Message from the Director

This year was a landmark year for Prevent Watch. What started out as a single helpline and one case worker became an organisation that harnessed the power of hundreds of voices and converted this into an invaluable resource capturing the impact of Prevent.

After over 100 organisations boycotted the government’s independent review led by William Shawcross, we took the opportunity to release a report that would present a ground-up perspective combined with thorough academic review.

Co-authored by Professor John Holmwood and myself, with an introduction from the UN Rapporteur and endorsement from several high profile NGOs, the report, The People’s Review of Prevent, presented the first-ever assessment of Prevent from the testimonies of more than 600 ordinary people who had been harmed by Prevent.

In the meantime, we continued to stay true to our core purpose, which is to support those encountering Prevent, inform them of their rights, and ensure that they aren’t alone.

Thank you for your continued support of our work.

Dr Layla Aitlhadj

Director at Prevent Watch
Co-Chair of the People’s Review of Prevent

Our Vision for 2023

We will push for the recognition of the harms of Prevent while continuing to support individuals impacted by it.

We are ready and prepared for the challenge in 2023 of what we anticipate to be an ideologically driven set of recommendations for Prevent once Shawcross publishes his report.

We look forward to your continued support.
Client Services

“Prevent does a lot of harm to people by scaring them and alienating them.”

Prevent Watch client

Helpline
596 individuals supported to date

Litigation
4 cases undergoing strategic litigation

Media
32 Articles, 9 Podcasts and 3 Live Interviews

Reports
The People’s Review of Prevent
We also contributed to 5 major reports

The People’s Review of Prevent was endorsed by these major organisations as well as many other groups and individuals:
The People’s Review of Prevent

“An extraordinary document [that] underscores the tremendously vibrant civil society in the United Kingdom.” - Fionnuala Ni Aolain, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms while countering terrorism.

“A much-needed resource.” - Ilyas Nagdee, Amnesty International

“Vitally necessary” - Raghad Alitikriti, Chairwoman of Muslim Association of Britain show

Context and Summary

The People’s Review of Prevent (PROP) took place in response to the government’s Independent Review of Prevent conducted by William Shawcross, which was scheduled for release in the same year. It arose from concerns in the Muslim community and broader civil society about his lack of independence and his previous dismissals of critique of Prevent.

Very early on in this process, a number of organisations and individuals across the UK decided to boycott the Shawcross review. It was then that we realised that a case-based independent review was necessary. This agreement, combined with support from a diverse range of academics and our substantial case base, formed the foundation for the PROP.

Evidence Base of the PROP

- 19 major Reports and over 200 citations from academic research on Prevent
- Statistics published by the Home Office and several other official Government and United Nations reports
- 274 FOI requests
- Over 600 Prevent cases, including 596 cases documented by Prevent Watch
- Round tables with community groups and academic experts in more than seven different thematic areas associated with Prevent
- 9 researchers and 10 advisory panel members all experts in their fields from education to human rights.
Recommendations

• That the government withdraw the Prevent strategy, particularly from education and health where most of the harm is evidenced.

• That practitioners caught up in Prevent, as well as community groups, trade unions and professional associations, demand the withdrawal of Prevent and exercise their moral and professional judgement equally for all individuals under their care.
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