



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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8 February 2017

Dear Amber,

I am writing, further to our report of 22 July 2016 and my subsequent letter to Sarah Newton MP of 13 October 2016, to ask for an update on the Government's proposed Counter-Extremism Bill.

As you will be aware, a Bill was announced in two successive Queen's Speeches and my Committee was informed by the then Minister, Karen Bradley MP, that a consultation exercise would be carried out before the introduction of any legislation in this session.

You will no doubt be aware of press reports which suggest that the Bill may not be brought forward due to difficulties in defining what is meant by 'non-violent extremism'. This was one of the main issues that my Committee raised concerns about in its report. We noted that:

"The Government gave us no impression of having a coherent or sufficiently precise definition of either 'non-violent extremism' or 'British values'. There needs to be certainty in the law so that those who are asked to comply with and enforce the law know what behaviour is and is not lawful."

I would therefore ask if you could update my Committee on the Government's plans in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Harriet Harman

Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights