



**Collingswood
Progressive
Democrats**



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR: Immediate Release

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Find CRI online: <http://www.facebook.com/cooperriverindivisible>

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**Progressive and community organizations in South Jersey demand
the cancellation of the Anti-Woman/ White Supremacist
Conference scheduled for August 31st.**

Pitman, NJ- A coalition of progressive and community organizations in South Jersey are calling for the immediate cancellation of the anti-woman, white supremacist conference scheduled for August 31st. The event is deceptively titled “#Minds New Jersey: Ending Racism, Violence, and Authoritarianism,” but the list of speakers and panels makes clear that this is a collection of far-right extremists, racists, holocaust deniers, homophobes, and other agents of hate in our society. The speakers advocate and defend violence and harassment toward women and the LGBTQ+ community, and hatred to our fellow citizens of color.

The conference was originally scheduled to be held at the Broadway Theater in Pitman, NJ. However, after a massive call and email campaign directed at the theater, the Broadway proprietors claim the conference has moved its venue. The theater will not divulge the new venue, and so far, all attempts to find it have been unsuccessful. The event’s Eventbrite ticket sales link is still selling tickets and listing the theater as the venue. Attempts to contact Minds.com through the Eventbrite have been gone unreturned.

Wherever the conference is scheduled, these organizations demand its cancellation.

Brian Dilks-Brotman, Vice Chair of the Collingswood Borough Democratic Committee, explained, “While the event is being advertised as promoting tolerance and acceptance, it is anything but. The speakers list is a cornucopia of racists, holocaust deniers, and alt-right internet trolls. These are hateful people espousing violent, hateful ideologies. We need to tell them unequivocally that they are not welcome here in South Jersey.”

Chris Emrich, Cooper River Indivisible organizer and Collingswood Borough Democratic Committee member, added, "This isn't a debate about free speech. We've seen where this speech leads in Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, and El Paso, as well as dozens of other places. This is about taking a stand against the advance of sexism, racism, and fascism in our own community."

The speakers list for the conference includes:

- Carl Benjamin, aka Sargon of Akkad. Was instrumental in GamerGate, all-around bigot, and even a proponent of pedophilia. Defends use of the n-word and racist jokes: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/carl-benjamin-ukip-racism-youtube-sargon-akkad-mep-a8887696.html>
- Mark Meechan, aka Count Dankula. Has been convicted of hate crimes in the UK: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-43864133>
- Aydin Paladin, a holocaust denying YouTuber who has suggested that there were no - death camps outside Poland in WW2 and that 6 million Jews killed during the Holocaust was an "insane figure": <https://tockify.com/idavox/detail/19/1567263600000?fbclid=IwAR2JDZPaBwHSfTC5TOhldh5h4oQoxCvN1r5HtEpluL-rc6jR1RiXh-2ISWg>
- Megan Murphy, editor of Feminist Currents, a Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist who promotes transphobia to her audience in the US, UK, and Canada
- Hunter Avallone, another anti-trans bigot and purveyor of transphobic nonsense: <https://www.pride.com/transgender/2016/3/03/5-blatant-lies-hunter-avallones-transphobic-rant>
- Karen Straughan, a so-called "Men's Rights Activist" who promotes vile sexism and misogyny
- June Lapine aka ShoeOnHead, who accuses Black Lives Matter of attempting to start a race war and has said Leslie Jones, of SNL and Ghostbusters, "looks like a gorilla" <https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/ShoeOnHead>
- Other far-right extremist speakers listed at the official event page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/minds-new-jersey-ending-racism-violence-and-authoritarianism-tickets-58686976326>

The presence of a few misguided, so-called liberals on the panels at this event does nothing to hide the true purpose of this conference: to allow hate to congregate and coordinate, using the Broadway Theatre in Pitman as a platform. This is not about free speech. It's about whether the accommodations of our community will be used to foment hatred and bigotry. This event must immediately be cancelled.

For more information about this statement, contact Adam Sheridan, Lead Organizer for CRI, at (240) 447-1504 or email at AdamMSheridan@gmail.com.