

Episode 168-- Rising Anti-Semitic Gun Violence, Its Causes a...

Mon, 1/24 10:37AM 33:12

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, anti, adl, jews, synagogue, violence, hear, rabbi, important, places, shira, texas, gun violence, semitic incidents, hate, hate crimes, brady, country, dehumanizing, attacks

SPEAKERS

Shira Goodman, JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson



JJ Janflone 00:08

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JJ Janflone 00:22

Hi everybody, welcome back to Red, Blue and Brady. I'm one of your hosts JJ,



Kelly Sampson 00:41

and I'm your other host, Kelly.



JJ Janflone 00:43

And we're both so happy to have you here with us for another week as we continue our series on the intersection of conspiracy theories, hate groups, and gun violence.



Kelly Sampson 00:52

Yeah, and our episode this week focuses on anti-semitic violence, including the recent armed hostage crisis that took place at the congregation, Beth Israel Synagogue in Colleyville, Texas.





JJ Janflone 01:02

Joining us is friend of the pod, Shira Goodman. Stop, go check out her recent episode with us on the insurrection, then come back.



Kelly Sampson 01:09

Yeah. And Shira is the Director of Campaigns and Outreach at Anti-Defamation League, and she's also an expert on anti-semitism and gun violence. Today, she joined us to discuss how anti-Jewish prejudice has become mixed with gun violence, hate crimes, and how we can all push back against this violence.



Shira Goodman 01:27

Yeah, thanks, JJ, for having me back. Shira Goodman, I'm the Director of Campaigns and Outreach at the Anti-Defamation League. I started at the ADL in 2020, as a regional director in Philadelphia, and I've now joined our national policy team.



JJ Janflone 01:39

So, Shira, you know, unfortunately, one of the reasons we had to get together this week is because of what happened at the synagogue in Colleyville, where members of a congregation were taken hostage at gunpoint. And so, you know, I think if you could for our listeners, could you unpack why what happened there is so important on a national scale and is sort of, unfortunately, just one of many attacks that have happened?



Shira Goodman 02:07

Yeah, unfortunately what happened at Colleyville, Texas, this past weekend is, you know, one in a long line of attacks on synagogues and houses of worship in this country. Virtually every religion has faced this. In recent years, we've seen synagogue attacks, really deadly synagogue attacks, at the Tree of Life in Squirrel Hill there in Pittsburgh. at Poway Chabad in California. We've of course, seen the attack in Charleston, at Mother Emanuel church and at the Sikh gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and many, many mosques have been the victims of arson. So places that really should be safe spaces, holy spaces have been under attack. And it lines up with the increase we've seen in hate crimes, the increasing number of incidents ADLs tracking of anti-semitism. And the we thankfully had a very good outcome Saturday night, but the impacts will be felt both on the Texas community, the Jewish community more broadly, and I think all people who are concerned about rising levels of hate.



Kelly Sampson 03:13

And so I'm wondering if you could share with listeners a little bit about what that's looked like and sitting here in 2022, kind of what is the current state of anti-semitism and anti-semitic attacks in the country?

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Shira Goodman 03:26

Yeah, the the bad news is, in recent years, in the last five or six years or so we have seen increasing levels of anti-semitic incidents. So Anti-Defamation League has been tracking this, we do an audit, we've been doing an audit of anti-semitic incidents for the last 40 years, where we track criminal and non-criminal harassment, vandalism and assaults. And for a period of years from about 2003 to 2013/2014, it was actually declining and we were getting to really low levels, which was great news. And then, since about 2015, we've just seen really high spikes at all levels. 2020 was slightly lower than 2019, which was the highest year on record, but 2020 is still our third highest year on record. And this, this is taken from people calling into the ADL to report incidents, things we learn from law enforcement, and things we see in the media. And like just with any kind of bias incidents or hate crimes, we're sure it's under reported.

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Shira Goodman 03:26

The top five states typically tend to be New York, New Jersey, California, Pennsylvania, Florida or Massachusetts. And it's not states or cities where there aren't big concentrations of Jews, those are states where there are big concentrations, big populations of Jews, and the cities where we see the highest incidence, it's, it's where Jews live. It's not kind of in just rural areas where you don't see Jews. So you're talking about people who are committing acts of bias and hate against people they know. against their co-workers, against fellow students. And so that means we have a lot of work to do to build allyship to fight against Hate to really try to push hate to its fringes.




JJ Janflone 05:03

Well, and I wonder if we can, if you could break down to for folks just a little bit more what this type of anti-semitism, what it looks like, what it sounds like, you know where it's coming from? Because I am perpetually shocked at how long these conspiracy theories and a lot of these stereotypes have somehow managed to survive.

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Shira Goodman 05:25

Yeah, that's a really interesting thing about anti-semitism, it, it tends to evolve. It's very persistent. Things that you used to hear, are all of a sudden, are kind of reshaped into a new era. So if you look at old textbooks of the caricatures of greedy Jews, we're seeing that again in COVID, right? If you look at the old things, that during the Black Plague, when it was claimed that Jews were spreading disease, we saw that again during COVID. And the other thing that's interesting about anti-semitism, is often hatred is people looking down on other people, saying they're not as good as, they don't have power, they're not as smart, they're not as wealthy. With anti semitism, we see it both ways. Looking down on Jews, but also kind of looking up in anger, or hatred and saying "They control everything, they control the bank, they control the media."



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Shira Goodman 06:19

So those stereotypes are really very dangerous. And we did see some of that come into play this weekend. The gunman in Texas was asking the rabbi in Texas to be connected to another rabbi who he somehow thought was the chief rabbi of America, something we don't have, who he thought somehow could release someone that he considered a political prisoner, somebody who was convicted of a very serious crimes, also power that rabbis do not have. But those conspiracy theories are very dangerous. We saw how they played out in real life with real people, who you know, thankfully, are now safe, but you know, have been through a terrible trauma that, again, affects not only them, but their whole community.

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Shira Goodman 06:57

So this can start like all hate does. ADL talks about a pyramid of hate with slurs or jokes, things that maybe you don't think are worth responding to. But when those things become normalized, and aren't responded to and aren't pushed back against, they can rise up to levels of discrimination. If that's not dealt with, that can lead to systematic discrimination, and then even to violence. So we talk about interrupting hate, wherever it is speaking out, you know, obviously meeting it with proportionate response, but not letting it escalate. And once it becomes normalized, it gets very easy to keep moving up that level, until things get more and more dangerous.

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Kelly Sampson 07:39

One thing you said is so good to hone in on which is that, yes, sometimes, you know, hate can take the form of thinking that people are worse than and sometimes it can take the form of thinking people are better than, because in either case, it's dehumanizing and I think that's really important for listeners to kind of be on guard for that. And one of the things I'm wondering if you could talk about is the ways that this prejudice has become mixed with gun violence and hate crimes, obviously, this event in Texas has the most attention now. But we've seen other attacks in Pittsburgh and Poway and other places.

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Shira Goodman 08:11

Yeah, I mean, so two things. One, what you said about minorities, you know, we're hearing that a lot. During COVID, ADL has been doing a lot of work with the Asian American Pacific Islander communities. And we hear from young people in schools who have this kind of myth of the model minority, right? all Asians are good at math. All Asians are good students, maybe they're good musicians. And that, just like you said, that sounds like it could be complimentary, but it's really again dehumanizing. It takes away that lived experience. It takes away the individuality of every person. And it's just as much pressure and it comes from a very problematic place, even what seems like a positive stereotype.

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Shira Goodman 08:49

In terms of gun violence, we have seen, you know, ADL tracks extremists and their use of, when they commit murder, and their weapon of choice is guns. I mean, you know, this, Brady

knows this, it's really easy to get guns here legally and illegally. And we saw that a Tree of Life, we saw that at Poway, you know, and just, you know, what's so similar to me, in this Texas case and in Charleston is in both places, the gunman came in, or seemingly, to seek refuge and sanctuary in the house of worship. In Charleston, he came in to a prayer group and was welcomed in and sat there for an hour. Similarly, in Texas, he seemed to be coming in out of the cold, the rabbi made him a cup of tea. These are places that we view as communal spaces that are safe, that are holy, and to be taking advantage of that and then to be acting with violence. It's very, very scary.

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Shira Goodman 09:44

And there are a lot of there are a lot of Jews this weekend who are fearful about going back to synagogue, who are thinking about it, and I remember, you know, I was working at CeaseFirePA after Tree of Life and I went right out to Pittsburgh that's in my state and I did go to services the next Friday night, and there were people lined up from churches and mosques to kind of welcome Jews in. Now in the in the time of COVID, I don't know what that looks like this weekend. But the idea, and again, Jews aren't alone. But the idea that that people have to be afraid when they're going to, you know, to pray, to be in community, it's, it's really sad isn't the word is disheartening, it's depressing. It makes me angry. And I think, you know, we're seeing the power of these conspiracy theories, you know, kind of changing people's mindset, very quickly turning into to violence, and again, that those weapons of choice have been guns, which are very, very deadly. And we're very, very fortunate that we were not you know, that we're not going to funerals and shivahs this week.



JJ Janflone 10:47

Yeah. Because I'm perpetually surprised by sort of the sticking power of these, this racist mythology,

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Shira Goodman 10:54

Right into the blood libel, drinking the bloods of that is, you know, classic, anti-semitic tropes. And, again, the repurposed somebody hears something, there's a kernel and the way I mean, you, you know, this the way people become radicalized. They read something, somebody wants to understand something, there's never quite answers, it's more and more of a puzzle, and they take you down further into a rabbit hole when they're following these and our, you know, our social media algorithms make it they give you more of that content, right, it gets very hard to fight disinformation and misinformation, and very easy to kind of get lost in that if somebody is susceptible. And so I think we have to do the work of, you know, in our schools, in our community centers, in our in our religious spaces of making people be good connoisseurs of media, making sure people know how to interrupt those cycles, and you know, being able to counter bad information with good.

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Kelly Sampson 11:49

And just to kind of bring out, you know, some of the underlying problems. One of the things that you mentioned. is this sort of slippery slope. like maybe someone makes a joke. you don't

interrupt it. Another root cause seems to be this sort of stream of misinformation that proliferates around the internet. But also, obviously, we know, it's been 1000s of years. So it's not just that, I'm wondering, are there other underlying causes that we should be cognizant of, as we think about where we can kind of cut off some of this anti-semitic hatred that leads to violence?

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Shira Goodman 12:21

I think we need you know, always to be doing education work, we need to be teaching people about differences, and teaching people why those differences are valued and important and shouldn't be othering. We need to counter bad speech with good speech, we need to give people opportunities. I think people worry so much, you know, when they hear something in a public space, that it's just First Amendment protected speech. That doesn't even if it is, that doesn't mean you can't counter it with better speech. It doesn't mean a school board president who has somebody in public comments, say something vile and anti-semitic or anti-black, can't say even if they have to let that person speak, doesn't mean the school board president can't say, "He doesn't speak for our community, we are a place of diversity and inclusion and welcoming," right? I mean, so you know, just because if somebody puts a vile sign in their backyard, even if this, the township can't take it down, because it's private property and First Amendment, they can put something on their website that counters that and says, you know, "This community welcomes everyone."

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Shira Goodman 13:23

And I think that that can be very powerful. Because I think that, you know, often the goal of people who engage in hateful rhetoric or are motivated by hate, is to other people, to distance them to make them isolated, to make themselves feel better about something. And if you can take that power away, and and not allow it to be isolating, but you know, take it as a moment of unity and coalition building and allyship, you're kind of, you know, undoing the damage they did. So often like with if there's a zoom bombing at a service or something, people just want to turn it off right away, and then people get afraid to come back. And we also track white supremacist flyering across the country, which is also on the rise. And you know, I had a, an LGBTQ Center in Pennsylvania a couple years ago, right after the murder of George Floyd was flyeried with some just horrific, horrific language, and pamphlets. And they didn't, they ended up coming to the ADL through Jewish Federation, they weren't sure they wanted to do anything. There was so much going on in the country with the protests about the murder of George Floyd and race relations. And I said, "This is important. You know, we have you have to give your neighbors and your community a chance to step up," and hundreds of organizations and businesses signed a letter in support. And there was a big communal meeting. And you know, their first reaction had been to kind of crumple it up and throw it away in shame, which is exactly what the people who are doing the flyering want. They want people to feel alone and isolated. So when we can come together and speak it out, our best weapon against that kind of speech is is better speech, but we also have to realize that speech can escalate. And so we have to interrupt those cycles, we have to be vigilant, we have to not allow first amendment rights to overcome other people's first amendment rights, whether that's to pet-, to petition government or to protest safely. We need to have good policies to protect that. And we need to also make sure that you know, something I know, Brady has worked on with lots of coalition

partners, that we disarm hate. That, that people who are convicted of of hate crimes, whether even if they're misdemeanors, aren't, you know, getting guns. Right, we have to realize that that there are these things tend to escalate.



JJ Janflone 15:34

Well, and then I wonder, what what does this mean, then when blatantly anti-semitic conspiracies are either, you know, dog whistled or directly referenced by people in positions of power? You know, there's a number of people who have done this, but you know, right now, I think of Marjorie Taylor Greene, who has said a number of really problematic things, you know, including, but not limited to the Jewish people having space lasers, and that there's some sort of like cabal in Washington, you know, can we, What does that do?



Shira Goodman 16:08

I mean, you know, lots of people made fun of that, you know, certainly I've seen pins for sale, right? That say "Jewish Space Laser Corp." And that seems funny, but it's dangerous. She is a member of Congress. Right? So when if she says that people feel they can say it, maybe there's some truth in it, and maybe they don't realize how ignorant it is. And it just makes it easier for the next person, I think, look, our elected officials have first amendment rights too but I think we should hold them to a higher standard. I think, I think when President Trump was in office, he also, you know, hid behind the First Amendment a lot and used speech that was dangerous. Speech can be very dangerous, speech can be inciting speech can lead to action. That's what we talked about with the pyramid of hate.



Shira Goodman 16:51

And I think we have to call out people on both on both sides of the aisle. Look, we've written I wrote a letter to the editor last year after a Holocaust survivor's son referred to President Trump as a Nazi. We call that out. I mean, that is not typical for ADL to be criticizing a Holocaust survivor's son, right? But so we've got Republicans, Democrats, church officials who have used that kind of analogy. We can't tolerate it, it's demeans it. And we can't tolerate that kind of language. And unfortunately, our best tool is, you know, better language, more inclusive language calling it out. And I think we have to call on, you know, both caucuses leaders on both sides to do some educating of their members so that they understand what that speech enables and empowers and engenders.



JJ Janflone 17:44

But no, I know, I think you're 100 100% right, because it all, people don't tend to roll with just one, just hatred of just one group. So we, you know, we see people, I just keep thinking back when we had Fred Guttenberg on and he talked about how...the line that plays in my head a lot is that, you know, "Marjorie Taylor Greene doesn't believe my daughter died at Parkland, but she does believe I have space lasers, because I'm Jewish." And so these things all get rolled up into one very messy, one very dangerous ball. And then when you add firearms into them, suddenly there is a tool that people can use to express their hate that is incredibly violent.

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Shira Goodman 18:18

Yeah, I think that's right. And I think, you know, I remember again, after Tree of Life, when I was in Pittsburgh, that Monday, we were supposed to be doing a press conference with the Black Political Empowerment Project about voting, CeaseFirePA was doing something with them, because Election Day was not long after the shooting. And they changed their press conference to to address Tree of Life. And it was mostly Black ministers and some Black imams, and I was there and somebody from Federation. And at the end, and they talked about, you know, hate is hate. You know, most people don't like decide to hate Jews, but love black people, or like Latinos and hate gay people, right? Like, it's pretty kind of equal opportunity. And so at the end, the the leader called together and had kind of all these clergy people, bless the few Jewish people who were there. And I felt very safe for the first time in about 48 hours.

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Shira Goodman 19:18

And I just remember that and I remember, you know, my colleague, Cheryl Drazin, who's the vice president of the division that the Texas is in, who knows the rabbi and Colleyville talked about, you know, who the people who are calling her church leaders, Muslim leaders, interfaith partners, being there for support and I think that's really powerful and the people who would you know, who say these things who do these things who perpetrate these acts do not want to see that unity. I mean, that is how we beat them. But again, swastikas on synagogues, arsons at mosques, these things do escalate, and when you have easy access to firearms, they're very, very dangerous. So we have to take the threat seriously, I don't look at, I don't want to go to synagogue and have to see armed guards. I don't want to have a key fob and have to remember it and and need a code to get in and have yet a separate door to the preschool. But that's the world we live in. And it makes me sad like these these places are places that people used to go to come to for shelter.

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Shira Goodman 20:18

And Deborah Lipstadt, who's the nominee for the anti-semitism envoy, wrote a piece about visiting synagogues in other countries. And you know, it's always been said, you know, you can go to any country and open a prayer book at a synagogue, and you're gonna pretty much know the service. But she says really hard to get in there now, because of the security measures. And that's, you know, that's, that's really totally contrary to what the idea of our houses of worship are.



JJ Janflone 20:41

Well, and then as, as you mentioned, we were very lucky at this case in Texas, because the rabbi and the congregation there were able to get out when they were being held hostage at gunpoint. And largely, that was really actions of the rabbi, he was he was, you know, he made the man a cup of tea, he was able to talk to him, he was able to keep his attention. And then eventually, during, you know, in the last hour or so of the standoff, he was able to get the other hostages to run, he threw a chair at the man. And, you know, what people are a lot of folks are saying is that the reason why the situation Colleyville didn't go, you know, as terribly as I think

we can all imagine it quite quite easily going, is because this rabbi and this congregation, they've engaged in security training, right. They'd had to have, like schoolchildren all across the US have, you know, they've had to have these lockdown drills, they've had to have these plans for a violent attack. And so I'm wondering if you could speak a little bit about what sort of pressure this puts on communities or places of worship or or elsewhere, that they're just sort of prepping for something so violent to happen to them?

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Shira Goodman 21:48

Yeah, I mean, look, it makes me really angry that that's what congregations or nonprofits have to spend money on and spend time thinking about, and that that's the way we're choosing to solve this problem, because we've let hatred and violence become so powerful, we've let those forces have easy access to weapons. And instead of kind of being proactive, we have to be reactive. So you know, as a voter, as an advocate, that makes me angry. And, you know, it's also a burden on these small congregations on small community centers on LGBT centers to have to, you know, try to raise the money to put in double doors or security cameras or higher security guards. And so we have the nonprofit Security Grant Program, which we need more funding for, they had almost double the amount of requests as the amount of money that that's appropriated last year, and hopefully, that'll be increased this year, and there's state programs that have to grow.

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Shira Goodman 22:41

But, again, I think, I think it's a reaction, which is how our country often operates. And that's where, the situation we find ourselves in. But I also want, you know, I want people to be able to feel safe, and to be safe, where they are without having to go to these steps. And, you know, I'm sad and angry that that we've let it get to this point. But you know, I'm grateful that the rabbi had the training and you know, both being able to kind of keep, keep the gunman calm, realize when the danger was getting worse, and think about how he could get out and get his people out safely. And I think we have a lot of work to do. And I think, you know, we're at a point where that that reaction is going to keep, we're gonna have to keep investing in that. But we really have to deal with the underlying problems or, you know, we're not going to solve it.



JJ Janflone 23:30

Where do you see if this roller coaster it seems of awfulness seems to have been ratcheting up, in the last few years, where do you where do you see this going? Because it does seem like there, there's an increase in in violence, there's an increase in openness about you know, this isn't hatred hiding in dark corners of the internet any anymore. It's over. It's open, its present. People seem to be proud of it. You know, where where do we go from here?

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Shira Goodman 23:59

Yeah, I think that's an interesting question. The one piece of good news I'll share is the other thing ADL, we also, every so often survey Americans about their attitudes, and to try to figure out not just what's happening in terms of anti-semitic incidents, but how many Americans

harbor anti-semitic attitudes. And so we test, we do a survey and we asked people about, about 11 stereotypes, some of the ones we've talked about, and people indicate agreement with six or more, so more than half we say they harbor anti-semitic attitudes. That number has been going steadily down over the years. So we have people harboring anti-semitic attitudes going down and anti-semitic incidents going up.

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Shira Goodman 24:40

So I think what it means is that a small group and you know, we're still talking about 11% of Americans, which is millions and millions of people. So it's not so small, but they're becoming more emboldened. So I think that we have to think about the way our leaders talk, that the the messages they send, what we send about what's acceptable speech and behavior and how we handle hate crimes. And I think those are the things we have to do. But when we have elected officials who are making that language okay, who are using Nazi analogies to talk about all kinds of things that don't have anything to do with Nazis or extermination of people or genocide, and are trivializing that. When we have people who, you know, will call COVID, the China flu and blame people, I think it creates a culture where people who harbored those attitudes feel freer to engage in them and less shame. That's like less shameful. So we have to bring that shame back.

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Kelly Sampson 25:40

And I'm wondering, you know, for listeners who are concerned and want to do something want to be part of the change, I know, you've mentioned, one thing that everyone can do is sort of call it out and interrupt anti-semitism when they see it, if someone's making a comment or something like that. I'm wondering, are there any other actions that listeners can take to sort of be part of the process of combating this?

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Shira Goodman 26:02

Yeah, again, I would just say, I think we're becoming a nation that's used to and has normalized these kinds of active shooter drills in schools and houses of worship and places of work. And that should not be normal, right? We need to recognize it, we need to recognize that we shouldn't have to live with this danger. And that we all have power to, to help address it. And so you know, I think people do want to hear from you. I would say that, and I would say that, again, even with this, this really good outcome that we're so thankful for.

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Shira Goodman 26:37

People are shook up and traumatized, and not just in Texas, and not just, I would say, Jews everywhere. And also just, you know, people of faith everywhere and good people are shook up. And we should not have to live like this. It should not be that when I go to write an op-ed about this, there are just so many instances of attacks on houses of worship that I can find in a minute on Google. It's too much, you know, and we've seen this in, you know, community

centers, synagogues, churches, mosques, the Sikh gurdwara, over and over again. And again, it could start with a swastika or something left at a synagogue. And we have to interrupt it at that level. And we have to stand up and say, No,



JJ Janflone 27:23

Yeah, I think it's really sad that we're essentially at this point, it seems like we've moved on to where, where folks are just sort of waiting for violence to happen to them. And that's really unfortunate.

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Shira Goodman 27:34

That's right. And I think, you know, the fact that we have a playbook for how to deal with these things, is, you know, we've gone so far down this road. So I think I think we want, you know, I am the director of campaigns and outreach. So as an advocacy person, I would say, if you're being asked by the ADL, or organizations that you support to take action to call your local and, and state and national elected officials. do it. They need to hear from you right now about about this, there are steps that they can take at the regional and national level. And your voice does matter. I mean, I know, you know, people, they count down how many people are calling about which things and whether it's something that they heard a member say, or it's something you want them to pass or something you want them to oppose. It's really important. And that is, and then also, you know, everybody should vote in every election, so.

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Kelly Sampson 28:28

Well, thank you. I think it's really important. And I'm struck by something you said earlier, which is people afraid to go to temple. And so to the point that you and JJ were both making about how if we're getting to the point where we're saying, well, at least people didn't get killed or something like that, also to think about the effect of it's also not good if people are, reasonably as they, are afraid to gather because of the threats of violence, because that's supposedly not what are the rights we're supposed to have, right, like you're supposed to be able to exercise your religion. So I think, yeah, it's really important to think about all the effects that this has.

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Shira Goodman 29:05

Yeah. And I would say, you know, for regular folks who are listening, you know, see what your friends are posting, reach out the people who are saying that they go to synagogue and look for exits, you know, I mean, that should make you think about what do you do that when you're a church? Do you do that when you're at the movies? What must that feel like for them this weekend? I would say reach out, I think that would make a big difference. I know that some people feel like we've moved on to the next thing, we've moved on to the filibuster, we've moved on to the next COVID thing, the masks, the free tests. But this is something that's that is impacting people, it's only been a few days, and and just realize that this will have a long lasting impact. And it is, it is, you know, in a line with escalating danger to Jews and others in this country based on hate and ignorance, and these conspiracy theories.



JJ Janflone 29:54

Well, thank you so much Shira for being here. As always, we're gonna link to everything you shared here in the description of the episode, because this is just so important.



JJ Janflone 30:03

Well Kelly I am, again, we say this all the time, right? Like, I'm so glad that Shira was able to come and speak and share with us, but I am horrified about what she had to share.



Kelly Sampson 30:14

Yeah, I mean, this is ridiculous, right? Like we talked about it so much in the podcast, just that these are these wild, dehumanizing tropes about Jewish people that have been with us for 1000s of years. And we should be past this by now. It's ridiculous.



JJ Janflone 30:34

One of the things I just I want to, I want to stress so much to our listeners out there, as we've as we continue to do these, these podcasts that focus on conspiracy theories, but also just continue to highlight sort of the awful things that happen in the world, is that if you do need support, you know, please reach out to one of the many numbers of resources we listed in the description of each episode. Because this is just this is a heavy, this is a heavy burden. And I don't know about you, Kelly, but I think this week, more than ever, I'm going to devote myself to, one doing what Shira suggested, which is just reaching out contacting the folks in my life to make sure they're doing okay. But also really making sure that I am putting pressure on the politicians that that, you know, work for me, not to be that person, at the local and federal level, make sure they're really they're really doing what is best. And really representing, you know, what I think is important.



Kelly Sampson 31:29

One takeaway for me, too, is when Shira was talking about how widespread anti-semitism can be across communities and how, how all of us, regardless of what community we're with, can have a role in doing some of the interruption work that Shira was talking about, which is if you hear a joke, if you hear something that's dehumanizing if you hear something that's sort of lumping Jewish people together, even if it's complimentary that you can contest it, point it out, because this is something that comes up all over the place, so that's definitely my takeaway.



JJ Janflone 32:07

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Kelly Sampson 32:21

Thanks for listening. As always, Brady's life saving work in Congress, the courts and communities across the country is made possible thanks to you. For more information on Brady or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence, please like and subscribe to the podcast. Get in touch with us at [Bradyunited.org](https://bradyunited.org) or on social @Bradybuzz. Be brave and remember, take action, not sides.