



Anti-Prevent policy

Policy / idea title	Anti-Prevent
Summary of the policy / idea	The Union to oppose Prevent and not engage with any Prevent strategies
Submitted by (name and role)	
Seconded by (name and role)	
Submitted at (meeting)	Student Meeting
Date	26 March 2024

Does this policy / idea align with the Union values (brave, empowering, fun, student-led, welcoming)? If yes, how?

By the nature of policies, all policies approved by students at Parliament or our Student Meeting are **student-led**

We feel this is **welcoming** by actively disassociating with a strategy that seemingly targets a particular group within society, in this case predominately Muslim and black students

Commented [CW1]: This is my interpretation of welcoming; do you agree / wish to amend it?

Does this policy / idea fall within the remit of the current global priorities? (INCLUDE) If yes, how?

What is the background of this policy?

The government's Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on public bodies – including universities – to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism' and to implement the 'Prevent' agenda.

The PREVENT agenda, as part of the Government's 'anti-extremism' agenda has been used to create an expansive surveillance architecture to spy on the public and to police dissent, systematically targeting Black people and Muslims.

Under PREVENT, lecturers have been known to report students as being 'at risk of radicalisation' for merely taking an interest in political affairs in class, or for observing their religion more closely, whilst politically active students have found themselves visited by counter-terrorism officers.

The Government's counter-terrorism/security policy is fundamentally flawed in its approach; its operant concepts of 'extremism' and 'radicalism' are ill-defined and open to abuse for political ends.

The Act further criminalizes Muslims and Black people, and comes amidst a campaign of fear and demonization from the government.

Why is this policy / idea important; why should the Union adopt it? What will change for students or the wider community?

Islamophobia is massively on the rise across Europe, is state-sponsored and legitimised by the mainstream media.

The government's identified 'warning signs' of "radicalisation" problematize and renders suspect those with mental health difficulties.

That the Act could serve to isolate many students who already feel that the only avenue through which the Government will engage them is 'anti-radicalisation' initiatives, resulting in further alienation and disaffection.

The Act discourages free expression and analysis of ideas. Academics, as well as anyone in a public sector job, should not have to be part of this surveillance.

We fundamentally believe that universities and colleges are places for education, not surveillance.

The implementation of the Prevent Strategy on campus will not only isolate Muslim students but undermine the civil liberties of other groups such as environmental, political and humanitarian activists.

That the NUS and UCU have both passed motions at their conferences opposing the Act and Prevent.

As a Charity, we as a Union are not legally bound to engage with Prevent and should seek to boycott it.

Commented [CW2]: Is this still the case?

What do you believe the Union should do to achieve this policy / idea?

Oppose PREVENT and have a statement saying so.

The Union Officers will not engage with the Prevent strategy or implement the proposals of the Act, and will boycott it as far as legally possible. (ie. Not take part in sessions or discussions where PREVENT aims to be practiced).

Work with campus Trade Unions including UCU on combating the Prevent strategy and its implementation on campus.

Lobby the university to be more open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives. This involves:

- Demanding publications of how the policy is operating within the university and Student Union.
- This includes access to materials used to train staff and students.
- Holding consultations with the student body regarding how this affects students.



Educate students on the dangers of the CTSA and the Prevent Strategy.

Commented [CW3]: How

Outcome	Passed / rejected
Proposed owner (FTO)	
Expiration date	