

## THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE UNDERSTANDS THE DEVASTATING POWER OF HATE SYMBOLS.

These icons can convey tremendous meaning and significance in a compact, immediately recognizable form. They project feelings of hate or anger and give extremists a sense of power and belonging. And, in victims, hate symbols instill fear and insecurity.

Hate on Display is your tool for identifying the symbols frequently used by neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, racist skinheads, racist prison gangs and other hate or extremist groups or movements. As the most respected private authority on extremism and domestic terrorism, ADL understands that good information is crucial in the fight against hate.

ADL is always here to help you.

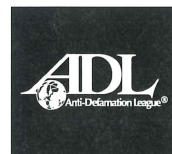
Visit ADL's Hate Symbols and Indicators Mobile Website for Law Enforcement: [www.adl.org/hateID](http://www.adl.org/hateID)

For additional resources, contact your local ADL Regional Office or visit: [www.adl.org/LEARN](http://www.adl.org/LEARN)

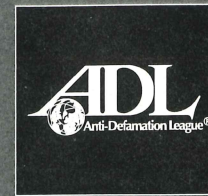
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# HATE ON DISPLAY

## Extremist Symbols, Logos and Tattoos



NEW 5<sup>TH</sup> EDITION  
REVISED AND UPDATED

## THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THESE SYMBOLS

It is important for community groups, schools, parents, religious institutions and law enforcement agencies to recognize these symbols and what they mean. Use of this knowledge can identify individuals involved in perpetrating racist and anti-Semitic incidents.

- Law enforcement officers can identify the group affiliations of suspects or prisoners, verify potential hate crimes and determine the motives underlying various crimes.
- Teachers and community leaders can identify the presence of hate groups in their neighborhoods – groups that actively recruit young people perpetrating racist and anti-Semitic incidents.

A better understanding of hate symbols can help all community members stay vigilant against those who use hate symbols to intimidate and frighten others.

Few symbols ever represent just one idea or are used exclusively by only one group. It is essential to keep in mind when reviewing these symbols that the descriptions here point out significant multiple meanings, including non-racist ones, but cannot relay every possible meaning of a particular symbol. For this reason, all the symbols depicted here must be evaluated in the context in which they are used.

Hate on Display is the work of ADL's Center on Extremism. A clearinghouse for information, guidance and analysis on extremist activity, the Center tracks domestic extremism in all its forms – from religious to political, from public displays to the Internet. Our team of expert researchers constantly helps law enforcement counteract the activities of hate groups, extremists and domestic terrorists.

## RACIST PRISON GANGS

**A rapidly growing segment of white supremacy is racist prison gangs, which are spreading within the prisons and on the streets. Racist prison gangs use both overt and coded symbols to indicate group affiliation. The most common type of symbol is the "shield" or "patch," which is often a shield-shaped group logo.**



### ARYAN BROTHERHOOD

The Aryan Brotherhood is the oldest racist prison gang in the United States, active primarily in the federal and California prison systems. Members frequently use AB, 1 & 2, 666, and shamrocks as symbols. The Aryan Brotherhood is unrelated to the many state-based prison gangs that have adopted its name.

**PEN1**  
**PENI**

### PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER 1

This large group, based primarily in Southern California, is a hybrid racist skinhead gang, street gang and prison gang. It has a history of violence and drug trafficking, but has also expanded into white-collar crime.



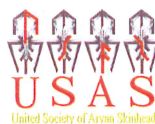
### ARYAN BROTHERHOOD OF TEXAS (ABT)

Possibly the largest white supremacist prison gang in the U.S., the ABT is also one of the most violent. It is unrelated to the "original" Aryan Brotherhood. ABT tattoos often include shields, as well as use of the initials AB or the numeric equivalent (12).



### ARYAN CIRCLE

Another large racist prison gang, the Aryan Circle is based primarily in Texas but has members scattered across the country. They use many symbols and codes, including their shield (usually consisting of SS bolts and a swastika within a diamond), SS bolts within a circle, and the initials AC or the numeric equivalent (13).



### UNITED SOCIETY OF ARYAN SKINHEADS (USAS)

A hybrid skinhead/racist prison gang, the USAS dates back to the late 1980s but has grown considerably in recent years. Its presence is largely limited to California.

## RACIST PRISON GANGS



### EUROPEAN KINDRED

A large racist prison gang based primarily in Oregon, the European Kindred is heavily involved in criminal activity. Its common symbols include the EK shield as well as the number 511 (5 & 11, i.e., E & K)



### SAXON KNIGHTS

A prominent Midwestern racist prison gang, the Saxon Knights are strongest in Indiana, where they began in the mid-1990s. Their main symbol is an elaborate shield with the initials SK and the phrase "Honor, Brotherhood, Loyalty."



### SOLDIERS OF AN ARYAN CULTURE (SAC)

Active in prison and on the streets, Soldiers of an Aryan Culture is one of Utah's largest white supremacist prison gangs. Its symbol is a swastika interlaced with an iron cross, sometimes accompanied by the initials SAC.



### INDIANA ARYAN BROTHERHOOD

The Indiana Aryan Brotherhood is a large racist prison gang based in prisons and on the streets in Indiana. It has a biker offshoot, the Aryan Brotherhood MC (or just Brotherhood MC), present in Indiana and Oregon, which uses a variation of the Indiana AB logo shrouded in flames.



### UNFORGIVEN

The largest racist prison gang in the Florida prison system, Unforgiven members tend to use an interlocking swastika and Iron Cross, with SS bolts in the middle. They also frequently use the numeric code 21-2-12, which stands for Unity-Brotherhood-Loyalty.



### WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE (WAR)

White Aryan Resistance (WAR) is a large Arkansas-based prison gang that took its name from the 1980s white supremacist group. Its symbol is a pyramid containing various codes indicating rank or other meanings. Members also use the runic lettering for WAR, which can often resemble the letters PFR.

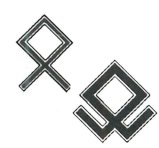
# GENERAL RACIST SYMBOLS

A wide spectrum of racist groups, from neo-Nazis to Klan groups to white power skinheads, use these symbols interchangeably. They are instantly recognizable by those who employ them and serve as a common symbolic language with which to communicate ideas and concepts. Most represent some aspect of what extremists consider "Aryan" culture or "white pride."

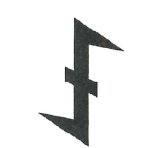


**CELTIC CROSS** This particular version of the Celtic Cross (a square cross combined with a circle) is one of the most popular white supremacist symbols. First popularized by the Ku Klux Klan, it was later adopted by many white supremacists around the world.

*(The Celtic Cross is also used widely in many mainstream, non-racist cultural and religious contexts. No one should assume that a Celtic Cross, divorced from other symbols or trappings of extremism, represents a hate symbol.)*



**OTHALA RUNE** The Othala (or Othila) rune is an ancient runic symbol adopted first by the Nazis and later by neo-Nazis, because runic symbols were seen as representative of Aryan or Norse "heritage." It has become one of the most common white supremacist symbols.



**WOLFSANGEL** The Wolfsangel (or Wolf's Hook) is an ancient runic symbol that was believed to ward off wolves. Along with many other runic symbols, it was adopted by the Nazis and appeared as part of the divisional insignia of several Waffen SS units. As a result, it became a popular symbol for neo-Nazis in Europe and the United States.



**SKREWDRIVER** Skrewdriver was a British white power music band, led by the now deceased Ian Stuart (Donaldson), which has become legendary among racist skinheads and white supremacists generally. Although the band no longer exists, Skrewdriver logos and symbols are commonly seen as tattoos and on clothing, jewelry, and patches.



**LIFE RUNE** The Life Rune is an ancient runic symbol adopted by the Nazis, and later by neo-Nazis. The neo-Nazi National Alliance added a laurel wreath to the symbol (pictured) and used it as their logo. Since then, other white supremacist groups have used it as part of their symbols.



**PHINEAS PRIESTHOOD** The Phineas Priesthood is not a group but rather a concept promoted among hard-core Christian Identity adherents. The name refers to an obscure biblical passage that Identity adherents translate as God giving approval to the killing of "race mixers" and other perceived enemies such as Jews, abortionists, etc.

**23/16** The number 23 is used by some white supremacists to mean "white power" ("W" being the 23rd letter of the alphabet). Often it is combined with 16 ("P") to mean the same thing. This numeric symbol seems to have originated in racist street and prison gangs in California and is still most commonly found there. One variation is 123%, which is a combination of 23 and another California-based numeric symbol, 100%, standing for "100% Wood" or "100% Peckerwood."

**14/83** 14/83 is a variation of 14/88 used by adherents of the racist and anti-Semitic religious sect Christian Identity. The 14 stands for the "Fourteen Words" slogan as before, but 83 stands for "Heil Christ."

**14/88** The numeric symbols 14 and 88, used separately or in combination, are among the most commonly used white supremacist symbols. The number 88 is used to represent "Heil Hitler" ("H" being the eighth letter of the alphabet), while the number 14 is shorthand for the racist "Fourteen Words" slogan: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children."

**311** The numeric symbol 311 is a common Klan symbol ("K," the eleventh letter of the alphabet, times three; thus "KKK"). A variation uses the number 33 (3 times 11, also signifying "KKK"), sometimes accompanied by a slash and another number (33/5 or 33/6), the second number representing the current "era" of Klan history.

**RAHOWA** This racist acronym, popularized by the racist and anti-Semitic Creativity Movement (formerly World Church of the Creator), stands for "racial holy war." It signifies the battle that white supremacists believe will pit whites against Jews and racial/ethnic minorities and lead to Aryan world domination.

**SWP** This acronym stands for Supreme White Power. It originated among racist prison gangs and still is most common among such gangs, as well as racist street gangs with connections to prison gangs. It is a common prison tattoo.

# GROUP SYMBOLS

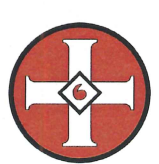
Many extremist organizations spreading racist and anti-Semitic propaganda want to distinguish their individual group from others with similar ideologies. They create their own logos to give their group a distinctive look.



**ARYAN NATIONS** This neo-Nazi, Christian Identity group is also known as the Church of Jesus Christ Christian. Christian Identity is a racist and anti-Semitic religious sect that claims whites are descended from the Lost Tribes of Israel, while Jews are descendants of Satan, and non-whites are soulless "mud peoples."



**HAMMERSKINS** A longstanding racist skinhead group, the Hammerskins play an active role on the white power music scene, but also have a long history of violence. They divide themselves into regions, with the Confederate (southern) Hammerskins being the most numerous. Hammerskins have a support group called Crew 38 (the 38 standing for "crossed hammers").



**KU KLUX KLAN** Originally America's oldest terrorist group, the Ku Klux Klan today is not a single group but rather consists of several dozen independent Klan groups of varying sizes. The main symbol of the Klan, aside from its robes and hoods, is the so-called "Blood Drop Cross." Klan members say the blood drop represents blood shed for the white race.



**NATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT** With chapters around the United States, the National Socialist Movement, led by Jeff Schoep in Detroit, is currently the largest neo-Nazi group in the United States. Members wear Nazi uniforms and hold frequent racist and anti-Semitic rallies around the country.



**VOLKSFONT** A neo-Nazi and racist skinhead group, Volksfront began in Oregon but has expanded across the Pacific Northwest and into the Midwest as well. It is fairly large and well-organized.



**THE ORDER (ALSO KNOWN AS THE BRUDER SCHWEIGEN OR SILENT BROTHERHOOD)** A white supremacist terrorist group founded by Robert Mathews in 1983, The Order committed armed robberies, a synagogue bombing, and the murder of a radio talk show host. Its surviving members, still serving lengthy prison sentences, continue to influence white supremacists, who consider them martyrs to the cause and "political prisoners."



**STORMFRONT** Stormfront is a Web site created by Don Black, a Florida white supremacist. It is the oldest and largest neo-Nazi Web site and a major hub of white supremacist networking and communications. Members around the country frequently arrange local Stormfront barbecues and other social gatherings.



**CREATIVITY MOVEMENT (FORMERLY WORLD CHURCH OF THE CREATOR, WCOTC)** A virulently white supremacist group, the Creativity Movement claims to have founded a religion for white people. It has been in disarray since the conviction of its leader, Matt Hale, for soliciting the murder of a federal judge.



**NEW BLACK PANTHER PARTY** The New Black Panther Party, which takes its name from the original Black Panther Party, a radical left-wing group active in the 1960s and 1970s, is a splinter group from the Nation of Islam. Its ideology is a mix of black nationalism, pan-Africanism, and anti-white and anti-Semitic bigotry.



**SUPREME WHITE ALLIANCE** This white supremacist gang emerged from a group of racist skinheads and former Klan members. Members often use the numeric symbol 43 to identify themselves. The group is strongest in the Midwest but has members elsewhere.



**VINLANDERS SOCIAL CLUB** A large racist skinhead group that also serves as an umbrella group for some smaller regional skinhead crews, the Vinlanders have members around the country, but are particularly strong in the Midwest and Arizona.

# GROUP SYMBOLS



**AMERICAN FRONT** One of the oldest racist skinhead groups in the United States, the American Front has a long history of criminal activity. In recent years, its membership has been concentrated in California and Florida, but most of its Florida membership was arrested in 2012.



**BLOOD & HONOUR** Blood & Honour is an international racist skinhead group with a presence in the United States. Members/supporters may use the whole phrase as a tattoo or symbol, its initials (B&H), or its equivalent in numeric code: 28 (B being the second letter of the alphabet and H the eighth letter). Often the ampersand is replaced by some other hate symbol, such as a triskele.

# NEO-NAZI SYMBOLS

The groups that use neo-Nazi symbols generally idolize Adolf Hitler and idealize the Nazi Party ideology that dominated Germany in the 1930s and 1940s. Symbols that were employed in Nazi Germany, such as the swastika or the SS symbol, feature prominently in the current neo-Nazi repertoire.



**NAZI PARTY FLAG** Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party adopted the swastika as its primary symbol, placing it on its Party flag (which later became the flag of Nazi Germany) in 1920, thus enshrining the swastika as one of the main symbols of hate in western culture. Neo-Nazis, racist skinheads and other white supremacists routinely use the swastika as a hate symbol. Prior to the Nazi co-opting of the symbol, the swastika was not usually considered racist or anti-Semitic. The swastika is still used across Asia as a religious symbol or symbol of good luck.



**NAZI EAGLE** The Nazi Party began using this symbol in the 1930s to represent the power and strength of the party. Neo-Nazi groups, particularly those without a unique logo of their own, often use this symbol.



**SS LIGHTNING BOLTS** The Nazi symbol signifying the Schutzstaffel (SS), Heinrich Himmler's police forces and private army, is a very frequent white supremacist tattoo. One variation in of this symbol, most commonly found as a prison tattoo, has lightning bolts with pointed bottoms, or pointed bottoms and tops, rather than flat tops and bottoms.



**TOTENKOPF (DEATH'S HEAD)** The skull and crossbones "Death's Head" image was the symbol of the SS Totenkopfverbände, a branch of the SS whose purpose was to guard the concentration camps. Most of the original members of this organization were later transferred into and became the core of a Waffen SS division, the Totenkopf Division.



**IRON CROSS** The Iron Cross is a German military medal, predating the Nazi era but revived by the Nazis. Today, the Iron Cross is often used by white supremacists as a tattoo or in clothing. However, in recent years, many skateboard, biker apparel, and other companies have begun using it on accessories and clothing. In this context, it does not have a racist meaning, so its appearance should be carefully evaluated and not assumed to be racist.



**STURMABTEILUNG** This symbol was used by Hitler's Brownshirts, the Sturmabteilung (SA), which were paramilitary formations used by Hitler to intimidate political opponents. Neo-Nazis and other white supremacists began using the symbol as European governments banned the display of more well-known Nazi symbology such as the swastika.



**TRISKELE** The triskele is an ancient symbol used widely in pre-Christian Europe. White supremacists in South Africa, Europe, and the United States have adopted it as a variation of the swastika. Racist triskeles usually, but not always, appear as three interlocking 7s. This symbol is also used by nonracists and can frequently be seen in Celtic jewelry and artwork.