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**Government mistakes, Conservative inaccuracy
Centre for Social Cohesion Statement: Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation and Hizb ut-Tahrir**

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Yesterday the leader of the Opposition, David Cameron, accused the government of using money allocated to prevent violent extremism to fund the Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation (ISF), a registered educational charity with links to the extreme Islamist party Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT).

The government's response – contesting the source of the public funds and publicising previously unpublished Ofsted inspections – is an attempt to divert attention. Public money has gone to two primary schools and a nursery set up by members of HT, a revolutionary Islamist group that supports violent jihad and uses front groups to embed its divisive ideology into local communities.

The core issue of HT receiving public funds is now in danger of being overshadowed by party politics and the government must refocus the debate back to the real problem.

Conservative mistake – no funding from Preventing Violent Extremism

-The money given to ISF was not from the Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) Pathfinder Fund. The recent Centre for Social Cohesion (CSC) report, [Hizb ut Tahrir: Ideology and Strategy](#), correctly states that the money came from Whitehall's 'Free Entitlement' and 'Pathfinder' funds.

Incorrect government claim – no ISF links to Hizb ut-Tahrir

-The government states that there are no links between the ISF schools and HT. In a letter yesterday to Michael Gove MP, Ed Balls MP, the Secretary of State, Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), stated that the ISF had assured him on 20 November 2009 that there were no links between the schools and members of HT. However, ISF trustee and head teacher of the ISF school in Slough, Farah Ahmed, contradicted this yesterday, telling BBC News that only three of the four trustees were not members of HT.

-The Charity Commission website today lists three ISF trustees. The fourth – Yusra Hamilton – resigned after the *Sunday Telegraph* [reported](#) the CSC's findings in October 2009. Hamilton was listed as the Slough school's proprietor in that school's 2009 Ofsted inspection.

Incorrect government claim – no public funds given to Islamic extremists

-Last night on BBC 2's Newsnight, Ed Balls incorrectly stated that there is no evidence that public money went to schools associated with Islamic extremism. He said that the emergency Ofsted inspection into one of the schools in 2007 showed no sign of extremism being taught. HT seeks to create an expansionist state – the Caliphate – in Muslim-majority countries. The ISF did not dispute claims in 2007 that 9 year-olds were being taught that HT's repressive state must be established.

-When the ISF was established in 2005 two of its four trustees, Farah Ahmed and Yusra Hamilton, were members of HT. Hamilton is married to HT Media Representative Taji Mustapha and attended the party's 2009 conference. Neither Ahmed nor Hamilton denied membership of the extreme party when it was revealed in a 2007 *Sunday Times* [article](#), the same year in which the ISF received £113,411 in government grants. On Newsnight, Ahmed also said that she was not currently a member of HT. She refused, however, to deny previous membership.

Diversion tactics – ISF DCSF registration and Ofsted reports

-Media reports suggest that the Conservatives claimed one of the schools was not registered with the DCSF nor had it been subject to an Ofsted inspection. Ed Balls said that Michael Gove should have 'checked his facts'. Michael Gove wrote to Ed Balls on the 18 November asking Balls to provide him with the DCSF

registration number and the Ofsted inspection report as neither was available on the Ofsted website. Ed Balls only provided the information yesterday after it was raised in Prime Minister's Questions.

- The CSC report was correct in saying 'whilst the ISF website provides a DCSF registration number for the school in Slough there is no listing for the school in Haringey.'

ISF curriculum – authors' extreme views

-The 2007 *Sunday Times* investigation revealed that Farah Ahmed, who wrote the religious curriculum for the ISF schools, wrote for an HT magazine condemning the 'corrupt Western concepts of materialism and freedom'.

-It was further revealed that Themina Ahmed, author of the schools' history curriculum, wrote in the same magazine:

The world will, insha-Allah (God willing), witness the death of the criminal capitalist nation of America and all other (infidel) states when the army of jihad is unleashed upon them.

ISF – inspired by Hizb ut-Tahrir ideology

-On the current ISF website, the Foundation says its 'ultimate goal' and 'foremost work' is the creation of an 'Islamic personality' in children. The 2007 Ofsted report states 'The Islamic Shakhshiyah Foundation achieves its aim with regards to developing children's shakhshiyah [personality], by the use of halaqah (circle time) and teaching Islamic studies in a cross-curricular way.'

- It is clear that the Ofsted inspection failed to spot two key indicators of HT ideology and recruitment tactics. The creation of an Islamic personality is a key tenet of HT ideology. A halaqah is a study circle, usually used for Quranic recitation or Islamic studies, which HT uses to discuss party ideas and groom prospective new members.

CSC comment

Ed Balls incorrectly stated that the Conservative Party has made 'a very divisive allegation [...] which splits communities, which divides our country'. Dividing communities is not caused by people raising the issue of extremism in schools. The real problem is the government funding schools linked to such extremist groups.

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The Centre for Social Cohesion is an independent think tank

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