



THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL COHESION

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Welcome to the August 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, non-partisan think tank.

The BNP and the Online Fascist Network

Following the election of two members from the British National Party (BNP) to the European Parliament, the CSC published a report on the BNP, [The BNP and the Online Fascist Network](#). The report revealed that despite its claims to the contrary, some sections of the party and its supporters maintain a significant ideological affinity with Neo-Nazi ideology, including support for violence; antisemitism and an admiration of the Third Reich; extreme racist views; and Holocaust denial. The report, authored by Edmund Standing with an introduction by CSC Researcher Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens, demonstrated the unreconstructed nature of the BNP by exposing how members and self-professed supporters of the party use blogs and other online resources to propagate racist, pro-Nazi and antisemitic views.

The report was covered by several online anti-Fascist organisations including the [Hope Not Hate](#) campaign and [Operation Black Vote](#). The [Morning Star](#) reported that following the CSC's report, the BNP may face legal action over their online activities. The report also received coverage in the [Jerusalem Post](#) and the [Socialist Worker Online](#), and the [Little Green Footballs](#), [Spittoon](#) and [Harry's Place](#) blogs.

The Centre in the Press

CSC Director Douglas Murray was quoted in the [Daily Express](#) regarding a story that claimed increasing amounts of non-Muslims were using sharia courts to resolve legal disputes. Murray said:

'No modern-thinking Muslim wants sharia law introduced in Britain...It is something being driven by a minority of people with their own agenda and is being allowed to gather pace with support from the Government. It's a terrifying situation for Muslims who want to escape sharia rule elsewhere and for the country at large.'

Douglas Murray was quoted in [The Sun](#) discussing Anjem Choudary of radical group al-Muhajiroun's accusation that the Queen should be 'tried for genocide' over the role of the British army in Afghanistan. Murray said that this view was 'especially offensive because the people behind it are living off handouts from the British taxpayer'.

CSC Researcher Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens was featured in an article for the [Sunday Mercury](#), in which he condemned Dr. Mohammed Naseem, the chairman of Birmingham Central Mosque, for his demand for a public inquiry into the July 7th terrorist attacks on London. Hitchens said:

'Dr Naseem is an influential man in Birmingham's Muslim community...It is very dangerous for him to be spreading this kind of extremist poison...Birmingham is a place where we have big problems with radicalism so it is highly irresponsible of him to hold this meeting, especially as he is supposed to be helping the Government work towards reducing extremism in our Muslim communities.'

In his regular contribution to [Standpoint](#) magazine's blog, Hitchens highlighted that Birmingham Central Mosque, headed by Dr. Naseem, had in the past received 'Preventing Violent Extremism' (PVE) government money. Hitchens stated:

'One would struggle to think of a better way to waste tax-payer money than giving PVE funds to a man who denies that extremism even exists. As long as Naseem is at the helm, the government should have nothing to do with his institution.'

CSC Researcher Robin Simcox argued against an inquiry into the Iraq war in his monthly column for the [Henry Jackson Society](#). Simcox said that:

'Now is not the time for our elected leadership to be turning inwards and thinking of new ways to chastise itself for mistakes made in the past in the hope that this will play well with a section of the public that will almost certainly be hostile to whatever the findings are.'

MBI Al-Jaber Foundation highlighted on their website the findings of [A Degree of Influence: The Funding of Strategically Important Subjects in UK Universities](#), the CSC's study into university funding. MBI Al-Jaber were an organisation cited as being a model for how foreign donations to British universities can have a positive effect on academia.

As part of her contribution to the [Spittoon](#) blog, CSC Researcher Houriya Ahmed wrote on the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir in Pakistan, after the group stated that they are trying to recruit military officers to wage a 'bloodless coup' in order to use the country as a base to spread Sharia law throughout the world. Houriya said:

'The fact that HT members are plotting to overthrow the current Pakistani government by using the military to wage a supposedly 'peaceful coup' amounts to treason. In a country where the fight against violent extremism is paramount, keeping HT banned would at least keep this nuisance organisation from gaining any influence'.

Media & Public Appearances

CSC Director Douglas Murray appeared alongside writer and critic Bidisha and Mail on Sunday columnist Peter Hitchens on BBC 1 show [The Big Questions](#), with Nicky Campbell. Subjects discussed included social mobility in the UK and materialism.

Murray discussed the case of Marwa el-Sherbini, a Muslim woman stabbed to death in a German court, on [BBC1 Breakfast News](#). Murray called the murder of el-Sherbini 'tragic, appalling and brutal'. Murray was speaking against Press TV journalist Yvonne Ridley. When Ridley used the example of the repression of Uighurs in China as a further example of anti-Muslim behaviour, Murray responded by saying:

'You [Ridley] of course work for Press TV, which is an arm of the Iranian government. The Iranian government has been murdering Muslims in recent weeks, the Iranian government has been doing so with impunity and without any criticism from the channel which you work for...some of us continue to believe that it's important to condemn the killing of Muslims whether it's committed by Muslims or non-Muslims.'

Murray also appeared on [Al-Jazeera](#) to discuss the murder of el-Sherbini, arguing against the idea that there was a rise in Islamophobia across Europe. Murray was speaking alongside Maleiha Malik, professor of law at King's College London, and Sulaiman Wilms, media spokesperson for the European Muslim council.

Murray appeared on Radio 5 Live to discuss the effectiveness and desirability of government issued control orders against terror suspects. Murray spoke opposite Steve Ballinger of Amnesty International. He also spoke twice on LBC Radio in July, once to assess the security situation in Afghanistan in the context of an increasing number of deaths of British troops and for a second time on the subject of forced marriages in the UK. He spoke to BBC Radio Northamptonshire on whether England should have a national anthem.

Robin Simcox spoke alongside Frank Gaffney, Director of the Centre for Security Policy, and Steve Emerson, Director of the Investigative Project, on the launch of Hizb ut-Tahrir in the United States for [Secure Freedom Radio](#).

Douglas Murray was a delegate at the Hatfield Conference on 'Self Censorship and the Arts', alongside various journalists and artists, including Rowan Atkinson. He also attended the Israel Diaspora Dinner at The Athenaeum in London, where he was part of a panel discussing 'Israel Advocacy in Britain: the view from the outside' alongside Daniel Johnson, editor of Standpoint, Tim Montgomerie, founder of Conservative Home, and Robin Shepherd of the Henry Jackson Society. Murray also spoke at a conference at the University of Liverpool on political ideologies.

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