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résilience



RIVO: From Surviving To Living **25 years in support of traumatized refugees**

Montreal (QC), 13 March 2018 — Celebrating 25 years of offering psychological support to refugees, the **Intervention Network for Persons Affected by Organized Violence (RIVO)** is launching its ***De la survie à la vie* | From Surviving to Living** campaign today. This campaign aims to raise public awareness of RIVO's work and its crucial role among victims of organized violence such as wars, genocide, torture, attacks, rape, and persecution.

Since its founding in 1993, RIVO - an NPO - has provided - free of charge - approximately 40,000 hours of therapy to over 4,000 women, men, and children traumatized by human violence experienced in their home country before fleeing to seek refuge in Canada. Here are [two testimonials from survivors](#) who were able to rebuild their lives in this country thanks to RIVO's services.

Andy Thê-Anh, official spokesperson for RIVO

Famous Vietnamese-born Canadian designer Andy Thê-Anh met the RIVO team with whom he shared his experience as a refugee. "I was not traumatized because my family protected me. In addition, I arrived in Canada at a young age, which facilitated my adaptation. But if I had lived the worst of the war like the people who come to RIVO, I would have certainly appreciated this kind of support. Today, I want to help those less fortunate than me by becoming a spokesperson for RIVO," says Andy.

To initiate his commitment, Andy entrusts the premiere of his first life story: ***Des souvenirs de la guerre, à la quête de beauté*** (From memories of the war to the quest for beauty - available in French only). The designer delivers a humble and touching testimony of his journey from his childhood in Vietnam during the war to his rise in the Canadian fashion industry. One can read the first part of Andy's story on the-http://www.rivo-resilience.org/andy_the-anh

Supporting refugees to facilitate their integration

Totalling about 22.5 million today, the growing number of refugees around the world requires a serious reflection on their ability to reintegrate into their adopted country. "We do not treat a trauma related to war or torture in the same way as one that caused by a car accident," explains Véronique Harvey, social worker and one of RIVO's 40 psychotherapists.

"Refugees and asylum seekers must first rebuild as a person, regain self-confidence and trust in others before they can integrate. At this time, our health care system can't respond to the particularities of these victims. That's why RIVO plays a crucial role because, in addition to working directly with victims, the organization provides training and support to stakeholder from all walks of life," concludes Ms. Harvey.

After 25 years of sustained effort, RIVO remains one of the few organizations to offer this cutting-edge service in Quebec, while demand continues to grow. [View RIVO's history as told in a 3.5 minutes video.](#)

About RIVO

RIVO, the Intervention Network for Persons Affected by Organized Violence, was founded in 1993 by Pierre Dongier and Cécile Rousseau two Montreal physicians looking to fill the gap in psychological support services for victims of violence. This non-profit organization endeavours to promote the rehabilitation and integration of newcomers and anyone else traumatized by organized violence, whether political, social, identity or religious. The interventions extend to entire communities of relatives and friends.

Find out more about the RIVO: [visit the website http://www.rivo-resilience.org/en_accueil](http://www.rivo-resilience.org/en_accueil), [read the blogs http://www.rivo-resilience.org/fr_blogue](http://www.rivo-resilience.org/fr_blogue) or [follow RIVO on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/RIVO.resilience/](https://www.facebook.com/RIVO.resilience/).

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Source: rivo-resilience.org

Andy Thê-Anh, designer, and **Véronique Harvey**, social worker and psychotherapist specialized in intervention with refugees, are available for a joint interview.

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