

Commission for Countering Extremism Call for Papers: Statement of Work

Background

- 1.1. The independent Commission for Countering Extremism (the Commission) started work early in 2018, under the leadership of Lead Commissioner Sara Khan. A Queen's Speech commitment, the Commission will support everyone to do more to tackle extremism.
- 1.2. The Commission will produce a comprehensive study, to be published in Spring 2019, that will set out a full assessment of extremism in England and Wales and the effectiveness of the current response to countering it (including Government and wider societal efforts). Alongside this study, the Lead Commissioner will make recommendations to the Home Secretary on new policies to counter extremism and a future vision for the Commission, including its role, structure and priorities.
- 1.3. The Commission is working with stakeholders from government, the wider public sector, civil society, think-tanks and academia. The Lead Commissioner has established an Expert Group to advise and challenge her (details [here](#)) and is supported by a small Secretariat, including policy, research and communications experts.

Objectives

- 2.1. The Commission is looking for a series of individual short papers to answer key research questions. The topics have been carefully selected following the Commission's engagement, polling and a review of academic literature to help answer the key questions outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Commission's study ([here](#)).
- 2.2. The overall aim is that the papers will inform the Commission's understanding of the drivers of extremism, extremism online and extremists' objectives and tactics, as well as the effectiveness of current responses to it. The findings will inform the Lead Commissioner's recommendations to the Home Secretary and research priorities for the Commission's future work programme.
- 2.3. Authors will be invited to present their findings for discussion with the Commission, its Expert Group and fellow contributors. The Commission will publish the papers in full to coincide with the publication of its study, subject to peer review and legal review. Due recognition will be given to the author/s.

Research

- 3.1. This research consists of an accessible, referenced paper that addresses the following topic:

Other forms of extremism

At least two papers exploring other forms of extremism in England and Wales, including addressing some or all of the following:

- What do we know about the scale and prevalence of this/these forms of extremism?
- What are the objectives of different ideologies within this/these forms of extremism, what tactics do adherents use to achieve these objectives, and are these tactics evolving?
- What are the most significant harms of this/these other forms of extremism to individuals, communities and societies?

Although we welcome proposals on all forms of extremism we are particularly interested in papers on Far Left extremism and Sikh extremism.

- 3.2. As set out in the Terms of Reference, at this stage the Commission is not endorsing any definition of extremism and will rely on authors to identify and justify their own definitions.

Outputs

- 4.1. The research will have the following outputs:
- a) An accessible, referenced paper (up to 5,000 words, excluding footnotes) addressing the research topic delivered by 5pm Friday 5 April.
 - b) A commitment to double-blind peer review.
 - c) A presentation of findings to the Commission, its Expert Group and other authors. The discussion will take place at the Commission's building (in central London) or at a neutral venue between Monday 22 April and Friday 26 April. (Alternative dates may be considered in exceptional circumstances).

General Information

- 5.1. Personnel requirements
The Commission invites proposals from academics and experts in extremism and/or related areas. Author/s are expected to hold a postgraduate doctoral degree in a relevant field; demonstrate research interests and/or skillsets relating to extremism and/or related areas. Proposals from multiple authors will be considered providing one named author meets the criteria. This may include, for example, a postgraduate research student or practitioner and an academic.
- 5.2. Selection of papers
An independent three-person panel will evaluate the proposals and award contracts to the highest quality proposal for each research topic. The panel will comprise two of the academics from the Commission's Expert Group and the head of the Commission's Secretariat.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of:

- a) Evidence of ability to deliver the work, judged on the suitability of the proposed approach to answering the research questions. (40%)
- b) Relevance of author/s research interests and/or skillsets to the research aims. (30%)
- c) Price of the proposal. (30%)

5.3. Publication of papers

The Commission will publish the papers in full to coincide with the publication of its study later this year, subject to the following:

- a) Double-blind peer review, facilitated by the independent panel.
- b) Legal review
- c) A disclaimer that the information and views expressed in the paper are those of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission, and that responsibility for the accuracy of the information and the views therein lies entirely with the author/s.

5.4. Timetable

The timetable for the call for papers is as follows:

- Monday 4 February – Call for papers opens
- 10am Wednesday 20 February – Deadline for queries
- 10am Monday 25 February – Deadline for submission of proposals
- Friday 1 March – Contracts awarded
- 5pm Friday 5 April – Deadline for completed papers
- Monday 8 April – Friday 19 April – Peer review
- Monday 22 April – Friday 26 April – Presentation of findings

5.5. Copyright

Copyright shall be held by the author/s.

5.6. Ethics

Research must be conducted in accordance with relevant institutional or professional guidelines (e.g. the [Government's General Social Research Unit](#)). Responsibility for ethical conduct lies with the author/s.

5.7. Data processing and security

All data will be collated and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Instructions

Please prepare a document that responds to the four sections below and submit to info@extremismcommission.independent.gov.uk by 5pm Monday 25 February quoting 'Call for Papers' in the subject line.

You may contact the Commission with queries before 10am Wednesday 20th February. Email to info@extremismcommission.independent.gov.uk quoting 'Call for Papers query' in the subject line or telephone 0203 741 0166.

Commission for Countering Extremism Call for Papers

Proposal

Research topic
<p>Other forms of extremism</p> <p>At least two papers exploring other forms of extremism in England and Wales, including addressing some or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What do we know about the scale and prevalence of this/these forms of extremism? – What are the objectives of different ideologies within this/these forms of extremism, what tactics do adherents use to achieve these objectives, and are these tactics evolving? – What are the most significant harms of this/these other forms of extremism to individuals, communities and societies? <p>Although we welcome proposals on all forms of extremism we are particularly interested in papers on Far Left extremism and Sikh extremism.</p>
Section 1. Name of author/s
<p><i>Please detail the proposed author/s and their primary academic affiliation/s (where relevant).</i></p>
Section 2. Abstract (40%)
<p><i>Please describe how you propose to answer the research question. This should include the sub-questions selected, your approach and how it will draw on pre-existing research. (up to 300 words)</i></p>
Section 3. Biography (30%)
<p><i>Please specify the biographies of the author/s. Demonstrate the relevance of research interests and/or skillsets to meeting the research requirements. This should include publications, research projects, affiliations, research groups and any other relevant information.</i></p>
Section 4. Price (30%)
<p><i>Please detail a cost which represents the best value for money. As a guide the upper limit is £10,000. This should include all activity including any additional expenses.</i></p>

Proposal responses will be scored in accordance with the following criteria:

Mark	Comment
1	Unacceptable response, fails to provide confidence that the proposal will meet the requirements. An unacceptable response with serious reservations.
2	Poor response, lacks convincing detail. The Commission has reservations for the success of the proposal in meeting the requirements.
3	Meets requirements but lacks sufficient details for a higher score.
4	Good response that meets the requirements with good supporting evidence. Demonstrates good understanding.
5	Strong, comprehensive response that meets the requirements. Supporting evidence provided and no weaknesses resulting in a high level of confidence.