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**NEW RESEARCH: Gab has become the rallying place for the far-right, providing a platform for explicitly white supremacist, ethnonationalist, antisemitic and COVID-19 conspiracy theory content.**

*The Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS)* released the second report in a series analysing the online interactions between far-right and far-left groups in Victoria, Australia. The study shows Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests and the second lockdown in Victoria, was used to spread a combination of conspiracy theories about COVID-19, anti-minority sentiment and overt hate speech, particularly towards Jewish and Chinese communities in Australia. **The overlap between disinformation and hate speech has highlighted the weaponisation of the pandemic for far-right agendas.**

[\*A Snapshot of Far-Right Activity on Gab in Australia\*](#) by Cécile Guerin, Jacob Davey, Mario Peucker and Thomas J. Fisher is based on an analysis of over 45,000 posts produced by 40 active Gab accounts between January and September 2020.

**Key findings include:**

- Seven of the ten most active accounts promoted explicitly white supremacist, ethnonationalist or antisemitic views in their posts.
- The dataset analysed contained a large proportion of overt hate speech targeting Jewish people, with over 11% of posts in the dataset including explicitly antisemitic terms and slurs. In particular, we identified direct calls for violence against Jewish people as well as calls to remove them from Australian society
- Discussion about political opponents on the far-left represented a notable subset of discussion. The most dominant narrative took the form of conspiracy theories alleging a Marxist-socialist or communist plot to infiltrate institutions such as the media, schools and universities in order to destroy Western civilisation and implement a communist-socialist (and anti-white) regime. As a response to this alleged plot, posts regularly advocated for white separatism or violence to defend 'our culture' against this alleged existential threat.

Mario Peucker, Senior Research Fellow at Victoria University said:

'We found that a significant number of far-right users on Gab share white supremacist ideologies and tropes such as 'White Genocide', which seem to have motivated White supremacists to commit acts of lethal violence in the recent past. This reflects the extremist ideological nature of conversations taking place on the platform. Although Gab claims to be a free speech platform that deletes posts which break the law or make threats of violence, our research found many examples of violent talk including calls to "remove" or "eliminate" those who are portrayed as the political enemy'.

*The study is part of a series produced by the CRIS research and program Stream: "Dynamics of Violent Extremism."*

