

Press release

For immediate release

The Centre for the prevention of radicalization leading to violence (CPRLV) in collaboration with the Against Violent Extremism Network (AVE) announce a panel discussion on *Troubling Times: Mobilizing The Voices Of Formers For Community Engagement* that will be led by **five former extremists**. This event will be held on March 13th, 2018 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Hôtels Gouverneur Montréal (1415 Rue St-Hubert, Montréal, QC H2L 3Y9). The event will be held in English.

Montreal, March 9, 2018.

Current societal polarization exemplified by the rise of hate speech and acts of violent extremism makes the work of dialogue and community engagement more essential than ever. Authentic, credible voices are needed to challenge divisive, and violent narratives that sow discord and fear in our communities. Voices such as those of “former extremists” can play an integral role in prevention efforts locally, nationally and globally. With the ability to share intimate experiences of pathways into and out of extremist movements, former extremists have the ability to deliver community interventions, support law enforcement, and public policy, all while challenging dominant media narratives about radicalization.

Based on this observation, the Against Violent Extremism Network (AVE), lead by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, and The Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV) will lead a dialogue with a distinguished panel of ‘former extremists’ who are all in some fashion confronting the challenges of being actively part of prevention strategies both in the United States and Canada.

The panelists will be:

- **Shannon Martinez (AVE):** Former Neo-Nazi skinhead. She is now accredited racial dialogue facilitator, community activist and public speaker.
- **Elisa Hategan (AVE):** Ex-member of the Heritage Front. She is a writer, speaker, freelance journalist and educator on far-right extremism in Canada.
- **Jesse Morton (AVE):** Former extremist, cofounder of the radical website Revolution Muslim. He is now research fellow at the Program on Extremism at the George Washington University.
- **Bradley Galloway (AVE):** Former white supremacist, ex member of Volksfront. He is now research and intervention specialist at the Organization for Prevention of Violence (OPV).
- **Maxime Fiset (CPRLV):** Former Neo-Nazi skinhead. He is now project associate at the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence

About the AVE

The Against Violent Extremism (AVE) Network, founded and supported by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, and the Gen Next Foundation, as well as Jigsaw, is a unique and powerful new global force in the ongoing struggle to tackle violent extremism. Former violent extremists (‘formers’) and survivors of

violent extremism are empowered to work together to push back extremist narratives and prevent the recruitment of 'at risk' youths.

About the CPRLV

The Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV) is a pioneer in Canada and North America. It is the first independent non-profit organization aimed at preventing violent radicalization and providing support to individuals affected by the phenomenon, be they individuals who are radicalized or undergoing radicalization, family or friends of such individuals, teachers, professionals or field workers. The CPRLV is a provincially mandated organization whose work also includes the prevention of hate crimes and incidents as well as the provision of support and counselling for victims of such acts.

Source:

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