



**WTC**  
**PREVENT DUTY**  
**POLICY**

**JUNE 2023**

<b>WTC Policy and Procedure Title</b>	
Purpose	To set out the actions WTC is taking to fulfill the government's requirement on HE institutions to have due regard to the need to prevent students from being drawn into terrorism or extremism.
Enquiries	Enquiries about the Prevent Duty Policy should be made to the Chief Operating Officer, (Janey Lawry-White) at <a href="mailto:operations@wtctheology.org.uk">operations@wtctheology.org.uk</a>
UKPRN	10030973
Legal Address	16-17 Clarence Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 3PA
Author	Chief Operating Officer
Approved by	Board of Trustees
Next Review	October 2024
Staff member responsible for update	Chief Operating Officer
Policy is available	WTC website, MyWTC

Designated Trustee leading on Prevent compliance for WTC is

**Gill de Berry**

Designated staff member leading on Prevent compliance for WTC is

**the Principal**

## 1. Introduction

WTC is a not-for-profit, interdenominational, charismatic theological college with the vision of taking rigorous and accessible Kingdom Theology into the heart of the local church across the UK. Our goal is to equip and empower people of all ages and backgrounds for leadership, mission, and discipleship and, through this, to effect personal and community transformation. We offer part-time, university-accredited qualifications in theology to 230-250 students per year.

WTC's student body (church members and leaders) is drawn from a wide age range (18-75), with the majority aged between 35-60. They come from a broad cross-section of professional and socio-economic backgrounds across the UK, and from a range of church denominations with the majority (c. 70%) being members of the independent church sector (i.e. not affiliated with a formal denomination). These churches and networks have no dedicated theological colleges.

Part 5 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) requires specified Higher Education institutions (HEI) to take measures aimed at preventing people being drawn into terrorism and being radicalised. The government considers that academia's commitment to freedom of speech represents an important arena for challenging extremist views and ideologies.

The purpose of the Prevent duty is to ensure that WTC assesses the risk of students and those associated with WTC being radicalised, and puts suitable policies and processes in place to mitigate these risks.

There are no 'typical extremists' and those who are radicalised come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Most extremists do not become involved in violent extremist activity. However, radicalisation happens through a range of social, personal and environmental factors, and violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities.

## 2. Definitions

- a. *Radicalisation* is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
- b. *Terrorism* is an action endangering or causing serious violent damage or disruption which is intended to influence government or intimidate the public in order to advance a political, religious or ideological cause.
- c. *Extremism* is defined in the government's Prevent Strategy as:  
Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- d. *Extremism* is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:  
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
  - (i) Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs

- (ii) Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts
- (iii) Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts
- (iv) Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

### 3. Risks faced by WTC and mitigation of these

As an ecumenical Christian college teaching academic theology to church leaders and members, the majority of whom are in their 30's - 50's, WTC considers that the risk of radicalisation among its students is low.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, given that WTC students live at home and are together only for 9-10 days of residential teaching and 20 local Hub nights a year, WTC's responsibility in this area is different from a residential college.

However, the college needs an understanding of what is required of HEI in this area to respond to government requirements. Additionally, it has been recognised<sup>2</sup> that there is some risk of radicalisation among Christians for a new crusade.

#### 3.1. Annual risk monitoring

In line with government requirements, WTC will maintain records to show compliance with the college's Prevent responsibilities and provide reports when requested. The Risk Register will include the institution's Prevent duty. Designated Trustees and members of the Senior Executive Team will remain conversant with the nature of potential extremist threats and how these could impact WTC directly or indirectly, and government advice on how any risks should be mitigated. WTC will liaise closely with University of Nottingham's Security Administration to respond appropriately to an incident should one arise during the Residential weeks.

#### 3.2. Maintaining records

WTC will maintain appropriate records to show compliance with the college's Prevent duty. This will include keeping records of any Prevent training being undertaken by staff. In line with government guidance, WTC will keep confidential records of Prevent referrals in line with GDPR and data protection legislation, ensuring they are proportionate and appropriate.

#### 3.3. External speakers

WTC Faculty occasionally invites external speakers to engage with students as part of their study modules. Additionally, Hub Directors (HD) arrange a programme of local speakers to speak in their Hubs on aspects of living out their faith in different sectors of the community as part of the Personal Formation Programme (PFP). The PFP is an extracurricular element of the spiritual formation programme of the college.

Awareness of WTC's Prevent duty and [government guidance](#) on inviting

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<sup>1</sup> Young people make up a disproportionately high number of those arrested for terrorist activities in the UK.

<sup>2</sup> Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*, 3rd ed. (Oxford: OUP, 2011), pp 201-236.

external speakers will be integrated into Faculty and HD training programmes (using the government's training Awareness Course) to ensure that HDs are aware of potential risks associated with particular speakers and topics, and are equipped to deal with situations which could arise if either speakers or students respond in a manner which can be construed as contributing to the definitions of extremism above.

### 3.4. Nominated Prevent Trustee/SET member

A nominated Trustee and the Principal will oversee WTC's implementation of this policy, and be the points of contact for concerns relating to the Prevent duty. Nominated Trustee/staff members are conversant with the possible requirement to share personal information about a student to ensure they receive appropriate support, and that sharing information must be done in accordance with proportionality and necessity, consent, Data Protection regulations and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality.

### 3.5. IT security

Secure IT and responsible user policies and practices are in place.

## 4. Teaching and Learning

WTC's curriculum and delivery model promotes knowledge, skills and understanding for students to evaluate extremist ideology among other views, and supports students developing their own opinions. This is achieved through:

- ❖ Teaching perspectives which include equality, diversity, inclusion and community cohesion in the curriculum and which challenge extremist narratives
- ❖ Modeling these values throughout college life, teaching and all engagement between WTC staff, Faculty, Trustees and students
- ❖ Enabling and encouraging students to develop their own opinions and express and discuss these with respect for others, including those with very different views
- ❖ Ongoing provision of strong study-skills and student support and making clear to students how to access this
- ❖ Supporting at-risk and vulnerable students
- ❖ Providing strong learning communities in Hubs for local Hub nights.

## 5. Staff and Faculty Training

WTC will ensure that all staff and Faculty inductions include understanding of what radicalisation and extremism mean, why people can be drawn into holding radical views, and recognising potentially radical views and behaviour and how to mitigate these. Also, how to obtain support for people who may be being exploited by radicalising influences including making referrals to the [Channel programme](#).

## 6. Useful contacts

To report illegal information, pictures, or internet videos:

[www.gov.uk/report-terrorism](https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism)

To report imminent threats to life or property, call 999 or the Police Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321

To report threats of terrorism, phone MI5: 0800 1114645.