

GAVIN BOBY: THE EXTREMIST AT THE HEART OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MARKAZ CENTRE

The lawyer advising GGREG, one of the main campaigns against the proposed Markaz Islamic Centre in Golders Green, is Gavin Boby, a Bristol-based planning lawyer. But Boby is no ordinary planning lawyer, he is also an anti-Muslim political activist who refers to himself as the “mosquebuster” and uses planning laws to oppose the building of mosques and other Islamic buildings.

In a video, posted on the *Daily Mail* website, Boby boasts that his mission is to “resist the tide of Islam” by providing free advice on how to block building plans for new places of worship. While Boby opposes Islam completely, his focus is on mosques, which he claims act as a “bridgehead within Western society for the advance of Islam”. He goes on to say that people should not publicly oppose mosques but use issues like traffic, noise and congestion to prevent mosques from opening. He then advises people to set up action groups to encourage local people to speak out against mosques.

In 2011 Boby formed the Law and Freedom Foundation and has set about stopping planning applications for mosques across the UK. In 2014, the organisation claimed to have won 20 out of 24 planning applications across the UK.

After several years of relative inactivity, the organisations website published an article by Boby in July 2017 claiming that of the 47 legal fights to stop mosques they have been involved in, they have won in 33. However, some claim that the Foundation takes credit for planning refusals in which it had no real involvement.

ANTI-MUSLIM ACTIVISM

Boby has links to numerous figures and organisations that promote an anti-Muslim political agenda.

- In 2012 Boby spoke at a conference International Civil Liberties Alliance, the most prominent European anti-Muslim network.

- In 2013, there were adverts for ‘mosque buster volunteers’ on the English Defence League (EDL) website.
- In 2013 he spoke at a series of events in Canada, organised by the notorious anti-Muslim organisation ACT! For Canada.
- Boby also has links to Stop Islamification of Nations, by Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer, two leading American anti-Muslim activists who were both banned from entering the UK in 2013 after the Government decided her anti-Muslim rhetoric could increase community tension in the UK
- Boby’s campaign to stop mosque applications has been supported and adopted by Dutch anti-Muslim politician Geert Wilders
- In April 2015 Boby spoken at a Mothers Against Radical Islam and Sharia (MARIAS) event at Downing Street, attended by EDL supporters. Fellow speakers at the event were Anne Maria Waters, leader of the far right For Britain party and Alan Ayling, who advised Tommy Robinson on the setting up of the English Defence League.
- In August 2017, Gavin Boby gave an extended interview to the counter-jihadist youtube channel Vlad Tepes.



Gavin Boby speaking at the anti-Muslim ICLA conference



Gavin Bobby with anti-Muslim activist and conspiracy theorist Pamela Gellar

In 2014, Bobby's Foundation produced *Easy Meat: Multiculturalism, Islam and Child Sex Slavery*, a 333-page report which claimed the sexual abuse of young white girls was the logical consequence of the teachings of Islam.

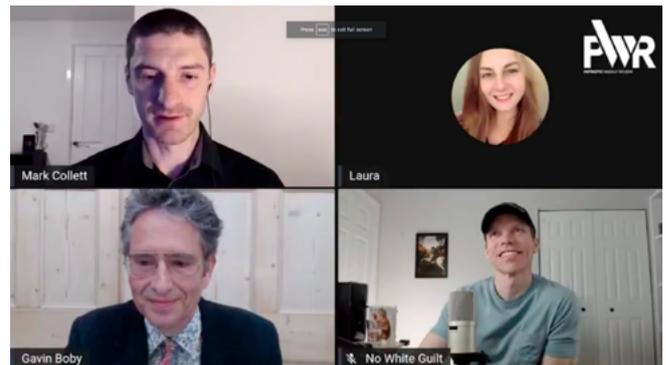
Bobby has written regularly on the Gates of Vienna blog, arguably the most important anti-Muslim blog in Europe. The blogsite contains adverts to donate to the violent anti-Muslim activist Tommy Robinson and hosts articles by Norwegian islamophobe, Fjordman, whose material was widely quoted by Anders Breivik, the far right terrorist who killed 77 people in 2011. The Gates of Vienna blog has also included blogs calling for violence and civil war as a means to expel Muslims from Europe and designs to make bombs.

FAR-RIGHT LINKS

In pushing his anti-Muslim agenda, Gavin Bobby has courted the support and friendship of racists, fascists and Holocaust Deniers.

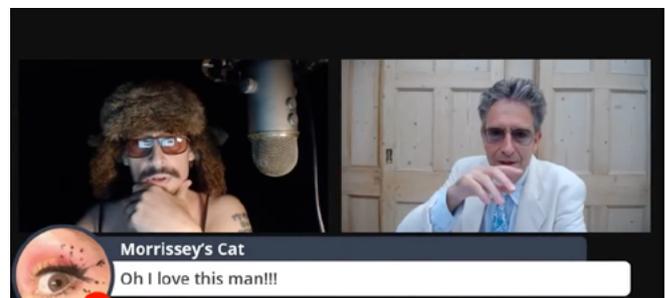
- In June 2019 Bobby attended Mosbjerg Folkefest, a farright festival in Denmark, this year also attended by members of the Identitarian group Generation Identity (GI), a far right group that espouses racism and antisemitism. Brenton Tarrant, the extremist who shot dead 51 people in two mosques in New Zealand in 2019, donated thousands to GI.
- In May 2020 Bobby was a guest on the Patriotic Weekly show run by the neo-Nazi Mark Collett and far-right extremist 'No White Guilt'. Mark Collett used to be a leading official in the

fascist British National Party and today leads the even more extreme Patriotic Alternative. Collett has spoken sympathetically of Nazi Germany, described the Holocaust as the 'alleged extermination of six million Jews', and has regularly collaborated with David Duke, a former leader in the Ku Klux Klan.



Gavin Bobby on Mark Collett's show

- In August 2020 Bobby was a guest on the YouTube channel of the racial nationalist extremist 'Dangerfield', a man who has repeatedly made jokes about paedophilia.



Gavin Bobby speaking to YouTube extremist Dangerfield

CONCLUSION

There are many people who have legitimate concerns about the Markaz Centre and these need to be listened to and addressed. However, there are also other people who are exploiting these real or perceived concerns to push their anti-Muslim and extremist agenda.

We hope that this document reveals the true motive behind the lawyer advising GGREG, the most prominent campaign to oppose the Markaz Centre. It is vital that the planning application should be judged on its merits and the process is not abused and exploited by those with an extreme anti-Muslim agenda.

The right to worship should be a right for all communities. Division and hatred will only do Golders Green harm for years to come.

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