

Motion on Preventing Prevent

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This Union Notes:

1. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is also known as the Prevent duty. (1)
2. In March 2015, Parliament approved guidance issued under section 29 of the act about how specified authorities are to comply with the Prevent duty. (1)
3. The National Union of Students (NUS) have historically opposed Prevent, one strand of the government's counter-terrorism strategy 'contest', which concerns itself with preventing the 'radicalization' of individuals towards 'extremism'.
4. Prevent '*has long been criticised as fundamentally racist and Islamophobic, targeting the Muslim community whilst eroding civil liberties for all as part of a clampdown on political dissent and undermining the space for critical discussion in our universities, colleges and schools.*' (2)
5. That '*a number of unions and organisations have called for the repeal and/or overhauling of Prevent including the National Union of Teachers (NUT), Universities and Colleges Union (UCU), Students Not Suspects and a wide range of civil liberties and Muslim organisations.*' (2)
6. At least ten SU boycotts are currently still in place. (3)

This Union Believes:

1. Inclusion and student safety are of paramount importance to all Universities and Students' Unions.
2. That it should play an active part in fighting racism and all forms of discrimination.
3. That no member of our student community should believe that their union willingly engages with a strategy that has been called fundamentally racist.

This Union Resolves:

1. To avoid engagement with the prevent strategy *except* where doing so would be a direct breach of the law and place the organisation *or* those individuals at risk of prosecution.
2. The Students' Union Officers will express opposition to the Prevent policy and concern with its implementation whenever it is raised at university meetings, and act to ensure the university are adhering to minimal compliance with Prevent.

Sources

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
2. [Preventing Prevent @ NUS Connect](#)
3. <https://wonkhe.com/blogs-sus/what-does-policy-exchange-have-to-say-about-sus-and-prevent/>