

RECOGNIZING SIGNS OF WHITE SUPREMACIST RADICALIZATION

Parents and educators can play a key role in spotting white supremacist symbols, ideology, and signs of radicalization among young people. This guide is intended as a resource to help parents and educators understand possible signs of white supremacist radicalization and become familiar with white supremacist narratives, symbology, terminology, and groups so they can identify early warning signs of radicalization. Parents and educators should take note of unfamiliar words, phrases, symbols, or online activity among young people and refer to the resources below if they suspect it signals recruitment or radicalization.

Risk factors placing young people at increased risk of radicalization:

- Unprocessed trauma
- Tendency to believe in conspiracy theories
- Lack of economic and educational opportunities
- Lack of strong and stable relationships
- Social or emotional instability

Possible signs of white supremacist violent radicalization can include:

- Accessing extremist material online
- Talking about extremist ideology as if from a scripted speech
- Adopting the signage of white supremacy
- Unwillingness or inability to discuss their views beyond reciting what sound like scripted talking points (often those in the radicalization process are not fully aware of the depth of the viewpoints they are expressing, and are merely reciting the talking points they have been told)
- Displaying or getting tattoos of white supremacist symbols
- Use of the phrases “red pill,” “Black Pill,” or “blue-pilled normies”
- Using extremist terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Writing or creating artwork promoting violent extremist messages
- A dramatic change in behavior
- Change in friend circle/group
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Advocacy for traditional gender roles or anti-feminist or misogynistic speech
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet/mobile phone use

Online recruitment trends

White supremacist recruitment is often intertwined with social media, misogyny, and use of irony and humor. Recruitment can include the use of memes and internet comics that encourage discord, and are likely to receive negative attention by targeted groups and allies. Memes can include mutually exclusive facts pitted against each other, predominantly in the political spectrum; racist or offensive scenes; or rhetoric of dehumanization. Recruitment can also rely on false victimization, decrying anti-whiteness, and advocating a right to advantages over others.

White supremacist and alt-right propaganda and recruitment can occur on many websites, including 4chan, 8chan, reddit, twitter, Facebook, TikTok, and more. The primary targets for recruitment are white males between the ages of 15 and 30, and particularly individuals who lack strong social networks or financial security and who may be more vulnerable to narratives around male resentment.

The following resources provide a brief overview of white supremacist ideology and narratives:

- [Facing History, Explainer: White Nationalism](#): This explainer is intended to “describe key characteristics of the white nationalist ideology and clarify some of the terms surrounding it.”
- [Anti-Defamation League, Defining Extremism: A Glossary of White Supremacist Terms, Movements and Philosophies](#): This glossary was created to explain “terms that come up frequently in conversations and news reports about [white supremacist extremism].”

The following resources provide information on white supremacist symbology and terminology:

- [Anti-Defamation League, Hate on Display™ Hate Symbols Database](#): This database was created to “provide[] an overview of many of the symbols most frequently used by a variety of white supremacist groups and movements, as well as some other types of hate groups.”
- [Anti-Defamation League, The Extremist Medicine Cabinet: A Guide to Online ‘Pills’](#): This primer was created to “explain the fringe internet’s conspiratorial obsession with “pills,” widely used as a shorthand to identify one’s progress through radicalization.”

The following resources catalogue white supremacist organizations:

- [Southern Poverty Law Center, Extremist Files](#): This database “contains profiles of various prominent extremists and extremist organizations” and “examines the histories and core beliefs – or ideologies – of the most common types of extremist movements”