



Memorandum

10/21/2015

FROM: Muslim Public Affairs Council

TO: Participants of the Muslim, Sikh, Arab and South Asian Communities
Interagency Meeting at the Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division

RE: FBI CVE Program

Dear Mr. Treene:

Thank you for inviting the Muslim Public Affairs Council to participate in the federal interagency meeting on November 5, 2015. We would like to share this memo as guidance for the following issue of concern on behalf of the American Muslim community.

FBI CVE Program

1. On October 16, 2015 the FBI convened a "Community Focus Group" which comprised of faith and community-based groups to have the "opportunity to review FBI products regarding the community's involvement in deterring violent extremism and [to] provide constructive feedback on this endeavor."

We learned that the FBI wants to partner with communities on prevention and intervention efforts in order to counter violent extremism. Through this partnership, the FBI would establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a community group called Shared Responsibility Committees (SRC), which comprises of professionals equipped to deal with mental health issues, family counseling, religious literacy, etc. The established MOU with the SRC is the FBI's effort to creating partnerships and increasing intelligence sharing between law enforcement and local communities. The aim of the SRC is to rehabilitate an individual who has been identified by the FBI.

Additionally, we were briefed on a new web-based program aimed at high school students (9th – 12th grade), set to launch on November 2, 2015. This program focuses on educating our youth on violent extremism. Educating our youth on countering violent extremism and those who become extremists and identifying various ideologies through a web-based program designed as a game can lead to unintended negative implications, including being bullied. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 20 percent of students in grades 9-12 experience bullying, 15 percent of high school students are cyber-bullied and the frequency of students being bullied is disturbingly high, with 40 percent of students experiencing being bullied more than once a month.

- a. The FBI should support local communities and community-based programs in their efforts to maintain safety and security. In light of the FBI's role for criminal investigations and prosecutions, the FBI should not have the lead involvement in CVE programs. We would like more information on where the SRC has been piloted and more details around the SRC and web-based programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues. Please continue to utilize MPAC as a resource to these and other issues. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at hoda@mpac.org or at (202) 547-7701