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4 October 2018

Dear Nik,

We write in response to your letter dated 20th September 2018. Our comments are limited to the subject of the video and your apparent actions after your letter was sent to us:

### Police Raid

The video is a recording of a talk given by our client from her perspective and her lived experience. The gist of the speech relates to her considered opinion that there was no justification for armed counter-terrorism police raiding her birthing suite, particularly as she was told at the time that the arrest of her ex-husband related to a malicious communication investigation, which the state subsequently did not pursue.

There can be no doubt that the armed counter-terrorism police raid amounted to a severe violation of privacy, and posed a serious danger to a mother and her new-born child. Moreover, we understand that our client's ex-husband had already been arrested outside before the police entered the birthing room.

In the absence of an immediate threat of harm, is she not entitled to take the view that the actions were disproportionate? The following questions arise in relation to this:

- Why did the search extend to the crib of a new-born and our client's nappy bag/personal items as well as her bedding, when there was no due cause to do so?
- Why could the police not wait until our client had rested and was no longer in a fragile state before interrogating her?

Furthermore, your attempt to distinguish this harrowing experience as not being linked to Prevent is disingenuous. It was never stated that PREVENT was involved in the raid. PREVENT was however deeply involved in all the stages that followed, which caused her and her children considerable trauma.

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If Prevent is about “safeguarding” or preventing people from being drawn into terrorism, then how was it applicable in our client’s case? Rather, the actions of Prevent officers were part of a continuum of traumatic experiences and invasion of privacy that led from the birthing room to countless supervision and court hearings over the next few years until our client was vindicated before a high court judge.

Your concerns that this video lacks wider context are misplaced. Rather, you should address the failings and inherent bias in the police and counter-terrorism sector that led to a single mother being unjustifiably targeted in what can only be termed a Kafkaesque process under the Prevent framework.

### Media coverage

Following your letter, articles have appeared in The Sunday Telegraph (29th September 2018) and Daily Mail (30th September 2018). They both mention the letter you have sent us, and they also named individuals related to this case.

As you are aware, the claims made by the multi-agency Prevent team were the subject of lengthy family court proceedings. Consequently, we were very careful to ensure no personal details were revealed, so that the parties could not be identifiable in any way.

The two newspapers have now named the individual who was arrested in 2016 for an ABH offence, thus linking him to our client and her children. This would make a single mother and her children easily identifiable and yet that information should remain confidential under order of the High Court.

As this disclosure is a potential breach of an anonymity order we require you to:

- Immediately undertake an investigation to ascertain the source(s) of the information used by the newspapers, and confirm that it was not anyone from your team
- Investigate social media postings that disclosed the same and further confidential details of the individuals related to this case

We hope that you can now see that whilst CAGE is critical of PREVENT, this position is not irrational or one based on a desire to make our society less safe.

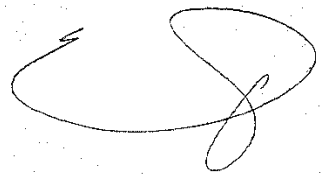
On the contrary, as the sequence of events illustrates, instead of damaging our credentials, the attacks on our client and CAGE by the media, have merely strengthened the perception that PREVENT is toxic, has created deep suspicion between communities, and damages trust in public institutions.

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We will uphold the freedom of expression of our clients to publicly air their grievances and criticisms of laws and policies, that they feel should change. The Rule of Law demands that we protect this right.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Adnan Siddiqui, Director**