

LIFE AFTER HATE

2017

FROM THE ASHES

SAMMY RANGEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"What I have learned out of this incredible journey is that the best way to fight hate is with your humanity. We are not heroes. We are however a part of the solution."

Sammy Rangel

This past year has been a difficult one. And together we've endured times of great sadness.

In November, we learned that in 2016 the number of reported hate crimes increased again, now to more than 6,000. Of those, almost 60 percent were racially-motivated crimes. And of all the violent extremist attacks on U.S. soil since 2007, 74 percent of those attacks have come from far-right groups.

Still, despite our outreach work through Exit USA, the only group in the U.S. that helps pull men and women out of these far-right extremist groups, our only federal funding was cut in June. That was even before we received any of the \$455,000 promised to our group.

But while hate crimes are up, so are the number of people committed to help bring an end to violent hatred.

We saw that after Charlottesville when a member of a far-right group plowed his car into a crowd of protesters killing one of them.

Leigh Giles-Brown, founder of Races for Peace, set the example for the nation to follow when she said, "I could no longer just mourn," after learning a year earlier of the attack on a Charleston, South Carolina church killing nine black parishioners.

The nation feels the same way Leigh felt that day. With the support of nearly 10,000 donors, and 20,000 followers across the U.S. and the world, our team has raised more than \$700,000.

With that level of support, unprecedented before this year, we've been able to continue to help families, and our communities, make sense of the thousands of hate crimes that occur in this country each year.

In the past 12 months, Life After Hate has visited cities across the country, taking part of peace summits in Washington DC, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Atlanta.

In Chicago, Life After Hate has joined with Collaboraction, a nonprofit that addresses social justice issues through theater, in partnership with the WU Tang Clan's WU foundation.



By the time Angela King, Tony McAleer and Sammy Rangel, all founding members, met for the organization's summit in Seattle in early 2017, Life After Hate was expanding its reach across the globe.

"It takes so much more strength to respond with kindness, to really understand that change is possible."

Angela King

In New York City in September, we were honored to be recognized, under the patronage of UNESCO and the Global Hope Coalition, as Heroes of the Global Campaign Against Extremism and Intolerance at the United Nations General Assembly.

We were also humbled to participate in ongoing research with our university partners and civil rights organizations.

We partnered with academics from Orange County, California to Lone Star, Texas to the offices of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama and eventually all the way over to London in preparation to launch research and informed processes for interventions.

Most recently, and perhaps more urgently, our team conducted in-person outreach and trainings in Tampa, Gainesville, St. Louis, Oregon and Wisconsin.

Our two support groups, comprised of men and women from all over the U.S. and other countries (including Australia, Sweden, Germany and Canada) who used to be members of violent far-right groups continue to welcome new members every week.

Without your support, we would have not been able to make such progress. And we know that in 2018 we will be able to extend our influence ever further.

As you plan your tax-deductible gifts this year, please consider continuing your support of Life After Hate. Thank you!



Tony McAleer and Angela King at a conference at the University of Southern California on white supremacy.