

# Preventing Violent Extremism Forum

At the Crossroads of Theory and Practice

Presented By



New York City | October 17, 2018

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**PRESENTERS**



**COUNTER  
EXTREMISM  
PROJECT**



Permanent Mission of the Hashemite  
Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Norway  
to the United Nations

# Preventing Violent Extremism Forum

At the Crossroads of Theory and Practice

Scandinavia House | 58 Park Avenue, New York NY 10016 | October 17, 2018



THE MPOWER PROJECT

The 'MPOWER Project is a not-for-profit, non-partisan NGO that is a hybrid creative/strategic communications agency and think tank with the goal of “out-branding” social and digital recruitment to violent ideology using research-backed brand marketing tactics. The 'MPOWER Project advocates for preventative, human-centric approaches to countering violent extremism and has developed an original audience theory—Identity Vulnerability—which considers radicalization through nuanced understanding of an at-risk individual’s state of mind. The 'MPOWER Project was founded in 2017 by Christy Grace Provines, a graduate of Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and a 15-year Brand Marketing veteran in NYC. The 'MPOWER Project’s Advisory Board consists of distinguished leaders in government, academia, marketing, and intelligence.

### Letter to Audience

In the era of Internet today, preventing violent extremism of all varieties must be approached as both art and science. Technology, data science, and cognitive security must be used in lock-step with hard security and tactical measures, all while keeping citizens’ rights central.

In a world that often seems ridden by violence, it is not enough to focus on security measures, traditional weapons, and tactical operations. We need to inoculate against radical ideology before it even takes root, and subvert violence before it even becomes a conscious

option. The 'MPOWER Project’s team brings together 50+ years of combined experience in conflict resolution, security policy analysis, military and intelligence operations, marketing, journalism, strategic communications, and academic research. This combined experience has enabled us to develop an approach to “out-brand” violent extremism that puts the human element first and is about prevention at its core.

The 'MPOWER Project, Counter Extremism Project, and Permanent Missions of Jordan and Norway have convened a Forum with a robust group of global cross-sector experts, practitioners, academics, and policymakers. The goal is to have nuanced conversations on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and how to counter the proliferation of extremist ideology today.

We thank you for the opportunity to consider these highly complex issues through a different lens: a human-centric approach, enfusing state-of-mind psychographics and personal identity indicators. The 'MPOWER Project was developed to push the limitations of traditional measures and carve out a space for new private-public partnerships and innovative use of tried and true disciplines like marketing and psychology engagement. At the heart of prevention is inoculation. As an organization, we believe that words and ideas can be more compelling than violence. We seek to create doubt, introduce ambiguity, and support identity empowerment.

## COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

The Counter Extremism Project (CEP) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, international policy organization formed to combat the growing threat from extremist ideologies. Led by a renowned group of former world leaders and diplomats it combats extremism by pressuring financial and material support networks; countering the narrative of extremists and their online recruitment; and advocating for smart laws, policies, and regulations.

Extremists are spreading their ideology and recruiting support across the globe, posing a complex and urgent challenge that cannot be addressed by government alone. There is a responsibility for private groups and individuals to organize in opposition to extremists. To this end, CEP is:

- Assembling an extensive research and analysis database on extremist groups and their networks of support, providing an indispensable resource to governments, the media, NGOs and civil society organizations, and the general public;
- Exposing channels of financial and material support to extremist groups;
- Using the latest communications, social media, and technological tools to identify and reveal the extremist threat and directly counter extremist ideology and recruitment online; and
- Assisting policymakers around the world to devise legislation and regulations that effectively combat extremism.

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8:30–9:15 AM

**Registration and Networking Breakfast Buffet**

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9:20–9:25 AM

**Emcee Remarks**  
Dean Obeidallah

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9:25–9:45 AM

**Introductory Remarks**  
Ambassador Hattrem, Permanent Mission of Norway

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9:50–10:10 AM

**Introductory Remarks**  
Ambassador Sima Sami Bahous, Permanent Mission of Jordan

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10:15–10:35 AM

**Opening Remarks**  
Christy Grace Provines, The 'MPOWER Project

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10:40–11:00 AM

**Keynote**  
Hans Jakob Schindler,  
Counter Extremism Project

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11:05 AM–12:20 AM

**Panel #1**  
A Human-Centric Approach to Preventing Radicalization

Moderator:  
Ambassador Marc Ginsberg, Advisor, Counter Extremism Project

Panelists:  
Mia Bloom, Georgia State University  
Mitch Silber, Former NYPD, Advisor, Counter Extremism Project  
JM Berger, Author—EXTREMISM  
Ian Acheson, Sampson Hall, Advisor, Counter Extremism Project  
Hassan Hassan, GWU—Program on Extremism

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12:25–1:35 PM

**Panel #2**

Preventing Radicalization to Violence in the Digital Age

Moderator:

Laith Alkhouri, Flashpoint, Advisor, The 'MPOWER Project

Panelists:

Graeme Wood, The Atlantic

Joshua Fisher-Birch, Counter Extremism Project

Kendra Clarke, Sparks & Honey

Don Codling, Former FBI Unit Chief—Cyber Crimes Division

Sgt. Mourad Mourad, NYPD

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1:35–1:55 PM

**Boxed Lunch**

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1:55–2:25 PM

**Lunch Keynote/Short Film**

Psychology of Violent Extremism

Conversation with Christian Picciolini, Free Radicals Project

Dr. Arie Kruglanski, University of Maryland

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2:45–4:15 PM

**Interactive Breakout Sessions**

**Breakout #1**

Messaging and Online Recruitment

Keynote moderators:

Laith Alkhouri, Flashpoint, Advisor, The 'MPOWER Project

Hans Jakob Schindler, Counter Extremism Project

Expert moderator:

Ryan Wick, Whistle Sports—The 'MPOWER Project Creative Director

**Breakout #2**

Community Engagement and Awareness

Keynote moderator:

Randy Blazak, Coalition Against Hate Crimes

Expert moderator:

David Daoud, Counter Extremism Project

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2:45–4:15 PM

**Breakout #3**

Early Detection and Prevention (Family, Friends and Educational System)

Keynote moderator:

Ian Acheson, Sampson Hall, Advisor, Counter Extremism Project

Expert moderator:

Shannon Martinez, Free Radicals Project

**Breakout #4**

Content Takedown (Regulation and Intervention)

Keynote moderator:

Ambassador Marc Ginsberg, Advisor, Counter Extremism Project

Expert moderator:

Don Codling, Former FBI Unit Chief—Cybercrimes Division

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4:30–5:30 PM

**Presentation of Key Findings**

Moderator:

Christy Grace Provines, The 'MPOWER Project

Panelists:

Ryan Wick, Whistle Sports—The 'MPOWER Project

David Daoud, Counter Extremism Project

Shannon Martinez, Free Radicals Project

Don Codling, Former FBI Unit Chief—Cyber Crimes Division

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5:30–7:30 PM

**Closing Remarks and Reception**

Jim Berger, Book Signing and Remarks



### Dean Obeidallah, Emcee

Dean Obeidallah is a former trial lawyer turned writer, radio host, comedian and activist. He has used his skills in great part to counter bigotry and hate.

Dean hosts SiriusXM radio's daily program, "The Dean Obeidallah Show," making him the first Muslim American to host a national radio show. He also was the co-director/co-producer of the comedy documentary entitled "The Muslims are Coming!" that used humor to counter anti-Muslim bigotry and build bridges.

He writes weekly for both The Daily Beast and CNN.com Opinion as well as having written articles for various other publications including *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, NBC.com and *The Huffington Post*.

Dean has also seen extremism first hand having been the target of verbal attacks and defamation by anti-Muslim activists and right-wing extremists in recent years.

He can also be seen on television as one of the co-stars of Comedy Central's "Axis of Evil" special and has appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" and "The View," Comedy Central's "The Nightly Show" and can be seen frequently on CNN and MSNBC.



### Ambassador Tore Hattrem

Ambassador Tore Hattrem was appointed Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York on September 12, 2017. Tore was previously Special Adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' UN Department, State Secretary/Deputy Foreign Minister at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2015 to 2016 and Director General of the Department for Regional Affairs from 2012 to 2015.

He served as Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2010 to 2012, and as Ambassador to Sri Lanka from 2007 to 2010. Prior to his tenure in Sri Lanka he was Deputy Director General and Head of the Section for Peace and Reconciliation (2002–2007).

Tore has been with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1992, during which time he has gained broad diplomatic experience. This includes Adviser in the UN Security Council Unit (2000–2002), First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN and the WTO in Geneva (1997–2000) and Second Secretary at the Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi (1994–1997). He has also worked in the UN Section (1992–1993). Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he worked as Senior Executive Officer in the Ministry of Finance and as an officer in the Norwegian Armed Forces for several years.

From 2003 to 2007 Tore was head of the Norwegian facilitation team in the peace process between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front (communist movement in the Philippines).

Tore holds a Master degree in Political Science from the University of Oslo. He graduated from the Norwegian Officer Candidate School in 1982. Tore is married to Ms. Marit Gjelten. They have three children.



### Ambassador Sima Sami Bahous

Ambassador Sima Sami Bahous is the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations. Ms. Bahous brings many years of leadership experience to this position. She has been the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Development Sector at the League of Arab States since 2008. Prior to this, she served in two ministerial posts in Jordan as President of the Higher Media Council and as Adviser to King Abdullah.

Ms. Bahous is deeply committed to promoting sustainable socio-economic development, alleviating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab world. She works passionately towards enhancing gender equality, youth empowerment, quality education and human rights.

Prior to her latest appointment, Ms. Bahous served as Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Arab States from 2012. Between 2008 and 2012, she was the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Development Sector at the League of Arab States.

Ms. Bahous holds a PhD in mass communications and development from Indiana University, United States, a master's degree in literature and drama from Essex University, United Kingdom, and a bachelor's degree in English literature from Jordan University.



### Christy Grace Provines

Christy Grace Provines is an anti-radicalization and strategic communications expert who brings in-depth experience and subject matter knowledge to her position as Founder, President and Chair of the Board for The 'MPOWER Project in New York City. As a storyteller, creative solution-builder and dynamic-strategist, Christy believes in the need to discard politics; rather, she brings a human-centric approach to out-branding violent extremism through The 'MPOWER Project.

Christy aims to carve out a space for a more preventative focused dialogue among subject matter experts, practitioners, academics and policy makers. Christy has been recognized as a thought leader who brings a unique perspective and creative multi-disciplinarian approach to understanding recruitment to violent extremism, particularly, as related to digital media, technology and the impact of messaging.

She has presented The 'MPOWER Project's Framework at The U.S. State Department, U.S. Department of Defense and the United Nations Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism. Christy's point of view is informed by more than 15 years as a brand marketer and digital strategist in the private sector where she successfully drove global partnerships for Conde Nast and Time, Inc. before going to the agency side in 2016.

She currently serves as VP of Strategic Development at a YouTube marketing agency. She holds a Master of Public Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs with specializations in international security policy and media and strategic communications. She also has a BA in Journalism from Iowa State University and serves on the Board of Directors for the Foundation for Post-Conflict Development as the Director of Government and External Relations.



### Dr. Hans-Jakob Schindler

Dr. Hans-Jakob Schindler has wide international experience in diplomacy, intelligence and security. He is currently the Senior Director at the Counter Extremism project (CEP) in New York; a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Diplomatic Initiative in London; and the Board of Directors of Compliance and Capacity Skills International in New York.

In 2013 he joined the ISIL, al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Monitoring Team of the United Nations Security Council and served as the Team's Coordinator from July 2015 until January 2018. As Coordinator Hans led the global work of the Team concerning ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Afghan insurgency and their associated individuals and entities. Prior to his appointment, Hans worked as an associated partner for West Sands and a consultant for Stirling Assynt in in the United Kingdom as well as strategic advisor to several companies in Europe. He pioneered the development of a range of new consultant products focusing on security, political and economic issues concerning the Central Asia, the Gulf, the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, he served as Program Director for the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) in London.

Between 2005 and 2011 Hans held the position of First Secretary Political Affairs and Liaison to the Security Forces at the German Embassy in Tehran.

From 2001 until 2005 Hans headed Germany's team investigating al-Qaida in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia. He introduced scenario-based reporting and shaped analytical work in the area of counter terrorism.

Having studies in Tübingen, Georgetown, and Tel Aviv, Hans holds a Masters and PhD degree in International Terrorism from St. Andrews University, United Kingdom.



### Ambassador Marc Ginsberg

Marc Ginsberg spent his formative years in the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt) and was the first U.S. Ambassador of Jewish heritage to an Arab nation. Appointed by President Clinton, he served four years in Morocco (1994–1998). Amb. Ginsberg was knighted by the King Hassan II—the first U.S. envoy accorded this honor.

Amb. Ginsberg commenced his government career as a national security legislative assistant to Senator Edward M. Kennedy (1971–1977). During the Carter Administration Amb. Ginsberg served as the White House Liaison for Secretary of State Vance and as Chief of Staff to Special Envoy Gov. Averell Harriman (1977–1979). In 1979 he was appointed Deputy Senior Adviser to President Carter Middle East Policy working extensively on the Camp David Accords and Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives.

Amb. Ginsberg earned his law degree from Georgetown University in 1978. He practiced international commercial and corporate law from 1981–1993 in the U.S. and throughout the Middle East. He served as Deputy Press Secretary to President Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, and co-national security director for Vice President Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he was co-founder and President of Layalina Arab television productions ([www.layalina.tv](http://www.layalina.tv))—the first U.S. Arab language television production company serving the Middle East chaired by former President George H.W. Bush.

Currently, Amb. Ginsberg serves as Senior Global Counselor to the Counter Extremism Project, based in New York ([www.counterextremism.com](http://www.counterextremism.com)), whose mission is to intercept and facilitate the removal of radical Islamist incitement and other forms of extremist content from social media.



### Mitch Silber

Mitchell D. Silber is the former Director of Intelligence Analysis at the New York City Police Department and is currently an adjunct professor at Columbia University's Graduate School for Public and International Affairs.

At the NYPD, he supervised the research, collection and analysis for the Intelligence Division's entire portfolio of ongoing terrorism related investigations and was responsible for strategic assessments of emerging and future threats to the City of New York. Mitch co-authored the 2007 NYPD report "Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat," and is the author of *The Al Qaeda Factor: Plots Against the West*, published in 2012 by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Mr. Silber received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania before spending nine years in corporate finance as a partner at The Carson Group and later as a principal at Evolution Capital, LLC, a boutique investment bank. Following his work in corporate finance, Mr. Silber earned his M.A. in International Relations from Columbia University. He also serves on the Dean's Advisory Board at SIPA and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

He is the chief executive of Parallel Networks, a new non-profit committed to working with former terrorists to combat violent extremism.



### Mia Bloom

Mia Bloom is Professor of Communication at Georgia State University. Bloom conducts ethnographic field research in Europe, the Middle East and South Asia on violent extremism and speaks eight languages. She has authored books and articles on terrorism and radicalization including *Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror* (2005) *Bombshell: Women and Terror* (2011), *Small Arms: Children and Terror* (forthcoming 2019) with Dr. John Horgan and is completing a book on women and ISIS and Boko Haram entitled *Veiled Threats Women And Jihad* for Brookings Institution Press, (forthcoming). Bloom is a former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and has held research/teaching appointments at Princeton, Cornell, Harvard and McGill Universities.

Bloom has a PhD in political science from Columbia University, a Master's in Arab Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a Bachelor's degree from McGill University in Russian, Islamic and Middle East Studies. She is regularly interviewed on MSNBC, Fox News and CNN for national security and terrorism related news and delivered a TEDx talk about women and violent extremism.



### JM Berger

J.M. Berger is the author of *Extremism* (MIT Press, August 2018). He is a research fellow with VOX-Pol and a postgraduate research student at Swansea University School of Law, where he studies extremist ideologies. Berger is co-author with Jessica Stern of *ISIS: The State of Terror*, and author of *Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam*. Other major publications examine terrorist propaganda, right-wing extremist movements and the use of social media by extremists and other bad actors.

As a consultant for social media and security companies and government agencies, he conducts research and training on issues related to online extremism, advanced social media analysis, and countering violent extremism (CVE).



### Hassan Hassan

Hassan Hassan is a senior research fellow at the George Washington University's Program on Extremism, focusing on militant Islam, Syria, Iraq, and the Gulf region. He is the co-author of *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, a New York Times and Washington Post bestseller, translated into more than a dozen foreign languages, and chosen as one of the Times of London's Best Books of 2015 and The Wall Street Journal's top 10 books on terrorism. He is also a senior fellow at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy.



### Ian Acheson

Ian Acheson is a 50 year old Ulsterman with a long involvement in prison security and counter terrorism from operational to command level.

In 1994 Ian joined Her Majesty's Prison Service as a prison officer rising rapidly to Governor role. Ian has extensive involvement in operational command of serious prison incidents, hostage negotiation and counter-terrorism policy and practice relating to the threat posed by IRA terrorists and lately the very different challenge posed by Islamist extremists in custody. On leaving the prison service, Ian was appointed Director of the international prison charity 'Prisoners Abroad' supporting British citizens detained overseas.

Ian left public service in 2016 as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the GB statutory regulator for the Equality and Human Rights Acts.

In July 2015, the then Secretary of State for Justice, Michael Gove, MP, asked Ian to lead an independent review of Islamist Extremism in prisons and probation in the UK. With the help of a small expert team, Ian spent the next seven months defining the threat, assessing the quality of the response and making recommendations. The report was accepted almost in its entirety by Government who described it as a 'landmark review.' It is widely regarded as one of the most significant and far reaching contributions to the UK Government's fight against extremism. Ian has travelled internationally advising governments in Europe, Asia, North Africa and the Middle East on best practice in combating violent extremism. He currently works as a senior advisor to the Counter Extremism Project, a US-based international NGO.



### Laith Alkhouri

Laith Alkhouri is a Co-founder and the Senior Director of Advanced Intelligence at Flashpoint, a business risk intelligence company that tracks physical and cyber risks and advises government agencies on an array of national security investigations. Mr. Alkhouri, a native Arabic speaker, regularly advises federal law enforcement and security investigations. He heads Flashpoint's advanced intelligence, customizing intelligence solutions for a range of public and private sector entities. Mr. Alkhouri also occupies the role of Executive Advisor for The 'MPOWER Project, consulting the board on subject matter, organizational and structural issues.

Throughout the past decade, Mr. Alkhouri analyzed thousands of documents, communiquees and videos. Mr. Alkhouri brings in-depth expertise on the topic of how terrorist networks operate on the Internet, monitoring emerging communication platforms and tactics, techniques and procedures used to radicalize people, incite attacks, and evade detection.

Mr. Alkhouri has presented his findings to audiences at the State Department, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, House Committee on Homeland Security, the Council on Foreign Relations, the NYPD, and academic institutions and security conferences. Mr. Alkhouri's analysis and commentary are frequently cited in national and international media, including The New York Times, NBC News, CNN, Reuters, The Daily Beast and others. Mr. Alkhouri holds an MS in International Affairs with a concentration on International Conflict and Security and a BA in Political Science and Government.



### Graeme Wood, *The Atlantic*

Graeme Wood is a National Correspondent for *The Atlantic* and has written for many other publications, including *The American Scholar*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. His book, *The Way of the Strangers: Encounters with the Islamic State*, (Random House, 2017) was a *Foreign Affairs* “Best Book of the Year” and won the Canadian Governor General’s Award for Non-Fiction. It has been translated into Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Romanian, and Arabic.

Wood was the Edward R. Murrow Press Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (2015–2016) and a distinguished visiting fellow at the University of Pennsylvania (2018). He is a non-resident fellow at George Washington University’s Program on Extremism and a recurrent visiting lecturer at The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. He has taught at Yale since 2014.



### Joshua Fisher-Birch

Joshua Fisher-Birch is a Content Review Specialist with the Counter Extremism Project (CEP). He researches how ideology is amplified online and monitors online extremist communication, propaganda, and tech company’s policies towards extremist groups. Joshua co-authored CEP’s July 2018 “The eGLYPH Web Crawler: ISIS Content on YouTube,” and has written about online explosive guides, the availability of terrorist propaganda online, and emerging trends among online supporters of ISIS and the extreme right. Prior to joining CEP, Joshua worked as a web-based researcher in legal services, and for human rights organizations. Joshua has a Master’s Degree in international security from American University’s School of International Service, and a BA from Oberlin College where he studied politics. He is fascinated by political violence, history, and subcultures.



### Randy Blazak

Randy Blazak earned his PhD. from Emory University in 1995 after an extensive field study of racist skinheads. He was an award-winning professor of sociology at Portland State University from 1995 to 2015. He has served as the chair of the Coalition Against Hate Crimes since 2002, which links community groups, local and federal law enforcement, government agencies to respond to and educate about the issue of hate crimes. He has recently been traveling around the world to consult on countering violent extremism strategies. Blazak is currently researching a book on racist prison gangs.



### Kendra Clarke

Vice President of Data Science and Product Development at Sparks & Honey, Kendra captains a team of technologists focused on using data to quantify culture and power the transformation strategies that build better companies and better futures.

Kendra has spent over a decade working for New York-based marketing and consulting firms, as well as on a few product startup projects of her own. She has worked on a host of different clients—ranging from CPG companies like Procter & Gamble to high tech clients like IBM, as well as household names like Starbucks, AT&T, and the NYTimes.

She is a co-founder of BLK Palate, a culinary collective creating media and dining events that center and amplify innovators in the African Diaspora. Kendra speaks regularly on the intersections of diversity, inclusion, and technology.



### Don Codling

Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Privacy Officer for Double Check Solutions, REGO/Zoom Payment Solutions and managing partner at STORM Guidance US.

He is the co-chair of the International Association of Privacy Professionals Washington D.C. chapter (2017–2019) and has detailed knowledge of US Data Privacy and cyber security practices with emphasis on GDPR and US Privacy Shield implications. Don has provided expert witness testimony in both criminal and civil litigation on cyber security, data privacy and electronic surveillance issues.

Exec Manager 23+ years with FBI-as Unit Chief Cyber division-extensive operational experience in Cyber Crime and Cyber National Security investigations. FBI lead for Cyber STORM 2 and 3 national Cyber exercises. Possessed TS/SCI clearance with CI Polygraph. Served as Chairman of International Cyber Crime and Cyber Security working group. Numerous presentations globally on cyber security trends, threats and mitigation strategies with focus ICS/SCADA. Continues to provide Cyber security assessments and training internationally.

Senior Cyber security advisor for organizations such as Hu-Manity, Flashpoint, Noblis and others. Membership in the Cloud Security Alliance, CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) and CIPP/US (Certified Information Particular focus on COPPA, HIPPA, FCRA and AML privacy guidelines and regulations.

Prior work as Chief Information Officer and Chief Privacy Officer for Swift Exchange (E-Commerce firm) and Urban FT (a SaaS based digital payments platform). CoChair on multiple occasions (2013–2017) for National Security and Cyber Security for Energy and Utilities (ICS/SCADA) with focus on the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) region.



### Ryan Wick

Ryan is an award winning Director, Producer and Editor who lives in New York City. Over his 10+ year career he has directed not only for film and TV, but also commercial spots and documentaries for brands such as Nike, McDonald's, Pepsi, Heineken, Toyota, Versace, New Era and countless others. His "One of a Kind" series for Dr Pepper won the 2015 Digiday award for Best Branded Content Series and he has also won several Telly Awards and Communicator Awards. From 2010–2015 he was the Director of Video Production at Complex Media and currently works as the Director of Branded Content at the Whistle Sports Network, where he specializes in developing and creating content that connect with both millennial and Gen Z audiences. In addition to his role as Co-Creative Director for The 'MPOWER Project, he is also hard at work on his second novel.



### Shannon Martinez

Shannon Martinez, a former neo-Nazi skinhead, has two decades of experience in developing community resource platforms aimed at inoculating individuals against violence-based lifestyles and ideologies. Martinez has worked in at-risk communities teaching and developing dynamic resiliency skills. She has worked for school systems, nonprofits, and community organizations. Martinez now works as the Program Manager for Free Radicals Project [www.freeradicals.org](http://www.freeradicals.org), as well as being the US Regional Coordinator for AVE (the Against Violence and Extremism Network)—the largest network of former violence-based extremists and survivors of extremist violence in the world. She has participated in programs with such organizations as the UN Office of Counter Terrorism, Hedayah, The Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence, the National Counterterrorism Center, and UN Women. Martinez has also assisted in training law enforcement officers, building programs for educators, and collaborating with policy makers. As the mother of seven children ages 21 down to 2, she feels passionately about building empowered families and communities.



### Arie Kruglanski

Arie Kruglanski (PhD, UCLA) is a Distinguished University Professor of Psychology at the University of Maryland and a co-founder of START, The National Center of Excellence for the Study of Terrorism and the Response to Terrorism. He has published widely in the area of human judgement and decision making, motivation, group processes and the psychology of terrorism. Professor Kruglanski also serves as Executive Advisory to The 'MPOWER Project.



### Christian Piccolini

Christian Piccolini is an Emmy Award-winning producer, author of *White American Youth*, and an advocate of peaceful intervention for a more human-centric approach to countering violent extremism. Following his involvement and eventual exit from the early American white-supremacist skinhead movement, he founded Free Radicals Project, an organization dedicated to helping individuals disengage from extremist movements. Christian recently premiered *Breaking Hate* on MSNBC, a television documentary-series about his de-radicalization work.

*Arie Kruglanski and Christian Piccolini were not able to attend the Forum because of prior commitments—they will appear together as part of a short filmed conversation: [The Psychology of Radicalization](#).*

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## CONTACT US

### THE 'MPOWER PROJECT

#### Christy Grace Provines

Founder and President

#### Andrey Gordiyenko

Managing Director

### RESEARCH TEAM

#### Rachael Firestone

Director and PhD Candidate,  
Vanderbilt University

#### Marina Chernikova

Research and Strategy Director  
Post-Doc Research,  
University of Maryland

#### Tommy Leo

Associate

#### Stephanie Huynh

Associate

#### Zachariah Crutchfield

Associate

#### Jesse Mathieu

Associate

#### Catie Ladas

Associate

#### Fiona Yang

Associate

#### Alex Levit

Associate

#### Jonathon Glidden

Associate

### CREATIVE TEAM

#### Ryan Wick

Creative Director

#### Brian Miller

Director/Producer

#### Mac Eldridge

Producer/Director

#### Steven Madura

Production Manager

#### Michael Tashji

Brand Director

### ENGAGEMENT

#### Media and Press Inquiries

[info@mpowerproject.org](mailto:info@mpowerproject.org)

#### Event-related Inquiries

[events@mpowerproject.org](mailto:events@mpowerproject.org)

#### Social Media

Facebook:  
THE 'MPOWER PROJECT

Twitter:  
[@mpowerproject](https://twitter.com/mpowerproject)

LinkedIn:  
THE 'MPOWER PROJECT

#### Website

[www.mpowerproject.org](http://www.mpowerproject.org)

### CEP CONTACT

#### David Ibsen

Executive Director

### CEP ENGAGEMENT

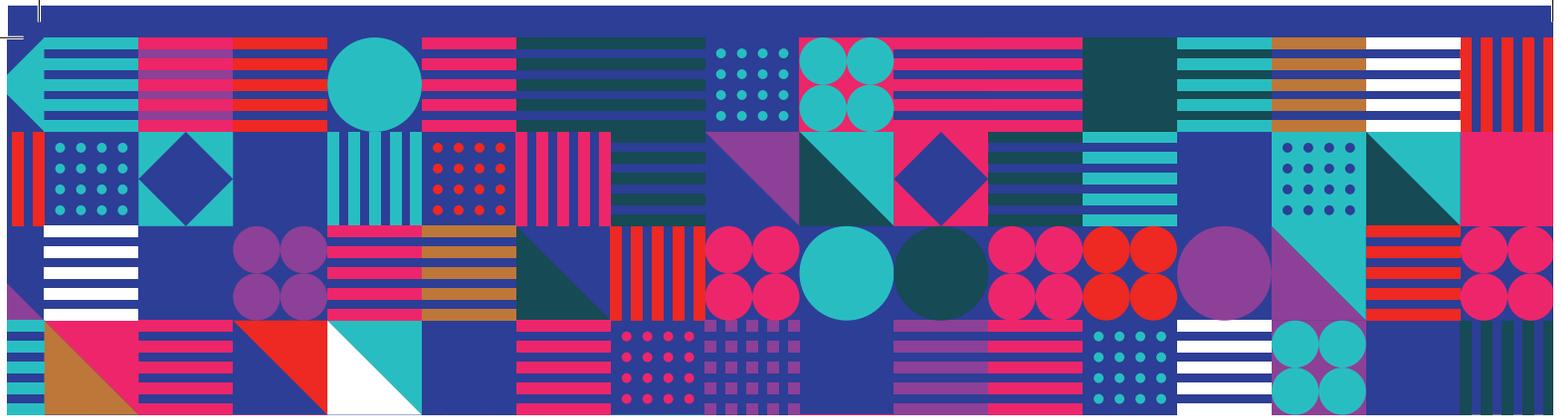
#### Social Media

Facebook:  
Counter Extremism Project

Twitter:  
[@FightExtremism](https://twitter.com/FightExtremism)

#### Website

[www.counterextremism.com](http://www.counterextremism.com)



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**WIFI**

Network: AmScanFoundation / Password: Am!Scan@Found#

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**Q&A**

Submission during panels [pveforum@mpowerproject.org](mailto:pveforum@mpowerproject.org) or notecards picked up by house manager.

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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Please use the following hashtags when posting to social media:  
[#pveforum](#) [#preventVE](#) [#identityvulnerability](#) [#extremismforum](#)

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**FACILITIES**

There are restrooms on every floor.

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**SECURITY**

A security team will be on-site at all times. Demonstrations or protest of any kind will not be tolerated. Attendees exhibiting controversial or disruptive behavior will be removed immediately.

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**PRESS/MEDIA**

This event is open to credentialed press except for Breakout Sessions, which will operate under Chatham House Rules. Press inquiries for Counter Extremism Project should be submitted to [media@counterextremism.com](mailto:media@counterextremism.com).

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**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Please email [pveforum@mpowerproject.org](mailto:pveforum@mpowerproject.org) if you did not get a room assignment or have questions about your session.

[mpowerproject.org](http://mpowerproject.org)



**COUNTER  
EXTREMISM  
PROJECT**

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