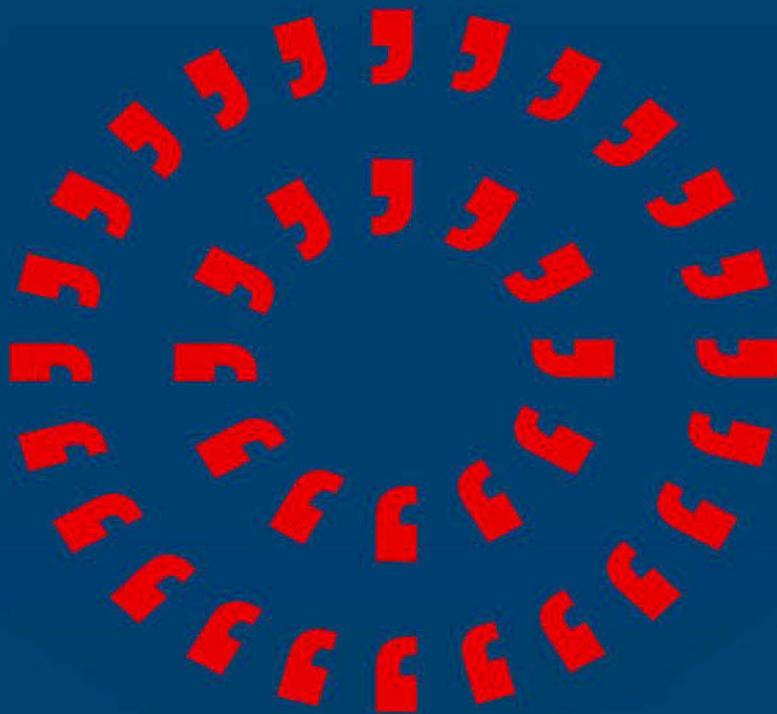


Survivors
against terror



Martyn's Law

Proposed new legislation to provide better protection from terrorism for the British Public.





Foreword by Figen Murray, mother of Martyn Hett

Our life as an ordinary family ceased on 22nd May 2017 when our son Martyn was murdered in a terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena. As a parent I might have been excused if I had disintegrated at that point. But I tried not to do that, but instead to channel my experience to help others.

Exactly what that would mean I didn't at the time know, but a year later after a theatre trip in Manchester where no security checks were performed, I knew that pushing for improved security was where I would focus.

I had wrongly assumed that since the attack in May 2017, venues would have learnt their lesson and would have put stringent security checks in place. I was devastated to see that this was not the case. It felt as if what happened in Manchester on that fateful night had been forgotten.

I never set out to be an activist or to stir things up. However, the threat level to the UK from terrorism is currently stated as 'Severe'. This means that a terrorist attack is 'highly likely'. As a parent who lost her son, I know only too well that nobody is immune from violence of this nature. We cannot predict when and where an attack can happen. So as well as trying to track down terrorists before they commit atrocities, we also need to get better at protecting the public from the attacks we cannot foil.

That means putting in place basic security procedures so that every venue and public space has a plan. Of course, what this would look like will be dependent on the venue and the circumstances. Martyn's Law doesn't advocate a one size fits all approach, it's all about having a plan relevant to the threat. It seems absurd to me that we have legislation that sets out how many toilets a venue must have and how food must be prepared, but nothing that holds those same venues responsible for having basic security in place.

Martyn's Law isn't going to stop terrorism. Nothing can do that. But I do hope that if the government legislate for Martyn's Law then it will mean simple common sense security will make it much harder to inflict mass casualties and fewer people will have to suffer what I and the parents of the 21 other bereaved families of Manchester have had to endure.