

## **Middlesex University**

### **Prevent Duty – Briefing Note for Students**

#### **Key Points of the Prevent Duty**

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 outlines a package of measures aimed at countering the risk of terrorism and radicalisation and is part of the government's strategy to reduce terrorism in the UK. The act imposes a duty on "specified authorities", including Universities, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Universities became subject to the new 'Prevent' duty on 18 September 2015.

Prevent duty guidance emphasises the need for a risk-based, proportionate approach, and requires institutions to have policies and procedures that address the general expectations of the guidance and that are actively applied. To comply with the duty, universities and higher education institutions are expected to be delivering in a number of areas.

#### **Actions we have taken**

Risk assessment – we have assessed the risk of where and how individuals might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. An action plan has been drawn up to mitigate against the perceived risks.

Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech – we have updated this code of practice. In addition, the University supports its Students' Union approach to external speakers and their 'No Platform Policy'.

Staff Training – a training plan has been developed to ensure appropriate staff receive Prevent awareness training and other training.

Safeguarding – the University has positioned the Prevent duty under Safeguarding and has developed a Cause for Concern procedure to respond to Wellbeing concerns.

The University supports the work of the Prayer Room Stakeholders Group, especially the guidelines on the use of the prayer rooms which have operated successfully since academic year 2013/14.

The Computer Use Policy for Student has been updated to make explicit reference to the Prevent duty.

The University respects the Students' Union position with regards to the Prevent duty. However, we are keeping the Students' Union informed about the action the University is taking to fulfil its statutory Prevent duty.

David Malpas, Associate Director (Corporate Services)

21 October 2016