



## **Center for Exiting Violent Antisemitism**

### **Meeting the Need**

According to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, anti-Jewish hate crimes increased 28% from 2021 to 2022, with New York City seeing a 33% increase, Boston a 56% increase, Chicago a 500% increase, and Seattle a 600% rise. This data aligns with the 20% increase in antisemitic incidents that the ADL reported for the same time period. Violent extremism (VE) is domestic terrorism, and we, as a nation, need to treat it as such. Violent extremism, led by acts of violent antisemitism, is a clear and present danger to our nation, demanding our focus, our time, our understanding, and our solutions. For too long, too many have excused such actions - from a swastika sprayed on a wall to a military-style assault on a place of worship - seeking to portray them as an exception to how our civil society operates. Life After Hate (LAH) seeks to spotlight this serious and growing problem, making clear that this is a direct threat that must be acknowledged and that there are actionable solutions to reduce the violent acts that can result from hateful ideology.

In 2022, LAH launched a counternarrative video campaign on this topic, reaching nearly 500k viewers in the first six months of measurement. We have followed this with the recent launch “The Daily Former” podcast and educational website (May 2023) to serve as a central information clearinghouse on the need for disengagement and deradicalization, focusing on the human costs and impact. Season two of TDF launched in late November 2023.

### **Center for Exiting Violent Antisemitism Goals**

1. Offer primary interventions to help at-risk individuals avoid joining violent extremist groups focused on antisemitic activities.
2. Provide tertiary interventions to help members of violent antisemitic groups and online hate spaces disengage from extremist activities.
3. Educate the public on the threats of violent antisemitism and the interventions available to help family and loved ones exit such spaces.

4. Reduce the number of acts of violent antisemitism by providing media content designed to raise awareness about the growing threat and demonstrate there are alternative pathways to violent ideology.
5. Tap national earned media to ensure that the federal government treats violent extremism, particularly violent antisemitism, as domestic terrorism, and funds it appropriately based on its threat to society by starting a national debate on this essential subject.

### **Proposed Strategies**

- Develop and conduct trainings and community engagement activities for family, loved ones, community leaders, law enforcement (LEO), and other audiences on the dangers of violent antisemitism and the specific interventions that can be deployed to address them. This includes: educational materials, online courses, and explainers to identify signs of violent antisemitism and to understand how to help those in need. Efforts will help communities understand radicalization (early indicators, early engagement, full engagement), explain how to set boundaries and appropriate consequences with loved ones, and the necessity of care.
- Expand Life After Hate's successful The Daily Former public education platform (website, blog, podcast, counternarrative videos) to include an engagement stream focused exclusively on the threat and impact of violent antisemitism in the United States, while sharing real-life stories from those who have taken accountability for their past acts of antisemitism to inspire others to repudiate the ideology and reform their behaviors.
- Secure national media stories on the growing threat of violent antisemitism in the U.S. and proven intervention efforts to combat it.
- Educate program leaders at DHS, VA, DoJ, and other federal entities to dramatically increase federal attention and funding to combat VE.
- Develop partnerships with other organizations to build a national network of advocates, researchers, educators, businesses, and mental health providers committed to changing our national perspective on the growing threat of VE.

### **Why Life After Hate?**

Founded 12 years ago, Life After Hate is committed to helping individuals disengage and deradicalize from violent extremist groups and online hate spaces. Through our research of our tertiary care programs and our clients, it has become clear that violent antisemitism is the top driver of violent extremism (VE) today. Building on our mission and decade-long track record of helping individuals disengage and deradicalize from VE, we have identified an acute need to address violence as a result of antisemitic ideology, resulting in the establishment of our Center for Exiting Violent Antisemitism.

Life After Hate (LAH) is committed to combating violent extremism in order to establish a safer, more resilient nation. The words and actions spewed by VE are only growing in both number

and impact in this nation, with the physical manifestation of hateful ideology threatening the safety of the communities where the perceived enemies of violent White supremacy reside. The only way to send VE into retreat is to ensure that its threat and negative impacts are not minimized, and that it is treated as the domestic terrorism that it is and receives the focus, attention, and resources that such terrorism demands.

### **Life After Hate's 2024-26 Goals**

1. Use media attention and public awareness to reduce the number of acts of violent antisemitism and increase the public attention of the growing problem.
2. Tap national earned media to ensure that the federal government treats violent antisemitism as domestic terrorism, and funds it appropriately based on its threat to society by starting a national debate on this essential subject.
3. More than double the number of individuals who disengage from violent extremist movements, either through LAH or other providers.

### **Life After Hate's Leading Strategic Tools**

- Media outreach and public education campaigns led through our The Daily Former program, designed to: a) raise awareness of the growing problem; b) educate on the warning signs of VE, the threats it poses, and the potential mitigators and solutions to address it; and c) detail the societal benefits of directly confronting the issue by helping individuals disengage and deradicalize from violent extremism.
- Ongoing outreach and education is provided to law enforcement, mental health practitioners, social service providers, and community organizations needed to address the growing threats of violent antisemitism.
- Disengagement and deradicalization services, provided through Exit, that stand as successful, research-proven approaches to address those individuals who are already radicalized in VE. Every exiting individual is a person not engaging in violent ideology-based acts against communities throughout the United States.