

DEFINITION OF LAWS: SUPPORT FOR FACILITATORS

This document contains brief summaries of laws related to terrorism and advice to support facilitators with their delivery of Prevent and the Pathways resource

Definition of Terrorism

The current UK definition of terrorism is given in the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT 2000); in summary this defines terrorism as:

- ❖ An action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people
 - ❖ Causes serious damage to property
or
 - ❖ Seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system
- ❖ The use or threat must be designed to influence the government
or
- ❖ To intimidate the public
and

Is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause

Distribution of violent extremist material

The law around extremist material is complex and while it appears that material which is extremist in nature may not attract arrest or conviction, however upsetting and offensive it may be to certain communities within the U.K when violent extremist material is distributed that it attracts penalties within the law. Please see the following extract:

Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 creates the offence of Encouragement of Terrorism

- ❖ Encouraging or glorifying acts of terror
- ❖ Disseminating terrorist publications i.e. publishing statements disseminating
- ❖ Publications through internet bookshops etc.
- ❖ It is an offence to publish statements likely to be understood as an encouragement to terrorism

Incitement to racial hatred

S.19 Public Order Act 1986 – makes it an offence to publish/distribute written material which is threatening – abusive - insulting with intent/likely to stir up racial hatred

Guidance around the viewing of violent extremist material (including online)

If asked what should and should not be viewed online the following guidance from the Home Office may assist. Examples of what is illegal material include:

- ❖ Speeches or essays calling for racial or religious violence
- ❖ Videos of terrorism or racial or religious violence with messages of ‘glorification’ or praise for the attackers
- ❖ Chat forums with postings calling for people to commit acts of terrorism or violent extremism
- ❖ Messages intended to stir up hatred against any religious or ethnic group Bomb making instructions

Reporting and Advice

Report Terrorist content on the internet: <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism> or

Find out more via the [Counter Terrorism Police website](#)