



The Home Office

CTBill2007@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

6th November 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Possible Measures for Inclusion in a future counter terrorism bill/ options for pre-charge detention in terrorist cases.

As you may be aware, The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace was set up in the aftermath of the IRA bombing of Warrington in 1993, which killed the two boys after whom we are named.

Through our innovative educational programmes we are reaching young people who are on the fringes of society, excluded or at risk of social exclusion and helping them to re-engage in learning and social opportunities. We are tackling grass-roots problems in communities suffering from racial tension and violence borne out of prejudice.

As well as undertaking work to prevent conflicts arising, the Foundation also recognises the legacy of past conflicts through its work with victims/survivors of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' who live in Great Britain. Our 'Needs Analysis' research into the needs of victims was launched at Westminster in 2004. We provide advocacy and direct support services, including storytelling residencies to support these identified needs. This project, now in its final month, has directly benefited over 80 difficult to reach individuals who are geographically dispersed. The Foundation is the only organisation undertaking this specific work in the UK.

Due to our origin and the work we are doing to combat the after affects of the 7/7 bombings within communities in Leeds, we feel that we are well placed to comment on the proposed changes to legislation.

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While the Foundation strongly supports the need to ensure the safety of individuals and communities from those who may wish harm, we believe that legislation should encourage community cohesion rather than provide a basis of division.

In relation to the above consultation the Foundation wishes to express its view that the evidence has not been provided to assure us that any changes to the length of pre-charge detention are required. We feel that until that evidence base is produced then an extension as proposed would be damaging to community relations and especially so in some of our Northern towns. These changes would be perceived to be directed at particular ethnic groups.

The Foundation is more supportive of process changes which would enable better gathering of evidence and co-operation with international security forces to enable broadening the scope and legitimacy of evidence prior to charge and then potential trial.

Yours sincerely

Clare White
Chief Executive