



THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL COHESION

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Welcome to the October 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.

CSC Activism

The Centre issued a [press release](#) based on work by Edmund Standing exposing the website of the Scotland wing of neo-Nazi group Blood & Honour for disseminating extremist white supremacist material. The group was distributing music CDs which encourage hatred and acts of terror against ethnic minorities, contrary to both the Public Order Act 1986 and the Terrorism Act 2000.

The CSC's work was covered in detail by the [Jewish Chronicle](#), and numerous websites, including [Nothing British About the BNP](#).

As a consequence of the CSC's action, the website was [suspended](#) and the police are investigating the information passed to them by the Centre. Furthermore, Shadow Security Minister Pauline Neville Jones used the CSC's research as the basis upon which to write a [letter](#) to the Home Secretary about the group, requesting that he considers banning the group. This letter was covered in the [Jewish Chronicle](#).

CSC's work in exposing white supremacist extremism comes in the context of the recent publication of [The BNP and the Online Fascist Network](#), a CSC report authored by Edmund Standing which exposed the internet activities of members of the BNP and its supporters.

The Centre in the Press

CSC Director Douglas Murray wrote two feature articles for the *Daily Express*. Murray criticised the government's decision to take Britain's fourth Trident submarine out of commission, saying:

"Defence is in any case not an either/or game. There does not need to be a choice between whether we have adaptable, well-trained and well-protected armed forces or a nuclear shield. If this country seeks to protect itself from the whole range of current threats and threats to come, nevermind sustaining some of its standing on the international stage we will need both."

In a separate article, he also discussed the Iranian nuclear programme in the context of the discovery of a secret nuclear site in Qom. Murray said that:

"It is time that the world sent a clear message to Tehran: we will never accept the world's most dangerous weapons in the hands of the world's most dangerous men."

Murray's column for the monthly and cultural political magazine [Standpoint](#) discussed the actions of the English Defence League in the context of recent riots that took place in Birmingham. Murray said that he thought it "important to have nothing to do with them", going on to say that:

"For years, our political class has allowed militant Islam to thrive in Britain and ignored those who have been warning of the consequences. Now the entirely predictable street-level response has begun. In the ensuing noise, as actual fascists from all sides try to clear the ground for themselves, those of us who hate them all will need all our care and caution to work out who is who."

Murray also wrote an article for the [Spectator](#) on Irving Kristol, the 'god-father' of neoconservatism, who died last month. CSC's report into university funding, [A Degree of Influence: The Funding of Strategically Important Subjects in UK Universities](#) was also quoted at length in the [Spectator](#), who labelled it an 'important report'.

Problems with the education system were also discussed by Murray in an article for [Hudson New York](#), in the context of the decision of the University of Oxford to make Tariq Ramadan head of Islamic Studies. Murray said:

“From his new position at Oxford he will now be looked up to by students as unaware as their tutors apparently are of their new professor’s dubious intellect and his still more dubious opinions...It is to Oxford’s lasting disgrace that they have provided this dangerous and unpleasant fraud with such a prestigious showroom.”

Edmund Standing, author of the CSC report *The BNP and the Online Fascist Network*, was interviewed for [BBC File on 4](#) on white supremacist extremism. Standing was quoted as saying:

"The fact that a lot of people [who use these websites] may be fantasists and do not pose a direct threat, doesn't mean these forums and websites don't, because for every 20 of them there could be one person who is actually twisted enough do something like this. These kind of groups and these kind of forums create an atmosphere in which it is seen to be more and more acceptable to express these hateful views."

Murray was quoted in the [Daily Telegraph](#), criticising the Church of England’s decision to name the mosque attended by the 7/7 bombers as a tourist destination. The *Telegraph* referred to the CSC as a ‘leading think tank’. They also quoted Murray in an [article](#) on the increasing popularity of the name Mohammed.

Murray was also quoted in the [Jerusalem Post](#) criticising the Foundation for Science Technology and Civilization (FSTC) for distributing the textbook *1001 Inventions: Muslim Heritage in Our World* to UK secondary schools. Murray said:

"This organization calling itself the FSTC is not an educational project. It is a dawah project. That is, it is Islamic propaganda...There are those who would claim that no good whatsoever has come from the Islamic world, such claims are demonstrably ignorant. But it is also ignorant and indeed ridiculous to mix propaganda with scientific history as the people behind this project seem to be doing."

Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens was quoted in the Daily Express after Anjem Choudary of al-Muhajiroun called for the author Sebastian Faulks to be tried in an Islamic court after he criticised the Koran. Hitchens said that:

“Their latest veiled threats to Sebastian Faulks serve to provide us with yet another example of the extremist threat posed by this organisation.”

The local Manchester [press](#) referred to the CSC’s work in highlighting to Nick Clegg the actions of Baroness Jenny Tonge in meeting terrorist organisations and promoting and glorifying their agenda. Douglas Murray wrote a letter to Clegg highlighting Tonge’s meetings with the likes of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad since Clegg became leader of the Liberal Democrats.

The Swedish magazine *Axess* reprinted the transcript of a recent [speech](#) Murray delivered on the presidency of Barack Obama.

Meleagrou-Hitchens also highlighted how £48,000 of Preventing Violent Extremism money had gone to the Muslim Brotherhood on his [Standpoint](#) blog.

Media Appearances

Douglas Murray appeared on BBC 1’s Big Questions alongside novelist and commentator Cristina Odone and Ibrahim Mogra from the Muslim Council of Britain to discuss 'Does Islam encourage violence?', 'Is there too much sex on TV?' and 'Has religion any place in politics?'

Murray was interviewed numerous times by the BBC to discuss the convictions of the transatlantic airline liquid bomb plotters. He appeared on BBC Scotland, the Nicky Campbell show for Radio 5 Live, and BBC World Have Your Say, where he also discussed civil liberties in Britain.

He also appeared on the BBC’s Arabic Service to discuss Islamophobia; on BBC Radio Asia to discuss the textbook ‘1001 Islamic Inventions’, which the FSTC were distributing to British schools; on the Jeremy Vine show on BBC Radio 2 to criticise the government’s plans to scrap one of the four Trident submarines; and discussed Muslim radicalisation on BBC Wales alongside a representative of the Ramadhan Foundation. Murray twice spoke to LBC Radio about Home Secretary Alan Johnson’s plans to force firms to advertise jobs to British workers for a longer period before offering them to foreign nationals.

Murray discussed a variety of foreign affairs topics for the BBC. He appeared on the World Service to discuss Iran’s recent offer of nuclear non-proliferation talks with the United States, and featured on the Jeremy Vine show on BBC Radio 2 and Radio 5 Live to discuss the military situation in Afghanistan. Conservative MP Patrick Mercer was a co-panellist.

Robin Simcox appeared on Sky News to speak in favour of the recent closure of the Calais refugee camp. Murray also addressed the issue for Sky News on the same day. Simcox discussed government control orders on terror suspects for BBC Radio Wales.

Hannah Stuart appeared on Ceska televize, a Czech television channel, to discuss the applicability of Sharia law in the UK.

Murray spoke on political issues at Westminster School, the Zionist Central Council in Manchester and Magdalen College in Oxford.

Upcoming

Douglas Murray will be addressing a conference in Rome alongside the Italian foreign minister, the US and Italian ambassador to NATO, other members of the Italian Government and the US State Department. He will also be speaking at a panel for the Independent alongside former Communities Minister Hazel Blears, and at the Battle of Ideas conference for the Institute of Ideas.

With the start of a new academic year, Murray will also once again begin his tour of university campuses. Next month he will speak at the University of Surrey, the University of Oxford Union, and in November at UCL.

The Centre for Social Cohesion is an independent think tank

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