



Explosive investigative documentary pulled from London Film Fest now screening.

The doc exposes far right networks and follows a \$\$\$ money trail to Silicon Valley

A thrilling feature documentary, directed by **Havana Marking**, goes undercover with the UK's leading antifascist group as they undertake a secret investigation. Hidden cameras reveal how far right activists aim to radically shift mainstream politics, how vulnerable communities are targeted and how a new generation of well-funded and media-savvy influencers are using discredited "race science" to legitimise prejudice. They also discover a million dollar money trail to Silicon Valley.

UNDERCOVER Exposing the far right, produced by **Marking Films Inc** and **Tigerlily Productions** in association with the BFI Doc Society Fund (awarding National Lottery funding), HiddenLight and Channel 4, was pulled from London Film festival for safety reasons but is now due to have its **International Premiere at IDFA on 19th November**.

With this summer's riots in the UK fuelled by racist disinformation, the spotlight is being shone on the message and methods of the modern far right. **UNDERCOVER Exposing the far right** follows investigators from **HOPE not hate** as they infiltrate far-right extremist groups. With hidden-camera footage capturing the unfiltered views of some of Britain's most notorious far-right figures, **UNDERCOVER** offers a never-before-seen perspective of people who claim to be patriots but whose beliefs can sow division and unrest.

HOPE not hate's investigation has formed the subject of an extraordinary news collaboration, released by the Guardian (UK), Dei Spiegel (Germany) and Der Standard (Austria), as it exposed a global network of influencers.

Incredible global story:

The film interweaves narratives to create a terrifying picture of the current far right scene in the UK and beyond.

One storyline follows the investigation as they uncover evidence showing that a Silicon Valley millionaire Andrew Conru has provided at least USD \$1.3 million in financial support to the operations of the Human Diversity Foundation (HDF). Led at the time by notorious Danish pseudo-scientist Emil Kirkegaard and Briton Matthew Archer, who tell the HOPE not hate investigator how the network runs both an underground research arm and the outward-facing online magazine named Aporia, featuring content HOPE not hate assess as promoting the scientifically erroneous idea that some races or groups of people are genetically superior to others.

In the film, Matthew Archer (real name Matthew Frost) is captured on camera saying, "We want to be read by the elite or the aspiring lead people that might accidentally end up becoming the elite because they're so crazy or entrepreneurial, but they make it big."

One HDF collaborator featured in the film is Erik Ahrens, reportedly a social media strategist for the German far-right party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). In the film, Ahrens is captured saying that "My vision is actually to one day run in Germany in a Trump like fashion. It hasn't been done for 100 years to run a populist movement centred around a person."

Ahrens also shows HOPE not hate's undercover investigator a video of a neo-Nazi youth group Junge Tat, saying "They run the camp once a year, it's very easy to replicate this almost like a service that we offer to young guys. They put out videos and they put them on YouTube because they want to attract new people... This is specifically for a subset of elite potential people. This is what the SS was doing..."

The film charts Tommy Robinson's rising notoriety since he was allowed back on to X (formerly known as Twitter), and reveals how HOPE not hate evidence contributed to the current court case against him.

It also follows HOPE not hate's investigator as he goes undercover with Britain First figures, including unsuccessful London Mayoral candidate Nick Scanlon and leader Paul Golding, who attend an extreme right march in Poland and make some shocking statements when they are unaware the cameras are rolling.

UNDERCOVER highlights the bravery and sacrifices of HOPE not hate's diverse group of researchers and campaigners, who every day face abuse, threats and harassment as they work to expose the extremists.

The documentary could not be more timely. Combining the espionage intrigue of a classic spy thriller with the forensic investigation of Spotlight (2015), UNDERCOVER exposes the ideas and tactics of the new far right.



REACTIONS

Director Havana Marking, whose previous films include the multi-award-winning *Afghan Star* (2009) about the struggle for creative freedom in Afghanistan, *Smash & Grab* (2011) about the Balkan diamond-thieving gang, the Pink Panthers, and *The Kleptocrats* (2018) investigating the 1MDB corruption and money laundering scandal, now turns her attention to the struggle against the UK's new far right. She began working with HOPE not hate's team in May 2022. The film aired on C4 in the UK on 21 Oct 2024 to incredible reviews.

"This gripping film could not be more urgent. Essential viewing for anyone who wants to understand the 2024 riots. From street thugs to Silicon Valley, a stunningly brave, forensic and unflinching investigation into the shadowy networks of the modern far right." Ros Wynne-Jones, *The Mirror*

"Nail-biting and terrifying... the bravest documentary of the year... Marking's film isn't just a good doc, it's a great one." Leila Latif, *the Guardian*. 5 Stars

"Unsettling investigation that plays out like a spy thriller... thrilling to behold, chilling to contemplate." Benji Wilson, *The Telegraph*. 5 Stars



RESPONSE FROM THEOSE EXPOSED

In response to the allegations made in the documentary, Andrew Conru said: "Mr Conru unequivocally rejects racism, discrimination and dehumanization. Since this was brought to his attention, he has cut ties with the Human Diversity Foundation (HDF), ceased his funding, and ordered an immediate review of governance processes across all of his philanthropic activities to ensure such a situation does not arise again." He also said that, "he has never met Erik Ahrens, whose connection was hidden from him."

Matthew Archer (real name Matthew Frost) said that the correspondence asking him to respond to allegations outlined in the film: "contains numerous misrepresentations of both my actions and intentions." He said that he "intended to establish the 'Apple' of British gentleman's clubs, entirely independent from HDF, which was focussed solely on academic research."

He also said that the HOPE not hate investigator was "a fraudulent investor" ... "a fantasist... whose actions amounted to a breach of journalistic ethics and by continuing to portray the elicited statements as genuine, he is misleading the public. I am not politically aligned with any 'far-right' ideology, nor do I hold the views that could reasonably be characterised as such."

"... Mr Ahrens was never employed by HDF, he was presented as a marketing consultant to assist with pitching the gentlemen's club project, ... before I became aware of our divergent political views. Once I realised this (in December 2023) our collaboration ceased. ... I no longer have any affiliation with HDF."

In response to the allegations in the documentary, Erik Ahrens told us the allegations put to him were "factually incorrect" and that "he was never employed by HDF..." and "was collaborating with Mr Front on an unrelated start up project (a gentlemen's club)..."

Regarding the Junge Tat training camp videos he showed the undercover investigator he said that he: "referenced groups that engage in peaceful and legal activities"

Regarding his references to the SS he said that he "could just as well have referenced any other 'select inner circle' with high entry requirements as a historical example, such as catholic lay orders, British gentlemen's clubs..."

Regarding running Germany in a populist movement centred around one person as hasn't been done for 100 years he said: "Donald Trump' is 'an idol of mine'.

‘Whether or not I will get to run in a similar fashion in Germany one day is a matter of destiny.’

Mr Ahrens also referred back to Matthew Archer’s (real name Matthew Frost) response.

Paul Golding, Nick Scanlon and Emil Kirkegaard were approached to respond to the allegations in the film, but did not provide a statement. ENDS

NOTES TO EDS:

For more information about the film, please visit www.undercover.film

Images from the film and advance screening links are available upon request.

Director Havana Marking and members of the HOPE not hate investigations team are available for interview. To arrange interviews, please contact:

ines@89up.org / freddie@89up.org m. +44 (0) 75 8037 3579
t. +44 (0) 20 3411 2889

About Havana Marking (Marking Films Inc)

Havana Marking is one of the most respected British documentary filmmakers working today. Known for award-winning films such as: *Afghan Star* (2009), which earned her the Best Director and Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, the Grierson Award for Best Doc on a Contemporary Issue and the Prix Italia, *Smash & Grab: The Story of the Pink Panthers* (currently under option for a new international drama series) and *The Kleptocrats* (which told the gripping story of the 1MDB financial fraud scandal from Hollywood to Malaysia).

In addition, Marking works as Executive / Senior Producer on various premium streamer series. As co-director of *Roast Beef Productions* (2009-18), she contributed to *Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer*, *To Hell and Back Again* and *The Russian Woodpecker* which have been recognised with an Academy Award nomination and several Emmy and Sundance awards.



About Tigerlily Productions

Tigerlily Productions is a multi-award winning independent production company known for feature documentaries. Productions include Working With Weinstein (2018), Channel 4's documentary featuring interviews with former assistants and others who worked closely with the renowned film mogul and now convicted sex offender in the UK.

Other recent productions also include the Bafta and Royal Television Society winning White Nanny Black Child (2023), and Blue Bag Life (2023) winner of the London Film Festival Feature Film Audience Award 2022 and nominee in the BAFTA Film Awards Outstanding Debut category 2024.

About HOPE not hate

HOPE not hate is the UK's biggest grassroots organisation dedicated to challenging and defeating far-right extremism, racism, and hate. Established in 2004, it works through community engagement, research, and investigative journalism to expose and counter hate-driven ideologies. HOPE not hate aims to foster inclusive, diverse communities by promoting tolerance and social cohesion. The organisation's campaigns equip local people with the tools they need to resist division and build resilience against the politics of hate. Through a network of grassroots initiatives, it empowers individuals and communities to stand up to extremism and create a more equal society.

About Doc Society

Doc Society is an innovative global non-profit working with the boldest and most inspiring filmmakers all over the world. Beyond the right to self-expression we are focused on the right of all citizens to access media in the public interest - and building the global ecosystem that makes that possible.

We are experts in the production and impact distribution of non-fiction storytelling. Since 2005 we have funded 600+ narrative projects and regranted \$22M in over 40 countries. In addition to grant making and supporting the creative process, we help artists and journalists develop impact strategies and connect with communities and allies beyond the media industry and across civil society.

The BFI Doc Society Fund was launched in 2018, as Doc Society became the BFI's delegate partner for independent UK documentary filmmaking. To date, it has

distributed over £5.3 million to UK independent documentary films, thanks to National Lottery funding. The Fund supports creative and hybrid feature documentaries with bold cultural and social ambitions, and short films by diverse, emerging voices from all over the UK.

Doc Society's latest initiative is the Democracy Story Unit, a cultural strategy initiative that supports transformative storytelling to advance more just and inclusive societies, and better futures for all.

About HiddenLight

HiddenLight is an award-winning independent production company specialising in premium documentaries and documentary series. Its recent documentaries include 'In Her Hands' for Netflix, filmed during the Taliban's return to Afghanistan, 'The Cranes Call' about War Crimes investigators in Ukraine for Channel 4, and the Grierson, and multi award-winning 'Lyra' about Irish journalist Lyra McKee.