 2018, Qureshi appeared to agree with the interviewer’s assertion that he supports jihad in Israel and Chechnya although, when pressed, claimed that “every single context has its own dynamics” and he wouldn’t encourage young people to perform jihad in the UK.


Speaker/s: Unspecified Mend speaker, Moazzam Begg (see entry no. 3.20)

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03), Cage

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212 Ibid.


216 @UK_CAGE, Twitter, 23 October 2018, available at: https://twitter.com/UK_CAGE/status/1054747129682509824, last visited: 5 January 2019.

This event was promoted as a collaboration between Stand Up To Racism, their Camden and Student branches, and Mend as part of ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’. Two other speakers joined the panellists.

3.45 21/11/2017 – City University – ‘Palestine: The End or a New Beginning’

Speaker/s: Azzam Tamimi (see entry no. 3.31)

Organisation: N/A

Topic: Geopolitics

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was organised by the City University Palestinian Society.

3.46 22/11/2017 – University of West England (UWE) – ‘Students Not Suspects – Bristol’

Speaker/s: Unspecified

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: South West

This event formed part of the ‘Students Not Suspects’ campaign against Prevent, that was also promoted as part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’.

3.47 22/11/2017 – University of Leeds – ‘Women and Islamophobia’

Speaker/s: Ahmed Hankir, Rania Awaad (via video-link)

Organisation: Mend, Zaytuna College

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was organised by Mend as part of its 2017 ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign. Several speakers (including one individual via video-link) appeared on the panel. Awaad’s appearance was listed on the Mend advertisement; however, it was not listed on the event’s Facebook page.
Rania Awaad’s affiliation to Zaytuna College, a controversial Islamic college based in California, was also not advertised. The college was founded by three individuals with a history of extremist views – Hamza Yusuf, Zaid Shakir and Hatem Bazian (see entry no. 3.21).

Hamza Yusuf was investigated by the FBI after the 9/11 attacks due to comments he made two days prior to the attacks at a fundraiser for Jamil al-Amin, who was charged with murdering a police officer in Atlanta. He has also claimed that convicted terrorist Omar Abdel-Rahman (“the blind sheikh”) was unjustly tried. However, Yusuf has since attempted to distance himself from his past extremist remarks.

Zaid Shakir has suggested that “Zionists” and the FBI were responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center attack, that jihad allows for the hijacking of US military aircraft and that Israeli and American women in army uniform are eligible enemy combatants. Moreover, Shakir has argued that with better organisation, Muslims could “take over” America in “a very short time”. Shakir was previously questioned by the FBI after one of his “pro-jihad” pamphlets that lauded the Taliban’s “armed struggle” was found in the apartment of a suspect of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

3.48 23/11/2017 – University of Bristol – ‘What is Islamophobia: The UK Counter-Terrorism Matrix’

Speaker/s: Unspecified Mend Speakers, Asim Qureshi (see entry no. 3.43)
Organisation: Cage (see entry no. 3.20), Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: South West

This event was advertised as part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’.

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231 Ibid.
232 Gaubatz, P., David. and Sperry, P., Muslim Mafia inside the Secret Underworld That’s Conspiring to Islamize America (WND Books, 2009), p.55
236 Ibid.
237 ‘Islamic Relief: The Case Against IR’, Middle East Forum.
242 This event was advertised in two Facebook event pages under a different host group and speaker details. However, as the event date and time is the same, it is assumed that the event only took place on one occasion.
Speaker/s: Unspecified  
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
Topic: Grievances  
Location: On Campus  
Region: Yorkshire and Humberside  
This event was advertised as part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

3.50 24/11/2017 – Queen Mary University – ‘Causes and Cures of Islamophobia’  
Speaker/s: Aman Ali, Mohammed Shoaib  
Organisation: Mend  
Topic: Grievances  
Location: On Campus  
Region: London  
At the time of this event, Aman Ali was a London Regional Coordinator at Mend, although he has since been promoted to Head of Community Development and Engagement. This post was previously held by Islamic extremist Azad Ali, who has praised Al-Qaeda ideologues, voiced support for Hamas, justified the killing of British troops, and suggested that Islamic religious law should supersede democracy. Muhammed Shoaib is currently listed as London Regional Manager at Mend.

3.51 24/11/2017 - University of York - ‘Islamophobia Hurts’  
Speaker/s: Unspecified Mend speakers  
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
Topic: Grievances  
Location: On Campus  
Region: Yorkshire and Humberside  
This event was hosted by the Islamic societies at the University of York and York St Johns’, in collaboration with Mend for its ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

3.52 25/11/2017 – University of West England (UWE) – ‘Islamophobia Conference’  
Speaker/s: Sahar al-Faifi (see entry no. 3.37)  
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
During this talk, Al-Faifi was filmed propagating several alarmist and conspiratorial narratives with regard to anti-Muslim hatred in the UK. Throughout the presentation, Al-Faifi maintained that British security measures are a pretext for espionage on the Muslim community, and on one occasion falsely alleged that the Prevent Duty sanctions the public “to detect the undefined signs of extremism” which may include “wearing a headscarf” or “converting to Islam”. Of most concern, Al-Faifi claimed that the designation of Muslims as a group of faith, as opposed to a race, prevents the British Muslim community from attaining the same legal protection against hatred afforded to other minority groups, leaving them more vulnerable to abuse.

3.53 25/11/2017 – University of Sussex – ‘Khateeb Training and Public Speaking’

Speaker/s: Unspecified
 Organisation: FOSIS, Human Appeal
 Topic: Miscellaneous
 Location: On Campus
 Region: South East

This event was organised by FOSIS and sponsored by Human Appeal.

FOSIS was founded by Islamist activists from the Muslim Brotherhood and Jamaat-e-Islami in 1962. The group was condemned by former Home Secretary Theresa May and former Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg for its failure to “challenge terrorist and extremist ideology”, and has previously hosted violent extremists such as Azzam Tamimi and Anwar al-Awlaki, in addition to reportedly being linked with several individuals convicted for terrorism offences. Human Appeal was a participant in the ‘Union of Good’, proscribed by the US for facilitating funds to Hamas. According to The Telegraph, the US State Department expressed “serious concerns” about the charity, accusing it of providing financial support to Hamas-associated groups, and its “field offices” of having connections to Al-Qaeda associates.

3.54 27/11/2017-01/12/2017 – University of Sussex – ‘Mend Exhibition’

Speaker/s: Unspecified
 Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
 Topic: Grievances
 Location: On Campus
**Region:** South East

This event was organised by Mend as part of its ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

### 3.55 27/11/2017 – Imperial College – ‘Women of Jannah: Stories of Sahabiyaat’

**Speaker/s:** Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)

**Organisation:** Sabeel

**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** London

This event was organised by Imperial College Islamic Society.

### 3.56 28/11/2017 – Manchester Metropolitan University – ‘Muslim Women in the West’

**Speaker/s:** Dr Shameela Islam-Zulfiqar

**Organisation:** N/A

**Topic:** Grievances

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** North West

This event was hosted by Manchester Metropolitan Islamic Society, and four other speakers joined the above panellist.

Dr Shameela Islam-Zulfiqar was on the board of the Syrian aid convoy funded by Al-Fatiha Global and Aid4Syria. The convoy drew criticism when several charity workers showed signs of extremism. This included Majid Freeman, who has described Al-Qaeda fighter Jaffar Deghayes as a martyr who died “defending the oppressed”; retweeted support for Al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al Nusra; and posted on social media that Jerusalem would be “conquered by jihad, not by peace”. Al-Fatiha Global was investigated by the Charity Commission in 2014 after the son of its chief executive was photographed in Syria with two men holding assault rifles. Islam-Zulfiqar is an author at Islam21c and has expressed support for convicted terrorist Aafia Siddiqui. At a One Nation event in 2014, she spoke alongside Sheikh Mumtaz ul-Haq, who has made derogatory comments towards Shia and Ahmadi Muslims.
3.57 28/11/2017 – University of London, SOAS – ‘The Other: Legal Discrimination in the UK’

Speaker/s: Malia Bouattia, Moazzam Begg (see entry no. 3.20), Muhammad Rabbani (see entry no. 3.36)

Organisation: Cage

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society and ticket funds were donated to Muntada Aid’s Rohingya Appeal.

Muntada Aid is the sister charity of the Al Muntada Trust, a Qatari funded charity with several allegations of links to violent and non-violent extremism. In 2012, the Al Muntada Trust was under scrutiny amid evidence that funds raised by the charity were providing financial support to Boko Haram, allegations which the charity vehemently denies. The trust has also been connected with mosques where radicalisation has taken place, such as the Al-Manar Mosque in Cardiff, which was deemed significant in the radicalisation of several young attendees who joined the Islamic State in Syria.

Malia Bouattia is the former President of the National Union of Students (NUS). She has made several anti-Semitic remarks, including claiming that the Prevent strategy was fuelled by “all manner of Zionist and neo-con lobbies”, the University of Birmingham was a “Zionist outpost” and that “Zionist-led media outlets” have convinced the public of Muslims’ “non-violent and peaceful nature, so that we’re … dangerously condemning the resistance.” Bouattia has also shared platforms with extremist-linked organisations.

3.58 28/11/2017 – De Montfort University – ‘Leicester – Islamophobia Exhibition’

Speaker/s: Unspecified

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: East Midlands

This event formed part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.
3.59 28/11/2017 – University of Wolverhampton – ‘5 Pillars of Islamophobia’

Speaker/s: Unspecified

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: West Midlands

This event formed part of Wolverhampton’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

3.60 29/11/2017 – Brunel University – ‘Islamophobia Awareness Discussion’

Speaker/s: Abdullah al-Andalusi

Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was due to take place on 14 November but was rescheduled to 29 November for unknown reasons.

Al-Andalusi has claimed that “democracy, secularism, feminism, humanism, and liberalism” are “blatantly un-Islamic” concepts,275 and criticised Muslims who participate in democracy.276 He is an advocate for the implementation of sharia [Islamic Law],277 has claimed that ISIS fighters are “no different to western armies” 278 and stated that Kufr [disbelievers] will be “punished in hell”.279 Moreover, The Telegraph reported in 2015 that Al-Andalusi has been “closely associated” with Hizb ut-Tahrir 280 – an allegation he denied, although he did refer to the extremist group as “peaceful” in his defence.281

3.61 29/11/2017 – De Montfort University – ‘Causes and Cures of Islamophobia’

Speaker/s: Azhar Qayum

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

Topic: Grievances


Location: On Campus
Region: East Midlands
This event formed part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign. Three other speakers, including the Head of University Security, joined the panellist.
Azhar Qayum is Midlands Regional Manager at Mend.


Speaker/s: Aman Ali, Mohammad Shoaib
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: East of England
This event formed part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign. Three other speakers joined the panellists.


Speaker/s: Murtaza Chaudhary
Organisation: iERA
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: Yorkshire and Humberside
The event advertisement states “find out the truth about Islam...Topics covered; depression, Anxiety and questioning of Islam”.

Murtaza Chaudhary is an “outreach specialist” and one of the founding team members of iERA. iERA was investigated by the Charity Commission in 2013 following a number of articles in the media criticising the charity. A report by the Council of Ex Muslims of Britain found that iERA preachers had endorsed anti-Semitic conspiracy theories; contended that homosexuals and apostates should be killed; claimed that domestic violence is divinely mandated; justified stoning women who had committed sexual crimes; dehumanised non-Muslims; and claimed that FGM is permissible and that Muslims have a duty to do jihad. Extremist preachers Zakir Naik and Bilal Philips, both banned from entering the UK since 2010, have functioned as

advisors to the organisation. iERA was barred from University College London (UCL) in 2013 after attempting to gender segregate the audience.

3.64 29/11/2017 – University of West England (UWE) – ‘What is Prevent?’

Speaker(s): Unspecified
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: South West

This event was hosted by Mend as part of its ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign. The event appeared to be a debate between the UCU Vice President Douglas Chalmers and Abu Ahmed, a representative from the Home Office. This event was described in a prior Henry Jackson Society report as exposing “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 [its] legitimate concerns.”

3.65 30/11/2017 – University of Birmingham – ‘Islamophobia: This Is How It Feels’

Speaker(s): Unspecified Mend speaker
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands

This event formed part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign. Three other speakers joined the Mend representative on the panel.

3.66 30/11/2017 – Brunel University – ‘The Problem of Evil’

Speaker(s): Murtaza Chaudhary
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by the Brunel Islamic Society.

3.67 30/11/2017 - University of Exeter - ‘Resilience and Reporting of Hate Crime’

Speaker/s: Sahar al-Faifi (see entry no. 3.37)

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: South West

This event was advertised as part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

3.68 30/11/2017 - University of Aston - ‘Counterterrorism and Islamophobia’

Speaker/s: Malia Bouattia (see entry no. 3.57), Moazzam Begg (see entry no. 3.20)

Organisation: Cage

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: West Midlands

This event was organised by Tom Mills, a lecturer in Sociology and Policy at Aston University who has expressed support for Cage.297

3.69 30/11/2017 - University of London, Goldsmiths - ‘What does Islamophobia look like in 2017?’

Speaker/s: Ibrahim Mohamoud

Organisation: Cage (see entry no. 3.20)

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by Goldsmiths Students’ Union and three other speakers, including academics Tom Mills and Narzanin Missouri, joined the panellist.299

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”.300


299 For more information, see ‘Profiting From Prejudice: How Mend’s ‘IAM’ Campaign Legitimised Extremism’, The Henry Jackson Society, 2018, p.18.

3.70 30/11/2017 – Cardiff Metropolitan University – ‘Islamophobia Exhibition’

**Speaker/s:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Wales  

This event formed part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

3.71 01/12/2017 – University of Salford – ‘Islamic Society Charity Dinner’

**Speaker/s:** Naveed Ahmed  
**Organisation:** Human Appeal (see entry no. 3.54)  
**Topic:** Miscellaneous  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** North West  

This event was hosted by the University of Salford Islamic Society and was a fundraiser for Human Appeal. The University Chaplain also joined the panellist.

3.72 01/12/2017 – University of Swansea – ‘Empowering the Youth’

**Speaker/s:** Majdi Aqil  
**Organisation:** Interpal  
**Topic:** Miscellaneous  
**Location:** Off Campus  
**Region:** Wales  

This event was organised by Interpal, with the logos of Swansea University and the Islamic Society featuring on the promotional material.

Majdi Aqil is on the board of trustees for the Palestinian Return Centre and is a regional coordinator for UK-based charity Interpal. Both organisations are banned in Israel for funding Hamas. Since 2003, the US Treasury Department has categorised Interpal as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity (SDGT) due to its Hamas support. Interpal has

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306 ‘The Palestinian Return Centre’, The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, 30 March 2011, p.50.  
been investigated by the UK Charity Commission three times, most notably in 2008-9 following a BBC documentary that alleged the charity’s funds were going to education projects that prepared children to be suicide bombers, and that the organisation had links to Hamas. The charity was found not to be misusing funds. Interpal’s bank accounts were closed by Natwest in 2007 and Lloyds TSB in 2008, and HSBC and the Co-Operative have said they will not provide it with accounts. Senior figures within the charity, including the chairman Ibrahim Hewitt and trustee Essam Mustafa, are banned from entering the US, Israel, Canada and Australia. Aquil is considered by The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center to be a “known Hamas activist”, and was described as such by the Israel Security Agency when outlawing the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) in Israel.

3.73 05/12/2017 - University of Wolverhampton - ‘Islam, Evolution and Darwinism’

Speaker/s: Subboor Ahmad (advertised ‘Ahmed’)

Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: West Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Wolverhampton in collaboration with iERA. Subboor Ahmad is an iERA ‘outreach specialist’.

3.74 06/12/2017 - University of Essex - ‘The Problem of Evil’

Speaker/s: Murtaza Chaudhary (see entry no. 3.63)

Organisation: iERA

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: East of England

This event was hosted by the University of Essex Islamic Society.

3.75 07/12/2017 - University of London, KCL - ‘The Year of Sorrow: An Evening with the Prophet’

Speaker/s: Uthman Lateef (see entry no. 3.07)

Organisation: Hittin Institute

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

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310 Ibid.

311 The Palestinian Return Centre, The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, 30 March 2011, p.30.


**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was hosted by KCL Islamic Society.

### 3.76 11/12/2017 - University of London, SOAS – ‘Palestine Verses’

**Speaker/s:** Muslim Belal (see entry no. 3.16)  
**Organisation:** Interpal (see entry no. 3.72)  
**Topic:** Geopolitics  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society, SOAS Palestine Society and Interpal.

### 3.77 12/12/2017 - University of London, Queen Mary – ‘Flying While Muslim’

**Speaker/s:** Muhammad Rabbani (see entry no. 3.36)  
**Organisation:** Cage (see entry no. 3.20)  
**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was hosted by the Queen Mary Islamic Society.

### 3.78 13/12/2017 - University of Westminster – ‘Annual Charity Dinner’

**Speaker/s:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** N/A  
**Topic:** Miscellaneous  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was hosted by the University of Westminster Islamic Society and was a fundraiser for Human Appeal (see entry no. 3.53).

### 3.79 14/12/2017 - University of London, UCL – ‘The Muslims of Xinjiang’

**Speaker/s:** Dilly Hussain  
**Organisation:** 5Pillars  
**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis  
**Location:** On Campus

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Dilly Hussain is editor of the 5Pillars online news site. Hussain has expressed support for Salafi-jihadist ideologues including Sayyid Qutb and Abdullah Azzam and his comments on social media appear to show sympathy with the proscribed terror group Hamas. Hussain has stated that “Muslims supporting Hamas, Al Qassam Brigades [Hamas military wing], Islamic Jihad & other Palestinian resistance groups isn’t even something to be questioned” and he derided the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia’s condemnation of Hamas with the caption “Israel are cool, Hamas are terrorists. Nice one Shaykh.” Moreover, in response to a Twitter user’s [unknown] message, Hussain tweeted “@dgjones you’re a supporter of fascist Zionist terrorism and genocidal holocaust of Palestinians. Address the British army before Hamas.” In an article for Islam21C, Hussain wrote that he hoped through the will of Allah “justice will serve a humiliating blow to the Zionist oppressors.” Hussain has claimed “a full on ideological/culture war is being waged on Islam and Muslims,” written that ISIS was “a dream come true” for the West, and that the terror group “has been used as a stick by Western politicians to beat the Muslims with, and a tool to demonise the noble concept of the Caliphate.”

3.80 14/12/2017 – University of London, Queen Mary – ‘Fitan: The Story of Yusuf AS’

Speaker/s: Asif Uddin (see entry no. 3.14)
Organisation: Sabeel
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis
Location: On Campus
Region: London

3.81 15/12/2017 – 17/12/2017 – University of Birmingham – ‘Jumu’ah and Firm Ground’

Speaker/s: Abdul Nasir Jangda
Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands
This event was hosted by the University of Birmingham Islamic Society. Abdul Nasir Jangda is an instructor at the Al-Maghrib Institute.  

3.82 15/12/2017-17/12/2017 – Aston University – ‘FOSIS Winter Conference 2017’

**Speaker/s:** Majed Mahmoud, Aman Ali (see entry no. 3.50)

**Organisation:** FOSIS (see entry no. 3.53), Mend (see entry no. 3.03), Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08), Human Appeal (see entry no. 3.53)

**Topic:** Miscellaneous

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** West Midlands

This event was hosted by FOSIS Midlands and appeared to be sponsored by, or partnered with, Human Appeal. The conference hosted several speakers at a variety of talks and workshops. Majed Mahmoud is an instructor at the Al-Maghrib Institute.

3.83 17/01/2018 – University of Warwick – ‘Anticolonial Resistance is Fertile: Sperm Smuggling and Birth Strikes in Palestine/Israel’

**Speaker/s:** Siggie Vertommen

**Organisation:** N/A

**Topic:** Geopolitics

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** West Midlands

This event was organised by the Warwick for Justice in Palestine group.

Siggie Vertommen is a research fellow at the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at King’s College London. Vertommen once wrote an academic article about social protests in Israel in 2011 which was entitled “Help, the oppressors are being oppressed!”

The event description criticised Israel for selectively implementing a policy of ‘pronatalism’ i.e. promoting higher birth rates for Jews, aimed at serving “the reproductive rights of its Jewish population at the expense of the indigenous Palestinian population”. The lecture was due to propose a “reproductive sabotage framework” – through birth strikes and sperm smuggling – as a form of “resistance and empowerment” against the Israeli state.

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337 Ibid.

338 Ibid.
Jewish activist David Collier described the accusation that Israel exercises a strategy of pronatalism as “a vile anti-Semitic slur”, invoking policies associated with the Holocaust as a means to criticise the Jewish state. Vertommen vehemently denied the allegations of anti-Semitism. Although the talk was described as open to the public, Jewish activists complained that they were prohibited from entering, with organisers citing the Prevent strategy in order to prevent their attendance.

3.84 21/01/2018 – Dar Ul-Isra Masjid – ‘Dawah Training’

Speaker/s: Jamshed Javed
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Dawah Training
Location: Off Campus
Region: Wales

This event was hosted by Cardiff University Islamic Society.

Jamshed Javed is a former daee [teacher] at iERA. He has defended thehudoodpunishment of amputation for theft, claiming that it is an effective deterrent – “far from being barbaric [it] is actually a mercy for humanity”.

3.85 23/01/2018 – Queen Mary University – ‘Story Night’

Speaker/s: Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05), Shaqur Rehman
Organisation: Sabeel, Islamic Council of Europe
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by Queen Mary Islamic Society.

Shaqur Rehman is an author for Islam21C, an instructor for Sabeel and a senior advisor at the Islamic Council of Europe alongside extremist cleric Haitham al-Haddad.

3.86 24/01/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Feeding the Soul in an Age of Materialism’

Speaker/s: Uthman Lateef (see entry no. 3.07)
Organisation: Hittin Institute

341 Ibid.
349 ‘Feeding the Soul in an Age of Materialism’, Facebook, available at: https://www.facebook.com/events/331271967356672/.
This event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society.

3.87 25/01/2018 – University of Leeds – ‘Practising Islam in non-Muslim lands’
Speaker/s: Yahya Ibrahim
Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute
Topic: Religious Governance
Location: On Campus
Region: Yorkshire and Humberside
This event was hosted by Leeds University Union Islamic Society.

Yahya Ibrahim is an instructor at the Al-Maghrib Institute which hosts a number of extremist preachers as lecturers. He has said that “Allah gives us almost an advice by warning us of who our enemies are... never will the Christians and the Jews be satisfied or content or pleased with you until you follow them and their religion”. He has also stated that the mushrikeen and kuffar [polytheists and non-believers] “try to answer us and say verily we as humans were only created to follow our ambition, and to follow our lust, and to acquire as much wealth, and as much women and children as we can”.

3.88 25/01/2018 – 26/01/2018 – Middlesex University – ‘Islamophobia Exhibition’
Speaker/s: Unspecified
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: South East
This event was hosted by Middlesex Islamic Society and formed part of Mend’s ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaign.

3.89 26/01/2018 – University of Oxford – ‘Defeating Islamophobia’
Speaker/s: Aman Ali (see entry no. 3.50)
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus

353 Ibid.
Region: South East
This event was hosted by Oxford University Islamic Society and three other speakers joined the above panellist.

3.90 26/01/2018 – University of London, Queen Mary – ‘Meadows of the Divine’
Speaker/s: Alomgir Ali
Organisation: MRdF (see entry no. 3.05)
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis
Location: On Campus
Region: London
This event was hosted by Queen Mary Islamic Society.

Alomgir Ali is an author at Islam21c, and instructor at Sabeel and MRDF, all projects linked to extremist cleric Haitham al-Haddad. Ali was listed by the Prime Minister’s Extremism Taskforce as one of six speakers that express views contrary to British values.

3.91 26/01/2018 – De Montfort University – ‘Women’s Activism Without Feminism’
Speaker/s: Zara Faris
Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: East Midlands
Zara Faris is a speaker at the Muslim Debate Initiative, writer for the Hittin Institute, instructor at the Al Balagh Academy and guest lecturer at the As-Suffa Institute.

The Muslim Debate Initiative was co-founded by Abdullah al-Andalusi, and the Hittin Institute is led by Uthman Lateef (see entry no. 3.07) and Adnan Rashid (see entry no. 3.123). On the Advisory Board for the Al Balagh Academy is Abdur-Rahman Ibn Yusuf Mangera (henceforth Abdur-Rahman), who has endorsed domestic violence against women in cases of adultery or disobedience, claimed that the niqab is a “fundamental protection against immodesty and
sin” and founded an organisation that has promoted child marriage.  

The As-Suffa Institute was founded by Zahir Mahmood, who has praised Hamas and spoken against Muslim assimilation to British society.

3.92 27/01/2018 – University of Birmingham – ‘Inaugural Alumni Dinner’  

**Speaker/s:** Hany El-Banna  

**Organisation:** Islamic Relief Worldwide, Muslim Charities Forum (MCF)  

**Topic:** Miscellaneous  

**Location:** On Campus  

**Region:** West Midlands  

This event was organised by the University of Birmingham Alumni Network and the University of Birmingham Islamic Society. The event featured a variety of speakers.

Hany El-Banna is the founder of Islamic Relief, the chair of the Muslim Charities Forum (MCF) and an alumnus of the University of Birmingham. Islamic Relief was an early participant in the Union of Good, a US-proscribed terror fundraising body for Hamas, and has a history of concerning associations and activities. The charity has been criticised alongside the MCF for hosting extreme speakers and targeting UK campuses, and the MCF has specifically had £140,000 funding withdrawn from the government for connections to extremism. El-Banna has spoken about how reading the works of Sayyid Qutb made him more religious, compared the Muslim Brotherhood founder Hassan al-Banna to Nelson Mandela, and on the official radio station of Hamas urged a “strong coalition” between civil society and the Hamas government to “repel any foreign ideas and malignant intrusions”.

3.93 27/01/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Dawah Training and Volunteers Meeting’  

**Speaker/s:** Imran Hussein  

**Organisation:** iERA (see entry no. 3.63)  

**Topic:** Dawah Training  

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376 Ibid.  
**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** London

This event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society.

Imran Hussein is an outreach specialist at iERA.  

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**3.94 28/01/2018 – University of Strathclyde – ‘Islam and Love’**

**Speaker/s:** Suhaib Webb

**Organisation:** Al Buruj Press

**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

This event was hosted by Strathclyde University Muslim Students Association.

Suhaib Webb has expressed homophobic and anti-Semitic views, and in 2001 he shared a platform with Al-Qaeda operative Anwar al-Awlaki, in order to raise funds for Jamil Abdullah al-Amin, who was convicted in the US for shooting two police officers. Webb has blamed the temptation of extra-marital sex on “the ideology of the kuffar” and stated that the punishment for an individual who commits adultery is death by stoning. Al Buruj Press instructors include several extremist preachers such as Suleiman Gani, Zahir Mahmood and Yasir Qadhi, and the organisation has organised a course on university campuses with Uthman Lateef.

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**3.95 28/01/2018 – University of Leicester – ‘Media Masterclass’**

**Speaker/s:** Unspecified

**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

**Topic:** Grievances

This event was hosted by Leicester University Islamic Society, Amnesty International Society and Mend.
3.96 31/01/2018 – University of Cardiff – ‘Keeping it Halal: Interactions in Islam’

Speaker/s: Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)
Organisation: Sabeel
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis
Location: On Campus
Region: Wales

This event was hosted by Cardiff University Islamic Society.

3.97 31/01/2018 – Middlesex University – ‘What is the Future of Islam and Muslims in Britain’

Speaker/s: Dilly Hussain (see entry no. 3.79), Muhammad Rabbani (see entry no. 3.36)
Organisation: 5Pillars, Cage (see entry no. 3.20)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by Middlesex University Islamic Society and an additional speaker joined the above panellists.

3.98 01/02/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Embracing the Muslim Community: The Revert Experience’

Speaker/s: Abdullah al-Andalusi (see entry no. 3.60), Lauren Booth
Organisation: The Muslim Debate Initiative
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society.

Lauren Booth has expressed several anti-Semitic sentiments, including assertions about “Jewish supremacism”, the “Jewish, Zionist lobby”, and the promulgation of anti-Semitic tropes in praise of 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.

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394 ‘Lauren Booth on “Jewish supremacism”, why antisemitism is justified, & the wisdom of Gilad Atzmon’, UK Media Watch, 6 October 2011.

**Speaker/s:** Dilly Hussain (see entry no. 3.79)

**Organisation:** 5Pillars

**Topic:** Geopolitics

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** London

This event was hosted by UCL Friends of Palestine Society and UCL Islamic Society.

3.100 01/02/2018 – London School of Economics – ‘Da’wah Training Course’

**Speaker/s:** Hamza Tzortzis

**Organisation:** iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

**Topic:** Dawah Training

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** London

This event was hosted by London School of Economics’ Islamic Society for the ‘Discover Islam Week’ campaign.

Hamza Tzortzis is a senior instructor at iERA, with a history of concerning past comments and associations. He lectures at the Al Kauthar Institute, which has hosted a series of extreme preachers including Bilal Philips, Assim Al Hakeem, Yasir Qadhi, Abdurraheem Green and Adnan Rashid. Tzortzis is an author for Islam21C, a prominent supporter of HHUGS and was heavily criticised for making several extremist statements with regard to freedom of speech and the treatment of apostates that he has since retracted. An expose in *The Telegraph* revealed that Tzortzis was a member of Hizb ut-Tahrir, a former researcher at the “hardline” Hittin Institute and a trustee of a charity investigated for terrorism links, from which he resigned after the charity’s head was arrested and charged in Bangladesh following the discovery of “arms caches” at one of their funded schools.

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3.101 01/02/2018 – Brunel University – ‘Call of Duty Dawah Training’

Speaker/s: Murtaza Chaudhary
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Dawah Training
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by the Brunel Islamic Society.

3.102 02/02/2018 – University of Leeds – ‘Islam and Love’

Speaker/s: Suhaib Webb (see entry no. 3.94)
Organisation: Al Buruj Press
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis
Location: On Campus
Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was hosted by Leeds University Union Islamic Society.

3.103 02/02/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Grill a Muslim’

Speaker/s: Asif Uddin (see entry no. 3.14)
Organisation: Sabeel
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was organised by SOAS Islamic Society.

3.104 05/02/2018 – Imperial College London – ‘Building Relationships’

Speaker/s: Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)
Organisation: Sabeel
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by Imperial College Islamic Society and Muslim Medics.

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3.105 05/02/2018 – University of London, Queen Mary – ‘Divine Values: Justice’

Speaker/s: Abu Haneefah Sohail (see entry no. 3.19)

Organisation: N/A

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by Queen Mary Islamic Society.

3.106 05/02/2018 – University of Kent – ‘How the Prophet Made Leaders From Broken People’

Speaker/s: Ammar Al-Shukry

Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: South East

This event was hosted by the Kent University Islamic Society.

Ammar Al-Shukry is an instructor at the Al-Maghrib Institute.

3.107 06/02/2018 – London School of Economics – ‘Can Women Prosper in Islam?’

Speaker/s: Zara Faris (see entry no. 3.91)

Organisation: The Muslim Debate Initiative

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by London School of Economics’ Islamic Society for the ‘Discover Islam’ campaign.


Speaker/s: Subboor Ahmad

Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was hosted by Leeds Beckett Islamic Society.

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3.109 06/02/2018-07/02/2018 – Sheffield Hallam University – ‘Call of Duty Dawah Workshop’

Speaker/s: Murtaza Chaudhary

Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

Topic: Dawah Training

Location: On Campus

Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was hosted by Sheffield Hallam Islamic Society.

3.110 08/02/2018 – University of London, King’s College London – ‘The Migration: Reliving the Great Journey’

Speaker/s: Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)

Organisation: Sabeel

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by King’s College London Islamic Society.

3.111 08/02/2018 – The Oxford Union – ‘Religion Debate: This House Believes We Cannot Thrive Without Religion’

Speaker/s: Yvonne Ridley

Organisation: N/A

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: South East

This event took place in a debate format, with three individuals speaking on both sides of the motion.

Yvonne Ridley is a former Respect Party candidate and Cage patron. She has donated money to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, promoted virulent anti-Semitism and, according to The Guardian, appeared to be “reluctant” to condemn Al Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

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3.112 08/02/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘The Desire For More: Minimalism and Surat Al-Takathur’

Speaker/s: Ammar Al-Shukry

Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: London

3.113 09/02/2018 – London School of Economics – ‘Are Islam and Evolution Compatible?’

Speaker/s: Subboor Ahmad

Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by London School of Economics’ Islamic Society for the ‘Discover Islam’ campaign.

3.114 10/02/2018 – University of Strathclyde – ‘Muslim = Public Enemy Number 1’

Speaker/s: Siraj Wahhaj

Organisation: Islamic Studies Trust

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: Scotland

Siraj Wahhaj is the imam of the Masjid Taqwa in New York. He sat on the national board of the extremism-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and previously served as a minister in the vehemently racist and anti-Semitic organisation the Nation of Islam. Wahhaj was listed as an “unindicted person” and an alleged “co-conspirator” in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and in 1995 served as a character witness for the ‘blind Sheikh’ Omar Abdel

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Rahman who “masterminded” the attack.\textsuperscript{427} Reports detail how Wahhaj spoke in “glowing” terms at his trial, describing Rahman as a “great” leader and a ”bold” and “strong preacher of Islam” for whom he has respect.\textsuperscript{428} Wahhaj has called for jihad in America;\textsuperscript{429} promoted violent sharia punishments,\textsuperscript{430} – including stoning for those that commit adultery;\textsuperscript{431} argued for chopping off the hands of thieves\textsuperscript{432} and killing homosexuals;\textsuperscript{433} and warned Muslims against befriending kafirs.\textsuperscript{434} Furthermore, Wahhaj has elicited financial support for the Benevolence International Foundation,\textsuperscript{435} which was designated by the US Treasury Department in 2002 as a “financier of terrorism.”\textsuperscript{436} In August 2018, Wahhaj’s son [Siraj ibn Wahhaj] was arrested for training children how to commit school shootings in a New Mexico desert compound.\textsuperscript{437}

3.115 12/02/2018 – Imperial College – ‘Islam and I’\textsuperscript{438}

Speaker/s: Muslim Belal (see entry no. 3.16), Uthman Lateef (listed) (see entry no. 3.07)

Organisation: Hittin Institute

Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by Imperial College Islamic Society for the ‘Discover Islam Week’ campaign. This event went ahead although Uthman Lateef did not speak.\textsuperscript{439}

3.116 12/02/2018 – King’s College London – ‘Discover Islam Training’\textsuperscript{440}

Speaker/s: Unspecified

Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

Topic: Dawah Training

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by KCL Islamic Society.

\textsuperscript{427} Imam father of Muslim extremist who was found at New Mexico compound with 11 children was linked to 1993 bombing of World Trade Center and testified for blind sheik who plotted it, Daily Mail, 9 August 2018, available at: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6043759/Imam-father-Muslim-extremist-New-Mexico-compound-ties-1993-attack-World-Trade-Center.html, last visited: 5 January 2019.


\textsuperscript{431} ‘Silicon Valley-Subsidized Hate Speakers: Siraj Wahhaj’, Middle East Forum, 9 March 2017.

\textsuperscript{432} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{433} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{434} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{435} ‘Siraj Wahhaj on Jihad’, Middle East Forum, 30 January 2017.


3.117 13/02/2018 – University of Aberdeen – ‘When the Clock Runs Out: Our Attitude Towards Death’

Speaker/s: Ammar Al-Shukry

Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: Scotland

This event was hosted by Aberdeen University Muslim Students Association and Robert Gordon University Islamic Society.

3.118 13/02/2018 – University of Cardiff – ‘Rights of Women in Islam: Protected or Subjugated?’

Speaker/s: Zara Faris (see entry no. 3.91)

Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: Wales

This event was hosted by Cardiff University Islamic Society.

This event was cancelled.

3.119 14/02/2018 – University of Birmingham – ‘Does Evolution Undermine God?’

Speaker/s: Subboor Ahmad

Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: West Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Birmingham Islamic Society, and an additional panellist joined the speaker in the advertised Q&A session.

3.120 15/02/2018 – King’s College London – ‘Discover Islam Training’

Speaker/s: Unspecified

Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

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EXTREME SPEAKERS AND EVENTS: IN THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

**3.121 15/02/2018 – Glasgow Caledonian University – ‘Before The Clock Runs out: Our Attitude Towards Death’**
**Speaker/s:** Ammar Al-Shukry
**Organisation:** Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)
**Location:** On Campus
This event was hosted by the Caledonian University Muslim Students Association.

**3.122 15/02/2018 – University of Cardiff – ‘God – Delusion or Simple Conclusion?’**
**Speaker/s:** Hamza Tzortzis (see entry no. 3.100)
**Organisation:** iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
**Location:** On Campus
This event was hosted by Cardiff University Islamic Society.

**3.123 15/02/2018 – Canterbury Mosque – ‘Islam and the West: Problems and Solutions’**
**Speaker/s:** Adnan Rashid
**Organisation:** Hittin Institute/iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
**Location:** Off Campus
This event was advertised by Kent University Islamic Society.

Adnan Rashid is a senior researcher and lecturer at the Hittin Institute, alongside Uthman Lateef (see entry no. 3.07). He is also a former senior researcher and lecturer at iERA. Rashid has expressed admiration for Al-Qaeda operative Aafia Siddiqui, compared her to Nelson Mandela.

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450 Evangelising Hate: Islamic Education and Research Academy (iERA), Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain, May 2014, p.5.
and described her as an innocent victim of oppression. In 2013, Rashid wrote on his Facebook page that “any Muslim who rejects Sharia law apostatises from Islam. A Muslim has no choice but to accept Sharia and submit to it”. He has claimed that rape in non-Islamic societies is caused by the mixing of genders, and that “Women in the Muslim world are generally not raped by their husbands because they don’t usually refuse to have intimacy with them”. Rashid is a prominent supporter of HHUGS, has made several derogatory comments towards the Ahmadi community, and in January 2017 accused the BBC of attempting to “escalate Islamophobic attacks on Muslim women” by airing a satirical video that mocked the Islamic State.

**3.124 16/02/2018 – University of Aston – ‘Believe and Do Good’**

**Speaker/s:** Zahir Mahmood (see entry no. 3.91)

**Organisation:** N/A

**Topic:** Religious Apologetics

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** West Midlands

This event was hosted by Aston University Islamic Society.

**3.125 17/02/2018 – Manchester Metropolitan University – ‘Dawah Training’**

**Speaker/s:** Nadeem Ashraf

**Organisation:** iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

**Topic:** Dawah Training

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** North West

This event was hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University Islamic Society.

**3.126 17/02/2018 – University of Leicester – ‘Dawah Training Workshop’**

**Speaker/s:** Unspecified

**Organisation:** iERA (see entry no. 3.63)

**Topic:** Dawah Training

**Location:** On Campus

**Region:** East Midlands

This event was hosted by University of Leicester Islamic Society and FOSIS (see entry no. 3.54).


459 ‘Dawah Workshop – Leicester’, GoogleDocs, available at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIsWdhqO_AxRi5sxJ2AjT4-QdFkMOPhOQxLMIGPZ22sTKEKg/viewform, last visited: 5 January 2019.

Speaker/s: Suleiman Gani

Organisation: Friends of Al-Aqsa (see entry no. 3.146)

Topic: Geopolitics

Location: Off Campus

Region: London

Of this week-long series of workshops, one day was advertised as an ‘invite-only’ discussion dedicated to student activism and networking.

Suleiman Gani is a former Group Co-ordinator at Mend and official supporter of HHUGS. He has opposed homosexuality, described women as subservient to men and spoken disparagingly towards the Ahmadi Muslim community. He spoke at a rally for convicted Al-Qaeda terrorist Aafia Siddiqui, cautioned against “moderate Muslims” at a Hizb ut-Tahrir event in 2010, and leaked photographs are believed to show Gani attending an al-Muhajiroun rally preceding its proscription as a terrorist group.

3.128 19/02/2018 – University of Sheffield – What is Islamophobia?

Speaker/s: Dilly Hussain (see entry no. 3.79)

Organisation: 5Pillars

Topic: Grievances

Location: On Campus

Region: Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was hosted by University of Sheffield Islamic Circle.

3.129 19/02/2018 – University of Sunderland – ‘Masterful Mosaic: How The Prophet Made Leaders From Broken People’

Speaker/s: Ammar Al-Shukry

Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)

Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis

Location: On Campus

Region: North East

This event was hosted by Sunderland Islamic Society.

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463 Ibid.


466 Ibid.


3.130 19/02/2018 – Manchester Metropolitan University – ‘From Darkness to Light: Finding Islam’

Speaker/s: Lauren Booth (see entry no. 3.98)
Organisation: N/A
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: North West

This event was hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University Islamic Society.

3.131 19/02/2018 – University of Essex – ‘Islam, Atheism and Evolution’

Speaker/s: Subboor Ahmad (advertised as “Saboor from iERA”)  
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: South East

This event is hosted by the University of Essex Islamic Society.

3.132 20/02/2018 – Manchester Metropolitan University – ‘Islam, Atheism and Evolution’

Speaker/s: Subboor Ahmad
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: North West

This event was hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University Islamic Society.

3.133 20/02/2018 – University of Birmingham – ‘Productive Muslim’

Speaker/s: Ammar Al-Shukry
Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands

This event was hosted by University of Birmingham Islamic Society.

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3.134 21/02/2018 – University of London, King’s College London – ‘Discover Islam Training’

Speaker/s: Unspecified
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Dawah Training
Location: On Campus
Region: London
This event was hosted by KCL Islamic Society.

3.135 21/02/2018 – University of Bristol – ‘Before the Clock Runs Out: Our Attitude Towards Death’

Speaker/s: Ammar Al-Shukry
Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: South West
This event was hosted by University of Bristol Islamic Society.

3.136 22/02/2018 – University of Essex – ‘Rekindle your Eman’

Speaker/s: Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05), Shabbir Hassan (see entry no. 3.06)
Organisation: Sabeel, Islam Channel
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: South East
This event was hosted by Essex Islamic Society.

3.137 23/02/2018 – Manchester Metropolitan University – ‘Misconceptions about Sharia Law’

Speaker/s: Abdullah al-Andalusi (see entry no. 3.60)
Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative
Topic: Religious Governance
Location: On Campus
Region: North West
This event was hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

3.138 24/02/2018 – University of Nottingham – ‘Dawah Training’\(^{477}\)

**Speaker/s:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** iERA (see entry no. 3.63)  
**Topic:** Dawah Training  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** East Midlands

This event was hosted by University of Nottingham Islamic Society.

3.139 26/02/2018 – University of Leicester – ‘Jesus Son of Mary’\(^{478}\)

**Speaker/s:** Hasib Noor\(^{479}\)  
**Organisation:** Al-Maghrib Institute\(^{480}\) (see entry no. 3.08)  
**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** East Midlands

This event was hosted by University of Leicester Islamic Society and likeMEDIAtv.\(^{481}\) LikeMEDIAtv is a UK-based Islamic events company that organises events for Muslim youth. Speakers on their website bear significant overlap with instructors from the Al-Maghrib Institute, and include extremist preachers such as Siraj Wahhaj (see entry no. 3.114), Abdur-Rahman (see entry no. 3.91) and Abdullah Hakim Quick (see entry no. 3.08).\(^{482}\)

3.140 27/02/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Islamophobia: Causes and Cures’\(^{483}\)

**Speaker/s:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Topic:** Grievances  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** London

This event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society and Mend.

3.141 27/02/2018 – University of Cardiff – ‘David vs Goliath’\(^{484}\)

**Speaker/s:** Hasib Noor  
**Organisation:** Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)

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**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Wales

Hasib Noor is an instructor at the Al-Maghrib Institute.\(^{485}\)

This event was hosted by Cardiff University Islamic Society and likeMEDIA.tv (see entry no. 3.139).

3.142 **27/02/2018 – University of Bradford – ‘My Journey to Islam’**\(^{486}\)
**Speaker/s:** Lauren Booth (see entry no. 3.98)  
**Organisation:** N/A  
**Topic:** Personal Stories and Wellbeing  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was hosted by University of Bradford Islamic Society.

3.143 **28/02/2018 – University of Aston – ‘Adam and Eve’**\(^{487}\)
**Speaker/s:** Hasib Noor  
**Organisation:** Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)  
**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** West Midlands

This event was hosted by Aston Islamic Society and likeMEDIA.tv (see entry no. 3.139).

3.144 **28/02/2018 – University of Bradford – ‘A Mercy to Mankind’**\(^{488}\)
**Speaker/s:** Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)  
**Organisation:** Sabeel  
**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** Yorkshire and Humberside

This event was hosted by University of Bradford Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

3.145 **01/03/2018 – University of Keele – ‘Moses and the Red Sea – Islamic Version’**\(^{489}\)
**Speaker/s:** Hasib Noor  
**Organisation:** Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)

\(^{485}\) ‘Hasib Noor’, Al Maghrib.  
This event was hosted by Keele University Islamic Society and iLikeMEDIA.tv (see entry no. 3.139).

3.146 01/03/2018 – London School of Economics – ‘Why is Israel an Apartheid State?’

**Speaker/s:** Ismail Patel, Ghada Karmi

**Organisation:** Friends of Al-Aqsa

**Topic:** Geopolitics

**Location:** On Campus

This event was hosted by London School of Economics’ Student Union Palestine Society and two other speakers joined the above panellists.

Ismail Patel is the founder and chairman of Friends of Al-Aqsa. He has expressed support for proscribed terror group Hamas, and previously served as a spokesman for the British Muslim Initiative (BMI), an organisation that was co-founded with a Hamas “senior commander” and a Hamas “special envoy” to Britain, Azzam Tamimi (see entry no. 3.31). Moreover, Friends of al-Aqsa’s bank account was closed by the Co-operative to ensure that funds “do not inadvertently fund illegal or other proscribed activities”.

Ghada Karmi is a Palestinian academic and activist who has defended comparing Israel to the Nazis and was quoted as having said that “The Jews were not wanted in Europe. They were an unpopular, unloved people, who were off-loaded into the [Middle East].”

3.147 01/03/2018 – University of Bournemouth – ‘Heaven and The Afterlife: An Islamic Perspective’

**Speaker/s:** Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05)

**Organisation:** Sabeel

**Topic:** Religious Apologetics

**Location:** On Campus

This event was hosted by Bournemouth University Islamic Society.

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493 Ibid.


3.148 02/03/2018 – University of Nottingham – ‘Can Society Define Morality?’

Speaker/s: Hamza Tzortzis (see entry no. 3.100)
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: East Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Nottingham Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

3.149 02/03/2018 – University of Kent – ‘How Has Colonisation Affected the Muslim World’

Speaker/s: Abdullah al-Andalusi
Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative
Topic: Geopolitics
Location: On Campus
Region: South East

This event was hosted by Kent University Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

This event was postponed due to the weather.

3.150 02/03/2018 – University of Aston – ‘Jumu’ah (Friday Prayers)’

Speaker/s: Yahya Ibrahim (see entry no. 3.87)
Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Aston Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

3.151 02/03/2018 – University of Birmingham – ‘Jumu’ah’

Speaker/s: Hasib Noor
Organisation: Al-Maghrib Institute (see entry no. 3.08)
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Birmingham Islamic Society.

EXTREME SPEAKERS AND EVENTS: IN THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

3.152 03/03/2018 – Hamilton House, London – ‘Students Against Racism Conference’

Speaker/s: Aman Ali (see entry no. 3.50), Isobel Kingscott/Ingham-Barrow

Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)

Topic: Grievances

Location: Off Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by Stand Up To Racism and Mend, and featured several workshops and campaign groups. Isobel Kingscott/Ingham-Barrow is Head of Policy and Research at Mend.

3.153 05/03/2018 – University of Nottingham – ‘Feeding the Soul in the Age of Materialism’

Speaker/s: Uthman Lateef (see entry no. 3.07)

Organisation: Hittin Institute

Topic: Religious Apologetics

Location: On Campus

Region: East Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Nottingham Islamic Society, with two campaign groups and Nottingham Islam Information Point.

Nottingham Islam Information Point (NIIP) is a da’awah organisation that has a history of promoting extremist speakers and partnering with extremist organisations. The centre has worked closely with iERA, the Al-Maghrib Institute and has distributed literature from the Islamic Dawah Centre International (IDCI). NIIP has held Interpal events, campaigned for the release of Shaker Aamer and is a “proud” sponsor of HHUGS.


503 ‘Meet the Team’, Mend.


further alarm, the centre has hosted fundraisers for the aforementioned terror-linked charities Aid4Syria and Al Fatiha Global. This is in addition to NIIP’s official causes, which include extremist-linked charities Islamic Relief, Ethar Relief and the Ummah Welfare Trust. The centre’s guest speakers include, but are not limited to: Suleiman Gani, Abu Usamah At-Thahabi, Majdi Aquil, Ibrahim Hewitt, Imran Ibn Mansur (“Dawah Man”), Zahir Mahmood, Abdurraheem Green, Yvonne Ridley and Yusha Evans. Those promoted include Uthman Lateef, Haitham al-Haddad, Khalid Fikery, Yusuf Este, Moazzam Begg, Said Rageah and Yusuf Chambers.
In response to criticism of a Hizb ut-Tahrir video permitting the use of a stick for men to beat their wives, NIIP tweeted “If we had a choice to either hit our womenfolk with a toothstick or to kill and sacrifice them upon the altar as mentioned in the story of Jephthah (Judges 11:29); I certainly know what I would choose!” Of additional concern, the chairman of NIIP has been ‘tagged’ in two posts from the official Zakir Naik Facebook page.

3.154 06/03/2018 – University of Portsmouth – ‘Jesus Exhibition’

**Speaker/s:** Unspecified  
**Organisation:** iERA (see entry no. 3.63)  
**Topic:** Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** South East

This event was hosted by the University of Portsmouth Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.  

3.155 06/03/2018 – University of Portsmouth – ‘Why do I wear the hijab?’

**Speaker/s:** Sahar al-Faifi (see entry no. 3.37)  
**Organisation:** Mend (see entry no. 3.03)  
**Topic:** Personal Stories and Wellbeing  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** South East

This event was hosted by the University of Portsmouth Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.  

3.156 06/03/2018 – University of Sussex – ‘Did Islam Liberate Women?’

**Speaker/s:** Zara Faris (see entry no. 3.91)  
**Organisation:** Muslim Debate Initiative  
**Topic:** Religious Apologetics  
**Location:** On Campus  
**Region:** South East

This event was hosted by the University of Sussex Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

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3.157 06/03/2018 – University of Warwick – ‘Dawah Training’

Speaker/s: Murtaza Chaudhary
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Dawah Training
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Warwick Islamic Society.

3.158 07/03/2018 – University of Portsmouth – ‘Did Islam Spread by the Sword?’

Speaker/s: Abdullah al-Andalusi (see entry no. 3.60)
Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: South East

This event was hosted by the University of Portsmouth Islamic Society. The event was cancelled due to “unforeseen circumstances” and was scheduled to be rearranged.

3.159 08/03/2018 – University of Sussex – ‘Can Sharia Solve Modern Problems?’

Speaker/s: Abdullah al-Andalusi (see entry no. 3.60)
Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative
Topic: Religious Governance
Location: On Campus
Region: South East

This event was hosted by the University of Sussex Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

3.160 09/03/2018 – University of Bristol – ‘Why Choose Islam?’

Speaker/s: Hamza Tzortzis (see entry no. 3.100)
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: South West

This event was hosted by Bristol University Islamic Society.

Speaker/s: Hamza Tzortzis (see entry no. 3.100)
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands

This event was hosted by the University of Birmingham Islamic Medical Society.

3.162 12/03/2018 – University of Kent – ‘Islam: Friend or Foe’

Speaker/s: Abdullah al-Andalusi (see entry no. 3.60)
Organisation: Muslim Debate Initiative
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: South East

This event was hosted by Kent University Islamic Society for ‘Discover Islam Week’.

3.163 12/03/2018 – Brunel University – ‘Journey of an Israeli in Palestine’

Speaker/s: Miko Peled (see entry no. 3.02)
Organisation: N/A
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was hosted by Brunel Friends of Palestine and promoted by the Brunel Students’ Union.

3.164 13/03/2018 – University of Sunderland – ‘The Best of Both Worlds’

Speaker/s: Abdur-Raheem McCarthy
Organisation: Islamic Diversity Centre
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: North East

Abdur-Raheem McCarthy is a speaker at the Islamic Diversity Centre, and a presenter on Zakir Naik’s Peace TV network. He has said that greeting a person on a non-Muslim holiday

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is “as great a sin as congratulating someone for drinking wine, or murdering someone, or having illicit sexual relations”. He has also described same-sex marriage as “America take[ing] another step in destroying itself” and been filmed stating that it is “haram” for a Muslim to take part in Valentine’s Day, “[especially] doing anything that helps non-Muslims”.

In December 2018, McCarthy posted photographs on his social media page showing him spending time with Zakir Naik and Bilal Philips in Malaysia. Both Naik and Philips are banned from entering the UK (see entry 3.64).

3.165 15/03/2018 – University of Manchester – ‘Who were the Ottomans?’
Speaker/s: Dilly Hussain (see entry no. 3.79)
Organisation: 5Pillars
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis
Location: On Campus
Region: North West
This event was hosted by the University of Manchester Islamic Society.

3.166 15/03/2018 – Brunel University – ‘History of Islam in Britain’
Speaker/s: Adnan Rashid (see entry no. 3.123) Musa Adnan (see entry no. 3.06), Ali Dawah
Organisation: iERA (see entry no. 3.63)
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: London
This event was hosted by the University of Brunel Islamic Society.

Ali Dawah has promoted extremist preacher Haitham al-Haddad on his social media channel, and defended him against critique. In November 2018, Dawah referred to liberal Muslim Majid Nawaz using the derogatory term ‘munafiq’ [hypocrite].

3.167 19/03/2018 – University of Coventry – ‘Mental Health: An Islamic Perspective’
Speaker/s: Uthman Lateef (see entry no. 3.07)


Archived footage.

@shmccarthy, Twitter, 9 December 2018, available at: https://twitter.com/shmccarthy/status/1071938229882912768, last visited: 10 January 2019

@shmccarthy, Twitter, 9 December 2018, available at: https://twitter.com/shmccarthy/status/1071938229882912768, last visited: 10 January 2019

‘Who were the Ottomans?’, Facebook, available at: https://www.facebook.com/events/307342159789931/, last visited: 5 January 2019.


Organisation: As-Suffa Institute
Topic: Personal Stories and Wellbeing
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands
This event was hosted by the University of Coventry Islamic Society.

3.168 19/03/2018 – University of Roehampton – ‘The Fitnah of our Time’
Speaker/s: Yahya Al-Raaby (see entry no. 3.30)
Organisation: N/A
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: London
This event was hosted by the University of Roehampton Islamic Society.

3.169 21/03/2018 – University of Exeter – ‘Islamophobia: Roots, Consequences and Solutions’
Speaker/s: Aman Ali (see entry no. 3.50), Sahar al-Faifi (see entry no. 3.37)
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: South West
This event was hosted by the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter.

3.170 03/04/2018 – University of London, City – ‘The Significance of Masjid Al Aqsa’
Speaker/s: Ismail Patel (see entry no. 3.146)
Organisation: Friends of Al-Aqsa
Topic: Geopolitics
Location: On Campus
Region: London
This event was hosted by City Islamic Society.

3.171 06/04/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Succeeding in Ramadhan & Exams’
Speaker/s: Yusuf Chambers, Shabbir Hassan (see entry no. 3.06)
Organisation: Islam Channel

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This event was hosted by SOAS Islamic Society, and several other speakers joined the above panelist.

The event raised funds for Human Relief Foundation (see entry no. 3.40)

Yusuf Chambers is a founding member of iERA and presenter on Zakir Naik’s Peace TV network. In an interview with Naik, he accepted the cleric’s claim that the punishment for homosexuality is death, and further endorsed Naik’s comment that adulterers should be stoned, responding “May Allah allow us to bring back that punishment to protect all humanity”. In 2012, Chambers faced significant protests when he was invited to speak at York University, and he refused to answer any questions regarding his previous comments on homosexuals. In May 2013, he appeared alongside Haitham al-Haddad and Said Rageah when preacher Fahad Qureshi presented strict Sharia punishments, such as stoning for adultery, as normative Islam.


Speaker/s: Muhammad Taqi Usmani

Organisation: N/A

Topic: Religious Governance

Location: On Campus

Region: London

This event was hosted by the SOAS Islamic Finance and Ethics Society, SOAS Islamic Society and Turath Publishing. Two other speakers were promoted, including Abdur-Rahman (see entry no. 3.91).

Turath Publishing has promoted several extremist-linked preachers including Zahir Mahmood (see entry no. 3.91), Suleiman Gani (see entry no. 3.127) and Hamza Tzortzis (see entry no. 3.100). The organisation has hosted events at SOAS in the past, and in 2014 it sponsored “Freshers packs” for the Muslim Students Association.
Usamani has warned against interfaith marriage, stating that the “Qur’an has never allowed the Muslim girls to marry a non-muslim boy [sic]” and “it is not allowed in Shariah to marry an atheistic woman [sic]”. He has stated that “Christmas is pure Christian celebration... A Muslim shouldn’t participate by saying Marry Christmas [sic]”. In a translated essay, Usmani stated that “Islam allowed the taking of slaves with the condition that it is in a jihad sanctioned by the Shari’ah against the disbelievers [sic]”. He also stated that “the default rule for the woman is that she is hidden in her house, her person is concealed from foreign men and she does not leave her house except for a need [unto which she must be fully covered] [sic]”.

3.173 18/04/2018 – University of Bristol – ‘Does Islam oppress Women’
Speaker/s: Sahar al-Faifi (see entry no. 3.37), Amanda Morris
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03), Muslim Council of Wales
Topic: Religious Apologetics
Location: On Campus
Region: South West
This event was hosted by Bristol University Islamic Society.

The event was cancelled for reasons unknown.

According to her LinkedIn page, Amanda Morris previously worked as Mend’s Cardiff Lead for Social Media, and was then the organisation’s National Women’s Engagement Lead until January 2017. She currently works at the Muslim Council of Britain’s Welsh affiliate. Morris has shown considerable support for Cage, and in 2015 she wrote a piece in defence of extremist cleric Abu Easa Niamatullah, after a Muslim women criticised his misogynistic views.

3.174 19/04/2018 – University of East London (UEL) – ‘Steps to Jannah’
Speaker/s: Asim Khan (see entry no. 3.05), Yahya al-Raaby (see entry no. 3.30)
Organisation: Human Relief Foundation (see entry no. 3.40)
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: London
This event was hosted by UEL Islamic Society and promoted by UEL Students’ Union.
3.175 05/05/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘The Causes and Cures of Islamophobia’

Speaker/s: Unspecified
Organisation: Mend (see entry no. 3.03)
Topic: Grievances
Location: On Campus
Region: London

This event was organised by Mend.

3.176 06/05/2018 – University of Warwick – ‘#Motivational Muslim’

Speaker/s: Shabbir Hassan (see entry no. 3.06)
Organisation: Islam Channel
Topic: Miscellaneous
Location: On Campus
Region: West Midlands

A clip of Hassan’s talk was uploaded online, in which Hassan promotes Yasir Qadhi’s work on dua [supplication] and praises the “inspirational” cleric Mufti Menk. Qadhi has made derogatory comments towards Shia Muslims and, according to an expose in The Times, told students that killing homosexuals and stoning adulterers was part of their religion, that amputations for thieves and other hudud punishments will “benefit [an] entire nation” and that jihad is an obligation for Muslims within certain conditions. Menk has been banned from six university campuses for his views on homosexuality, having stated that homosexuals are worse than animals, and that same-sex acts are “filthy”, “wrong” and immoral.

3.177 16/05/2018 – University of London, SOAS – ‘Omar Barghouti: Settler Colonialism in Palestine’

Speaker/s: Omar Barghouti
Organisation: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign
Topic: Geopolitics
Location: On Campus
Region: London


This event was hosted by SOAS Palestine Society, SOAS Students’ Union and Palestine Solidarity Campaign UK. The event was chaired by Oxford academic Karma Nabulsi.

Omar Barghouti co-founded the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. The campaign has been described by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as having anti-Semitic goals and employing anti-Semitic rhetoric, and the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) has raised alarm that the campaign has fuelled hatred towards UK Jewish students on campus. Barghouti has stated that “Zionism is intent on killing itself. I, for one, support euthanasia” and said that “[Palestinans have a right to] resistance by any means, including armed resistance”.

3.178 22/05/2018 - University of Northumbria – ‘Spend a Day with the Prophet’

Speaker/s: Hasan Ali
Organisation: N/A
Topic: Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis
Location: On Campus
Region: North East

This event was hosted by Northumbria University Islamic Society.

Hasan Ali founded the Safar Academy, where he has hosted cleric Mufti Menk (see entry no. 3.176). Ali is a speaker for Muslim Aid, a charity banned in Israel that has admitted funding organisations “closely linked” to terror groups Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. In 2016, Ali spoke alongside Zahir Mahmood (see entry no. 3.91) and at the 2013 event entitled ‘Cries of the Ummah’, Ali spoke alongside Menk and other preachers linked to extremism including Shakeel Begg and Suleiman Gani (see entry no. 3.127).

No events were logged between 23 May and 31 June 2018 due to the exam period.

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4. Data Analysis and Trends: Three Year Academic Study

Between September 2017 and June 2018, 204 events were promoted to university students that had a link to extremism (4 were known to be cancelled). The majority of events were linked to Islamist or Salafi extremist networks in the UK, and a small number of activists dominated the scene with recurrent events or courses.

Analysing the collective data from the previous three academic years reveals that other forms of intolerance remain a concern. In 2016/17 Tommy Robinson, described by CNN as the “figurehead of the far-right in Britain” and who has previously threatened that “the Islamic community will feel the full force of the English Defence League if we see any of our British citizens killed, maimed, or hurt on British soil ever again”, was invited to speak on two separate university platforms. The previous academic year, John Deighan from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) addressed students in St Andrews despite having a record of perpetuating homophobic tropes, comparing same-sex marriage to incest, and likening LGBT History Month material to pornography and racist propaganda. However, the small number of recorded events associated with the far-right and other forms of extremism suggest that such individuals and groups find it difficult to hold events on campus. As can be seen with the eventual cancellation of events with Robinson, it is also evident that significant pressure is exerted on student societies that invite them.

It would thus be negligent to overlook other forms of extremism in the higher education sector due to the dominance of Islamist and Salafist groups in this study. Moreover, whilst this report catalogues external speaker events, other manifestations of extremist influence on campus remain a concern. Indeed, far-right networks are increasingly targeting students through social media campaigns and posters, indicating a manner through which to avoid institutional scrutiny associated with speaker events.

What follows is an analysis of extremist-linked speakers on university campuses over three academic years: 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18. Where events are known to have been cancelled, they have been excluded from the data analysis.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th># of events 2015/16</th>
<th>% of total 2015/16</th>
<th># of events 2016/17</th>
<th>% of total 2016/17</th>
<th># of events 2017/18</th>
<th>% of total 2017/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SOAS</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kings College London</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>University of Birmingham</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Queen Mary University</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kingston University</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Brunel University</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Manchester Metropolitan University</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Kent</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>University of Essex</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>LSE</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>University of Sussex</td>
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<td>2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>University of Portsmouth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>University of Leicester</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>University of Bradford</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>University of Sheffield</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Manchester</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Aston University</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Middlesex University</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Swansea University</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>University of the West of England</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Imperial College</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>University of Exeter</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Leeds Beckett University</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Institutions are ordered by total number of events. Where a number of institutions hosted the same total number of events, these institutions are then ordered by number of events in the 2017/18 academic year. Where a number of institutions hosted the same total number of events and same number of events in the 2017/18 academic year, these institutions are then ordered by number of events in the 2016/17 academic year. Where a number of institutions hosted the same total number of events and same number of events in the 2017/18 and 2016/17 academic years, these institutions are then ordered by number of events in the 2015/16 academic year if a number of institutions are still tied at this point, they have been ordered alphabetically.
It is evident from Table 1 that the higher education institution at which extremist-linked events are most regularly promoted is SOAS. Indeed, for the past three academic years SOAS has repeatedly, and with marked distinction, accounted for the majority of extremist-linked events – 13 events in 2015/16 (10% of events that year), 14 in 2016/17 (13% of events that year), and 43 in 2017/18 (21% of events that year) – and can thus be viewed as the UK institution most vulnerable to exploitation from extreme and intolerant speakers. Of the 435 events recorded since 2015/16, SOAS has accounted for over 16% the total (70 events).

The majority of events were scheduled to take place at campuses in London, with 6 of the top 10 positions being occupied by institutions situated in the capital. Nevertheless, the University of Birmingham is becoming increasingly active. From hosting 3 events in 2015/16 and 2 events in 2016/17, the University of Birmingham hosted 10 events in the most recent academic year; accounting for 5% of the total number of recorded events in 2017/18.

Another institution of increasing concern is the University of Bristol, which was scheduled to host 3 events in 2015/16 and 2 events in 2016/17, yet 5 events in 2017/18. Manchester Metropolitan University is also of note, as the institution promoted 3 events in 2015/16, falling to 1 event the following year, yet rising to 5 events in 2017/18.

More positively, Kingston University, which was scheduled to host 5 events in 2015/16 and 6 events in 2016/17, only appeared to host 2 events in the most recent academic year (2017/18).

4.2: Events by Speaker

In 2017/18, the most active speaker was Asif Uddin (29 events) from Sabeel, a project of Haitham al-Haddad’s MRDF, due to the weekly course he ran at SOAS (see entry no. 3.14). The second most frequent categorisation was that of ‘Unspecified’ speakers, who accounted for 27 events, followed by Asim Khan (12 events) and representatives from Mend (9 events). In fifth position was Abdullah al-Andalusi from MDI who held 6 events, and sixth position was held by Hamza Tzortzis who accounted for 5 events in 2017/18.

Table 2: 2017-18 Events by Speaker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
<th>Total # of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Asif Uddin</td>
<td>9 6%</td>
<td>11 9%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hamza Tzortzis</td>
<td>18 12%</td>
<td>13 11%</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>5 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Abdullah Al-Andalusi</td>
<td>11 8%</td>
<td>14 12%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Asim Khan</td>
<td>9 6%</td>
<td>6 5%</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>12 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>0 0%</td>
<td>0 0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MEND Speakers</td>
<td>8 5%</td>
<td>6 5%</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>9 4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graph 1 shows that Sabeel’s Asif Uddin has been an increasingly active speaker on university campuses since 2015/16. Uddin was scheduled to speak on 9 occasions in 2015/16 (6% of all events that year), 11 the following year (9% of all events that year) and mostly recently spoke on 29 occasions (13% of all events that year).

Of particular concern is the fact that the number of ‘unspecified’ speakers has dramatically increased, from none in the first two academic years to 27 in 2017/18 (accounting for 12% of all events that year). This indicates that extremist-linked events are increasingly being promoted without an identified speaker. As discussed in Section 5, this may reveal a method by which extremist-speakers evade institutional oversight. A similar method is visible in the number of occasions ‘MEND Speakers’ are advertised to appear on campus; a total of 23 occasions since 2015/16. Whilst senior figures within the organisation have a history of extremist views, this may not be the case for all employees. Failing to identify which representative from Mend is appearing at an event avoids effective internal institutional due diligence, as well as external public or media critique.

In spite of the Prime Minister’s Extremism Taskforce characterising Uthman Lateef in 2015 as one of six speakers “expressing views contrary to British values” (see entry no. 3.07), Lateef has more than tripled his campus presence in the last three academic years. Scheduled to appear on 2 occasions in 2015/16, this rose to 4 the following year and 7 in 2017/18.
4.3: Events by Organisation

**Table 3: 2017-18 Events by Organisation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th># of events</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEND</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabeel</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iERA</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Maghrib Institute</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAGE</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hittin Institute</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Muslim Debate Initiative</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen in Table 3, the most prolific organisations whose representatives were advertised to speak on campus in the 2017-18 academic year were Mend (23%), Sabeel (21%), and iERA (15%).

Overall, it can be seen from Table 4 (below) that the top 6 extremist-linked organisations represented on campus in the last three academic years are as follows: iERA (96 events), Mend (73 events), Sabeel (46 events), Cage (35 events), MRDF (26 events) and the Al-Maghrib Institute (17 events). Mend's presence on campus increased to 44 events in 2017/18 from the previous year (13 events), whilst iERA's presence fell from 33 events in 2016/17 to 29 events in the most recent academic year. Furthermore, whilst it appeared MRDF was gradually decreasing in prominence – scheduled to appear on 13 occasions in 2015/16, 11 in 2016/17 and 2 in 2017/18 – the impact of its affiliate organisation Sabeel grew. Sabeel was not recorded as having hosted a single event in 2015/16, however in 2016/17 it was scheduled to appear on 6 occasions, with the most recent academic year promoting 40 events.

Both Mend and Cage are closely connected, a connection exposed most recently when Mend founder Sufyan Ismail revealed that he had funded the pro-terrorist group, and that the two organisations share the same objective – the abolishment of “unnecessary” UK counter-terror legislation. Indeed, iERA and the Al-Maghrib Institute also bear ideological similarity, and preachers have endorsed each other’s work. Of particular concern, three of the top 6 organisations are closely associated with the high-profile extremist cleric Haitham al-Haddad, a former trustee of iERA, who founded Sabeel and MRDF. This serves to illustrate the ease with which students can be exposed to, and influenced by, the extremist cleric and his virulent views.

---


Table 4: Events by Organisation – Comparison of 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 Academic Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
<th>Total # of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td>Difference in # of events from previous years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>iERA</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MEND</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sabeel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CAGE</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MRDF</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Al-Maghrib Institute</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 Events by Topic

The most common topic of all extremist-linked events during 2017/18 was ‘Grievances’ (53 events) (see Table 5). This was closely followed by ‘Religious Jurisprudence’ (53), and ‘Religious Apologetics’ (31), the latter of which was the most common topic of the previous year (28), accounting for 27% of all recorded events. The focus on grievance may be a consequence of the considerable presence of groups such as Mend and Cage on campus, which have been criticised by the counter-extremism Quilliam Foundation for being “divisive”, “sowing distrust” and exacerbating genuine fears within the Muslim community. Similarly, former National Lead for Counter Terrorism Policing Mark Rowley criticised these Islamist groups for “fostering grievances and isolation” and former Prime Minister Tony Blair accused both Mend and Cage of sowing divisions between Muslim communities and the government by portraying the British state as a “hostile” force. The high percentage of events devoted to ‘Religious Jurisprudence’ (26%), which overtook the previous year’s most common category ‘Religious Apologetics’, was likely due to the number of events run by Sabeel’s Asif Uddin at SOAS.

Table 5: 2017-18 Events by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grievances</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Apologetics</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Stories &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawah Training</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geopolitics</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Governance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Analysing the data from the previous three academic years (see Graph 2), it is evident that ‘Grievances’ was consistently a prevalent topic for extremist-linked speakers. In 2015/16, 26% of events were categorised as such, decreasing slightly in 2016/17 to 19% before rising to 26% of events in the most recent academic year (see Table 6). Speaker events that exploit ‘Grievances’ – addressing topics such as perceived anti-Muslim hatred and/or Prevent and other government counter-extremism measures – clearly resonate with students, and provide the most effective platform for extremist-linked speakers to address audiences. Nevertheless, ‘Religious Apologetics’ and ‘Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis’ remain common, with the former category accounting for 21% of recorded events in the last three academic years, and the latter category 22%.
4.5: Events by Region

Universities in London promoted the most extremist-linked events on campus, accounting for 95 events or 47% of the total number of events in 2017/18. Following London (95, 47%), events in the West Midlands (23, 11%), South East (15, 7%), and Yorkshire and Humberside (15, 7%) shortly followed. As suggested in Student Rights’ previous report, the high frequency of London-based events may be a consequence of the many extreme organisations that have their headquarters there, as well as the concentration of higher education institutions based in the region.612

Table 6: Events by Topic – Comparison of 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 Academic Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th></th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th></th>
<th>2017/18</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total # of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawah Training</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geopolitics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grievances</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Stories &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Apologetics</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Governance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Jurisprudence/History/Exegesis</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5: Events by Region

Universities in London promoted the most extremist-linked events on campus, accounting for 95 events or 47% of the total number of events in 2017/18. Following London (95, 47%), events in the West Midlands (23, 11%), South East (15, 7%), and Yorkshire and Humberside (15, 7%) shortly followed. As suggested in Student Rights’ previous report, the high frequency of London-based events may be a consequence of the many extreme organisations that have their headquarters there, as well as the concentration of higher education institutions based in the region.612

Table 7: Events by Region: 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 Academic Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total # of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and Humberside</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East of England</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

612 ‘Extreme Speakers and Events: In the 2016-17 Academic Year’, Student Rights, September 2017, p.49.
The past three academic years attest to the notion that London remains the largest regional host for extremist-linked speakers (see Graph 3). In total, London has accounted for 44% of recorded data over that time period. Nevertheless, the South East (10%), West Midlands (9%), and Yorkshire (9%), remain active regions for speakers, whilst the North East (2%) and East of England (2%) have hosted consistently few events since 2015/16 (see Graph 3).

4.6: Events by Month
In 2017/18 campus events were most commonly held between November and March (see Graph 4). Events were most often held in November (55, 30%), followed by February (50, 25%), March (29, 14%) and January (17, 8%).
Graph 4: Events by Month – Comparison of 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 Academic Years

Analyzing the extremist-linked events per month for the previous three academic years, it is clear that February is the month when the highest number of events are scheduled to occur. Following February, where a total of 121 events have been recorded since 2015/16 (28%), 104 events have been scheduled in November (24%) and 83 events in March (20%) (see Table 8). These heightened seasons for events coincide with high-profile campaigns on campus such as the anti-Prevent ‘Students not Suspects’ or Islamist-led ‘Islamophobia Awareness Month’ campaigns.

Table 8: Events by Month – Comparison of 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 Academic Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
<th>Total # of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>% of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Policy Recommendations

As part of the 2015 Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, all 'relevant higher education bodies' (RHEBs) 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”.

In July 2018, the Office for Students (OFS), which monitors the implementation of Prevent at RHEBs, published statistics showing that 97% (304) of providers demonstrated due regard to the statutory duty in the 2016-17 academic year. The same year, 271 events and speakers were escalated to the highest level of approval, in accordance with risk assessment procedure, with a focus on London and the South East (64 each). This correlates with data from Student Rights’ previous report, ‘Extreme Speakers and Events in the 2016-17 Academic Year’, which demonstrates that the highest proportion of extremist-related events took place in those two regions.

Nevertheless, the large number of events recorded as being advertised to students – 204 in total (of which 4 were cancelled), representing an increase of 82% from the previous academic year’s figure of 112 (of which 5 were cancelled) – indicates that, despite legal compliance with the Prevent duty, extremism on university campuses remains a very serious concern. Outlined below are five specific policy changes that the higher education sector can adopt in order to increase its resilience to the exploitation of extremist groups within its institutions.

**Issue: Universities’ risk mitigation procedures do not appear to ensure external speakers with a history of extreme or intolerant views are sufficiently challenged on campus.**

**Recommendation: Dedicated Prevent and Safeguarding leads at universities should consistently review their procedure for determining external speaker risk, improve their communication with regional co-ordinators, and develop a detailed case report for all escalated events.**

According to the OFS’ statistics of July 2018, 97% (304) of RHEBs are in full compliance with the Prevent statutory duty, which includes the approval of external speaker policies that can assess and mitigate high-risk events. Nevertheless, the circumstances in which risk mitigation is triggered, the steps taken (or decisions leading to inaction) are ambiguous and evidently require review.

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616 Ibid.
Each institution’s dedicated working group or safeguarding team must issue a case report regarding all escalated events that is shared with regional Prevent teams, other RHEBs and - where appropriate - third parties via FOI request. The report should include why the event was flagged, and potential risk-mitigating procedures to ensure the challenge of extremist views. This may be informal discussions with the host/affected group; the introduction of an independent moderator; the presence of a Prevent-trained university official; or compulsory recording of the event. The case report would become a useful resource for other RHEBs regarding similar issues at their institutions, and establish policy precedents that may prove a useful frame of reference for comparable events at a later date.

As a matter of principal and policy, institutes of higher education should seek to promote balanced, critical and open discussions on campus. There is little evidence to suggest that events featuring extremist speakers are subject to sufficient scrutiny, challenge or contest from either oppositional panellists or audience members. The majority of events in this study take place in lecture-form, and where the speaker in question is accompanied on the platform, it is often by those who share a similar worldview.

The Extremism Risk Guidance 22+, a risk-assessment tool developed by the government’s probationary service (HMPPS) in order to further understanding of the psycho-social vulnerabilities to extremism,\(^\text{620}\) highlights that individuals who adopt an extremist worldview can be categorised with regard to ‘cognitive integrative complexity’, in that they cannot “integrate multiple perspectives” and instead develop simplistic, reductionist, ‘Us and Them’ thinking.\(^\text{621}\) It is crucial that all students are exposed to a plethora of opinions, forced to discriminate between perspectives whilst developing their cognitive and analytical skills in order to increase their resilience to extremist doctrine. Speakers with a history of intolerant or extreme views must appear on balanced platforms and be subject to critique. It is clear that such action is the most effective means of risk mitigation with regard to extremism on campus.

**Issue: Student societies advertise events without an identified speaker, preventing effective due diligence on behalf of the university and the student community to whom the event is targeted.**

**Recommendation: Student societies should be prohibited from publicly promoting an event without identifying the external speaker.**

In spite of the mandatory speaker policies to which all student groups must adhere, societies continue to promote events without listing the name of the external speaker. Advertisements frequently list a ‘guest speaker’ from a particular organisation, which can be exploited by extremist groups to evade thorough institutional due diligence, in addition to external oversight and scrutiny by third parties such as counter-extremism civil society groups. Of equal concern, such an omission prevents students from knowing in advance of an event to whose views they are being exposed.

Universities’ safeguarding teams/working groups should develop mechanisms in which student groups that repeatedly flout external speaker policies are sanctioned. Committees of such student groups should be subject to specialised training through which the risks associated with external speakers are elucidated and discussed.

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EXTREME SPEAKERS AND EVENTS: IN THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

Issue: Extremist groups utilise campus platforms for multiple purposes which are not reflected in university risk assessment criteria.

Recommendation: Risk assessment criteria must extend beyond risk of extremist content in order to contain contextual factors. Examples include exposure and socialisation with extremist speakers; dissemination of extremist literature; off-campus event advertisement; and the promotion of extremist partners.

University risk assessment criteria must adapt to the evolving strategies of extremist groups that extend beyond the potential for extremist views to be aired at an event. Campus platforms are increasingly used by extremist groups to socialise students with extremist speakers, promote their brand and fundraise for support, and disseminate organisational literature which may (or may not) contain explicit extremist content.

Speakers may be brand ambassadors or official supporters of extremist-linked charities, or have concerning connections which may not appear on event advertising. One notable example in this study was Shabbir “the poet” Hassan, who has appeared on platforms with a considerable number of extremist preachers off-campus and is a presenter for the Islam Channel. Whilst there is no evidence to suggest that he holds extreme views, during his talk (subsequently posted online) he praised the “inspirational” cleric Mufti Menk – who has been banned from six UK campuses for his views on homosexuality – and promoted Yasir Qadhi – an individual who has been recorded stating that killing homosexuals and stoning adulterers is part of the Islamic faith.622

Relatively unknown group representatives, such as Mend’s regional co-ordinators, pose the risk of introducing students to extremist organisations and directing them toward senior figures who hold more virulent Islamist or anti-Semitic views.

It is clear that speaker’s connections, affiliations and campaigning activities must be taken into account during the risk assessment procedure. Previous Henry Jackson Society research, which identifies student vulnerability to radicalisation, has demonstrated the extent to which ‘socialisation’ plays a prominent role in the radicalisation process.623 This paper also highlights the frequency with which campus speakers had pledged support for convicted terrorists (such as Aafia Siddiqui) or were associated with an extremist organisation that was omitted from the event advertising.

Issue: University safeguarding teams/working groups require in-depth training and extensive resources in order to complete effective due diligence.

Recommendation: Dedicated institutional safeguarding teams/working groups should be given specialised and consistent Working to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training, with a focus on risks pertaining to RHEBs and the local community.

According to the OfS, in the academic year 2016-17 over 67,730 members of staff received some form of Prevent training across the higher education sector.624 While the extent and depth of the training remains unclear; it is imperative that it should include awareness of local risk, with considerable emphasis on student vulnerability to extremist narratives – in addition to broader safeguarding and welfare concerns – using the Channel vulnerability assessment


framework as a reference point. \textsuperscript{625} Practitioners must be made aware of the extremist organisations operating within the local area, and training must include the discussion of multiple relevant case studies.

The data from this report, and previous Student Rights research,\textsuperscript{626} suggests that ‘Grievances’ is an issue most commonly used by extremist-linked organisations to appear on university campuses. The training must provide an understanding of how all forms of political and religious extremism exploit genuine or perceived injustices to broaden their appeal and support base, and examine why such a subject matter finds fertile soil on university premises.

**Issue: Extremist and terror-linked charities sponsor events, promote speakers with a history of extreme views, and utilise campus platforms for marketing and fundraising purposes.**

**Recommendation: Higher Education Prevent/safeguarding leads should work closely with the Charity Commission who can offer up-to-date information as to the risks pertaining to charitable organisations who have previously been associated with extremist speakers or overseas terror groups.**

UK-registered charities that sponsored events include Interpal, a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group (SDGT) in the US, and Human Appeal, whose field offices have been linked to Hamas and Al-Qaeda associates by the US State Department. Several events served as fundraisers for charities with past extremist affiliations such as the Ummah Welfare Trust and Muntada Aid. Preachers representing iERA, despite its three-year investigation by the Charity Commission for extremist-related concerns, held 29 events in the 2017/18 academic year. Two events hosted representatives from MRDF, a charity founded by Haitham al-Haddad, whose views permit child marriage, specific forms of FGM and oppose intervention in cases of domestic violence.\textsuperscript{627}

It is likely that UK-registered charities are evading thorough risk-assessment at higher education institutions due to their charitable status. Despite the retention of their status, charities that have been previously investigated by the Charity Commission do not appear to have wholly distanced themselves from their extremist-associations.\textsuperscript{628} Risk-assessment processes must also be alert to when organisations have been designated as terror groups overseas, even if they have fallen short of meeting the UK government’s threshold for proscription. Student groups should equally be made aware of these concerns, particularly with regard to fundraising or sponsored events in partnership with such charities. It is evident that greater communication is required between Prevent / safeguarding leads in the higher education sector and the Charity Commission. The latter is best equipped to provide universities with up-to-date information regarding charitable groups active on campus. This must include notification should a charity prompt an investigation of extremist-related concerns, and a detailed case report of subsequent findings. Likewise, universities ought to inform the commission should an individual associated with a registered charity promote extremist views at their institution.

\begin{footnotes}
\item[629] For more information, see: ‘Haitham al-Haddad: Adulterous western women are begging to be stoned to death’, The Times, 8 October 2018, available at: https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/haitham-al-haddad-adulterous-western-women-are-begging-to-be-stoned-to-death-0gzh3mko0, last visited: 7 January 2019.
\end{footnotes}
6. Conclusion

This report highlights the urgency with which extremism on campus must be tackled. Speakers that have a history of virulent views and display intolerance to those of a different faith, sexuality, culture and gender are regularly promoted to students. British universities are playing host to those who sympathise with military insurgencies and the overthrow of democracy, charities linked to terror groups overseas, and organisations whose senior figures have expressed a revulsion towards homosexuals, Jews, and minority Muslim sects.

This report records 204 instances in the last academic year (435 since 2015/16) in which students were promoted an event linked to an extremist speaker or organisation, with few appearing to present a balanced, critical and open discussion of views. Universities dedicated to freedom of speech must ensure students feel equipped to contest opinions with which they disagree, and are not intimidated to do so. Students should be aware about the background and associations of individuals, and events should not be promoted if a speaker is unidentified – audience members ought to know in advance to whose views they are being exposed.

Universities must become more adept at responding to the changing nature of the extremist threat. Whilst high-profile preachers and activists may trigger standardised speaker policies, their colleagues and associations evade similar scrutiny. Whilst Haitham al-Haddad has recently emerged as a particularly controversial figure, his project Sabeel had instructors address students on 40 occasions within the last academic year. Individuals who may not be so well-known, but whose views are comparably problematic, also appear capable of hosting campus talks without contest, such as Muhammad Taqi Usmani. Moreover, Alomgir Ali, Uthman Lateef, and Hamza Tzortzis are three of six speakers explicitly identified by the Prime Minister’s Extremism Taskforce in 2015 as expressing views contrary to British values. It is imperative that such individuals elicit an escalated response on universities’ risk mitigation procedures should they be invited to speak.

Higher education safeguarding and Prevent teams must also be aware of the influence of American preachers on British university students. Controversial figures such as Siraj Wahhaj, listed as an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and Hatem Bazian, a co-founder of the Zaytuna College and an individual who has called for an intifada in America, are finding unchallenged platforms at UK institutions. With the development of video technologies, and growing international partnerships between Islamist and Salafist networks, students in the UK are increasingly being exposed to extremist preachers overseas.

Regrettably, there are other forms of intolerance that require closer examination and fall beyond the scope of this project. This includes issues related to intimidation and the silencing of diverse political opinion on campus, in addition to individual cases of racism and bigotry that continue to cause serious harm to the student community and damage social cohesion. Nevertheless, the scale and diversity of the extremist-related threat with regard to speakers and events remains manageable and relatively small. The high number of events is attributed to a few individuals and groups, and with amendments to the due diligence process of assessing external speaker risk, countering extremism on campus remains a feasible and attainable objective.


630 ‘PM’s Extremism Taskforce: tackling extremism in universities and colleges top of the agenda’, gov.uk, 16 September 2015.
About Us

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.

About Student Rights

Student Rights is a non-partisan group dedicated to supporting equality, democracy and freedom from extremism on university campuses. It was set up in June 2009 as a reaction to increasing political extremism and marginalisation of vulnerable students on campus.