

Hundreds of Islamic groups boycott Prevent review over choice of chair

From [Chairman of the Charity Commission](#) he said, with some justification in my opinion, that “Islamic extremism was a “deadly” problem for charities.” Consequently four Muslim charities complained about him. The Guardian does not name them so I don’t know if they included [the “grandchildren of monkeys and pigs”](#)

Or maybe the [Human Aid UK](#) whose decidedly odd cash dealings (unlicensed street collections, fake collectors, charity operatives caught smuggling cash across national borders, suspect invoices for work in Gaza and Syria) merited two probes by the Charity Commissioners.

And these are just a quick search within the last 18 months.

The country’s top counter-terrorism officer, Neil Basu, previously told the Guardian he believed Prevent to be the best chance of reducing terrorist violence but that this risked being damaged amid a backlash over Shawcross’s appointment. His comments came after key human rights groups announced a boycott of the review.

The coalition of Muslim groups and individuals will campaign against the Shawcross review and the harms of the Prevent policy.

Prof Nasar Meer, of the University of Edinburgh, who has joined the boycott, said: “Prevent is a bad policy that has only worsened with time. An independent review of its attack on the freedom of speech, curtailment of fundamental liberties and criminalisation of communities is long overdue. Sadly, the Shawcross review promises no such thing.”

Dr Fatima Rajina, of the Stephen Lawrence centre at De Montfort University, said: "The presence of Prevent in smaller organisations within local communities that provide essential services such as ESOL [English for speakers of other languages] classes, sewing classes, and putting on other classes to accommodate the needs of, mostly, Muslim women is one that illustrates its perniciousness.

I get the impression they want Prevent to only worry about 'right-wing' extremism, defined as any group that has the courage to challenge Islam. .