Hindu Forum of Britain 2026

PROTECTING OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES

A GUIDE TO MARTYN'S LAW PREPAREDNESS

1. **IMPLEMENT CORE PROCEDURES**
   Prepare safe evacuation and lockdown plans.

2. **ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION**
   Set up systems for alerting individuals on site and coordinating with emergency services.

3. **PRIORITISE TRAINING**
   Ensure staff and volunteers are adequately trained to respond effectively.

4. **ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY**
   Appoint a named individual responsible for compliance.

5. **PROMOTE AWARENESS**
   Build familiarity with critical principles such as "run,hide, tell".

Further guidance and support is available:
https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law
https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2025/04/03/martyns-law-factsheet/

Security training courses are also available through CST:
https://cst.org.uk/about-cst/safe-security-advice-for-everyone

vascroft foundation
Charity No. 1105645

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Martyn's Law: Awareness

Legislation:
Martyn's Law (The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025) was introduced following the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing to improve public safety by mandating that venues and events, based on the number of people they reasonably expect to be present at the same time, have responsible persons take steps to prepare for potential terrorist attacks. The legislation requires responsible persons to implement appropriate "public protection procedures" – invacuation, evacuation, lockdown, and communication – so far as is reasonably practicable to ensure a consistent, nationwide approach to protective security, regulated by the Security Industry Authority.

The Act received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025, with a minimum 24-month implementation period before full enforcement. There are 2 tiers of requirements, which are informed by the number of people reasonably expected to be present at premises and events at the same time, and in the case of premises, from time to time.

Standard

- Reasonable expectation of 200-799 for standard tier premises (events are not captured in this tier).
- The Security Industry Authority (SIA) must be notified of who the responsible person is for their place of worship. Public protection procedures must be in place, but there is no requirement for physical changes e.g. CCTV cameras

Enhanced

- Reasonable expectation of 800+ for enhanced tier premises (events are not captured in this tier)
- In addition to the above, enhanced tier requirements would also include additional requirements or public protection measures and a compliance document, which need to be provided to the SIA. **There is a special consideration for places of worship, which will always be considered standard tier (even if there is an expectation for 800+ attending).**

Public protection procedures include:

- Evacuation – safely guiding people out of the premises.
- Invacuation – moving people safely into the premises or to secure areas within it.
- Lockdown – securing the premises to restrict the entry of an attacker or to prevent people from leaving in the event of an attack.
- Communication – alerting individuals on site to move away from danger, alerting them to danger, providing information and instructions, and with wider community and emergency services
- Training and awareness – not an explicit requirement by the Home Office but ensure staff and volunteers are able to identify appropriate procedures so far as is reasonably practicable (taking into account their environment)and ensure that staff are aware of the, and how and when to implement them.

Key considerations:

- Responsible person (e.g. board of trustees) responsible for compliance
- Routine staff and volunteer briefings in the event of an emergency
    - What might be common forms of attack? Which procedure might be the most suitable response?
- Crowd management plans
- Clear signage and evacuation routes
    - Familiarity with principles such as 'Run, Hide and Tell'
- Co-ordination with the local authorities as and when needed

Martyn's law: Preparation

To prepare your place of worship, we would recommend carrying out a risk assessment to identify and mitigate risk, although this is not a requirement. Here is an example template which can be adapted for use:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Current Controls	Additional Actions
Large festival crowd spilling onto the road	Medium	High	Volunteers, barriers	Add exit marshals, pre-event briefing
Suspicious individual	Low	High	Open-door policy	Train volunteers to report concerns
Blocked exits	Medium	High	Fire exits	Weekly checks, signage
Communication failure	Medium	Medium	Verbal alerts	PA system test, WhatsApp group

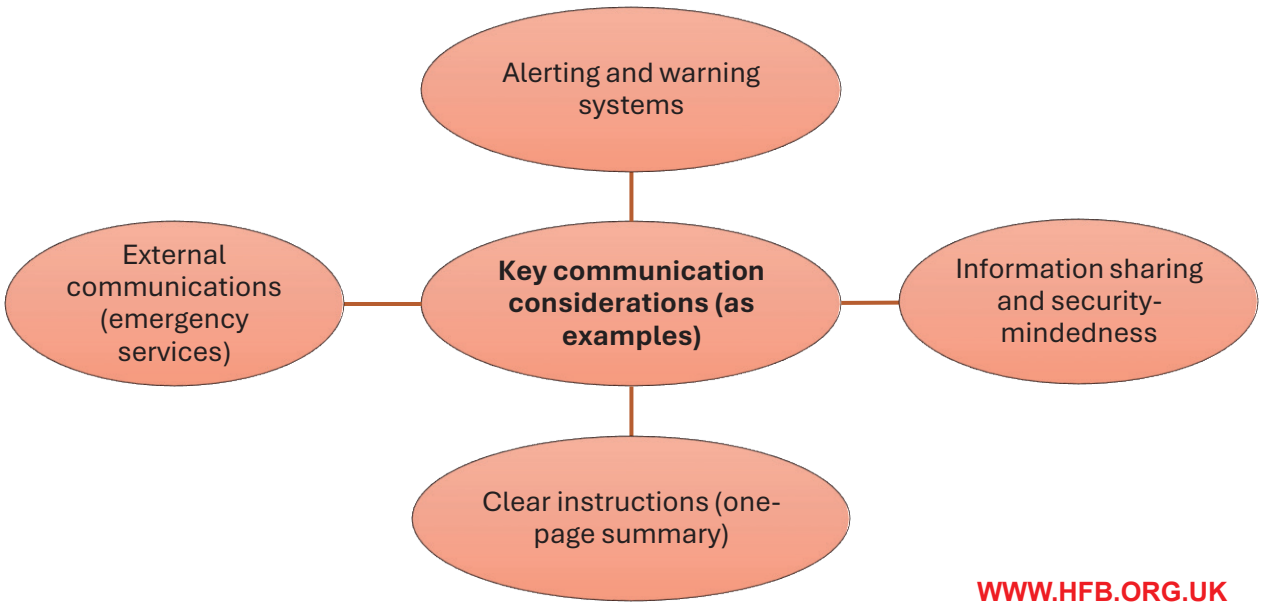
Emergency evacuation plan: key considerations (as an example):

- A suitable fire detection system.
- A process for identifying false alarms.
- A clear understanding of who calls 999.
- A clear passageway to all escape routes.
- Suitable routes and exits for people to escape.
- Clearly marked escape routes – these should be as short and direct as possible.
- Emergency doors that open easily – and emergency lighting if it is needed.
- Providing training so your staff and volunteers know how to use the escape routes
- Set out a safe meeting point for staff, volunteers and anyone on site.
- Considered the needs of anyone who might not be able to escape quickly if there's a fire – for example, wheelchair users or people with visual impairments.

London Fire Brigade

Please ensure you have also considered invacuation, lockdown and communication.

Evacuation planning – free templates are available:
https://evacuation-planner.com/
https://www.edrawsoft.com/ad/fire-escape-plan-maker-edrawmax.html



Martyn's Law: Further info

Enhanced tier:
This does not apply to places of worship but will apply to religious festivals such as Navratri if held away from a place of worship and meeting other qualifying event criteria, e.g. held at commercial venues. The responsible person (or designated responsible person e.g. trustee of an organisation) needs to have in place appropriate public protection measures, as are reasonably practicable, that could be expected to reduce both (i) the vulnerability of the premises or event to an act of terrorism, and (ii) the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals if an attack was to occur there or nearby. Associated documentation needs to be produced and provided to the SIA.

Points to consider:
Enhanced duty requires:

- Documented procedures submitted to the SIA (Terrorism Protection Act, s.6–7)
  - Public protection procedures related to evacuation, invacuation, lockdown, and communication
  - Public protection measures related to monitoring, movement control, physical safety and security, information security

- Examples of measures to reduce vulnerability (not exhaustive list):
  - Establishing a multi-agency planning group (event organisers, local authorities, emergency services)
  - Clear zoning – separate public, staff/volunteer, and restricted areas with visible signage
  - Trained stewards positioned throughout the venue

This does not necessarily mean expensive equipment. It can include:

- Volunteer stewards at entrances
- Bag check policies
- Temporary barriers
- Clear signage
- Crowd flow planning

Practical potential steps for preparing ahead of enhanced tier events (not exhaustive)

- Include a short safety briefing before major festivals
- Train event coordinators to manage large crowds
- Encourage volunteers to report suspicious behaviour
- Build relationships with local police Prevent teams
- Run one annual drill