

Building Resilience in the New Threat Paradigm: Targeted Violence Against People of Faith

Best Practices Notes

Dawn Park

Day 1

Welcoming Remarks

- **(by Jared Maples) Communication is the most important aspect in building resilience among communities (9)**
- **The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness main goal is to create a model that ensures preparedness and awareness for vulnerable communities. (4, 6, 7)**
- **(by Colonel Patrick Callahan) The New Threat Paradigm has been changed. It is important to take information about New Jersey to update the Paradigm and ensure better security. That is also why we need to take action accordingly. (3)**
- **(John Hill) As of now, we have limited resources for better resilience. We need more enhanced cybersecurity to prevent more cyber threats. (5)**
- **Stockton University is developing more new programs and platforms to increase awareness and preparedness against violent attacks. (4)**

Opening Keynote: “Facing Down Extremism & Building Resilient Communities”

Keynote Speaker – Rabbi Francine Roston

- **There are always a lot more kind people than cruel ones. That’s why we have the strength to fight against hate. (8, 10)**
- **Build many relations among the Jewish community in White Fish as well as those in the Paradigm. (2)**

International Expert Panel: Mitigating Targeted Violence Against Vulnerable Communities

Panelists: Saad Amrani, Amir Rostami, Jonathan Biermann, Ambassador Sidique Wai, Stephen J. Kramer, Gunnar Appelgren, and Shahzad Tahir.

- **(Saad Amrani) Because of globalization and social media, we have external forces to assist our communities for any problems they might have. (5)**
- **(Jonathan Biermann) The Government provides resources to help organization that helps vulnerable communities. (5,7)**
- **(Stephen J. Kramer) To globalize a problem, we need to spread awareness of that problem. (3)**
- **(Gunnar Appelgren) Elite forces must ensure trust and connections in their communities to build their resilience (7, 8, 10)**

- **Police forces, social organizations, and the Government need to think about how to protect vulnerable communities. (7)**
- **(Shahzad Tahir) Law enforcement agencies are actively working to make sure which laws can ensure one's safety and rights. (6, 7)**
- **However, they cannot do this alone. They need adequate experience and knowledge in things like religion. (5)**
- **(Back to Saar Amrani) We need to make a move against violent attacks. Since they commit organized crime and might be part of the Government, we need to be organized as well and encourage the Government to help communities. (1)**

Exercise – The Makings of a Crisis; From Chatter to Shattered, how social media rhetoric morphs into real world violence.

Speakers: Colonel (Ret) Rick Fuentes, Perry Mays, Brian Levin, and a representative from the Stockton Police Department Representative.

Purpose of Exercise

- **Increase awareness in the faith-based community regarding physical threats. (3)**
- **To foster relationships between the faith-based community and outsiders of that community. (2)**

Final Words : “Replicating Success”

Panelists: Perry Mays, Chris Hill, Captain Jamiel Altaheri, and Michael Lewis.

- **It is important for community leaders, such as policemen, politicians, pastors, and rabbis, to communicate and educate each other to build a much stronger community. (2, 7, 9)**
- **Be open with communication. We need to share information to spread awareness and ensure others' safety. This not only applies nationally, but also globally. (9)**
- **If something is wrong or out of place, encourage people who feel that way to report it immediately to authorities. (How do we encourage that?) (8)**
- **As law enforcement, we need to be more responsive to any kind of warning or threat, both in the US and Globally. That way, we can distribute any specific information that needs to be addressed to the public as soon as possible. (3, 7, 9)**
 - **Listen to the people. We may have different backgrounds, beliefs, or interests, but we need to put these differences aside and listen to their needs to help them. (2, 10)**
 - **Preach correctly. Don't sound threatening or pressuring or spread false information. That just leads to more fear and insecurity. (8)**

Day 2

Opening Keynote: Unifying the Front against Violence, an attack on One House of Worship is an attack on All”

- **We want to build relationships and trust. The day you lose sight of people, you lose their trust in you and the ability to learn about them and their surroundings. (2)**
- **Become educated about the community and show, through action, your legitimate concern ensuring each community member has equal voice and is respected for who they represent. (2, 4)**
- **Jones also reached out to other organizations for his support. Fundamentally, the police department thought they were doing the right thing by connecting with one of the organizations that was one Jones’s side. They explained about what their community was all about and the organization was convinced enough to not support Jones. (9)**

Panel Discussion – “Managing the Fallout”

Panelists: Richard Benson, Todd Stettner, Jonathan Biermann, Saad Amrani, Adam Hammatt

- **Don’t have a plan? Make a plan! (4)**
- **Stettner recalls his experience in dealing with a mass shooting and the aftermath. To prepare for potential threats, Stettner had done “tabletop practices” multiple times and built strong connections with the community. (1, 4, 6)**
- **Because of this planning, everyone was aware of the role they had to take to recover from the aftermath. (1, 4)**
- **Without training plans, preparation plans, or built connections, you can’t do anything in the aftermath. You need to define any strange signs and act accordingly to certain scenarios. (4, 6)**
- **With good signs, you can build good relationships (not necessarily personal, but rather institutional) (2)**
- **With bad signs, you can contact close ones and they will be able to assist you. (2)**
- **The more opportunities you have for more exercises, whether they’d be related to the community, law enforcement, police department, etc., the more experience you have to survive from scenarios. (1, 4, 6)**
- **(Saad Amrani) A good crisis is a crisis that you can avoid. That is why detection is important. (1)**
- **Incorporate maximum resources. We need the most directional approaches towards suspicious activity and its aftermath. (5)**
- **You hold the key to open relationships and help communities who may not trust the police or government, but trust house leaders. Encourage them to trust those who want to protect them. Start young and they’ll trust you at an earlier time. (2, 8, 10)**

Social Media is an Overarching Issue: “The Realities of a Double Edged Sword”

Panelists: Tony Sgro, Bryan Cunningham, Alex Goldenberg, Susan Fahey

- **(Bryan Cunningham) It is important for parents to educate their children on what is appropriate or not on social media. (3, 7)**
- **If you have enough information that is precise and accurate, it can be used to counterpoint any hateful or false information. One has the ability to share such a counterpoint. (3, 4)**
- **We need a program that prevents children from accessing hate messages and inappropriate content from websites like 4-chan and Youtube. We cannot let them fall for hateful ideology. (4, 6)**
- (Tony Sgro) Developed a Program: Peer-Peer Global Digital Challenge! (By EdVenture Partners)
 - **Objective of program: To develop a social or digital media initiative product or tool that discourages hate messages that spread on social media. (4, 6)**

“Finding Common Ground Among Communities of Faith”

Keynote speaker: Dr.B. Herbert Martin.

- **We want to share about our thoughts of finding common ground among communities of faith. We need to ensure security by building relationships. (2)**
- **We need to find an environment to let people feel safe and relieve their anxiety to decrease their fears of living. (8)**
- **That is why we need to set our differences aside and encourage peace, love, and trust to feel safe against assailants, who cannot imagine a world where they are not in control. (8, 10)**

“Stockton University Builds Resilience through Education”

Panelists: Gail Rosenthal, Michael Hayse, Judith Vogel, Steven marcus, and Leo Schoffer

- The academic programs dedicated to Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University and the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center are examples of “town and gown” cooperatively working together to provide education resources, and programs to learn about the history of the Holocaust and other genocides. **This knowledge can assist community members, educators, and students to develop strategies and techniques to combat racism, hatred, and oppression. (3, 4)**