

A Conversation in Honor of David Cobin

Can the legal system, the courts and prisons, play a constructive role in the crisis of American white nationalism and domestic terrorism?

Dr. Marc Gopin, George Mason Center for Conflict Resolution and Diplomacy

Thursday, March 26, 2020, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Kelly Board Room

1.0 CLE applied for, No charge and open to the public

In several countries, national attention has been focused on the question of whether prisons are a breeding ground for radicalization and the creation of terror cells. In the U.S., the interracial violence in some prisons has given rise to organizations like the Aryan Brotherhood, formed to protect white prisoners, which expand to other violent crimes. Professor Gopin, who has done significant work on the role of religion in creating a global community that shares a moral vision of nonviolent, constructive conflict, will discuss why such extremism occurs, including the role of identity politics in radicalization and responses. He will propose ways that the legal system can reform these sites of radicalization by employing neuroscience, applied ethics, and techniques of peacebuilding.

Dr. Marc Gopin is the Director of the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution (CRDC), and the James H. Laue Professor at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia, USA. Gopin has engaged in back channel diplomacy with leaders in many global conflicts, and has been heard in prominent media outlets such as the al-Jazeera, CNN, the Boston Globe, and the Christian Science Monitor. He has created innovative peacebuilding projects in Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Palestine and Israel, conducting research on social justice and the clash of cultures, and training thousands of people worldwide in peacebuilding strategy and global conflict resolution. He has published numerous books and articles, including *Bridges Across an Impossible Divide: the Inner Lives of Arab and Jewish Peacemakers* (Oxford, 2012); *To Make The Earth Whole: The Art of Citizen Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Militancy* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc, 2009), *Healing the Heart of Conflict*, (Rodale Press, 2004) and *Holy War, Holy Peace: How Religion Can Bring Peace to the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2002.)