

# MEDIA ALLIANCE

November 14, 2019

The Honorable Governor of California Gavin Newsom  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

cc: Kyle Tremblay, CA office of Emergency Services – CA-OES  
Legislative Director, Office of State Senator Connie Leyva, Chair Senate Education Committee  
Legislative Director, Office of Patrick O' Donnell, Chair of Assembly Education Committee  
Legislative Director, Office of State Assembly-person Eloise Gomez Reyes (San Bernardino)

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing on a matter of utmost urgency.

It has come to our attention today that a group called the Clarion Project, who are perhaps best well known for the creation of a polemical documentary film called “*Obsession, Radical Islam's War Against The West*”, 28 million copies of which were notoriously [inserted into 70 newspapers in battleground states weeks before the 2008 presidential election](#), have announced a 35-state “public education” campaign that includes outreach into schools under the name “Preventing Violent Extremism”.

Please see this link: <https://medium.com/@clarionproject/outreach-in-21-cities-to-prevent-violent-extremism-dfb52969fa81>

The program will include the California counties of San Bernardino and Orange County.

More information regarding the activities of the Clarion Group can be found in this summary from the Bridge Project at Georgetown University.

<https://bridge.georgetown.edu/research/factsheet-clarion-project/>

There is no doubt this private organization engages in prejudice and what Muslim communities have identified as Islamophobia.

The state of California launched in 2018 a program using the name “Preventing Violent Extremism” which is being administered by Mr. Tremblay and CAL-OES. The pilot version of that program granted a handful of nonprofit organizations \$125,000 grants to engage in counter-terrorism education programs largely focused in the schools and social service agencies.

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/grant-details?itemID=204&ItemTitle=FY+2018+Preventing+Violent+Extremism+Non+Profit+Pilot+Grant+Program+RFP>

Two of the awarded grantees: the Orange County Human Relations Commission and HADI will be operating in Orange County and San Bernardino, respectively. (Along with 2-1-1 in San Diego and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles).

It seems untenable to have private and state-funded programs operating in educational systems in the same jurisdictions using the same title, when one of the programs is operated by a known and identified anti-Muslim hate group.

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/anti-muslim>

At a minimum, messages will become muddled and confused between the two programs claiming the title of “Preventing Violent Extremism”.

Worse, the State may well become implicated by association with the activities of the private group which can lead to the perception by Muslim communities that their children are being targeted by the State and exposed to hate speech in the public education system.

Given this development in the last week, it is essential for the State of California to hit the pause button on the Preventing Violent Extremism program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Rosenberg". The signature is written in black ink on a light gray rectangular background.

Tracy Rosenberg  
Executive Director  
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(copied to my personal representatives)

Legislative Director, Office of State Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks  
Legislative Director, Office of State Senator Nancy Skinner