



Salaam Academy A WISE Madrassah

EXTREMISM AND HATE SPEECH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Tackling Violent Extremism and Hate Speech Policy

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WISE, as a charitable trust is committed on the principle to establish good cohesive community relations as part and parcel of its objective of advancement of the religion of Islam. Islam is the middle way and aims to build a balanced nation away from the dangers of extremism. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that those principles are safeguarded within the context of managing the threat from violent extremism and hate Speech. Either of which are not propagated, accepted or tolerated at WISE.

Section 2.1 of the “Tackling extremism in the UK” report by the Prime Minister’s Task Force recognises that “some organisations and religious institutions may be targeted and infiltrated by extremist groups or individuals. When they are, it can be hard for those institutions to take direct action to remove extremists from their midst. Some extremist groups target charities and seek to exploit and benefit from charitable status.”

For the purposes of this policy, violent extremism is defined as violence, incitement to violence, terrorism, incitement to terrorism, or other activities that may result in violent behaviour or terrorist activity.

Our Policy

1.1 We fully recognise that it is our duty to prevent hate speeches and activities that are deemed unlawful.

1.2 We will endeavor to take the necessary precautions to comply with national regulations, requirements of government policy, and Charity Commission guidance on violent extremism.

1.3 It is the management team's duty to conduct risk assessments when holding an event or activity, especially when external speakers are invited to deliver a speech.

1.4 It is the duty of the chairman, or someone who he instructs, to review speakers and avoid those who are known to make hate speeches that could cause controversy and adversely impact the charity and community relations. He, along with the management team are responsible for striking the balance between violent extremist talk and freedom of speech.

2.1 The management team will:

- Endeavor to ensure that any event or activity associated with WISE does not break the law in relation to violent extremism
- Take steps to help prevent acts of extremism, eg through classes or 1:1 discussions
- Ensure adequate assessments are in place to ensure that hate towards others is not promoted at our events and activities.
- Conforming to Islamic requirements, we will make certain that our activities promote good relations, cohesion and respect between all communities, faiths and races.

2.2 All members of the management team and key volunteers are trained to be extra vigilant in identifying elements of extremism, whether within the congregation or an external body.

2.3 It is the duty of the person who hears or witnesses any illegal acts of extremism to make detailed notes of precisely what they witnessed and to report the incident to the management team.

2.4 WISE will not be responsible if any individual or group does not abide with this policy, and any violent extremist views expressed will not be reflective of the values held by WISE.

Vulnerable people

WISE appreciates that there are certain people who are considered more vulnerable than others and may be easily misled – We endeavour to educate people on Islamic principles and challenge extreme views.

We do NOT allow people with extreme views to organise activities in our premises but if we class the person as susceptible to these views through vulnerability, then we will focus our energy on challenging his/her understandings and educating him/her. (If we regard the individual to genuinely be a threat and a danger, we will escalate).

Violent Extremist material

WISE does not knowingly allow any materials, including books, CD's, DVD's, leaflets or any other type of media that promotes violent extremism.

If anything of this nature is found on the WISE premises, at any of the charity's events or its activities, it must be reported to the management team along with details of its location or description of the person/s if they are distributing it. A decision will be made by the trustees or delegated person as to whether the material needs to be removed.

Processes

The management team, key volunteers and any event organisers will sign a statement that they have read, understood and will comply with this policy and its processes.

- 3.1 Where possible, we will try to provide training for trustees, staff and volunteers
- 3.2 The management team will meet or communicate electronically to discuss any proposed event or activity.
- 3.3 An assessment will be made to identify possible risks involved in all events and activities
- 3.4 All approved decisions where documented will be available to review.
- 3.5 No third-party leaflets are permitted to be distributed during any of our events or activities unless they comply with this policy and prior permission has been given by the management team.
- 3.6 If a complaint is made regarding extremism at one of our events, it will be investigated and we will endeavour to respond to the complainant.
- 3.7 Complaints will be recorded and kept on file.

3.8 An escalation process involving the authorities can be initiated if a situation is becomes serious (this could be if we deem an individual or a group of individuals, dangerous – in relation to: Promoting terrorism, links to people who are classed as terrorists, or if we suspect that he/she/they are considering committing an illegal action).

This policy along with its procedures will be reviewed by the management team regularly.