How to...  
...comply with the PREVENT Duty

What is PREVENT?

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities, including universities, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This applies to OU Students Association facilitated events because of our relationship agreement with the Open University.

PREVENT Duty is about safeguarding the welfare of OU students at Association events and reporting on any activity in which it is felt that any student or group of students is at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

You may have to consider whether views expressed by a fellow student constitute extremist views that risk drawing people into terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups.

The UK Government defines extremism as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

How does this affect volunteers?

All events organised by students - including those which are outside of business as usual - that are associated with the OU Students Association are within the scope of PREVENT. This applies to events whether they are online or face to face, and on or off University premises.

As an event organiser, you have a responsibility when carrying out your volunteering role to know what to do if you have a concern that might arise from conversations or activity that takes place at the event and where you feel an individual could be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

What should I do if I have a concern?

You should pass your concerns onto Prevent-Coordinator@open.ac.uk – copying in oustudents-volunteer@open.ac.uk - as soon as they come to light and provide any relevant copies of correspondence to that email address.

You can find more information in the OU’s Prevent Principles document.