Newnham College
Cambridge

Statement of Management of College Events under the Prevent duty.
The University of Cambridge and its colleges have been subject to the Prevent duty, to ‘have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’ since 2015. Compliance is monitored by the Office for Students on the basis of an annual report made each year on 1st December, dealing largely with meetings and events.

The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 makes further provision for the protection of freedom of speech with regulations intended to be implemented on 1st August 2024. As the new government has halted this implementation date, the College intends to proceed as follows with regard to events and meetings in College.

Newnham College is committed to ensuring that Prevent is not implemented in a way which overrides the essential rights which are intrinsic to the College’s values as an academic institution. These include the right to free expression, academic freedom, autonomy, confidentiality, privacy and equal treatment under the law. Newnham College is a place of education, learning and research, whose members use the College premises to engage in research, debate, discussion, teaching and scholarship.

Events and meetings which are organised in College, by College members, as part of the academic curriculum, co-curriculum or other usual academic events will normally be expected to go ahead. The College will always aim to allow a meeting or event to go ahead provided it is within the law and does not pose an unacceptable risk to individuals. On the rare occasions where an event or meeting is proposed which appears to pose a risk under the Prevent duty, the College Group on Prevent and Freedom of Speech will evaluate the risk with the aim of mitigating it so that the event can take place safely if possible.

The College Group on Prevent and Freedom of Speech has the following ex officio members:
The Senior Tutor (Prevent Lead and Chair)
The Vice Principal
The Secretary to the Governing Body
Another Senior Member may deputise for either the VP or the Secretary to the Governing Body in the event of conflict of interest, or where particular expertise is required. All members of the Group are required to take and to update Prevent training as provided by the University.
There is a right of appeal to the Principal in her role as Chair of College Council.