

CT training at your kitchen table

News story

Tens of thousands of people across the UK have been undertaking counter terrorism training from their kitchen tables during the lockdown.



CT training at your kitchen table

And with lockdown measures set to ease in the coming weeks and more people returning to towns and cities, Counter Terrorism Policing need people to return to being vigilant when out and about.

A police appeal to the public, to take part in the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) e-Learning course while working at home, has resulted in nearly 70,000 signing up to be 'CT Citizens'. Overall half a million participants have responded to the call since the course was launched two years ago.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi, national policing lead for Protective Security said:

It's an incredible number. We wanted to encourage more people to take the course and become 'CT citizens' as it can easily be done when you are working remotely, but the enthusiastic response has been even better than we had hoped.

With everything people have had to cope with over the past couple of months, we are delighted that they want to continue supporting Counter Terrorism Policing and play their part in keeping all communities safe.

And it is so important that they do, because as we start to move towards the easing of lockdown, and the return of busy centres of activity, we need to remind everyone that the threat from terrorism has not gone away.

Having more people with a basic level of awareness, and who know

what to do if they see suspicious activity, is a real asset to the police.

The international award winning ACT Awareness e-Learning was developed in partnership with retail giant Marks and Spencer and Highfield Learning.

The interactive course, which is available to companies or private individuals, takes just 45 minutes to complete and can be done all in one go or in short modules.

It explains how to spot the signs of suspicious behaviour and what to do to help yourself, others and the emergency responders if an attack should take place.

To log on and learn, visit <https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/>

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British High Commission Launches Covid-19 Fund

The British High Commission is inviting proposals for projects dealing with the impact of covid-19 in Mauritius. Proposals should provide a clear link to covid-19 and focus on the following priority areas:

- i) Economic recovery and response, including around climate, health and business;
- ii) Support to vulnerable groups within Mauritius and Rodrigues;
- iii) Impact on green and sustainable policies and/or activities.

We invite proposals from civil society, commercial organisations, academic institutions and government entities, operating in either Mauritius or Rodrigues.

Proposals should be of no more than Rs 450,000 with an end date of no later than March 2021.

Applicants are invited to submit proposals of no more than 3 pages which provide the following information:

- Title of the project;
- Objectives;

- An explanation of how the proposal is linked to Covid-19 and how it fits within the priority areas mentioned above;
- Description of the activity and beneficiaries;
- Timetable for implementation;
- Outcomes;
- Estimated budget including breakdown of costs;
- Description of how the project will be monitored and any associated risks;
- Measurable indicators of success;
- An explanation of how the project outcomes will continue to have impact beyond the lifetime of the project.

Short-listed applicants will have to sign an Accountable Grant Agreement with the High Commission and commit to reporting requirements agreed between both parties.

Projects should not generate a profit for the implementers.

Successful implementers must be willing to engage with the High Commission on identifying media and digital outreach opportunities to publicise the projects.

Please submit concept notes by 3 July 2020 at bhcportlouis@gmail.com

COVID 19's impact on connectivity and trade: UK statement

Mr Chair,

more trade is essential if the global economy is to overcome the unprecedented economic challenge posed by coronavirus. In a globalised world, trade will play an essential role in resolving the effects of this crisis, as well as returning people and business to normal.

Free trade is the foundation of global prosperity. It lowers prices, widens choice and encourages innovation. As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, countries across the world are either closing their borders or implementing restrictive measures. These barriers to trade endanger the movement of life-saving goods to those who need them most.

As my American colleague mentioned, there is a risk that, when facing such a

testing time, there is a temptation for nations to revert to protectionist policies. History shows us the effects of such measures, including higher import prices, higher consumer prices, less competition in the economy, and a negative impact on innovation and research. In times of economic difficulty, it is more important than ever for countries to remain open to trade. In 2008 we avoided the protectionist mistakes made in the 1930s, and we must avoid them again.

Trade gives us security at home and opportunities abroad – opening new markets for business, bringing investment, better jobs, higher wages and lower prices just as we need them most. That is why the UK will use our voice as a newly independent trading nation to champion free trade, fight protectionism and remove barriers at every opportunity.

It is critical that, in balance with legitimate measures to minimise infection, we keep supply chains open as far as possible throughout this crisis. Global supply chains are already under pressure, with over 50 countries imposing bans or restrictions on the export of medicines and medical devices in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The UK is working with national governments to ensure supply chains remain open and businesses have access to the information they need to keep goods moving. Strong, concerted action will enable supply chains to continue to function. Abrupt changes to trading practices and centres of production will cost the world time that it currently does not have.

Mr Chair,

the UK Government believes new Free Trade Agreements will be an important factor in facing this economic challenge, providing new opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs who have faced significant challenges during this difficult period. For example, a UK/US Free Trade Agreement will help galvanize trade and investment, can help create opportunities for businesses, provide better jobs, and boost the economy in every part of our country. Meetings on this so far have been positive and constructive, reflecting the mutual commitment to secure an ambitious agreement that significantly boosts trade and investment between the first and fifth largest economies in the world.

In the UK, we will do whatever it takes to support businesses to continue trading; through advice, finance and advocating to remove tariffs and barriers. Overseas, we are working to support vulnerable countries in navigating the changing trade landscape.

Mr Chair,

To conclude, our charge is clear: we must keep transport routes and transit hubs open, to support the flow of freight, aid, and medical supplies. But there is an urgent need for a coordinated fiscal, monetary and regulatory response among nations to reduce the global economic damage already being inflicted by the Covid-19 pandemic. By working with governments and international partners we can ensure that trade continues to flow, to keep global supply chains intact, and ensure that people have access to the

critical goods – medical equipment, medicines, foodstuffs – that we all truly need.

Thank you.

[Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia: July 2020](#)

Press release

Mr Neil Bradley has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia in succession to Mr David Belgrove OBE.



Mr Neil Bradley has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia in succession to Mr David Belgrove OBE who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Bradley will take up his appointment in July 2020.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Neil Bradley

- 2017 to 2020 FCO, Head of Human Rights Policy Unit, Multilateral Policy Directorate
- 2015 to 2016 Brussels, Head of UK-EU Funding Unit, UK Permanent Representation to the EU
- 2011 to 2015 Pretoria, Political Counsellor, Secondment to the European External Action Service, EU Delegation South Africa
- 2008 to 2011 Pretoria, Counsellor – Political
- 2006 to 2008 FCO, Deputy Head, Migration Group
- 2000 to 2006 Brussels, First Secretary, Justice and Home Affairs Section , UK Permanent Representation to the EU
- 2000 Full-time Language Training – French

1998 to 2000 Joint Home Office/Cabinet Office Unit, Head of the Voluntary Sector Relations and Infrastructure Section
1993 – 1998 Home Office, Fast Stream Entrant

Further information

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Commission for Countering Extremism launches a legal review to examine effectiveness of existing legislation relevant to hateful extremism

Lead Commissioner Sara Khan has appointed former Assistant Commissioner for Specialist Operations of the Metropolitan Police Service, Sir Mark Rowley, to lead the review.

The Commission's flagship report '[Challenging Hateful Extremism](#)' identified and evidenced a new category of extremist activity in our country, described as behaviours:

- that can incite and amplify hate, or engage in persistent hatred, or equivocate about and make the moral case for violence
- that draw on hateful, hostile or supremacist beliefs directed at an out-group who are perceived as a threat to the wellbeing, survival or success of an in-group
- that cause, or are likely to cause, harm to individuals, communities or wider society

The Commission gathered extensive evidence from across England and Wales, commissioned 19 academic papers and launched the first ever public consultation on extremism. Sara Khan visited 20 towns and cities and spoke to experts, activists and critics alike. Victims repeatedly told the CCE that they felt let down by the authorities and are concerned that existing powers are not being used effectively or consistently. For this reason, the report included a commitment by the Commission to undertake a review of law relevant to hateful extremism.

Sir Mark Rowley will conduct the operational review and engage with law enforcement experts to:

1. Identify whether there are gaps in existing legislation or inconsistencies in enforcing the law in relation to hateful extremism

and

2. Make practical recommendations that are compatible with existing legal and human rights obligations.

Lead Commissioner, Sara Khan says:

As evidenced in my report, hateful extremism threatens our ability to live well together. From inspiring acts of violence and terrorism, to the incitement of hatred and hostility often aimed at those with a protected characteristic, extremists are having a devastating impact on victims, on cohesion in our towns and cities and in undermining the social fabric and democratic norms of our country. Hateful extremism demands a response.

Yet despite this, our ability to counter repeat and persistent offenders is inconsistent and often ineffective. When extremists engage in terrorist activity, they are often caught by robust counter-terrorism legislation. But when they incite hatred, engage in persistent hatred or justify violence against others, extremists know they will not cross over into the threshold of terrorism. As a result, many extremist actors and organisations, whether Far Right, Islamist or other, continue to operate with impunity in our country both online and offline.

Extremists seek to restrict the rights and fundamental freedoms of others. They attempt to normalise and mainstream their extremist worldview which degrades our democracy and the values we hold dear. It is the state's responsibility to defend those rights and values and to do so in line with the rule of law.

This is why I am launching a review to examine the effectiveness of existing legislation. This is even more pertinent during the current pandemic as we see extremists propagate horrific material which seeks to blame and incite hatred and violence against other people in our society.

I look forward to working with Sir Mark Rowley and identifying what more we as a society can do to challenge hateful extremism.

Sir Mark Rowley says:

Extremism, hate crime and terrorism have all been increasing challenges for our communities and society as a whole. While I was in post as Head of Counter-Terrorism Policing for four years, I knew that we had strong counter-terrorism system, resources and laws in place. However, I increasingly realised that nationally we are less experienced and ready to address the growing threats from hateful extremists who encourage community tensions, the rise in hate crime and some to even become terrorists.

When Sara asked me to look from an operational perspective at whether the existing legal framework has gaps that allow extremist to flourish, I was initially cautious – not least because successive governments have tried to tackle this very problem, by proposing new legislation, and failed.

However, after some initial scoping I am convinced that the Commission's clarity of focus on 'hateful extremism' can help identify the gaps that exist at the boundaries of current laws, such as hate crime and terrorism, which are being exploited daily by extremists.

The Commission will engage with stakeholder groups, operational and law enforcement bodies in the coming months, and put proposals forward to the Home Secretary later this year.