

TACKLING EXTREMISM

TRAINING SESSION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS, SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

25

FEBRUARY



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THE WORKSHOPS

25th February 2011 - 11am - 4pm

WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Session 1: Introduction & Background

by *Dr Zahid Iqbal, Director Al-Hidayah Annual Conference, MQI UK.*

This session will set the scene of the rise of Islamic radicalism, and provide some insights into development of extremist ideology in young British Muslims over the last two decades. This session will be followed by a group discussion and the opportunity to ask any questions. Dr Iqbal is a consultant occupational physician, and former Medical Advisor to the London Fire Brigade. He is the director of an annual conference which seeks to de-radicalise young Muslims, and through his time at university he had exposure to extremists and their ideologies.

Session 2: A Theological Insight

by *Shaykh Sohail Siddiqi, Director Education, Seekers Academy.*

Shaykh Sohail will examine the theological justifications used by extremists to justify their ideology and their attacks on civilians. He will discuss the main points within the Fatwa on Terrorism and Suicide Bombings produced by His Eminence Shaykh-ul-Islam, and demonstrate the theological strength and importance of this work in relation to combating terrorism. He will follow this with answering any questions on the fatwa itself.

Session 3: Potential, and Suggested Applications

by *Dr Joel Hayward, Dean Royal Air Force College*

Dr Joel will offer his thoughts on the optimal strategy for using the fatwa as an effective tool for countering and weakening any extremist ideologies here in the UK. He will also add his expert academic views on ways of integrating the fatwa into a broader package of ideas and actions aimed at countering extremism. Dr Joel holds many senior academic posts, including Dean of the Royal Air Force College, and is an author, columnist and poet.

WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP FOR?

- COMMUNITY / FAITH ORGANISATIONS
- COMMUNITY / FAITH LEADERS
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS DEALING WITH EXTREMISM / MUSLIM YOUTH
- OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS [Schools, Colleges, Universities] THAT DEAL WITH MUSLIMS
- POLICE OFFICERS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAMS / ANTI-TERROR TEAMS
- YOUTH ORGANISATIONS / WORKERS

PACKAGE

£95 Day Rate

Day Rate includes refreshments, buffet lunch, workshop materials and a copy of the Fatwa on Terrorism [rrp £19.95].

Residential Package

As Above with 1 nights single room accommodation at the Hilton, plus dinner and full breakfast. Prices for this will be provided upon request.

TO REGISTER

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TACKLING EXTREMISM

ARE MUSLIMS DOING ENOUGH TO CONDEMN TERRORISM?

The world has witnessed a large number of tragic and horrifying acts of terrorism over the last couple of decades, including '9/11', and '7/7'. The fear of terrorism remains ever-present with increased security alerts declared on a regular basis. But in spite of the best efforts of security, intelligence, and counter-terrorism agencies, terrorists continue to pose a threat to society, and it appears that the problem shows no sign of abating.

WHAT DOES ISLAM ACTUALLY SAY ABOUT KILLING CIVILIANS AND SUICIDE BOMBINGS?

Unfortunately, the vast majority of terrorist attacks over the recent years have been, or reported to have been, perpetrated in the name of Islam. Some people would say that Islam and Muslims, especially in the media and in many other circles, have become virtually synonymous with terrorism and violence, along with extremist attitudes and behaviours. This presents a problem not only for the vast majority of peace-loving and law-abiding Muslims, who find themselves in the extremely uncomfortable position of being stereotyped and under increased scrutiny, but also law enforcement agencies, who need to consider the pros and cons of racial profiling, with consequent accusations of discrimination and unfair treatment.

ARE UNIVERSITIES A HOTBED OF RADICALISATION?

Moreover, the West has had to face up to the alarming problem of 'home grown' terrorism, with some of the most prominent incidents of recent times planned and caused by people born and raised, or at least educated, in their adopted countries. No longer do standard responses to the causes of terrorism simply revolve around lack of education, disenfranchisement, opportunity or poverty – the modern day terrorist is university-educated, with a white collar job, with family and circle of friends. It is clear that somehow,

British youngsters are being radicalised almost under our noses, making them vulnerable to the bad intentions of militant groups via preachers and the internet.

This workshop aims to examine these problems and throw much needed light onto the nature of religious, particularly Islamic, extremism; the principles that underpin the ideology of the extremist and terrorist; the radicalisation process, and address the fundamental question of whether it is possible to prevent the process of radicalisation and hence reduce the risk of terrorist incidents.

In addition to the experience and knowledge of the workshop leaders, one of the main references will be the much publicised 'Fatwa on Terrorism and Suicide Bombings' by His Eminence Shaykh-ul-Islam Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, a foremost and well-respected authority on the Islamic Sciences and Law. The workshop will demonstrate why this fatwa (or Islamic decree) should be regarded as key to the efforts to combat Islamic extremism and terrorism, and why it is an essential tool to promote cohesion, integration and peace within British society.

This workshop will be of particular interest to policy makers, government and local government representatives, members of the law enforcement agencies, social, probation and custodial workers who have contact with young Muslims, teachers, lecturers and managers of all kinds of educational institute, and members of community or faith-based organisations.

CAN WE DO ANYTHING TO STOP RADICALISATION?