

SANDWELL PREVENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

Prevent & COVID-19

Welcome to our brand new newsletter! This is our attempt to keep in contact with you all and to send you key messages during this restricted time. We hope you and your families are well while we all fight this pandemic - that we will.

The Prevent team are still working full-time from home, and are available to contact. We also continue in safeguarding individuals who need support through case management.

For those who are wondering 'what is Prevent?' It is the safeguarding element of the Government's Counter-Terrorism strategy called CONTEST.

Sikh Gurdwara attack, Kabul 25/3/20

The Prevent team want to offer our support to anyone affected by the attack on a Sikh Gurdwara in the Afghanistan capital Kabul, 25th March. We do have an Afghanistani Sikh community in Sandwell who may require help. If you are aware of any colleagues, friends or communities who need support please contact us.



Recent news

- The protecting places of worship consultation has been launched by the Home office, A consultation will be carried out with Faith leaders of what can be done to protect faith groups from attacks.
- Hashem Abedi, the brother of the Manchester Arena bomber, has been found guilty of 22 counts of murder by a jury at the Old Bailey.

Facts

- **Terrorism has no religion. There is no single profile of a terrorist.**
- **ISIS have killed more Muslims than Non-Muslims.**
- **Far Right extremism has grown in the UK.**
- **Did you know that two Far right groups are banned in the UK?** They are National Action and the Sonnenkrieg Division. Up to 10 years in prison for membership of any banned group.

The DfE have released interim safeguarding guidance 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers' which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in->

DfE Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687
 Available: Monday – Friday (8am – 6pm)
 Email address: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

ONLINE SAFETY

The online world is a wonderful place and during this restricted time, people are online even more than ever. That's the good people and unfortunately the bad too, so the risk of harm online has naturally increased. The bad are trying to take advantage of this situation and will try to influence through hate speech, conspiracy theories and could try to groom and radicalise others. Those that are vulnerable are more susceptible to this, such as children/young people. Therefore it is paramount that we and our children are staying safe online. We should be checking our children's online activity on a daily basis - who are they speaking to/messaging/playing online games with? What information are they sharing with others/strangers? Do they know how to report an issue and that they can come to you if they experience anything concerning? For more information and advice visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Justin, The Prevent Education Officer, is keeping in contact with schools, and educational establishments with Prevent support and Online Safety guidance and resources. We've been working the PSHE Advisory team in collating advice and linking resources for schools to keep students safe. We've also linked in with DfE guidance and that from trusted organisations in relation to home learning and maintaining safe use of online space. [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) have resources for all elements of Online Safety.

Conspiracy Theories

"A **theory** that rejects the standard explanation for an event and instead credits a covert group or organisation with carrying out a secret plot"

Extremist groups try to use conspiracy theories to advance their ideological cause and link their way of thinking to a theory. They are trying to exploit this difficult time with COVID-19.

According to the state of New Jersey office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, White Supremist groups are advocating a theory of "accelerationism". This promotes the idea that if mass attacks are carried out, or other forms of criminality, this will lead to anarchy and a breakdown of society and will lead to building a "racially pure" white nation.

Isis has encouraged its supporters to take advantage by carrying out attacks on vulnerable and affiliated populations in Europe and the USA. ISIS have claimed that the Covid-19 virus is a soldier of God and that the virus has rightly harmed and affected the populations and economic landscape of Europe and the USA.

In the UK, there are conspiracists that believe the 5G network is to blame for the Covid-19 virus! Unfortunately, there are people who believe this and acted by damaging masts and have assaulted staff who work for 5G companies.

For information, support or guidance on Prevent in Sandwell, you can email:
Prevent_Inbox@sandwell.gov.uk

If you would like to talk to someone about any queries, concerns, or a referral do not hesitate to make contact with anyone from the Prevent Team:

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