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# Countering the Islamic Republic of Iran's Influence in the United Kingdom

*By Catherine Perez-Shakdam - Executive Director FFR*

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## Executive Summary

The annual Al Quds Day rally<sup>1</sup>, coordinated by groups affiliated with or sympathetic to the Iranian regime, is not merely an expression of political opinion. It represents a strategic extension of Iran's ideological and geopolitical objectives, a manifestation of the Islamic Republic's efforts to export its revolutionary doctrine to the heart of Western democracies. Through Quds Day, Iran actively weaponises the democratic freedoms of the United Kingdom—freedoms designed to protect peaceful dissent and political plurality—to incite hatred, glorify terrorism, and undermine social cohesion and national security.

This is not simply a failure of policing or intelligence; it is a failure of political will and legal enforcement. Despite the introduction of the National Security Act and the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme<sup>2</sup>, both of which were designed to expose and neutralise foreign malign influence, the continued tolerance of Quds Day and related activities demonstrates a critical shortfall in the UK's ability to safeguard its institutions, protect its communities, and defend its democratic values.

Quds Day is not just an annual rally; it is a symbolic victory for the Islamic Republic—a demonstration that its proxies and ideological operatives can infiltrate, organise, and publicly mobilise in one of the world's leading democracies without consequence. It allows Tehran to test the boundaries of British tolerance, to blur the lines between protest and propaganda, and to project power across borders through intimidation, soft-power influence, and ideological incitement.

The rally provides a veneer of legitimacy to messages that fundamentally oppose the UK's democratic norms, including the rule of law, the sanctity of life, the protection of minority communities, and the rejection of political violence. It emboldens domestic

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<sup>1</sup> United Against Nuclear Iran. "Quds Day." United Against Nuclear Iran. Accessed March 21, 2025. <https://www.unitedagainstanucleariran.com/quds-day>.

<sup>2</sup> UK Home Office. "Draft Guidance on the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (Accessible)." GOV.UK. Accessed March 21, 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/foreign-influence-registration-scheme-draft-guidance/draft-guidance-on-the-foreign-influence-registration-scheme-accessible>.

extremist networks, normalises antisemitism under the cloak of political activism, and legitimises actors and organisations that maintain direct links to hostile foreign intelligence services and terror infrastructure.

This policy brief outlines in detail the origins and strategic objectives of Quds Day, the Islamic Republic's broader influence operations in the UK, and the existing legal and political tools that remain underutilised in the face of this growing threat. We further analyse the national security implications of the UK's current inaction and propose a set of targeted recommendations for meaningful, lawful, and proportionate responses.

We urge the British government to act with clarity and resolve. British sovereignty, legal integrity, and the safety of its Jewish and Israeli communities must not be compromised by the ideological and operational influence of a regime that has declared the West its enemy.

## Context: What is Quds Day?

Quds Day (*Yawm al-Quds*) was established in 1979 by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini<sup>3</sup>, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, mere months after the overthrow of the Shah. It was not a spontaneous response to geopolitical developments nor a genuine act of solidarity with the Palestinian people, but a calculated political invention—a vehicle for exporting the Islamic Republic's revolutionary ideology and positioning Iran as the self-declared leader of the global Islamic ummah.

From its inception, Quds Day was designed to serve multiple strategic purposes: to project Iran's foreign policy beyond its borders, to delegitimise Israel's existence, and to galvanise anti-Western sentiment across the Muslim world. It fused Shi'a messianic symbolism with anti-Zionist rhetoric, transforming the question of Palestine from a regional conflict into a theological imperative.

In Tehran, Quds Day is not observed in solemnity but with state orchestration. Streets fill with banners, effigies of Israeli and American leaders are burned, and military hardware is paraded through the capital. Children are instructed to chant death slogans, university students are mobilised, and regime figures deliver speeches exalting martyrdom and resistance. Crucially, this is not merely domestic propaganda—it is part of a broader ideological campaign to frame Iran's revolutionary theocracy as the vanguard of Islamic resistance.

Khomeini's vision was never limited to Iran. His doctrine of *velayat-e faqih*<sup>4</sup> (guardianship of the Islamic jurist) imbues the Supreme Leader with religious and political authority over all Muslims. Quds Day was thus devised not only to oppose

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<sup>3</sup> Katz, Ely. "Iran's Quds Day: A Global Platform for Anti-Israel Incitement." BESA Center Perspectives Paper No. 1,999. Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. Accessed March 21, 2025. <https://besacenter.org/iran-quds-day/>.

<sup>4</sup> Chesney, Robert M. "Beyond Conspiracy? Anticipatory Prosecution and the Challenge of Unaffiliated Terrorism." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 80, no. 4 (2008): 853–939. <https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1479&context=jcl>.

Israel but to claim moral and political leadership of the entire Islamic world—superseding national borders, sectarian divides, and the sovereignty of other Muslim-majority states. The Islamic Republic has consistently promoted this narrative through its embassies, cultural centres, satellite television, and increasingly sophisticated online disinformation campaigns.

Globally, Quds Day rallies are coordinated through a network of regime-linked institutions and proxies. From Hezbollah in Lebanon, to Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, and sympathetic organisations across Europe and North America, Tehran uses Quds Day as a unifying occasion to disseminate its anti-Israel and anti-Western worldview. These groups are not mere affiliates—they are instruments of Iran’s foreign policy, funded, trained, and directed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its Quds Force.

In the United Kingdom, the London Quds Day rally has become the most visible expression of Iran’s ideological penetration into British civil society. Organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC)<sup>5</sup>—an entity that has hosted and celebrated regime figures and has a documented history of antisemitic and conspiratorial rhetoric<sup>6</sup>—the event has consistently featured rhetoric that glorifies terrorism, denies Israel’s right to exist, and incites against Jews under the guise of political protest. While organisers and participants have become more cautious in openly displaying Hezbollah flags since the UK proscribed the group in its entirety in 2019, they have adapted by using euphemisms, alternative banners, and coded language that clearly indicate support for Iran’s terror proxies.

What is often overlooked is that the ideological thrust of Quds Day is not limited to Israel—it is inherently anti-democratic, anti-Western, and expansionist. It promotes a worldview in which the Islamic Republic is locked in existential struggle against the liberal international order. The event is saturated with the language of conspiracy, presenting the West as a unified front of corruption, decadence, and oppression—an enemy to be dismantled through resistance. In this narrative, Muslims in the diaspora are encouraged to reject integration and instead embrace a transnational Islamic identity defined by loyalty to the resistance axis, with Iran at its helm.

This is not just religious zealotry—it is a strategic form of soft-power subversion. Quds Day operates as both a recruitment tool and an instrument of normalisation. It provides cover for radical groups to test the boundaries of legal permissibility, infiltrate civil society, and erode the line between legitimate dissent and incitement to violence. It also

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<sup>5</sup> Charity Commission for England and Wales. “Islamic Human Rights Commission.” *Register of Charities*. Accessed March 21, 2025.

[https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/?p\\_p\\_id=uk\\_gov\\_ccew\\_onereg\\_charitydetails\\_web\\_portlet\\_CharityDetailsPortlet&p\\_p\\_lifecycle=0&p\\_p\\_state=maximized&p\\_p\\_mode=view&uk\\_gov\\_ccew\\_onereg\\_charitydetails\\_web\\_portlet\\_CharityDetailsPortlet\\_regId=1106120&uk\\_gov\\_ccew\\_onereg\\_charitydetails\\_web\\_portlet\\_CharityDetailsPortlet\\_subId=0](https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/?p_p_id=uk_gov_ccew_onereg_charitydetails_web_portlet_CharityDetailsPortlet&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=maximized&p_p_mode=view&uk_gov_ccew_onereg_charitydetails_web_portlet_CharityDetailsPortlet_regId=1106120&uk_gov_ccew_onereg_charitydetails_web_portlet_CharityDetailsPortlet_subId=0).

<sup>6</sup> UK Lawyers for Israel. “Charity Commission Issues Official Warning to Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust.” *UKLFI*, May 22, 2023. Accessed March 21, 2025.  
<https://www.uklfi.com/charity-commission-issues-official-warning-to-islamic-human-rights-commission-trust>.

serves as a warning to dissidents: that the Islamic Republic's reach is not confined to its borders. For Iranian exiles, secular Muslims, Kurds, Bahá'ís, and human rights activists living in the UK, Quds Day is a chilling reminder that the regime's ideological apparatus is alive and well—and that Britain has thus far failed to constrain it.

Quds Day is not a protest. It is a projection. It is the Islamic Republic's theatre of resistance, performed on British soil with the apparent permission of the state. By allowing these rallies to continue year after year, the UK not only tolerates the glorification of terrorism but also surrenders part of its civic space to a hostile foreign regime. This is not a defence of free expression; it is an abdication of responsibility.

It is therefore critical to understand Quds Day not in isolation, but as part of Iran's wider influence strategy—a coordinated campaign of ideological warfare that seeks to undermine liberal democracy, promote sectarian radicalisation, and reshape the public square in its own image. The question is not whether Quds Day should be opposed, but why the UK has failed, despite the evidence and the legal frameworks in place, to stop it.

## The Islamic Republic's Broader Influence in the UK

While Quds Day is the most visible manifestation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ideological and political operations on British soil, it represents only one element of a far more extensive and entrenched network of foreign influence and subversion. The Islamic Republic has pursued a systematic campaign of infiltration, propaganda, and intimidation, seeking to expand its soft power capabilities and reshape public discourse in line with its revolutionary worldview. This effort, spanning decades, has involved multiple layers of institutional presence, community penetration, and covert activity.

Iran has strategically cultivated charitable organisations, community groups, media platforms, and religious centres that act as vehicles for its influence<sup>7</sup>. These entities are often presented as benign institutions devoted to humanitarian work, religious education, or cultural engagement. However, beneath these façades, many function as ideological outposts of the Islamic Republic, disseminating narratives that align with Tehran's worldview. Such organisations frequently receive financial backing—either directly or through proxy networks—from state-affiliated bodies such as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) or Iranian diplomatic missions abroad. In many cases, these bodies promote sectarian and supremacist narratives, framing the West, Israel, and secular liberalism as enemies of Islam.

Events sponsored or supported by these organisations frequently feature regime-aligned speakers, including clerics who have expressed support for armed jihad,

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<sup>7</sup> UK Parliament. "Countering Iran's Hostile Activities." *Hansard (House of Commons Debates)*, May 8, 2024. Accessed March 21, 2025.  
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-08/debates/1DA1DDDD-3DDE-40FE-82DD-07030F1EE6B3/CounteringIran'SHostileActivities>.

Holocaust denial, or the legitimacy of suicide bombings<sup>8</sup>. These individuals are often presented as scholars or activists, yet their rhetoric reveals a deeper objective: to foster loyalty to Iran's Supreme Leader and to undermine integration, critical thought, and democratic values within the Muslim diaspora.

Academia has also been a focus of Tehran's long-term influence-building. Pro-Iranian academics and researchers have been strategically embedded within British universities, particularly within Middle East and Islamic studies departments. While academic freedom is a cornerstone of democratic society, Iran has exploited this principle to create intellectual echo chambers that whitewash the regime's abuses, promote anti-Israel conspiracy theories, and suppress dissenting voices. Students and staff from Iranian or Jewish backgrounds have reported being marginalised or intimidated in such environments, reinforcing Tehran's soft authoritarianism under the guise of academic legitimacy.

Tehran's propaganda operations have further been amplified through media outlets operating on UK soil. State-funded networks such as Press TV—which has had its broadcasting licence revoked in the UK<sup>9</sup>—have nevertheless continued to exert influence online, targeting English-speaking audiences with content that promotes the regime's worldview while attacking critics, Iranian dissidents, Western democracies, and Israel. These operations are often supplemented by bot-driven social media campaigns that distort discourse, harass activists, and manipulate trending topics to serve Tehran's geopolitical narrative.

At the same time, Iran's intelligence services have engaged in increasingly brazen operations within the UK.<sup>10</sup> Iranian nationals and British-Iranian dual citizens critical of the regime have faced stalking, harassment, cyber-attacks, and threats against their families. In some cases, plots to kidnap or assassinate individuals on British soil have been thwarted by MI5 and counter-terrorism police, underscoring the very real and imminent danger posed by Tehran's covert activities.

Among the most vulnerable are members of Iran's historically persecuted minorities. The Baha'i community has been subject to vilification by Iran for decades, and this hostility has been exported abroad. In the UK, Baha'i organisations have faced smear campaigns, online harassment, and pressure within diaspora communities. Kurdish activists, long viewed by the regime as a threat to Iran's territorial integrity, have been targeted by Iranian agents seeking to infiltrate or disrupt their advocacy. Similarly, Ahwazi Arabs and Baluchi groups have reported attempts to sabotage their community activities or discredit their leaders.

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<sup>8</sup> Mendick, Robert, and Sam Armstrong. *The Islamic Human Rights Commission: Advocating for the Ayatollahs*. London: The Henry Jackson Society, May 2019. Accessed March 21, 2025. <https://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/HJS-IHRC-Report-WEB.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> BBC News. "BBC to Launch Persian TV Channel." *BBC News*, January 20, 2012. Accessed March 21, 2025. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-16652356>.

<sup>10</sup> de Bois, Nick, and Sir John Jenkins. *The Iran Question and British Strategy*. London: Policy Exchange, 2020. Accessed March 21, 2025. <https://policyexchange.org.uk/publication/the-iran-question-and-british-strategy/>.

In parallel, Iran's disinformation campaigns have created a toxic environment for Jewish and Israeli individuals in the UK. By using anti-Zionism as a conduit for antisemitic incitement, Tehran has successfully embedded its ideological agenda within certain segments of the British activist and academic left. Through Quds Day and affiliated activities, the regime has sought to make hostility toward Israel a litmus test for moral virtue, framing the Jewish state as the root of global injustice. This has resulted in an alarming normalisation of antisemitic tropes, including the demonisation of Jewish power, dual loyalty accusations, and Holocaust relativism, often under the banner of "resistance."

Tehran's influence has also extended to the local political sphere. There have been repeated concerns about individuals with openly pro-Iranian sympathies occupying advisory roles, lobbying positions, or public-facing activism within the UK political system. In some instances, local councillors, MPs, or parliamentary candidates have shared platforms with pro-regime speakers, attended Quds Day events, or failed to distance themselves from organisations with known ties to Iran's theocratic establishment. Such developments, if left unchecked, risk creating a permissive environment where foreign authoritarianism is granted political respectability.

The UK's intelligence and security services have repeatedly warned that Iran is among the most active foreign states engaged in hostile operations against British interests. MI5's public briefings have identified Iran as a strategic threat, citing its use of proxy actors, cyber operations, and state-sponsored assassination attempts. And yet, events such as Quds Day continue unchallenged, offering Tehran an annual platform to parade its ideology and intimidate its opponents—without effective legal or political consequence.

The continued tolerance of these activities amounts to a normalisation of foreign subversion and a troubling indicator of Britain's inability—or unwillingness—to apply its own national security legislation to foreign ideological threats. As Iran deepens its reach through ideological, institutional, and operational means, the integrity of the UK's public space, its minority communities, and its democratic values are increasingly placed at risk.

## Legal and Policy Failures

The British government has, in recent years, taken notable legislative steps to address the evolving threat landscape posed by hostile foreign actors. The National Security Act 2023 represents a landmark attempt to modernise the UK's legal framework in response to contemporary threats, particularly those emanating from authoritarian states. Among its key provisions are the criminalisation of covert influence operations and the expansion of state threat definitions to include activities that fall short of armed conflict but still aim to undermine national interests.

In parallel, the introduction of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS) was designed to promote transparency and accountability by requiring individuals and

organisations engaged in political influence on behalf of foreign governments to register their activities. These two legislative instruments—when effectively implemented—should have provided the tools necessary to detect, disrupt, and deter foreign-state-directed interference in British public life.

However, in practice, these frameworks remain underutilised, inconsistently enforced, and dangerously disconnected from events taking place in plain sight. The continued tolerance of the annual Quds Day rally in London—a state-orchestrated event that openly promotes the ideological narrative of the Islamic Republic of Iran—is a stark illustration of this failure. Organised by individuals and groups with clear links to Tehran, and featuring messages that align with the regime’s geopolitical and theological aims, the rally operates not merely as a political gathering but as a symbolic act of defiance against the UK’s national security architecture.

Iran is a regime that continues to detain British nationals as hostages, funds terror groups that have murdered civilians across the Middle East, and incites genocide through its official communications. That such a state is effectively permitted to brandish its ideological symbols and promote its message in the heart of the UK capital, year after year, is not only a contradiction of the government’s stated counter-extremism objectives but an erosion of public trust in the rule of law.

Quds Day organisers are not exercising protected political speech in the spirit of liberal democracy—they are acting as surrogates for a regime that seeks to dismantle that very democracy. They propagate hate, incite division, and provide political and moral cover to groups and ideologies that have been explicitly rejected by UK law. The continued framing of such activities as a matter of “free expression” is not a reflection of liberal strength—it is a misapplication of legal norms that ultimately empowers the enemies of those norms.

A critical but under-addressed element of this failure lies in the lack of educational support and specialist training available to police forces and civil servants tasked with enforcing counterterrorism and foreign interference legislation. Many frontline officers, as well as those within local authorities and civil society coordination roles, are not adequately equipped to recognise the ideological symbols, coded slogans, and political messaging used by the Iranian regime and its affiliates. As a result, key indicators of support for proscribed organisations and foreign state-directed influence are regularly overlooked, and legal thresholds are not met—not due to bad faith, but due to institutional under-preparedness. This systemic knowledge gap severely compromises enforcement and contributes to the broader environment of impunity.

Furthermore, the lack of enforcement sends a troubling signal internationally. When hostile states see that the UK is unable or unwilling to uphold its own security legislation against obvious infractions, it emboldens further interference. It also diminishes the credibility of UK foreign policy efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights abroad, revealing a disjuncture between domestic policy rhetoric and actual practice.



The current situation demands urgent corrective action—not only to restore the credibility of the UK’s legal frameworks but to reaffirm the country’s commitment to defending its citizens, institutions, and democratic values from foreign ideological subversion. The tools now exist; what is lacking is the political resolve and institutional preparedness to apply them.

## Impact on UK Communities

The implications of Quds Day and the broader spectrum of Iranian influence operations in the United Kingdom are profound, far-reaching, and increasingly corrosive to the safety, cohesion, and sovereignty of British society. While frequently framed as a community relations issue or a question of free expression, the reality is that these events and campaigns constitute an ongoing national security threat, and their effects are being acutely felt across a wide range of communities.

For **British Jewish communities**, the annual Quds Day rally is a source of deep anxiety and heightened vulnerability. The event routinely promotes antisemitic tropes, delegitimises Jewish nationhood, and provides ideological cover for those who would justify or glorify violence against Jews under the guise of political activism. The use of coded language, historical revisionism, and the conflation of Judaism with “global Zionist conspiracies” mirrors some of the most dangerous narratives used by extremist groups throughout history. These messages are not limited to fringe discourse—they are disseminated in central London under police supervision, with insufficient challenge. The result is a normalisation of hate, a chilling of public Jewish expression, and an erosion of the community’s trust in the state’s ability to ensure its safety.

**Israeli nationals and institutions**, including diplomatic staff, cultural centres, and businesses, are increasingly singled out by protestors who merge anti-Zionist rhetoric with implicit—and often explicit—incitement. Placards calling for the destruction of Israel, slogans invoking martyrdom and “resistance,” and speeches that dehumanise Israelis as oppressors all contribute to a threatening atmosphere for individuals connected to Israel, regardless of their personal views or affiliations. In some cases, these expressions cross the line into direct calls for violence—a legal threshold that remains difficult to enforce due to a combination of ambiguous speech protections and poor situational awareness among frontline authorities.

**Iranian dissidents and minority groups**, including **Bahá’ís, Ahwazis, Kurds, secularists, women’s rights activists**, and former political prisoners, experience Quds Day as a terrifying demonstration of the Islamic Republic’s continued reach. For these individuals, many of whom have fled persecution and torture, the rally is not an abstract political event but a reminder that the regime which exiled them can still operate openly and aggressively in the UK. Iranian agents have been known to photograph or film these individuals at protests, intimidate them online, and target them with smear campaigns aimed at discrediting their activism. The visible presence of regime-affiliated groups in British cities during Quds Day rallies sends a powerful signal of impunity and acts as a psychological weapon against those who oppose the regime.

This pattern of influence does not end with individuals. It extends to the broader erosion of Britain's public square, which is being increasingly exploited by adversarial foreign actors to launder ideological warfare through the language of protest and activism. The failure to enforce proscription laws, the lack of clarity around hate speech thresholds, and the absence of training for police and civil servants have created a permissive environment where radical ideologies can flourish under the cloak of democratic rights. This not only threatens vulnerable communities—it also undermines the credibility of UK institutions and the principle that the law applies equally to all.

In turn, British sovereignty itself is compromised. When hostile states and their proxies can operate with impunity, orchestrating rallies that glorify violence, incite hatred, and intimidate opponents, it calls into question the state's capacity to protect its citizens and uphold the integrity of its legal system. The impact is not theoretical—it is visible, tangible, and worsening. Communities under threat are being left to shoulder the burden of defence, while the mechanisms of the state remain underutilised or paralysed by political indecision and institutional inertia.

This is not merely a question of community relations—it is a matter of national security, democratic resilience, and public confidence in the rule of law. The UK must confront the reality that Quds Day and other Iranian-backed influence operations are not isolated provocations but part of a systemic campaign of ideological subversion and psychological warfare. They are designed to divide, destabilise, and dominate. If left unchecked, the long-term consequences will not be limited to those communities most immediately targeted—they will affect the entire fabric of British civic life.

## Policy Recommendations

The UK now faces a pivotal moment in its efforts to safeguard its democratic institutions, uphold the rule of law, and protect vulnerable communities from the malign influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As this policy brief has demonstrated, Quds Day is not an isolated occurrence, but part of a broader, strategic campaign of ideological warfare aimed at destabilising liberal democracies, undermining civil trust, and eroding British sovereignty. The tools to confront this threat already exist. What is required now is political will, institutional clarity, and an unambiguous commitment to national security.

We call on the UK Government to implement the following measures without delay:

**1. Enforce Counterterrorism Legislation with Consistency and Resolve:** Current UK law makes it illegal to express support for proscribed terrorist organisations, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad—all of which are celebrated during Quds Day rallies. Police and prosecutors must be empowered, trained, and mandated to act decisively when such laws are breached. This includes the deployment of proactive policing at public demonstrations, the collection of audiovisual evidence for prosecution, and the on-the-spot arrest of individuals glorifying terrorism or inciting violence. Civil liberties must never be a shield for those intent on dismantling the liberal order.

**2. Investigate Foreign Funding and Coordination Networks:** The Quds Day rally is not an organic civil rights demonstration—it is a coordinated expression of **state-directed propaganda**. The UK government must launch a formal investigation into the funding, logistics, and affiliations of the Islamic Human Rights Commission and any associated entities, using the full powers available under the **National Security Act (2023)** and the **Foreign Influence Registration Scheme**. Organisations acting on behalf of a hostile foreign power must be compelled to disclose those relationships publicly, or face criminal sanction.

**3. Proscribe the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Its Entirety:** The IRGC is the backbone of Iran's global network of terror and subversion. It is responsible for assassinations abroad, the training and arming of terrorist groups, and the ideological exportation of the regime's authoritarianism. Failing to designate the IRGC as a terrorist organisation undermines Britain's credibility and leaves a glaring gap in its national security framework. The UK must follow the example of allies such as the United States and act immediately to proscribe the IRGC in its entirety, including its Quds Force.

**4. Build Institutional Capacity to Recognise and Counter Ideological Subversion:** As outlined in this brief, one of the major barriers to enforcement is **institutional unpreparedness**. Police officers, civil servants, and local authorities often lack the training to recognise the symbols, rhetoric, and operational methods employed by Iranian-affiliated groups. The government should develop a comprehensive training and intelligence-sharing programme across law enforcement and civil service bodies to ensure ideological subversion is identified early and dealt with firmly.

**5. Enhance Support and Protection for Vulnerable Communities:** The UK must reaffirm its obligation to protect **Jewish, Israeli, and Iranian dissident communities**, who are most targeted by Quds Day rhetoric and the regime's wider influence operations. This includes increased funding for community security initiatives, rapid response mechanisms to threats and harassment, and formal recognition of the psychological toll caused by the state's failure to enforce its own laws.

**6. Publicly Reassert Britain's Democratic Red Lines:** The government must send a clear and public message: democratic freedoms do not extend to those who seek to destroy democracy from within. It must make unambiguously clear that Britain will not be a stage for the glorification of terrorism, the incitement of hatred, or the projection of authoritarian ideology under the pretext of activism. A joint statement from the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, and relevant ministers should be issued reaffirming zero tolerance for foreign interference and antisemitic incitement.

Quds Day is more than a rally. It is the ideological theatre of a regime that uses the language of justice to promote war, the banner of liberation to incite hatred, and the cloak of protest to extend its authoritarian grip beyond its borders. The fact that such an event continues to occur in Britain is not a sign of democratic strength, but of institutional hesitation in the face of aggression.

It is time for the UK to draw a clear line: foreign regimes may not hijack British streets to promote terror, glorify violence, or erode community trust. The government must act—not only in defence