



These are turbulent times. White Pride, Religious Intolerance, Nationalism, and Gang Violence rise all around us. Tribalism and xenophobia seem like they might destroy our entire way of life. But there are people all over the country, all over the world, making a difference. And there are people right now, at this very minute, in danger of falling over the edge into violence.

Their journeys are amazing, scary, and hopeful.

We start with a **FORMER**—that’s someone who was once a gang banger, or terrorist, or skinhead. They lived a life defined by extreme violence but have now given it up to help others.

That person pairs with a **SURVIVOR**—someone who has been targeted themselves or have family or loved ones who have been victims of that Former’s prior hate group. They are committed to stopping the spread of extreme violence.

Together, the Former and the Survivor team up with an **AT-RISK**, usually someone young, who is on the edge of joining the world that the Former has left behind, and that the Survivor has triumphed over. It is a high-stakes intervention. Friends and family can be on opposite sides, leading to violent clashes—both physical and emotional. We see it all.

Different groups, different cities, different hostilities — but one challenge: Intervene before violence claims another life, with stories like:

- A Former white supremacist in Milwaukee joins a Survivor whose father was murdered by a white supremacist to channel an African-American kid’s rage into rock-climbing and martial arts.
- In Newark, an ex-convict Former works with a Survivor whose community is at war to find a way for two brothers to earn enough money for their ailing mom without selling drugs.
- An ex-Islamist militant in Toronto now works with a rabbi reaching out to Arab immigrants.
- In LA, a Honduran ex-Latina gang leader helps a brutalized teen mother keep her kid safe.
- A woman from Ireland works directly with the former IRA bomber who killed her father.

We bring together Formers and Survivors all over the world. Many are already working together to combat the spread of violence and hate. We identify the At-Risks and tell their individual human stories of trying to find a different way to live.

Episodes are told in the style of *Intervention* and *Beyond Scared Straight*. They have a documentary feel, but with a strong dramatic arc, and a sense of narrative cohesion. No host; no voice-over narration; only occasional supertitles. We open with interviews and news media reports to explore the backstories of three people:

- A Former exposes the misery of living defined by violence. We see their world.
- A Survivor gives human voice to the results of that extremism. We see their pain.
- An At-Risk shows what it's like to be on the edge of violence. We see their struggle.

We follow the Former and the Survivor in action, as they strategize and carry out a plan to convince the At-Risk to change his or her life — sometimes with the help of the At-Risk's friends and family, sometimes, *despite* the physical and emotional hindrance of friends and family.

Whether the basis for someone embracing violence is religion, race, sex, politics, or any other ideology, the glue that binds an At-Risk to other extremists is usually the basic human need to belong, to know who he or she is, and to feel a sense of purpose. Together, in a unique, unorthodox alliance, the Former and the Survivor build alternatives for the At-Risk. It can be therapy, job training, religious study, legal aid: Any strategy to show the At-Risk a different way to live.

The emphasis is on the At-Risk's personal, specific journey to a moment where the light goes on in his or her eyes. Sometimes that's a giant leap. Sometimes a baby step. But it is always human, involving, and ultimately relatable to an audience. We let the chips fall where they may. Some At-Risks succeed, others are noncommittal, while others sink into the violence that surrounds them. There are no guarantees. No excuses. And sometimes the line between hope and despair is hard to find. But the possibility of finding a different life is always there.

Created in partnership with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, who have been combatting extreme violence since 2005. The ISD gives us access to hundreds of Formers, Survivors, and At-Risks from all over the world.

The sizzle reel introduces us to the kinds of characters we will follow and the kinds of worlds they live in. It is to give a sense of the tone. Full episodes will tell these stories over time, sometimes weeks or even months. One Former. One Survivor. One At-Risk. One life changed forever.

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