



THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL COHESION

Clutha House
10 Storey's Gate
London
SW1P 3AY
Tel: 0207 222 8909
mail@socialcohesion.co.uk
www.socialcohesion.co.uk

Centre for Social Cohesion November Update

Welcome to the November email update from The Centre for Social Cohesion. The CSC is the first think-tank in the UK to specialise in studying radicalisation and extremism within Britain. The Centre is an independent think tank.

The Centre in the Press

The Centre issued a [press release](#) criticising the government's decision to work with the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) to try to better understand Muslim student attitudes. A [poll](#) carried out by YouGov and the Centre for Social Cohesion earlier this year showed that FOSIS are unrepresentative of Muslim students. Additionally, FOSIS leaders are influenced heavily by a narrow form of political Islam and the group regularly gives a platform to extremist speakers at British and Irish universities.

In response to the recent alleged firebombing at the home of the London publisher of *The Jewel of Medina*, the Centre's director Douglas Murray warned of censorship by intimidation in his monthly [column](#) for the cultural and political magazine Standpoint. He said:

"More books, not fewer, are needed. As John Milton famously put it, 'As good almost kill a man as kill a good book.' Recent events suggest that there are people who would like to do both. They could have done with considering Milton's follow-on point: 'Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image... he who destroys a good book, kills reason itself.' Whether *The Jewel of Medina* is a good book or not, its loss will be a collective one."

James Brandon, deputy director of the Centre, published an article titled 'British Muslims: Providing foot soldiers for the global jihad' in [The Sentinel](#), the monthly journal of the Combating Terrorism Centre at the US military academy at West Point.

Robin Simcox, a researcher at the CSC, wrote an article criticising the government's misuse of terror legislation against Iceland for the [Henry Jackson Society](#).

[Crimes of the Community](#), the Centre's report on honour-based violence in the UK, was the subject of a feature-length article in the Swiss weekly magazine [Die Weltwoche](#), which quoted the report extensively and described the findings as "shocking" and "depressing".

Media & Public Appearances

Douglas Murray appeared on various broadcast media, including ITV's The Big Debate on the subject of Britishness, and the Little Atom [podcast](#) on Resonance FM talking about the centre's work. He also appeared several times on Sky News in response to statements made by immigration minister Phil Woolas that the current level of immigration may have to be reduced due to the on-going economic crisis.

The Centre's director spoke at several events, including a lunch for the Jaffa Institute, an NGO providing assistance to disadvantaged Jewish and Arab children in Israel, an event at the National Liberal Club organised by the Birkenhead Society.

Murray participated in a debate organised by the Bow Group, a London-based think tank, on the 'War on Terror'. Amongst the speakers were Dr Lamont Carlucci and the foreign affairs shadow minister David Lidington MP. He also addressed the Westminster Conservatives Association speaking on the issue of multiculturalism and spoke to the Young Britons Foundation at Wellington College about Islamic terrorism and multiculturalism.

The Centre's director spoke at a US embassy event commenting on the then forthcoming US elections. He spoke on the same topic alongside American playwright and critic Bonnie Greer at a panel organised by the Foreign Press Association chaired by film-maker Michael Cockerill.

The Centre's deputy-director James Brandon chaired a major conference on honour-based violence organised by the Ministry of Justice and Refuge. Speakers included the head of the FCO's forced marriage unit and several leading national experts on honour-violence from around the country.

CSC Researcher Robin Simcox spoke at University College London (UCL) debating the motion 'This house would vote Obama'. Amongst the speakers were the assistant editor of the *Guardian*, Simon Tisdall, and senior lecturer in American Political History at UCL, Dr Adam Smith.

Campus Tour

The Centre's director resumed his tour of UK campuses, speaking to various student unions and societies on issues of terrorism and Islamism. In October Douglas Murray spoke to capacity audiences at St Andrews, the University of Cambridge, the London School of Economics and the University of Durham.

Upcoming

Over the coming month the Centre's director will be speaking at several events, including a panel discussion on religious and cultural tolerance of homosexuality which accompanies the National Theatre's current production, *To Be Straight With You*. Panellists include the Mayor of London's cultural advisor Munira Murza and fellow at the Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations Sheikh Michael Mumisa.

Murray will also participate in several panels and discussions on issues of multiculturalism, terror, and national security at the National University of Ireland, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and the BBC daily politics show.

Press enquiries: 0207 222 8909 / 07538 248610 / pressoffice@socialcohesion.co.uk

The Centre for Social Cohesion is an independent think tank

***The Centre for Social Cohesion * Clutha House * 10 Storey's Gate * London * SW1P 3AY*
*0207 222 8909 * mail@socialcohesion.co.uk ***