

Kieryn: I'm Kieryn.

Eve: I'm Hannah. This is Kitchen Table Cult.

Kieryn: Where to Quiverfull escapees talk about our experiences in the cultish underbelly of the religious right.

Eve: Good morning.

Kieryn: Good morning. How was your weekend?

Eve: Oh my God, I do not have enough coffee right now. Good, but intense. For our listeners, I, Hannah was just at the Unite the Right 2 counter protest and protest yesterday with my good friend Robert Evans of Behind the Bastards podcast, and a couple others. And we were up at the front at Foggy Bottom when the Nazis got off the Metro, and we followed them on their walk to the White House, and we stood and watched the antifa come in and get surrounded by cops, and we were there. There's a great moment where someone ran down the field into the crowd with a black lives matter flag at the exact same time as the thunderstorm started. So there's this big, the sky just cracked with lightning as the crowd was cheering for this guy with the black lives matter flag running into the crowd.

Kieryn: Oh my god.

Eve: And the guy I was with was like, "So there's a Hoodoo God of thunder and lightning, and he's all about slave revolts, and I think he's just endorsed this protest." So that was pretty great.

Kieryn: That's beautiful.

Eve: Yeah. But if you guys want to listen to more of that story, I'm over there at Behind the Bastards by Robert Evans, and I'm one of the guests talking about our experiences at the protest.

Kieryn: Nice.

Eve: Talking a whole lot about how it's the job of people like me who grew up in white supremacist organizations to be out there, and stand up against this kind of ideology.

Kieryn: That's great.

Eve: Yeah, that was really great. It was really intense.

Kieryn: Nice. Yeah, I sort of watched some of it happening on Twitter, and it seemed like there was what, maybe 20 fascists, and how many...

Eve: Yeah, there were 30 or so, and the number dwindled throughout the protest. But what was interesting was there were a lot of undercover fascists there.

Kieryn: That makes sense.

Eve: Who were showing up trying to look like they were antifa, but were carrying big sticks under their backpacks, or like an umbrella that was reinforced with something, and they were clearly not with anybody, or looking like they were participating in any antifa activity. So they were just kind of wandering around looking angry, and actually it was kind of funny, because I pointed them out at the beginning of the day and I was like, "This one, this one, that one. I think these guys are undercover Nazis." And Robert was like, "I don't know, I don't think so. They're probably antifa." And I was like, "No, I think I know what I'm looking at."

Eve: And sure enough when we got out from dinner, two of those same guys were surrounded by a crowd of black protesters who were like, "Look, they're Nazis." And one of them had to kekistan flag with him.

Kieryn: Holy shit.

Eve: And we were like, "Okay, here we go." And the cops surrounded us all, and it was kind of a tense moment for a little bit because they wouldn't stand down, and it was like the two guys I had pointed out at the beginning of the day.

Kieryn: This is my shocked face.

Eve: Yeah, no surprise. These guys are cowards.

Kieryn: Yep, yep, yep. Did DC not do like a... So we had the protest in Berkeley, right? They were doing their thing here last weekend or whatever, and Berkeley is terrible, and anyway, they were like, "Well, no one can have backpacks, no one can have masks, and no one can have any sticks, or anything." They had this whole list of things that you weren't allowed to have in public, which is the list of things that if you live in the Bay area, you always have on you in public at all times anyway, because you're traveling with Bart.

Eve: Right.

Kieryn: But they like-

Eve: Well, all the things that you want to have to be safe in case the police attack.

Kieryn: Right, right. And so they disarm everyone who isn't a Nazi, and everyone who is a Nazi gets to happily have their sticks, which is really frustrating.

Eve: Yeah. Yeah. All of the moments of tension happened because people in the crowd are chanting, who do you... What was that? Who do you support, or who do you serve? Or

who do you protect? Who do you serve? And that's when the cops got angry, and you could feel the mood change, and the tension change. But speaking of cowards and angry cowards.

Kieryn: Yes.

Eve: What are we talking about today?

Kieryn: So do you remember the Alliance Defense Fund, or Alliance Defending Freedom, I think, or whatever it's called now, the ADF?

Eve: Alliance Defending Freedom. I deliberately forgot about that.

Kieryn: Yeah, yeah.

Eve: That was a really bad idea.

Kieryn: Yeah.

Eve: So wait, who are they? Who is ADF?

Kieryn: Well, now they're led by none other than our lovely Mike Farris, but-

Eve: Wait, here's Mike Farris?

Kieryn: Oh my God. Well, I mean we've gone over him a couple times already in this podcast.

Eve: So Mike Farris is one of the founders of HSLDA, and he was one of the founders of the parentalrights.org lobbying group, and now he's working for ADF. Doesn't the ADF have some sort of reputation with the Southern Poverty Law Center?

Kieryn: Yeah, I think they're classified as a hate group along with the Family Research Council, the American Family Association, and Worldnet Daily, which are all organizations that I was involved with as a kid, as well.

Eve: Aw. Did you know that you were involved with hate and spreading hate?

Kieryn: I mean, I didn't see it that way at the time, but yes.

Eve: How did you see it?

Kieryn: Well, I saw it as trying to spread the truth and being persecuted for it, because that was how I was taught to see it. And everyone was all about spreading the truth in love, or saying the truth in love, and the thing about their version of love and truth spreading was that it's actually really abusive, but that's all that you're taught.

Eve: How is it abusive?

Kieryn: There's just so many ways. I don't even know where to start deconstructing it.

Eve: Okay. So ADF, they're kind of like the conservative hate group version of the ACLU, but better organized.

Kieryn: Yeah.

Eve: Is that a fair way to describe them?

Kieryn: Yeah. I feel like that's really accurate.

Eve: They think they're doing the kind of stuff that the ACLU is doing in terms of first amendment and freedom of religion protecting work, but they really don't care unless it's protecting white Christian behavior and practices, and the systems of fundamentally white supremacy and white privilege that they're protecting. I think that's why the Southern Poverty Law Center classifies them as a hate group.

Kieryn: Right. Well, and they just spend so much time advocating for defending... Acting against queer rights, and reproductive rights, and everything that you've been working so hard to keep.

Eve: So if our listeners aren't familiar with ADF, what kind of cases have they been involved with recently that our listeners might be familiar with?

Kieryn: I'm looking up all the news stories, again. They defended Hobby Lobby, right? So they were part of the Hobby Lobby thing. [crosstalk 00:09:48].

Eve: They represented Hobby Lobby.

Kieryn: Who else did they do?

Eve: The Little Sisters of the Poor.

Kieryn: Yep.

Eve: Trinity Lutheran, which was about public money given to a church.

Kieryn: And oh, they protected crisis pregnancy centers so they can continue with their lying to pregnant people.

Eve: And the recent case where you had a baker refusing to make a cake for a gay couple, that was an ADF case.

Kieryn: Yep. A lot of the great cases that involve queer people, or women wanting basic human rights, they're very much actively defending the opposition to it. So they're just representing people who are like, "No, we want to discriminate against queer people. We want to discriminate against women."

Eve: Right. And it's kind of like we were talking about with the trap laws, and the pro life movement where they're trying to create so many different situations where bureaucracy is used against actual liberty to protect the priorities of these conservative groups that it's really hard to keep track of them all. We have a lawyer friend who's one of our group, and they're not at liberty to come join us on this podcast, and by of our group, I mean a Quiverfull escapee, former fundamentalist.

Eve: But they were talking a lot about why ADF is important for us to be aware of, and the term that they used was whack-a-mole. ADF will flood the courts with really small, trivial cases on all of these subjects, and it's really hard to pay attention to them until they end up, at least one of them will end up in the Supreme Court pretty much every year as trying to reinforce these same priorities.

Kieryn: And it's been working pretty well, I feel like. Jeff Sessions Religious Liberty Task Force thing or whatever, his announcement speech, was that a thing that ADF was behind, right?

Eve: Yeah. So last week, was it last weekend?

Kieryn: Last weekend or two weeks ago. It was recently.

Eve: So yeah, there was a Religious Liberty Summit, and Sessions and ADF functionally co-hosted it, and of course Sessions has been groomed by ADF for forever. This is part of why he's so evil, and they were talking about religious freedom issues, and parroting all of the priorities of EDF. What were some of the stuff you read in this speech?

Kieryn: A lot of it was like reading Mike Farris's con law introduction, because so much [crosstalk 00:13:11] of what he pulled.

Eve: You took that class.

Kieryn: Yeah. So much of what he pulled was like from Mike Farris's the US was founded on Christian principles. We were meant to be a Christian based, or a Christian country, and now we're falling apart, and apparently nuns are forced to buy contraceptives, and that was just a thing that he said with no evidence that just stood on its own speech.

Eve: Yeah. I think he must be referring to the Little Sisters of the Poor where Catholics are required to-

Kieryn: That would make sense.

Eve: Comply with like their employees if they want contraceptives being able to buy them.

Kieryn: Right. Yeah. Yeah, and a lot of his speeches, just like reiterating basic... Everything that I learned from Mike Ferris's con law class, I was like religious liberty is the one thing. One of the things in his speech is in short, we not only have the freedom to worship, but the right to exercise our faith. The Constitution's protections don't end at the parish parking lot, nor can our freedoms we can find to our basements. And he's taking religious liberty as this thing that supersedes literally everything else, which is basically what Mike Ferris taught as well.

Eve: So when Mike first talked about all these things, he wasn't extending the same kind of freedom of belief to the groups that believe things other than Christians.

Kieryn: No, no. Religious Liberty is only for Christian people. We were a Christian nation, Hannah, we were founded on Protestantism. So none of these extend to Catholics, either. These are only for Protestant Christians.

Eve: Oh, okay. Why is that?

Kieryn: Because Catholics are not real Christian, somehow.

Eve: Oh, okay. Right. Cause they believe in works.

Kieryn: Right. And also they worship Mary, and Mary is a woman, so that's terrible.

Eve: But she was virgin.

Kieryn: Right. But she still gave birth to a child somehow.

Eve: But isn't that the only reason that women are-

Kieryn: Are good.

Eve: As opposed to exist, yeah.

Kieryn: Don't try to put logic on it.

Eve: Okay. So what else? One of the other things that they talked about at this summit was... God, was parental rights being tied to conversion therapy, and conversion therapy is an abusive practice that should be banned in every state. And my friend Garrard Conley, is working to try to end conversion therapy in America. You should read his memoir, *Boy Erased*, if you haven't about going through conversion therapy. But I mean the *Miseducation of Cameron Post* is also coming out right now about the same thing where, it's basically the send your kid to camp to pray the gay away, because being gay is something that can be "cured." It's mental illness.

Kieryn: Right. It's a choice.

Eve: Right. And even if it's not a choice, it's like you're mentally ill. Either you completely remove agency, or give all total agency, and is either rebellion, or a sickness.

Kieryn: Yeah, and if you're-

Eve: Did your parents endorse this? Is this something that you ran into at all?

Kieryn: I didn't actually run into a lot of conversion therapy kind of things, or justification for it. Mostly my parents were like, "Well, it's a choice. And so if you choose to be gay then you're sinning, and you're terrible." They didn't buy into the thing where it's not a choice, it's just who you are. So conversion therapy didn't really make sense to them, because they're like, "Well, but you're choosing to be gay."

Eve: Right. Yeah. Well, and the book Boy Erased talks it, and it goes through all these like fucked up ideas, effed up ideas about the sins of the fathers creating a family curse, and why are you gay? Was there Catholicism or alcoholism in your family before? Did your grandmother have an abortion? Things like that. And then saying, "Well, this is the reason you're gay, and you need to repent of all of their sins so that you can not be gay anymore." And which is just crazy on every level. And also not biblical, because I believe it's in the old Testament where it's like the son will not be punished for the sins of the father. [Crosstalk 00:18:46].

Kieryn: Right, yeah. I remember that.

Eve: That's old covenant, that's not even new covenant stuff.

Kieryn: Yeah, but-

Eve: Where the hell are they getting this?

Kieryn: I don't know. I don't think it matters to them. They find one verse, and they're like, "Here we go."

Eve: Okay. But let's bring this back to the Religious Liberty Task Force and parental rights. Tell me about the parental rights amendment agenda, and where that all came from.

Kieryn: Man I don't remember where it quite... I remember I started hearing about it in the late '90s, early 2000s, and it was something that HSLDA started hopping on pretty early, which should make sense since Farris founded like the [inaudible 00:19:36]

Eve: If I remember correctly, it was a reaction to the UN Rights of the Child.

- Kieryn: Yeah, yeah. Right. That was the counter proposal was let's not have rights of the child, let's have parental rights. And then that started the campaign to get parental rights everywhere.
- Eve: Which, the US hasn't ratified the UN Rights of the Child Act, which is... If you've read it, I encourage you if you grew up fundamentalist and homeschooled, go read the UN Rights of the Child Act, it will make you cry, because I... So serving in Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan, one of the things that we had to do for our teacher training was read the UN Rights of the Child Act, because Kyrgyzstan had ratified it, and we needed to be aware of our responsibility to children as creatures having rights before we entered the classroom.
- Kieryn: Oh my god. Can you imagine?
- Eve: It's actually-
- Kieryn: I mean, you can.
- Eve: No. It's both heartwarming. Reading that document is just therapeutic for me now, because if I had been aware that I, as a person, had that kind of dignity when I was a kid, my life would be so different. My self confidence would have been so different.
- Kieryn: Well, that's exactly why we can't have it here, because they don't want that.
- Eve: Right, so because children are pawns and property, HSLDA really didn't want us ratifying that, but [crosstalk 00:21:21]
- Kieryn: Well, I mean what if kids decided they didn't want to be homeschooled, and then suddenly they had a right?
- Eve: Right, exactly. So HSLDA, because of their affiliation with homeschooling, couldn't exactly lobby for this, so they had to make a different group called [parentalrights.org](#), and they're trying to get a parental rights amendment on every state's constitution, and they succeeded in several places. Virginia has one.
- Kieryn: They ultimately want to get it in the US constitution as an amendment.
- Eve: And what is the idea of parental rights, what does that mean?
- Kieryn: It means that parents have sole control over their children forever, until they get married or become an adult, depending on if you're a girl or a boy.
- Eve: And it means that if you want to do something that your parents disagree with, or something, excuse me, about you is something that your parents disapprove of, they can hold their parental right privilege over that, and make you comply.
- Kieryn: Yep. You do not have any rights as a human, or an individual.

Eve: So to have that tied by ADF to conversion therapy. So this is an incredibly traumatic experience for anyone who's been through it. The suicide rates of queer people who have gone through conversion therapy is insanely high. I don't remember the exact number, but it's really bad. Suicide rates for closeted queer people is already really bad to- [crosstalk 00:23:01] put them through conversion therapy.

Kieryn: Add that on top of it.

Eve: Conversion therapy, which is a traumatic attempt at brainwashing them to hate themselves even more for being gay is really awful. So if ADF is tying that to parental rights, that's terrifying.

Kieryn: Yeah. Yeah. Well, I mean that's what they want to do, because they want to squash the gayness out of everybody. But that's just going... It's terrible. And anyway, now we have a Religious Liberties Task Force for it.

Eve: So is this something that we wanted back when we were in the cults?

Kieryn: I mean, I don't think we imagined it with this specific face, but it is definitely in the vein of what everyone was working towards. They want to criminalize gayness, they want to squash gain this out in children before they have a chance to even express it. I mean, there is a non-small contingent of people who still believe that queers should be stoned to death. So this is very much in that vein.

Eve: Yeah. And rebellious sons, too, right.

Kieryn: Right. And any daughters who stray.

Eve: Yeah. Well let's take a quick break, and talk about the Religious Liberty Task Force some more.

Eve: And we're back. All right, so let's talk about the Religious Liberty Task Force. What are some of their priorities?

Kieryn: Let's see. So they're protecting the safety of people of faith, protecting them against unjust discrimination. For example, and I'm just reading this off of the speech that sessions gave, they filed a brief in Montana to defend parents who claimed that the state barred their children from a private school scholarship because they attended a religious school. They filed an amicus brief on behalf of the archdiocese of DC, which was refusing space, or refused advertising space for having a religious message, including joy to the world on Merry Christmas. Because the war on Christmas, on Merry Christmas is a thing. They defended the cake baker dude, Jack Phillips.

Eve: Well, and that's ADF, that's not the Religious Liberty Task-

Kieryn: Well, right. And I'm just reading from his speech, so it seems like they are working together, or merging, or are going to be heavily involved with the Justice Department.

Eve: Or at least ADF is setting their priorities.

Kieryn: Right. They're at least writing the guidelines for it.

Eve: Who founded ADF?

Kieryn: A lot of people. A lot of people that we know, or have been-

Eve: Are very familiar with.

Kieryn: Are really familiar with.

Eve: So it was incorporated in 1983.

Kieryn: Yep.

Eve: And who are these names?

Kieryn: Bill Bright, who started Campus Crusade for Christ, which was like a huge thing and all the churches that I went to for college students.

Eve: Yeah, it's really big on college campuses still.

Kieryn: Yeah, Larry Burkett, who did Crown Financial Ministries, which is this great Christian get rich quick scheme thing.

Eve: Well, it's a multilevel marketing scheme about how to financially plan for success, basically.

Kieryn: Right, which is not the same as Dave Ramsey, but same idea-ish.

Eve: But it's kind of the same idea as Dave Ramsey's stuff.

Kieryn: Right. James Dobson.

Eve: Who is James Dobson?

Kieryn: Remember Adventures in Odyssey.

Eve: That was probably the most benign thing he ever did.

Kieryn: I know.

Eve: Yeah, I remember Adventures in Odyssey.

Kieryn: Yeah, so James Dobson-

Eve: I used to get up on Saturday mornings to listen to it.

Kieryn: Me too, I used to, I had the Focus on the Family little radio that they made personally, that only played their station, or whatever. That also played Adventures in Odyssey all the time, and I would sometimes put it under my pillow and sleep with it so I could listen to Adventures in Odyssey and not get caught.

Eve: So your childhood girlfriend was Adventures in Odyssey?

Kieryn: Obviously. I mean it was Connie. I had a huge crush on Connie.

Eve: It was Connie. Yeah, didn't we all. I kind of liked Eugene, but he was also kind of a dweeb.

Kieryn: Yeah. Yeah. I had mixed feelings about Eugene, but I was still here for Connie.

Eve: James Dobson wrote a bunch of parenting books that were used against us as kids. Not quite as bad as the Pearl's, but still really bad, and if you want some really excellent coverage on what exactly James Dobson's parenting methods where you should go read Libby Anne blog, Love, Joy Feminism. She has a lot of chapter by chapter kind of-

Kieryn: Deconstructions, yeah.

Eve: Deconstructions of those, yeah. And Focus on the Family really promoted a lot of the same ideas that-

Kieryn: Focus on the Family is like the gateway drug. It gets you in because it seems benign. It seems pretty chill. It's real palatable. And so families who just go in, it's in every mainstream church. Every church has Adventures in Odyssey. Every church has Dobson's child rearing books, and he's really fundamentalist, but he frames it so it's very palatable to mainstream people so they get sucked in pretty easily.

Eve: Yeah. And then you have D. James Kennedy who founded Coral Ridge ministries.

Kieryn: Yep. He was a really popular TV pastor. My parents watched him every Sunday, all the time.

Eve: I wasn't familiar with him.

Kieryn: Yeah, he also had a radio show.

Eve: What was his shtick?

Kieryn: I mean just your same run of the mill evangelical conservative fundamentalist preaching. He had a really deep voice. He wore a robe, and the little scarf thing, he was fancy. It was like he was Protestant, but he looked not Protestant. It was weird. He had an interesting dynamic. But otherwise very much in line with Focus on the Family and everybody else. All the same complementarianism, all that.

Eve: And are they having a scandal right now?

Kieryn: Are they? They should be. I don't know if they are or not, but I feel like probably.

Eve: Oh, I know who this is. Okay. So Tullian Tchividjian, and I'm probably mispronouncing that last name, who is Boz's brother, was affiliated with Coral Ridge, and was a sexual predator there, and Boz's organization GRACE, which is the Godly Response to Abuse in Christian Environments is I believe, was involved in investigating him. And Boz has a team that was working on it, and so Boz himself was not involved in the investigation because of obvious conflict of interest, because it's family, but yeah. Coral Ridge was one of their clients.

Kieryn: Yeah. This doesn't surprise me. I feel like all of the churches that I had anything to do with should be under investigation by GRACE, TBH.

Eve: Right. And then the next group, Marlon Maddox.

Kieryn: Yeah, I don't actually-

Eve: International Christian Media.

Kieryn: Have a lot of experience with them.

Eve: It looks like they have a convention in Nashville, and a convention in Anaheim, this is just off of Google. So they have some media summits, and give out rewards for Christian media professionals.

Kieryn: That makes sense. Sort of like Vision Forum wants to do.

Eve: Right, right. And then William Pew, who I know because he was one of the biggest donors to Grove City College, and Grove City College is the school that was the flagship in the Supreme Court case about whether Christian universities could be religiously exempt from complying with Title IX, and the conclusion was they could, as long as they didn't receive any federal funding ever.

Kieryn: Right. Which is also why PHC doesn't get any federal funding.

Eve: And Bob Jones and [inaudible 00:33:01] and all these groups. So they can discriminate against gay people and women as long as they don't take federal funding, which is sketchy. So William Pew was pretty rich guy, I believe, in Pittsburgh. I can't remember

where he made his money. I feel like it was in oil, but I am probably wrong. But there's buildings named after him all over Grove City College's campus. There's all these awards named for him. There's a statue of him in the chapel garden that freshmen will like sit on, and pretend to be in his lap. It's a thing.

Eve: So yeah, he did that. Oh yeah, and let me just say something real fast about, I think it's interesting that you have such a diversity of spheres of Christian groups represented in ADF's founders. And I wrote this piece about it and I'm trying to find a home for it, but it's an academic paper I wrote last semester about, there's this Marxist theorist named Antonio Gramsci who wrote something called the Prison Notebooks while he was imprisoned by Mussolini for basically his entire life. And he was writing about why Marxism failed in the West, and he was like, "Capitalism is too good. It's too advanced. And Marxism can't just use a revolution to change culture and we have to treat it like trench warfare, and take ground in small bites, and we have to attack these seven spheres of cultural influence."

Eve: And he broke it down into different quadrants. And his books didn't get translated into English until many years after they came out in their first publication. And when they finally came out, around that same time, you had Bill Bright and Francis Schaeffer, and someone else, and I'm blanking on his name, but these three Christian evangelical leaders come out with this idea of God told me in a vision, or a while I was praying, or whatever. But God told me that this is the strategy to enact cultural change-

Kieryn: Fascinating.

Eve: And it exactly parallels Antonio Gramsci's ideas. So these guys are all very smart people who are not above stealing ideas where they find them, and Bill Bright had an economics degree so I'm sure he was reading Gramsci.

Eve: So these guys were taking Marxist theory about how to enact cultural change and you have this, this is like what Vision Forum was all about. Vision Forum had these... Here's our seven pronged approach for making America a Christian nation again.

Kieryn: Yeah. Well, and if we think about it, it's sort of like it was entirely organized that way, because you had all of these different organizations with all these different facets, so Vision Forum was media, and HSLDA is legal reform. Basically everything Mike Ferris touches is like enacting legal change.

Eve: PHC was education.

Kieryn: PHC was education. The way that they trained people with Generation Joshua, and TeenPact and such to run for very local races was local governments and then branching out. So it makes sense.

Eve: Yeah. And our law student friend, lawyer friend. They are not a law student. Our genius barred lawyer friend, they were talking about Blackstone. Blackstone, what's the full title of it?

Kieryn: Right. Which is this sort of law program?

Eve: [crosstalk 00:37:26] Blackstone Fellow Program.

Kieryn: Yeah.

Eve: Yeah. So they recruit lawyers, they recruit young lawyers to go to their training course in Arizona to get, they fly them out and they pay them and they get them first internships, and they basically shepherd them into working toward ADF's agenda.

Kieryn: And it's something that other law schools don't offer in the same way.

Eve: Well, I don't know that other law schools don't offer it in the same way.

Kieryn: Well, I mean it's not paid, it's not as-

Eve: They give you a lot of money.

Kieryn: There's not paid internships.

Eve: So Blackstone fellow program doesn't seem to be particularly enticing other than they have a lot of money, and they'll pay for things, and they'll get you internships, and they'll fly you places, and provide for you.

Kieryn: Yeah. And for like broke law students, that is a lot, I imagine. [crosstalk 00:38:44] Because law school's not inexpensive, so.

Eve: Yeah, no, that's incredibly attractive.

Kieryn: Yeah. So it seems enticing, and they get a lot of new recruits that way. PHC basically funnels people. I imagine that Region and Liberty also funnel people that way since they also have law programs and are sort of in that vein.

Eve: Yeah, I'm sure that they're everywhere. Yeah. So I think this is just something to keep our eyes on. I mean, they're clearly pushing these priorities that have old roots that we're very familiar with.

Kieryn: I mean, this is just another step in their plan. They have power, and they now are in, able to do things on the Department of Justice level, and so now they're doing that.

Eve: And where should we look looking toward the future as a preview, we should look at ADF's international work.

Kieryn: Yes. What is their international work? What have they done outside the US?

Eve: So I am not as familiar with that as I should, but we've got a couple of links that we can put up if you want to get started on a rabbit trail on that direction for our listeners. But they do a lot of anti-LGBTQ campaigns, and also they are kind of tightly tied with Russia.

Kieryn: This is my surprised face, which also, I mean, and we'll get into this when we do an episode on HSLDA, but HSLDA is also tied with Russia. So it doesn't surprise me that with Mike Farris leading the helm of ADF that they are also very closely linked right now.

Eve: Right, so do you think that there's any chance that Mueller's investigation will uncover any of us?

Kieryn: I mean, it probably will, but whether or not anyone cares, or whether or not that gets out is another question entirely.

Eve: Yeah, I think these guys have been covering their tracks for 20-30 years.

Kieryn: I mean, HSLDA started, I remember the shift in the late '90s early 2000s when HSLDA was like, "Oh, Russia is terrible, they're evil." And then suddenly, Putin came in and hated queer people, and then HSLDA was suddenly real buddy buddy with Russia.

Kieryn: And then over the last, like however many years it's been, they've been going to Russia trying get homeschooling done there. They've been working closely with Russia.

Eve: Right. So they've had a lot of-

Kieryn: I feel like that's going to, it hasn't been hidden. It's in their Court Reports. You can find it on their website. So there's obviously ties there.

Eve: And for our listeners, if you're not familiar with HSLDA's Court Report, it's their magazine. Is it monthly. It's their magazine that they put out.

Kieryn: It's monthly.

Eve: Yeah, it's their monthly magazine that they put out about the state of homeschooling. Yeah, so Russia's through there. You can search it, and you can search Southern Poverty Law Center under their ADF page, you can search for Russia and their connections to Russia, and it's pretty extensive. And honestly, we've heard all about Russia's draconian laws against queer people, and I've lived in a country that had laws that were mimicked off of it, and watched people go underground, watched people get... Read the news reports of people who were beaten up after they left a speakeasy club. It's just, this is where they want us to go.

Kieryn: This is what they're working for.

Eve: This is what they're working for. And it's not hidden, and it's been in the works for forever. So, what do our listeners have to look forward to next week?

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Kieryn: Well, hopefully we talk more about HSLDA either next week, or soon upcoming, because I feel like we really need to just, because they're so tied to everything.

Eve: Yeah, we really should give them some time.

Kieryn: To really focus on that, and we can ask one of our friends who knows a lot about HSLDA history to come on and tell us about it, because she's done a lot of work, researching them, and keeping all the receipts.

Eve: Okay. So look forward to an episode on HSLDA. Maybe if you are a listener, and you have questions, we'd love to talk to you, we'd love to answer them.

Kieryn: Send us your questions.

Eve: Join our Patreon and you're going to hear the after dark episode that we recorded last week. That was super fun and yeah. Thanks for listening, and check out Behind the Bastards podcast, and hear what me and Robert and some others had to say about the protests yesterday.

Kieryn: Yay. I'm excited about that episode too. Thanks for listening.

Eve: Thanks for listening. Bye.

Kieryn: See you next week.