

Things cannot continue as they are...

Human Rights Without Frontiers presents its condolences to the families who have lost members and the people who have suffered injuries in the horrific terrorist attack at the London Bridge

By Willy Fautré

Speaking in Downing Street after a meeting of the government's emergency Cobra committee, PM Theresa May said the country "cannot and must not pretend that things can continue as they are". The prime minister said the country must "pull together" and unite to "defeat our enemies" and said "things need to change" in the way that extremism and terrorism are tackled. She added that there was "too much tolerance of extremism in our country" and while it would involve "some difficult and embarrassing conversations", that must change.

Towards the end of British multiculturalism?

This new terrorist attack, the third one in three months in the UK, may signal the end of the British multiculturalism model now perceived as inefficient to prevent terrorism. The juxtaposition of religious or ethnic communities inside the British cities and the accommodation of their specificities which were part of the British model are being questioned. "We need to live our lives not in a series of separated, segregated communities but as one truly one United Kingdom," Theresa May said.

UK Prime Minister said the counter-terrorism strategy would be reviewed and the UK would work with other countries to prevent the internet being a "safe space" for terrorists. She blamed the internet companies and held them accountable for providing that free space to hate preachers and terrorists. Cyberspace needs to be regulated to prevent extremism and terrorism planning, she said.

The enemy: the ideology of Islamist extremism

The British PM stressed that the common denominator of all the terrorist attacks, whatever their nature and modus operandi, is "the evil ideology of Islamist extremism that preaches hatred, sows division and promotes sectarianism."

"It is an ideology that claims that our Western values of freedom, democracy and human rights are incompatible with the religion of Islam. It is an ideology that is a perversion of Islam."

"Defeating this ideology is one of the great challenges of our time but it cannot be defeated through military intervention alone."

The masterminds of the Islamic terrorist ideology is not to conquer our countries politically or militarily but to fracture our societies and to make us recant our values, some terrorism experts say.

Since 2013 security services in the UK have foiled 18 plots. A large proportion of those have involved suspects who set out to commit acts of violence similar to the attack on Westminster Bridge and London Bridge.

Watch Theresa May's full speech at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3IRKjdyMW0>