

## Prevent Duty 2015 Venue and Speaker Hire Policy and Guidance

Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure that their venues are not used by those whose views may draw people into terrorism by putting in place a booking policy to guide staff who are responsible for booking venues. This guidance should be followed as part of the other checks made by staff when hiring out a venue.

The Prevent Duty 2015 requires local authorities to ensure that publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views:

*'There is a public sector venue hire policy in place that ensures that measures are taken to prevent local authority venues being used by radicalisers to spread or promote terrorist ideologies and extremist narratives used to support them'*

*Venue hire staff have access to training on due diligence, including for public sector staff who deal with venue hire'.*

Local authorities should also provide guidance and support for other organisations within their areas to ensure that they do not inadvertently provide platforms for radicalisers.

Local authorities should ensure they are familiar with their legal obligations under Equality Law and how this relates to their policy on gender segregation which may occur at events and meetings held on their estate or in connection with their activities. Local authorities should also consider these obligations in the context of implementing the Prevent Duty. **See further information in the Prevent Duty toolkit.<sup>1</sup>**

This policy should be publicised on the Council's website as part of the Council's Prevent information and cascaded to Council staff responsible for venue hire as well as local organisations that hire out venues including parish and town councils and community organisations.

## Speaker Policy and Guidance

Authorities may also put in place a 'speaker' policy which alerts venues in the local area (local authority or otherwise) to the risks associated with designated speakers who are known to be radicalising influences. An effective policy should encourage local venue owners to be aware of risks, make local venue owners aware of who they should contact if they require more information on a speaker, and offer advice support around open source<sup>2</sup> due diligence where relevant.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-toolkit-for-local-authorities/prevent-duty-toolkit-for-local-authorities-accessible>

<sup>2</sup> An open-source search is a search conducted on the internet for any information that is freely available to the general public

## **Venue and Speaker Checklist**

The checklist provides guidance for organisations and staff who are responsible for booking venues to consider questions regarding who may be booking a venue, and why. It is intended to fulfil the *Prevent* Duty 2015 which is about keeping people and communities safe from the threat of terrorism to ensure that publicly owned venues do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.

### **Non-local authority owned premises**

In relation to non-local authority owned premises there are a number of issues to consider:

**Health and safety considerations:** Some events can attract significant attendance with the potential for disorder outside their premises and health and safety implications for their staff. Local authorities may want to assess the risk and advise private venues accordingly.

**Regulations:** A range of regulations are relevant to events (e.g., licensing, environmental health, noise pollution) and discussion should be had to look at whether an event confirms to the relevant regulations.