

17 JANUARY 2008
Dr Peter Neumann: Welcome

01:06	It seems like we have a full house this morning, which is very good! Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Peter Neumann, and I'm Director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence. It's quite a mouthful when you first say it, but it gets easier when you practise, so I'd encourage you to say it a lot of times! Alternatively, you can simply use the acronym, which is ICSR.
01:32	It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first International Conference on Radicalisation and Political Violence. This conference today and tomorrow is unique and unprecedented: it's unique and unprecedented because it brings together experts, policymakers and senior practitioners from more than twenty countries and five continents to find concrete ways forward to deal with some of the most pressing issues of our time—some would say <i>the</i> most pressing issue of our time.
02:03	And when we first thought about ICSR it was clear that it needed to be different. And so we quickly agreed on a number of principles and ideas, which you will see reflected throughout this event.
02:18	First, ICSR isn't about preaching to the choir; it's about real engagement, bringing together people who don't always, and certainly not from the outset, always agree with each other. ICSR itself is a partnership of four institutions, four very different institutions rooted in different countries, different cultures and different political environments. In fact, ICSR is the first initiative in this field that brings together Arab and Israeli academic institutions.
02:50	Second, ICSR isn't just a talking show. Obviously, a conference by definition is a talking show. But the principal purpose of ICSR is not to hold conferences but to carry out first-rate research on some of the most pressing questions that need to be better understood.
03:07	With your input today and tomorrow this conference will allow us to pick up on emerging ideas, trends and arguments and help us refine our research agenda. In that sense the conference is not an end by itself; it is the means to an end.
03:24	And thirdly and lastly, ICSR is about bringing together knowledge and leadership. I think it's become clear over the past years that governments alone cannot resolve all the problems associated with radicalisation and political violence. But it's equally clear that no amount of academic writing will make a difference when governments don't listen, or indeed when experts don't even make an effort to be listened to.
03:51	And that's why ICSR wants to bring policymakers to the table, and that's why at this conference you will see and hear as many policymakers and senior practitioners as you will see academic experts. It's about combining scholarly insight on the one hand and political foresight on the other by bringing together the world's best thinkers with the people who can actually make a difference in practice.

04:15	And that brings me to our first and opening keynote speaker. Jacqui Smith is Member of Parliament for Redditch, the first woman to be Home Secretary, only the third woman—we've just checked—to hold one of the great offices of the State in this country.
04:32	Before becoming Home Secretary, Jacqui served as Minister in various Government departments. In 2006 she joined the Cabinet as Chief Whip. And some of that toughness that is required as Chief Whip stood her in good stead when she was appointed Home Secretary last June: because just one day into her new job, bombs were found in two places in London, bombs that could have killed literally hundreds of people if the attacks had been successful.
05:01	After that, the attack at Glasgow Airport took place—again, major loss of life was narrowly averted. She was credited on these instances with a sense of calm reassurance, quiet strength and leadership. And if further evidence of her good judgment was needed, it is the fact that she has chosen this conference to make her important announcement that I'm sure you've all heard about in the news today.
05:28	So I'm extremely pleased to welcome the Home Secretary. Thank you very much for joining us. The floor is yours.

END OF Dr Peter Neumann: Welcome

Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith MP
“Our shared values—a shared responsibility”

05:40 Peter, thank you very much. And I am really delighted to be here to speak to you today and to mark the launch of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence. There are few areas of domestic or international public policy where the case for exploration and enquiry is more pressing, where the need for understanding a debate is more urgent. So I applaud you on this important initiative and wish you every success.

06:12 Today I want to give you my perspective on these pressing and urgent issues:

- the causes and effects of violent extremism;
- how it comes to take hold in people’s lives;
- the damage it can do to individuals, communities and the wider society; and
- how that damage can be prevented and communities supported in rooting out its influence.

06:37 And the counter-terrorist strategy for which I’m responsible—known as CONTEST—has four main components:

- **pursuing** terrorists and disrupting the immediate threats that we face;
- **protecting** our infrastructure and our borders;
- **preparing** for any incident which may occur; and
- **preventing** radicalisation in the cause of violent extremism.

07:03 And I’ve got no doubt that it’s the last of these—stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists—that is the major long-term challenge that we face. The relentless process of persuasion and propaganda, of assertion and insinuation, that can lead ultimately to engagement or support for violent extremism, that poses particular questions and requires a rounded and comprehensive response.

07:35 Last year, we established the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Home Office [OCST] to coordinate the development and the delivery of the CONTEST strategy. And an early priority has been to focus on the need to review and enhance that Prevent work.

07:54 Central government departments, enforcement agencies, local authorities, institutions and community groups have all been involved in that process. And the wealth of expertise that they bring to it is injecting new energy into our efforts and helping us to build new thinking on the old. And those efforts will be the main focus of my remarks today.

08:18	But before turning to them, I think it's important first to give you a sense of the threat that we face. Last June, as you've heard from Peter, in my first few days as Home Secretary, the attempted attacks in London and Glasgow showed clearly the intent of those who want to mount indiscriminate attacks in public places. As we've seen all too clearly, attacks can happen without warning and with the aim of causing multiple fatalities.
08:47	Our current threat level in this country is 'severe', which means that we believe an attack is highly likely. Jonathan Evans, the Director General of the Security Service, recently estimated that there are some 2,000 people in the UK who pose a threat to our security. In 2006 the number was roughly 1,600. That increase, of course, is partly because our coverage of the extremist networks is now more thorough, but we also have to accept that more people are showing sympathy with the cause of violent extremism. Secretary Chertoff's comments this week on the rise of what he calls 'homegrown terrorism' in Europe are a timely reminder that this radicalisation, wherever it occurs, is a cause of international concern.
09:42	Last year in this country 42 people were convicted for terrorist offences related to 16 different operations. Half of those people pleaded guilty. Those figures show that the threat is real and serious. Among those convicted were the five young men sentenced to between 35 and 40 years as a result of Operative Crevice. Their plan was to detonate a device in London in 2004; but we should remember that they were not only prepared to make a conventional explosive device but also talked about obtaining a radiological device—a dirty bomb.
10:21	And material recovered after Operation Rhyme, the al-Qaeda conspiracy to attack London, again in 2004, also included instructions on how to make a dirty bomb and projections of its destructive effects.
10:35	At the moment there are five major terrorism trials in court here. These include the trials of six individuals charged in relation to the alleged plot to kidnap and kill a British soldier, and the trial of five individuals following an operation against an alleged terrorist facilitation network in this country. The fact that attacks are foiled and these trials is a credit to the work of the agencies and the police led by the Met in this country.
11:06	Since becoming the Home Secretary, I've made it my business to understand the basis for our threat assessments. In countering terrorism—just as much as in tackling crime and in strengthening our borders—I don't take my responsibilities lightly. The gravity and the extent of this criminal terrorist activity are now all too clear to me.

11:32	And it's equally clear to me that to tackle it we all need to keep clear heads. The threat is real, the threat is live; but we must keep it firmly in perspective. It comes from a very small minority of people—and the great majority of us, who share common values and principles—of course find the murder of innocent people abhorrent. And this is vital when we come to consider how best to respond to the threat that we face.
12:08	Terrorism is a crime that doesn't discriminate. That small minority threatens the safety and security of <i>all</i> communities in Britain, irrespective of politics, faith or ethnic background. And we are not unique in this; the same is true elsewhere. Indeed, despite its rhetoric to the contrary, al-Qaeda itself pursues a global strategy of killing Muslims. As so many Muslims in the UK and across the world have pointed out, there is therefore nothing Islamic about the wish to terrorise, nothing Islamic about plotting murder, pain and grief. Indeed, if anything, these actions are anti-Islamic.
12:54	Terrorism can affect us all, wherever and whoever we are. And let me be clear, therefore: those terrorist outrages are crimes, first and foremost. First and foremost, terrorists are criminals. And my duty as Home Secretary is to protect the security of our citizens and the freedoms that they enjoy.
13:15	The purpose of terrorism is to use indiscriminate killing to dictate the way we think and act, both as individuals and as governments. But it's a weakness of terrorism as a tactic that the way that we respond determines the impact that it will have. Where the terrorists ultimately succeed or not is up to us, not up to them.
13:41	We should not forget that we operate from a position of strength—for these values are shared by the overwhelming majority of people living in Britain. In Britain our response to preventing terrorism should therefore preserve both our security and the values on which our society depends. And in this country we will uphold our common values by pursuing terrorists as criminals through our criminal justice system. They will get the justice that they deny to others.
14:10	To support the work of criminal investigations and the due process of our judicial system, we need to ensure that the police and security agencies have the powers that they need to deal with that threat that we face. Countering terrorism and violent extremism is one of the most important and urgent priorities for the police service—that's why we're providing record levels of funding for counter-terrorism policing.
14:38	And to ensure that we have the powers as well as the resources that we need to mount an effective response to the threat we face, we will introduce the Counter-Terrorism Bill shortly. From the first, my approach to this Bill, to this legislation, has emphasised that importance of consulting, of listening to the voices of all who have an interest in our proposals. And there is a consensus on a number of the measures that we want to bring forward:

15:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the gathering and sharing of information about terrorist suspects; • the greater use of post-charge questioning of suspects; • tougher sentencing for offences with a terrorist connection; and • the seizure and forfeiture of terrorist cash, property and other assets.
15:28	<p>We've also amended our proposals for pre-charge detention to reflect the views that we've received. And in bringing forward these proposals, we've made clear that we're doing so on a precautionary basis, with strict limits imposed that mean they could only be used for a temporary period and in exceptional circumstances.</p>
15:54	<p>But an effective response to terrorism can never depend solely on the state or solely on law enforcement; it also depends on us—on the active commitment of individuals and communities to certain rights and responsibilities, to shared values which apply irrespective of religion or culture. These rights include the right to life, and to liberty; the right to freedom of speech and expression; and to freedom of religion—the right to live our lives as we wish, subject only to our law.</p>
16:32	<p>The rights we claim for ourselves need to be matched by the responsibilities that we owe to others—to our fellow citizens, to a common good. Together, these rights and responsibilities are the foundation for citizenship. As the Prime Minister said in his speech on liberty in October: in developing our work against terrorism, we must 'bring people together, mark out the common good and energise the will and resources of all'.</p>
17:03	<p>The way we respond to terrorism must reinforce our shared values, because it's on these values that our security ultimately rests. Because our work to reduce the threat here depends on individuals and communities, we will seek the widest possible consent for, and understanding of, our strategy. Success requires consensus as much as executive or law enforcement powers, and that in turn requires openness and consultation. We want to hear views and engage in debate. We published last year our strategy for countering terrorism and our continuing to evolve it in the light of experience. The Prime Minister intends to publish the National Security Strategy to Parliament shortly.</p>
17:56	<p>I've talked about the threat we face and about the principles that must inform and guide our response. I now want to focus in particular on counter-radicalisation. Study of experiences in this country and elsewhere has told us a lot about why people are drawn into the world of violent extremism, either as actors or supporters. Our best estimate is that in this country, as in others, violent extremism is caused by a combination of interlocking reasons:</p>

18:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by an ideology—by which I mean both misinterpretation of religion and a view of contemporary politics and history; • by ideologues and propagandists for this cause, very often taking advantage of the open institutions in this country; • by vulnerability in young people, of a kind that I recognise from other contexts; • by communities which are sometimes poorly equipped to challenge violent extremism; and • by grievances, some genuine and some perceived, and some, of course, directed very specifically against government.
19:11	<p>So our strategy to deal with radicalisation to violent extremism has to focus on each of these factors. Firstly, then, we need to challenge the ideology of violent extremism, that misreading of Islam and view of history and contemporary politics which justifies terrorism. The `we' in that sentence means not only civic society in Britain, but states and communities overseas as well.</p>
19:44	<p>Government can facilitate, but it should, of course, be cautious about the degree of expertise it can bring on matters of religion and about the extent to which it should seek to lead or to guide. And we need to be very clear about parameters. I don't want to discourage dissent or seek political conformity. I won't dictate how people should practise their religion or express their lawful opinions. But I will never accept an argument that legitimises mass murder or sanctions it.</p>
20:17	<p>And we've made progress in that area:</p>
20:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We've backed leading Muslim scholars and opinion-formers here to talk about extremist ideology at roadshows across the country. Some 60,000 people have attended to date, and an associated website gets 50,000 hits each month. • We want to see more Islamic studies here, perhaps a further centre of excellence. • We're supporting a programme of overseas visits by British Muslim opinion-formers to Muslim majority countries, and establishing links with prominent institutes overseas to better understand the teaching they can provide. • We are encouraging much more interaction between opinion-formers here and in Muslim majority countries to correct misunderstandings about Islam in the UK.
21:04	<p>But we must take action not just against the ideology, but also against those who promote it. We've legislated to enable us to do so, and we're now systematically disrupting the small group of key propagandists for terrorism in this country. The use of intelligence to identify and go after the individuals concerned will become an ever more important priority for policing and security services.</p>

21:3 4	We also need to sensitise those working in the institutions, including prisons and educational establishments, where propagandists are and have been active. With the Ministry of Justice and the Prisons Service we've set up an important programme to understand and address radicalisation in our prisons system.
21:5 6	And I know that this is a problem in many countries, and we've learned much from experiences elsewhere. I want particularly to highlight the very valuable contribution made to this programme here by the Prisons Chaplaincy, imams and others, who have a vital role to play in challenging anti-Islamic views and behaviours. In tandem, there have also been initiatives to raise awareness and understanding among Prisons Service staff.
22:2 5	Education has a key positive role to play in countering violent extremism—not only through the teaching of particular subjects like citizenship and religion, but also through the shared values embodied by the method of teaching. My colleagues John Denham and Bill Rammell have started a debate on how we maintain academic freedom whilst ensuring that extremists can never stifle debate or impose their views. They will shortly be providing guidance to Higher and Further Education establishments to help promote shared values, increase community cohesion and prevent violent extremism.
23:0 5	As a Government, we've got no wish to constrain the space for enquiry. But we want active debate and challenge, not a monologue imposed by ill-disguised force, and we must be ready to take action against propagandists who incite violence.
23:2 1	Schools can also make a crucial contribution to building resilience and supporting young people who may be exposed to extremist influences. Countering violent extremism features in the Children's Plan recently issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. We are engaging directly with head teachers to talk about what further support they need, and to ensure that schools are involved in local partnership work, including with police in their neighbourhoods.
23:5 3	There is ongoing concern and discussion—I know, including at this conference—about the internet as a key tool for propagandists for violent extremism. Let me be clear: the internet is not a no-go area for Government. We are already working closely with the communications industry to take action against paedophiles, and together we've improved the way that instances of possible abuse can be reported by internet users.
24:2 4	If we're ready and willing to take action to stop the grooming of the vulnerable young on social networking sites, then I believe that we should also take action against those who groom vulnerable young people for the purposes of violent extremism. In the next few weeks I'll be talking to industry and, critically, to those in the community about how best to do this—how best to identify material that is drawing vulnerable young people into violent extremism. Where there is illegal material on the net, I want it removed.

25:0 4	Our strategy also needs to find ways of directly supporting vulnerable people—by intervening with individuals when families, communities and networks are concerned about their behaviour. We want to know what advice to provide to a parent concerned about the behaviour of a son or daughter, drifting into a network which sanctions violent extremism, and we want to know how best to provide it.
25:3 0	In this context, we need to think about the most effective response—more about rehabilitation, where that will work, and less about the criminal justice system. Support to vulnerable individuals is best provided by communities. And I commend the lead that a number of mosques have provided, not only in developing material which refutes a misreading of Islam but also in providing a space in which that material can be put to best use.
25:5 9	<p>There are things that government can do to help that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting work with young offenders vulnerable to radicalisation; • helping to create linkages between those working on rehabilitation programmes overseas and those wishing to do so here; and • supporting the police and others as they work with people who are at risk.
26:2 3	Building resilient communities is the next key part of any strategy to counter radicalisation. The people who really understand the challenge of confronting violent extremism in our towns and cities are the people who live and work there. Muslim communities have been more at risk from the propagandists of violent extremism than anyone else, so there is a particular and compelling role for Muslim organisations, institutions and civic society to challenge what I have described today as anti-Islamic activity.
26:5 8	Of course, these organisations have every right to expect respect and recognition from others for what they've already achieved, and I pay tribute to the work being done in our communities, by our communities, for our communities—often without a fanfare of publicity, but with quiet determination and great conviction.
27:1 9	There's a very large range of activity underway already. Hazel Blears and her department have funded the development of more than 200 wide-ranging and ambitious projects. But over the next three years we'll be working with local authorities and local communities to bring about a step change in that work, with many projects focused on women and on young people, with others designed to support citizenship education and volunteering in the Muslim community. There are also a number of community-led programmes for faith leaders and for faith organisations, for imams and for mosque schools.

27:5 7	Policing has a key role to play in supporting resilient communities. But I want to emphasise that policing is vital to <i>all</i> aspects of the counter-radicalisation strategy I've described today—challenging the language of violent extremism; disrupting propagandists for terrorism; better protecting vulnerable institutions; and supporting individuals vulnerable to recruitment.
28:2 3	Counter-terrorist policing is not just about the sharp end—the disruption of those who seek to attack us, crucial though that is. It must also be about stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists. We can't, after all, simply arrest our way out of this problem. Developing a Prevent policing plan is one of the most important and urgent initiatives now underway, led by the Association of Chief Police Officers. The plan will build on other initiatives successfully developed by the police in recent years—neighbourhood policing, support programmes for drugs offenders, outreach to improve community cohesion, local partnerships to deal with a range of criminal activity. The plan will make use of those experiences and reflect that expertise, but it will deliver something that is recognisably new.
29:1 9	I want to end my remarks on our strategy by talking about how we address grievances which some people hold in this country and which may encourage them to sympathise with the propagandists of violence. These grievances may be about our foreign policy, or what's perceived to be our foreign policy. They may derive from experience or the perception of socio-economic disadvantage. Or they may be based on perceptions or misperceptions of police and law enforcement activity.
29:5 3	No grievance can justify terrorism. But where grievances are legitimately expressed, we are, of course, prepared to debate them. Terrorism must never drown out dialogue. And where grievances are not only legitimately expressed but well-founded, we must be prepared to respond. That a cause has been misappropriated by violent extremism doesn't make it a wrong one; rather, putting a grievance beyond the reach of a democratic solution, beyond the understanding of state and society, is a goal of those who wish to harm us—and we should do them no favours.
30:3 5	As I've explored today, the framework for action that we're developing is designed to offer comprehensive engagement with the threat that Britain faces from violent extremism. We've built a wide range of partners to deliver the framework, some of whom are new to the issue. The challenge is considerable, and cannot be met by a narrowly defined or narrowly delivered response.
31:0 2	That's why we're working, at home and overseas, at national and local levels. We're talking to local authorities and to regional government. We're considering carefully how the policing of counter-terrorism needs to develop to take account of counter-radicalisation and the extra resources that may be required for this purpose. And we're listening to you, academics and experts from around the world.

31:3 0	I finish where I began: it is certainly a key role of government to protect people's security. And it is also certain that government cannot do it on its own. That's the basis of our strategy—a strategy that is perhaps unequalled in the world today for its breadth of partnership and its scale of ambition.
31:5 4	To succeed against terrorism and violent extremism in this country, we will depend not on force, but on the force of our argument; not on authoritarianism, but on the authority that derives from shared values, shared rights and shared responsibilities.
32:1 5	Thank you. <i>[applause]</i>
END OF Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith MP	

Questions to Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith MP: Home Secretary	
32:30	<i>Dr Peter Neumann</i> The Home Secretary agreed to take a few questions, so if you have any questions please raise your hand, and we'll come to you with a microphone. Sir Sigmund first. Do we have a microphone for the first row? If you could please state your name, say who you're with, and then be brief and succinct in your questions.
32:51	<i>Sir Sigmund Sternberg</i> Sigmund Sternberg, Three Faiths Forum. I very much hope that your speech will be reported, because good news doesn't seem to get into the press. I mean, my organisation is supported by the Metropolitan Police, by Ed Balls, by Hazel Blears and that it's very important for us, the support you are giving us. And as a matter of fact, the Head of the Metropolitan Police, Ian Blair, is going to talk to us next week about the work that the Metropolitan Police is doing.
33:27	<i>Dr Peter Neumann</i> Okay. Maybe we can try <i>questions</i> now! So we have this gentleman, also here in the first row.
33:37	<i>Bassam Tibi</i> My question to you -
33:39	<i>Dr Peter Neumann</i> Could you please introduce yourself.

33:40

Bassam Tibi

My name is Bassam Tibi. I am a Muslim. I'm an immigrant to Europe. And I descend from the family of the Prophet, to my prophet. And I'm against terrorism because, as you said, terrorism is anti-Islamic, it's un-Islamic, it's anti-Islamic. And later on you added it is also based on a misreading of Islam, yeah. And my question to you for countering terrorism: do you agree that this policing is not enough for countering terrorism?

33:08

Do you agree with the fact that we need to de-legitimate the terrorists? Because the terrorists, they refer to Islam. And I interviewed 2,000 of them, and they believe they are true believers. They do not refer to Islam instrumentally, because they believe what they are doing is vis-à-vis the law. And I say it's in the path of God, and they say, 'No, this is not in the path of God; it is vis-à-vis the *Shaytan*, in the path of the Satan.' But in order to do this, we need to include the reference to religion and to de-legitimate them. Do you agree that this is a part of the agenda for countering terrorism?

34:42

Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith

Absolutely, and I hope that that was a key message of what I was saying today and about the approach that we're taking through the prevent strategy. I mean, you are fundamentally right that policing, law enforcement and the State will always be a key part of how we counter and protect ourselves against terrorism. But the long-term challenge is how we prevent the move to violent extremism. And it is quite clear, as I said in the Strategic Focus that we have in the plan, that tackling ideology and supporting those who are in a position to do it has to be a key element of the way in which we take that work forward. And we've already begun to do that, but I think there are things that we can learn internationally and more widely about how we are able to do that.

35:30

And incidentally, although it wasn't a question, I will just say, you know, obviously, I hope my speech is reported as well! *[laughter]* Although I am... You know, let's be quite clear that this is a task that isn't just about today's headlines. It is about a long-term challenge. And it's about the development of this strategy and the dissemination and delivery of it, which won't happen tomorrow, which won't even happen next year, but about which we are serious, committed to and need to work as widely as possible in order to make sure that it's successful.

36:04

Dr Peter Neumann

We have Boaz Ganor.

36:06	<p><i>Dr Boaz Ganor</i></p> <p>Thank you. Thank you for a brilliant presentation. I'm Boaz Ganor from Israel. And excuse me for saying that if I would be a British citizen I would vote for you! <i>[laughter]</i> But let me ask you one question, with your permission. Do you agree that there is a need to agree upon one international acceptable objective definition of the term 'terrorism'? Because we all discuss this matter, but we never defined it. And maybe there is a need for internal needs and international cooperation to agree upon what is terrorism altogether. And if you can refer also to the definition that you are holding, it would be very beneficial for us. Thank you.</p>
06:49	<p><i>Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith</i></p> <p>Well, I mean, we've actually recently, one of the elements of what we've asked people to look at in terms of the terrorism legislation is whether or not there are things that we needed to do in terms of our definition of 'terrorism' here. We asked for an external review of that. There will be some small changes that we'll make.</p>
37:07	<p>You know, I agree with you that actually sometimes almost it's not so much the agreement but almost the discussion about the definition that helps to bring out the elements that are crucial. And, you know, I can certainly provide you with further information about both the process that we've gone through and the way in which we use that.</p>
37:28	<p>But it's not enough on its own. You know, it then has to lead to action, and the sort of breadth of action that I've been identifying today, I think, in order to be effective. And those people who are British will possibly know that I represent a seat that's pretty marginal and pretty close in this country. So if I could put your endorsement on one of my election leaflets, <i>[laughter]</i> that would be really, really good!</p>
37:52	<p><i>Dr Peter Neumann</i></p> <p>We have one question here. Yes.</p>
37:55	<p><i>Maria Almendra McBride</i></p> <p>Thank you very much. Maria Almendra McBride, Grupo Radio Fórmula from USA Hispanic and Mexico. I am a London resident living in Tavistock Square, so I'm very familiar with what's been happening in the UK and I do join with the Israeli citizen that you do deserve respect and attention.</p>
38:19	<p>But as a Latin American, I wanted to quote Dr Carlos Fuentes from Mexico, an academic, as you said you want to hear of academics. He states in one of his books that 'the twenty-first century is the unfortunate century that carries forward the mistakes of the twentieth century, that also has the interests of the very few as a sacrifice of the very many'. I wonder what you would think of this in balance, Madam Chairwoman?</p>

38:56

Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith

Well, I mean, I suspect I'd have to read the rest of the book in order to completely understand the context. But if part of the argument is – well, part of *my* argument is, that actually if we believe that we can address the terrorist threat through the use either of tightly constrained or specific actions or through the engagement of only a few, then we will fail. And it is *only* through not only a development of policy and approach which builds the broadest possible partnership but which also does that on the basis of developing the broadest possible consensus about what it is we're trying to protect, that will be successful.

END

Questions to Home Secretary *contd*

00:30

Man [unidentified]

... hearts and minds of the people in the Muslim world.

00:34

Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith

Well, I mean, you know, that is probably a whole other lecture! However, what I *do* strongly believe—and, you know, touched on but perhaps this is an area where we need to do even more and even more talking—is that when I talk about building a strong partnership in the counter-terrorism approach and particularly the prevention work that I've been talking about today, it is clear to me that that has to engage both the international community in the broadest sense, it needs to address issues that may be of international concern, and it needs to build on the widest set of expertise.

01:16

Because what is quite clear is that neither the specific terrorist threat nor the forces that develop violent extremism are any longer constrained within one country. And it's clear that, in order to be able to address them, we need a broad international set of work in order to do that.

01:36

And I think the first task, genuinely, is for people actually to make that step internationally from just a narrow focus on the crucial but narrow areas of enforcement and intelligence and what we call the sort of 'pursue and protect' elements of our strategy, into a recognition that the long-term challenge is the tackling and dealing with de-radicalisation learning internationally and actually making that a key part of our strategies as well.

02:08

Dr Peter Neumann

We want to have two more questions, and one is going to Mr Abrahms, one of the leading intellectuals in the Arab world, which I'm very proud that we have at the conference.

02:19

Max Abrahms ?

Thank you, Peter, and thank you, Home Secretary. My question is actually to carry on and build on Professor Salzman's about the international dimension of your strategy. I know this is probably beyond the jurisdiction of a Home Secretary, but to succeed as a Home Secretary you have to have first cooperation by the departments within your Government, but also the regions from which ideas and potential terrorists seem to be disproportionately represented—and I mean the Arab Muslim world. And I did not hear any reference to that. You have communities, Muslim communities, that are increasing in numbers in your country as well as in Europe, and then you have the home countries from which many of these have come. So where in your strategy have you taken that into account?

03:17	<p><i>Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith</i></p> <p>Actually, well, I obviously didn't say it loud enough, but I strongly agree with you, firstly, that although I'm the Home Secretary, let me be clear that the important thing about this strategy first of all is it is one that is shared across Government, including having been developed with our Foreign Office and with others, explicitly because, as I said previously, there is no way, it seems to me, that we can deliver this unless we have the widest possible set of partners.</p>
03:47	<p>And in one of the areas in particular—when I was talking about the way in which we challenge the ideology and challenge the ideologues—action which enables us to work with Muslim majority countries, action which enables us to bring together our British Muslim community and those internationally, action which enables us to build on some of the best thinking of Muslim ideology and theology throughout the world, is a key part of the strategy, and so it must be if it's going to be successful.</p>
04:25	<p><i>Dr Peter Neumann</i></p> <p>I'm very sorry for not being able to take all your questions. I've largely ignored the press, which I apologise for, because I want to give preference to people actually attending the conference as conference participants—in that sense I'm selfish! So our last question goes to you, Mr Lee. Doesn't it work?</p>
04:48	<p><i>David Lee?</i></p> <p>Well, I want to thank Miss Home Secretary. I am Iraqi British, and I have a long term of experience in the issues. <i>[request for him to hold the microphone]</i></p>
05:05	<p>Well, I want to thank you for your ideas, and I hope that what is in the mind of the legislators will be in the mind of the executives. And this needs a lot of training. And we should accept that the world now is a small village because of the technology and revolution. So what is happening in Iraq or Afghanistan or in the Middle East affect the national security now here or in any state.</p>
05:35	<p>Referring to this, and I think you mentioned that you established a counter-terrorism department, I think you should establish a counter-radicalism department, because it's two different strategies and two different plans should be implemented. And I want to emphasise here the growing of radicalism among the youth in the UK. I have four children—two graduated from university, two are still there—and I understand what is going on between the youth, because they are the most affected people and attractive people by the radical and terrorist groups. Thank you.</p>

06:24

Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith

I think it is important, actually. I mean, I suppose I sort of slightly disagree with your argument that we should completely separate our counter-radicalisation work from the counter-terrorism work. I think it's the strength of our counter-terrorism strategy that it recognises the long-term cause of terrorism, which is the radicalisation of people to violent extremism. But I strongly support your view that we need to take a very broad approach to how we address radicalisation; and the role of education, both positively and what happens within educational institutions in this country, is a key element of our work.

07:06

You know, the fact that this is a strategy which has as partners our Department of Children, Schools and Family, which has as a partner our Department of Innovation in Universities and Skills, some of whose activity that I referred to in the speech is absolutely fundamental for its success.

07:22

Dr Peter Neumann

Well, thank you again, Home Secretary. *[applause]*

END