

PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

### Jumaane D. Williams

#### TESTIMONY OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS TO THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Good morning,

My name is Jumaane D. Williams, and I am the Public Advocate for the City of New York. I would like to thank Chair Eugene and the members of the Committee on Civil and Human Rights for holding such an important and timely hearing.

Hate speech and radicalization have severely impacted our society over the past decade. If the numerous acts of terrorism – both domestic and international – tell us anything, it is that radicalization towards violent extremism has grown significantly in recent years. Between 2009 and 2020, there have been 237 mass shootings in the United States alone. In looking at the perpetrators in these horrible events, there is often a digital footprint that is telling of how they became radicalized. We must acknowledge the role that social media and other online settings have played a role in mobilizing people towards violent extremism. However, the internet is not the only component in perpetuating this problem; the radicalization of individuals is also related to emotional factors, and economic and political matters as well.

Unfortunately, domestic terrorism has not only manifested itself in the form of mass shootings, but other forms of violent extremism, which is evident in the growth of the far-right movement. Last month, the Center for Strategic and International Studies released a report that concluded that white supremacist groups were responsible for 67% of the terrorist plots and attacks in the U.S. this year. These extremists primarily used vehicles, explosives, and firearms and targeted demonstrators and other individuals because of their racial, ethnic, gender, religious, or political identity, including Black Americans, immigrants, Muslims, and Jewish people. As if this report's findings were not enough of a cause for concern, the Department of Homeland Security released an annual assessment in October stating that white supremacist extremists will remain "the most persistent and lethal threat" in our country. Interestingly enough, another conclusion from the CSIS report sheds light on far-left violence. There has been a rise in the number of anarchist and anti-fascist attacks and plots this year -20% to be exact, in comparison to 8% in 2019. These extremists used explosives and incendiaries most of their attacks, followed by firearms, These individuals targeted police officers, military, and government personnel and facilities. What this data shows is that the issues we have faced this year - the Coronavirus pandemic, the Presidential Election, racial injustice, and economic instability – has brought together extremist individuals from all sides and led to a surge in politically motivated violence. This information is alarming and distressing. At the same time, having it allows us to be proactive and put forth a continuous effort to quell acts of terrorism and extremism.

We, as public officials and legislators, must be proactive in implementing policies and laws that effectively address hate speech and radicalization. Part of this effort includes passing federal legislation that requires background checks on all firearm sales. These laws should also be heavily enforced in each state. And every state must pass Extreme Risk laws, which allows loved ones or law enforcement to intervene by petitioning a court for an order to temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns. As of last year, only 15 states, including New York, had enacted legislation allowing courts to issue extreme risk protection orders. Last, but definitely not least, Congress should pass H.R. 5209, which directs the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to design and administer a voluntary online terrorist content moderation exercise program, in which online terrorist content is flagged for social media companies. Approved flaggers would identify terrorist content to help test the efficacy of companies' practices to address such content on their platform within 24 hours. These pieces of legislation would not end radicalization over night, but they would certainly decrease the prevalence of this issue and reduce the occurrences of violent extremism.

If the recent national election has shown us anything, it is that we are entering a new chapter in our country that will enable us to take stronger action against hate and prejudice in all forms in this country. This effort includes passing new laws, as well as holding social media companies to a higher standard. This work will be long-term and likely even challenging, but it will bring us to a more peaceful and tolerant society.

Be Yourself. Stay Healthy. Change the World.

Nassau: 516.323.0011 Suffolk: 631.665.2300 Queens: 718.514.2155 Igbtnetwork.org info@lgbtnetwork.org



#### NYC Civil & Human Rights Committee Meeting Oversight: Addressing Online Hate and Radicalization

Members include CM Eugene (Chair), CM Barron, CM Dromm, CM Lander & CM Perkins Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – 10am

Testimony of David Kilmnick, PhD – President/CEO, LGBT Network

#### About the LGBT Network:

The LGBT Network provides essential health and human services, education and advocacy and community organizing programs to thousands of New York City LGBTQ individuals and families each year. Our Queens LGBT Center located in Long Island City welcomed over 1,000 people each month prior to the pandemic and since has served even more through the virtual center we have created to continue these vital services and programs. Our work helps NYC's LGBTQ community receive and access comprehensive community services through the provision of direct services and also partnering with more than 75 CBO's, 173 schools in all five boroughs and coordinating one of NYC's largest youth leadership conferences attended by over 500 NYC youth.

When the pandemic hit our region hard in March 2020, the LGBT Network immediately responded by creating a virtual center, investing in the technology needed to ensure NYC's LGBTQ community would continue to receive the support it needed and also for the LGBT Network to address and meet new and emerging needs as a result of COVID-19. More than 30 programs and services are offered weekly and have given greater access to thousands more to keep our community connected, supported and voices heard and amplified.

#### Online Hate:

This year, 2020, has been a difficult year for so many reasons. The pandemic hit our region harder than any other place in the nation and put on display the many health and social inequities that exist for Black, Latino, Immigrant communities, LGBTQ people and all marginalized groups. While trying to grapple with the pandemic to provide support, education, PPE and other information to save lives, we also found ourselves dealing with increased hate and bias incidents in-person and online. This was all supported, if not encouraged, by the vitriol rhetoric and support of white supremacist groups by President Trump. Many people would not think that the President would have his backers of these hate groups in NYC, but we can speak to the borough of Queens, and alarmingly there were many that backed the President in both his rhetoric and support for hate groups.

Through our programs that we delivered online and virtually, we were met with hate that we had to grapple with directly while also assisting over a dozen LGBTQ community members who experienced hate incidents themselves.

Prior to the pandemic and through the end of June 2020, with support from the NYC Council's Hate Crimes Initiative, the LGBT Network was able to deliver crucial Victim Support and Advocacy services to nearly 100 Queens residents, which helped to prevent and respond to LGBTQ hate and bias motivated crimes and foster relationships with law enforcement and other local organizations.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Initiative fell victim to these difficult times and was cut entirely in FY21 budget. We are concerned that will directly affect the protection and safety of NYC's LGBTQ community and other groups targeted by hate. While the funding was cut, hate as not decided to take the same break. In fact, it has increased and has formed in new ways in this virtual world we are living in. Some specific examples, and this is not an inclusive list, includes:

- 1) Zoom Bombing At some of the programs we provided virtually form the onset, we were 'zoom bombed' many times with pornography reels and pre-mediated anti-gay, hateful rhetoric. While we moved swiftly to protect our community and ensure our online programming was safe and free from hate, we know that countless youth, students and LGBTQ and allied community members don't have the infrastructure we have to take such measures to combat this online hate.
- 2) On May 19<sup>th</sup> LGBT Network staff hosted a webinar called "Can I Still Get Obamacare?" as one of the programs we directly provide is enrolling NYC's residents in health insurance. Pre-registration is required for these programs but there is no way to screen participants ahead of time. When the webinar began the chat room was filled with many hateful comments such as "Hail Hitler" and "Faggots Must Die" from multiple participants. The speed with which they were able to post blocks of hate speech and text like this leads us to believe that it was pre-planned and premediated.
- 3) Through our service delivery and conversations with LGBTQ and allied youth leaders, we are finding that the virtual and online space is empowering bullies to spew hate toward the LGBTQ community in new and creative ways. In a recent focus group with LGBTQ teens, they shared the following experiences:
  - LGBTQ youth are being bullied more online than in-person and it has increased ever since the pandemic hit. The use of hate language in chat that goes unaddressed seems to be something that has become the norm according to the youth in our focus groups.
  - Remote learning creates more ways to be misgendered by fellow students, and even teachers in the virtual settings. There is often humor (aka – hate) expressed by both students and educators when someone speaks up to correct the misgendering.

These are just a few of the examples we have experienced directly and also heard from community members. In-person hate and bias incidents have not stopped either as we get notices often from city officials alerting us to hate crimes reported.

Recent findings (see below) show that as of October 11, 2020, NYC had already seen 219 hate crimes citywide. While lower than the previous year to date, we know that hate crimes in general are grossly underreported and due to the pandemic, it has made it even more difficult for community members to do so and receive the advocacy and support needed. We have also seen quite clearly that radicalization and extremism is up in 2020 with such groups as "Proud Boys" and others.

Borough	# of Hate Crime Incidents
	(FROM 1/1/2020 to 10/11/2020)
Bronx	19
Brooklyn	70
Manhattan	70
Queens	42
Staten Island	18
	TOTAL: 219

With COVID numbers rising rapidly, we have grave concerns around the issues of online hate continuing to increase if and when our students may need to return to 100% remote learning.

During the pandemic we have been able to connect victims of hate with law enforcement remotely; allowing us to ensure cultural sensitivity and bridge the gap with someone who would have been resistant or reluctant to report these incidents to law enforcement or other agencies. We also have worked with dozens who are let alone afraid to do this in-person and even more frightful to report these virtually. The support and advocacy needed for hate crime victims has increased since the coronavirus hit. We are hopeful with the new administration taking office on January 20, 2021 that New York will finally receive its fair share of relief funds. Please consider restoring the Hate Crimes Prevention Initiative cuts and to pivot funding to combat the ever-increasing online hate and radicalization in the 2021 budget.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support – it is making a difference!

David Kilmnick, PhD

President/CEO, LGBT Network

**The New York LGBT Network** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is a home and voice for LGBT people, their families, and support systems of Long Island and Queens. The New York LGBT Network's community centers help LGBT people to be themselves, stay healthy, and change the world. Since 1993, the New York LGBT Network has been pioneering advocacy and social change to promote safe spaces where LGBT people live, learn, work, play, and pray.



FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD Testimony of Scott Richman

ADL New York / New Jersey Regional Director Commission on Human Rights: Addressing Online Hate and Radicalization New York City Council November 16, 2020

Good morning. My name is Scott Richman, and I currently serve as Regional Director of ADL's New York / New Jersey Regional Office. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today regarding the rising tide of hate and extremism online, and what we as New Yorkers can do about it.

Whether you consider it the catalyst or conduit, social media has recently been at the center of the conversation when it comes to hate and extremism. But this year, it seems, we've reached an inflection point. A 2020 survey conducted by ADL just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, found that 44 percent of American adults have experienced online harassment, and 28 percent have experienced severe online harassment—including stalking, physical threats, swatting, and doxing. Further, more than one in three people harassed online believe they were targeted related to their identity characteristics.

And since then, things only seem to have gotten worse. In the context of COVID-19, for example, we have seen a surge in online hate targeting members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and Jewish communities, fueled by conspiracy theories, bigotry, and racism. Post after post have blamed Orthodox and Haredi Jews for the coronavirus, called on law enforcement to use water hoses and tear gas to stop Haredi and Orthodox community members from gathering, and suggested that the Jewish community should be denied health care entirely if they become sick.

Even outside the context of COVID-19, the increased national polarization, divisive rhetoric, and social unrest leading up to the 2020 election provided fertile ground for extremists to spread misinformation and disinformation and to sow division and fear. Day after day, extremist groups continue to express their hateful ideology <u>on social media</u>, on message boards, on video-sharing sites, and through online games — often with tangible offline consequences – and few social media companies seem equipped or willing to address it, in a meaningful way.

Of course, alarm bells should have been ringing before 2020. While the frictionless connection enabled by the internet has brought enormous benefits, over the past decade the unprecedented size, reach and impact of the internet, and social media platforms in particular, have given these platforms the power and ability to (1) distorted democratic processes; (2) endanger vulnerable communities and individuals; (3) turbocharge the rise of extremism and extremist-associated violence; and (4) play a key role in amplifying discord in already polarized societies.

ADL is actively working to address these concerns in several ways. First, ADL's <u>Center for</u> <u>Technology and Society</u> continues to work in partnership with industry, government, academia, and non-profit groups to develop smart strategies and practical solutions to fighting online hate. Second, the <u>Stop Hate for Profit</u> coalition, comprised of over 1,200 companies and nonprofit organizations, came together this summer to demand that social media companies like Facebook prioritize people over profit and shore up their policies with respect to curbing online hate. The founding coalition partners are continuing to work together to hold Big Tech accountable for their role in the proliferation of racism, antisemitism, misinformation and extremism online. Third, as part of our <u>Backspace Hate</u> initiative, ADL is working to support victims and targets of online hate and harassment by raising awareness and promoting legislation to better hold perpetrators accountable for their harmful and abusive actions online. And finally, through our <u>Center on Extremism</u>, we are providing resources, expertise and trainings that enable law enforcement officers, public officials and community leaders, as well as internet and technology companies, to identify and counter emerging threats.

#### Recommendations

According to ADL's 2020 Online Hate survey, Americans overwhelmingly want to see concrete steps taken to address online hate and harassment. Across political ideologies, the vast majority of Americans believe that social media companies and the government *need* to take action against online hate and harassment. In fact, 87.5 percent of Americans agree that the government should strengthen laws and improve training and resources for police on online hate and harassment. Americans also want platforms to take more action to counter or mitigate the problem. Seventy-seven percent of Americans want companies to make it easier to report hateful content and behavior.

So, what can this Commission do to help?

- First, the Commission should ensure that there are clear protocols and procedures in place to identify and respond to actionable conduct online. A pixelated threat is as much a threat as a verbal one, stoking fear, silencing voices, and causing harm to people's emotional, physical and professional safety — all of which have a serious and lasting effect on victims, and their families.
- 2. Second, the Commission must use its bully pulpit to condemn biased and bigoted online rhetoric in the strongest possible terms. Silence often signals acceptance, further emboldening those responsible for causing harm.
- 3. Third, the Commission should provide vocal support for ongoing efforts to strengthen and improve New York cyberhate laws pertaining to swatting and doxing, particularly in cases where individuals are targeted based on protected characteristics. This will help send a clear and unequivocal message that this conduct is both unacceptable and unwelcome in our state.
- 4. And finally, we urge the Commission to join ADL and thousands of others in urging social media platforms like Facebook to meet the <u>demands of the Stop Hate for Profit</u> <u>coalition</u> by adopting common-sense changes to their policies that will help stem radicalization and hate online.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue. We look forward to continuing to serve as a resource for the Commission as it works to ensure that NYC is a safe, welcoming and inclusive to city for all, both on and offline.



#### Addressing Online Hate and Radicalization Hearings Before the Committee on Civil and Human Rights New York City Council New York, New York November 16, 2020

In advance of the Civil and Human Rights Committee oversight hearing on *Addressing Online Hate and Radicalization,* we write to provide you the views of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Action Fund. We appreciate the invitation to participate in this important Committee hearing and ask that this statement be included as part of the official hearing record.

### Founded in 1971, SPLC's mission is to be a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.

Since then, SPLC lawyers have worked to shut down some of the nation's most violent white supremacist groups by winning crushing, multimillion-dollar jury verdicts on behalf of their victims. We have helped dismantle vestiges of Jim Crow, reformed juvenile justice practices, shattered barriers to equality for women, children, the LGBT community and the disabled, and worked to protect low-wage immigrant workers from exploitation.

SPLC began tracking white supremacist activity in the 1980's, during a resurgence of the Klan and other organized extremist hate groups. Today, the SPLC is the premier U.S. non-profit organization monitoring the activities of domestic hate groups and other extremists. In the early 1990s, the SPLC launched its pioneering Teaching Tolerance program to provide educators with free, anti-bias classroom resources such as classroom documentaries and lesson plans. Teaching Tolerance reaches millions of schoolchildren with award-winning curricular materials that promote understanding of our nation's history and respect for others, helping educators create inclusive, equitable school environments.

The SPLC Action Fund is dedicated to fighting for racial justice alongside impacted communities in pursuit of equity and opportunity for all. Along with our partners at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), we work primarily in the Southeast United States where we have offices in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Washington, D.C. The SPLC Action Fund promotes policies and laws that will eliminate the structural racism and inequalities that fuel oppression of people of color, immigrants, young people, women, low-income people, and the LGBTQ+ community.

### Myth Busting about Online Radicalization: False Narratives Can Lead to Bad Policymaking

#### Prevalence

Too often our discussions of online radicalization begin and end with a discussion of how much extremism exists online and the many and diverse social media platforms that extremists currently utilize. It is particularly troubling to consider the growing prevalence of online extremism as individuals – especially

children and adolescents – are spending substantial amounts of time on social media platforms, alone and with less supervision, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But prevalence alone does not answer the questions we have about whether individuals are being influenced by this easily accessible material and, if so, in what ways? We know far more about the extent or prevalence of online extremist material – and the availability of networking – than we know about how social media and gaming platforms facilitate the radicalization process. What we do know is that very few people radicalize toward violent extremism, and so the challenge becomes how to best prevent targeted violence carried out by so few but that afflicts tragedy too often on so many.

#### **Causality**

Obviously, given the growing role of digital media in society generally, active online involvement among extremists is not surprising. Especially in the aftermath of a targeted hate crime or terrorist incident, many sources routinely cite the Internet as the "primary cause" of radicalization – especially among right-wing extremists. But these claims reinforce a sense that we know more than we actually do about the process of online radicalization. As J.M. Berger has written, "while there has been "a lot of attention and funding for fighting online activity compared with other avenues for radicalization…there are *still no established causal links between online extremism and offline violence.*"<sup>1</sup>

#### Offline Influences

A common caveat in studies of online radicalization involves the admission that it is unclear whether the individuals included in these samples were radicalized by the exposure to the online extremist content or whether they were radicalized offline or through some combination of on and offline material. Too frequently our discussion of online radicalization and how to best respond makes two false assumptions:

- 1) Each person is equally likely to be exposed to online extremism; and
- 2) Each person exposed to online extremism is equally likely to become radicalized.

Neither of these assumptions are correct. First, we know that some individuals are more likely to be exposed to online extremism because of their personal interests, Internet search tendencies, and other factors. And second, we know that, when presented with the same extremist material, some people are more susceptible than others. It is not surprising that some people are "primed" for radicalization by the dominant culture around them – including systemic racism and white supremacy – as reflected in both media and civil society.

Naturally, this priming occurs uniquely in each individual's life, informed by experiences offline and online. This greater susceptibility may result from a host of different physical world factors, including family situation, mental and cognitive health, and unresolved trauma. These

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Berger, J. M. (2018). *Extremism*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

offline factors make it difficult to determine how online influences affect the radicalization process.

In reality, therefore, no single source of influence is likely to produce a particular outcome. It is clear that the number of people exposed to online extremism dwarfs the number of people who actually commit targeted hate crimes or terror attacks. This should discourage overly simplistic explanations of how extremism online "causes" radicalization.

#### Redirecting, Quarantining and Deplatforming Online Hate

Clearly, there is no single piece of policy or technological fix to a problem that is deeply rooted in our social fabric and country's history. However, there has been some indication of the effectiveness of the tech industry's "Redirect Method." While several different iterations of Redirect have been developed, the basic idea is to "prevent unobstructed access to extremist content"<sup>2</sup> – to identify individuals searching for extremist content online and redirect them to either counter messaging or other content that might diminish the influence of extremist content. This technique requires more thorough study and evaluation and far more transparency and buy-in from social media companies. In a report released in May, the Tech Transparency Project (TTP) found that Facebook's "redirect tool even failed to work on groups that Facebook has explicitly banned" and that "even organizations that have 'Nazi' or 'Ku Klux Klan' in their names escaped the redirect effort.<sup>3</sup>" TTP quantified Facebook's failures as follows, as the company claimed to be "redirecting users who search for terms associated with white supremacy or hate groups to the Page for "Life After Hate," an organization that promotes tolerance—[but the function] only worked in 6% (14) of the 221 searches for white supremacist organizations."

Another widely discussed approach to countering the highly accessible nature of online hate and extremism involves a call for tech companies to more aggressively quarantine, deplatform, or shut down accounts of online extremists based on breaches of their own user agreements. The logic behind this approach recognizes several things:

- Mainstream platforms help to legitimize online extremists;
- The powerful algorithms maintained by these platforms provide an increasingly broad audience and a megaphone to instantly promote their propaganda and hateful messages.

Yet, de-platforming may have unintentional consequences that undermine the effectiveness of the approach. A 2019 Anti-Defamation League's (2019) study of Twitter's de-platforming efforts<sup>4</sup> showed migration from closed accounts from Twitter to Gab, a platform much more reinforcing, since it is more heavily populated with white supremacists and various other types of right-wing extremists. In short, the effectiveness in reducing the threat of extremists by forcing them off platforms is unclear.

Deplatforming erodes the ability of extremists to recruit widely, cultivate larger audiences for propaganda, while also damaging efforts to monetize their work in simpler ways. But the method is limited in its long-term efficacy and does nothing to address aspects of our society that create drivers for white extremism, including systemic white supremacy, our deeply

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Todd C. Helmus and Kurt Klein, Assessing Outcomes of Online Campaigns Countering Violent Extremism: A Case Study of the Redirect Method (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2018).
 <sup>3</sup> <u>https://www.techtransparencyproject.org/articles/white-supremacist-groups-are-thriving-on-facebook</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Anti-Defamation League, Quantifying Hate: A Year of Anti-Semitism on Twitter, 2019.

polarizing political climate and the predominance of anti-immigrant and nativist messages and policies within it, and more.

Writing for *The Atlantic* in 2019, JM Berger notes that "Deplatforming helped reduce the overall reach of white-supremacist propaganda, but users who migrated to less prominent platforms quickly created a pressure-cooker environment where radicalization to violence could take place very quickly, with adherents goading one another into ever more extreme views and actions.<sup>5</sup>"

Despite these misconceptions and uncertainty, it is clear that online extremism is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Here are several approaches that work:

#### Building Resilience & Confronting Risk in the Covid-19 Era: A Parents and Caregivers Guide to Online Radicalization

We have known for years that it can be all too easy for individuals to become radicalized without even leaving home. The proliferation of extremist spaces and content online has created new and powerful avenues for radicalization, especially for young people who are often the targets of radical-right propaganda.

This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing most Americans to remain at home for months on end amid great social, political and economic uncertainty, the threat of online radicalization must be addressed with increasing innovation and attention. To address the issue, and to give parents and caregivers a resource to know how to respond, SPLC, in partnership with American University's Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL), developed a guide to help parents, caregivers and educators understand how extremists are exploiting this time of uncertainty and targeting children and young adults. The guide, *Building Resilience & Confronting Risk in the COVID-19 Era*,<sup>6</sup> provides tangible steps to counter the threat of online radicalization, including information on the new risks during the COVID-19 crisis, ways parents can identify warning signs that their kids might be vulnerable to extremist propaganda, ways to build resilience to those narratives, and proactive approaches that can help young people be less vulnerable to extremist rhetoric when they do encounter it.

This time of heighted anxiety is a perfect storm for extremist propaganda and recruitment. The more than 70 million children and young adults who are now learning online – primarily at home, away from structured activities, dislocated from their peers, frequently in families under economic and psychological distress – have become a target for extremists, who promise easy answers and scapegoats to blame for their situation.

The SPLC PERIL Guide describes new risks in the COVID-19 era this way: **Unprecedented time online**. 55 million children and adolescents in the US have seen their school activities moved online since the outbreak of COVID-19. Nearly 15 million college students have switched to online learning as well. The hours previously spent at school or in classrooms under the supervision of trusted adults are now largely spent online.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> J.M. Berger, *The Strategy of Violent White Supremacy Is Evolving, The Atlantic, August 7, 2019* <u>https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/08/the-new-strategy-of-violent-white-supremacy/595648/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/splc\_peril\_covid\_parents\_guide.pdf</u>

**Distracted parents and caregivers.** Work has not stopped for most parents and caregivers. Some adults must work online during much or most of the day. Many other adults must continue to go to work outside the home, leaving children's online activities unsupervised. Parents and caregivers are relaxing screen time restrictions in order to find more time for their own work, both in and outside the home.

**Risks associated with at home digital learning.** Significant increases in time spent online increase the likelihood of encounters with bad actors. This is the case with child exploitation, according to an FBI warning issued in April 2020,5 and it is also true for risks of encountering extremist propaganda.

**Reduced social supports from trusted adults.** The network of teachers, coaches, and other instructors who can assist parents in spotting changes to a child's behavior are no longer able to do so.

**Isolation from others who might challenge new beliefs.** Social restrictions prevent children from accessing the peers and mentors who could discourage and refute emerging extremist attitudes. The sense of belonging to peer groups, sports teams, extracurricular activities and other social groups that provides important resilience to extremist recruitment may be weaker during this time of isolation in ways that create more susceptibility to extremist groups' promises of brotherhood, belonging and a sense of purpose.

**Uncertainty and Loss.** The COVID-19 era is a time of great uncertainty and loss. Almost every family in the United States will be touched by the loss of life from COVID-19. Young people have also lost their regular network of peer support, the rewards and milestones of the school year (sports, dances, graduation, etc.), and their daily routine and structure. COVID-19's impact on the economy is pushing caregivers into unemployment, promising an ongoing loss of financial stability for all who depend on them.

**Scapegoating and simplistic answers.** Extremist groups exploit tragedy and loss by pushing blame onto scapegoats who they claim are responsible for the virus and its broader impacts. Such groups thrive during times of uncertainty by offering simplistic answers and easy targets to blame.

**Broadening support base.** Some extremist groups are exploiting COVID-19 as a public relations opportunity, engaging in community service aimed at softening their public image as hate groups.

**New extremist content circulating.** Extremists have quickly seized on the virus to circulate videos, memes, and other materials that promote racist and xenophobic arguments and conspiracy theories about the virus' origin, its impact on minority communities, and the government's response.

Some of this material has circulated widely on mainstream social media channels, increasing the likelihood of encountering hateful or extremist content. This situation creates a "perfect storm" for individuals to explore extremist spaces and content online, as Online radicalization is helped by a lack of competing views or challenges to the ideologies people encounter online. Extremist groups thrive in situations such as these by exploiting legitimate fears and grievances while preying on vulnerable children and adolescents.

The good news is that parents and caregivers are the people in the best position to stop radicalization in its tracks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guide provides strategies for parents and caregivers on how to recognize warning signs, how to get help, and how to engage a radicalized child or young adult:

**LISTEN** to what children are saying. If they begin to repeat themes or vocabulary associated with extremists and conspiracy theories, try not to ridicule or punish them. Ridicule and scolding have actually been shown to strengthen problematic belief systems.10 Instead, suggest that the people spreading these messages may have their own motives besides the truth and a child's well-being. Then, reach out for help from one of the resources provided at the end this guide.

**ASK QUESTIONS** about what children are doing online, what they are learning, and what kinds of websites and platforms they spend time on. Approach these questions from a place of curiosity rather than monitoring. Ask open ended questions, like "What values do you stand for?" or "What kind of person do you want to be?" Asking questions that show genuine interest in a child's activities and hobbies may open up new lines of communication and sharing about what they do online. Ask questions that let them teach you something from their lives, like "How does that game work?" or "How do you think your teachers could be doing better in the transition to online learning?" Teenagers may open up more if you raise questions during casual activities where they are not the only focus of your attention. Talking while driving in the car, folding laundry, or taking a walk can reduce the pressure.11

**DISCUSS** the news with children in an age-appropriate way. Visit sites like the News Literacy Project to learn how you can avoid misinformation and propaganda. Screen content they are watching by looking at the reviews and parent/child ratings on Common Sense Media. Proactively suggest materials published by trustworthy news sources and read an article together each day. Subscribe and listen to a credible current events podcast together. Pay attention to the news sources children favor and ask them how they know the sources of their information are credible. Help direct them toward reliable news sources. Continue to educate yourself on how to identify misinformation and disinformation in the news and elsewhere.

**EDUCATE** children on the ways that propaganda and misinformation are used to manipulate people. Talk to them about both the styles and strategies of extremist propaganda (such as scapegoating or offering simple solutions to complex problems). Explain that propaganda can be delivered in any medium—writing, video, music, memes, etc.—and can often disguise itself as humor.

**ADVISE** children to practice good internet safety. They should be cautious about clicking on links they don't recognize and should not click on links sent from people they don't know. Maintaining privacy settings— and updating them regularly—on all apps and social media accounts is important.

**ENCOURAGE** your children to critically examine messages they receive, and to treat the information they consume as persuasive devices, meant to convince them of a world view. Talk about what they can do if they encounter an extremist message online or in real life (see "Responding to Hate," below). These critical thinking skills and vigilance can help a child spot and overcome radicalizing messages.

**EXPOSE** the way extremists prey on a young person's sense of vulnerability and identity. Demonstrate to children how these messages might even appeal to them. Be honest about a

time in the past when you may have been deceived by an individual or group who didn't have your best interests at heart. See the resources provided at the end of this guide to learn more about the experiences of former extremists and share them.

**REMIND** children that people may not be who they say they are online. The internet allows anyone to wear a mask—especially predators. Sometimes, people who seem popular and successful are really failures. People who seem fun and accepting can be intolerant and even abusive. This is especially true in extremist spaces, where violence and exploitation within groups is quite common.

#### Promoting Digital and Media Literacy

The internet is an amazing tool for teaching and learning. But, before we can teach students to harness its power and become good citizens of the web, we need to understand the intricacies of how it works and how it can be manipulated to mislead and even harm users.

SPLCs Teaching Tolerance staff has developed its "Digital Literacy Framework<sup>7</sup>" in order to support educators, parents, and youth alike. Teaching Tolerance's framework offers seven key areas in which students need support developing digital and civic literacy skills. The framework outlines the overarching knowledge and skills necessary while also detailing more granular examples of student behaviors to help educators evaluate mastery. Those seven areas are as follows:

- 1. Students can locate and verify reliable sources of information.
- 2. Students understand how digital information comes to them.
- 3. Students can constructively engage in digital communities.
- 4. Students understand how online communication affects privacy and security.
- 5. Students understand that they are producers of information.
- 6. Students understand their role as customers in an online marketplace.
- 7. Students can evaluate the value of the internet as a mechanism of civic action.

Teaching Tolerance's framework also offers dozens of sample lessons for K-12 educators. Those lessons are tailored for age groups. Further resources for professional development and support around digital literacy are also available.

Reports and studies emerging from Finland evidence how impactful an empirically guided, well-structured program of digital and media literacy can be for inoculating a society to the harms of disinformation and misinformation, extremism and radicalization. The Guardian reported in January of this year that Finland "top[s], by some margin, an annual index measuring resistance to fake news in 35 European countries, adding that "the programme aims to ensure that everyone, from pupil to politician, can detect – and do their bit to fight – false information."<sup>8</sup> Finland demonstrates how civil society and government may play an ethical, cutting edge role in helping citizens safeguard their families and communities to such harms through education.

SPLC and PERIL also stress the importance of media and digital literacy in our *Building Resilience & Confronting Risk in the COVID-19 Era* guide for parents, caregivers, and educators.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>https://www.tolerance.org/frameworks/digital-literacy</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/28/fact-from-fiction-finlands-new-lessons-in-combating-

#### The Danish Aarhus Model: Prevention and De-radicalization

This strategy, developed and employed in Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark, is quite unique, involving both model programs for early detection and prevention and programs to help already radicalized individuals deescalate their involvement and exit from extremism. The purpose of the program is to

stop or redirect the processes of violent radicalization. A main concern in this regard is to ensure constitutional rights and freedom of expression while at the same time acknowledging the democratic necessity of political and religious activities, and eventually, to guide the political and religious opinions, critiques and activities into legal modes of operation within the framework of democracy.<sup>9</sup>

The goal of the program is to channel youths and adults away from radical environments onto a different path. The Model requires close, interdisciplinary cooperation among existing educational and social welfare agencies identifying and working with vulnerable youth and then evidenced-based intervention and redirection. The Model depends on parents, teachers, peers and others recognizing early warning signs of extremism and then helping the individual find alternative ways to find answers to questions of interpersonal relations and life. An essential element of the Aarhus Model is training a cadre of mentors "with whom the mentee can discuss questions and challenges of daily life as well as the ultimate concerns of existential, political and religious questions of life."<sup>10</sup> Another essential element in the program is early prevention programs, to discuss the threats of terrorism and violent radicalization and to help peers and teachers recognize risk factors for possible radicalization.

The Model also includes an exit program designed to help individuals who want to leave extremism behind and return to daily social life. The program involves investment in community-based employment and education programs, as well as housing, therapy, and medical care. A similar exit support program in the United States, Life After Hate, has existed since 2011. Established by a group of former violent extremists, Life After Hate, provides support and guidance for individuals who want to leave a hate group and for their friends and family members. Using their own experiences with the trauma, abuse, alienation, and shame that could prompt an individual to join a hate group, the group employs evidence-based research in an effort to support "an exit strategy for men and women ready to leave hate behind once and for all."<sup>11</sup>

#### Stop Funding Online Hate

For decades, the SPLC has been fighting hate and exposing how hate groups use the internet. We have lobbied internet companies, one by one, to comply with their own rules to prohibit their services from being used to foster hate or discrimination. A key part of this strategy has been to target these organizations' funding.

In January 2020, Lecia Brooks, the SPLC's Chief of Staff, testified at hearings House Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy about how technology companies can disrupt the funding, organizing and recruiting efforts of hate groups on their platforms.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Preben Bertelsen, Danish Preventive Measures and De-radicalization Strategies: The Aarhus Model in From the Desert to World Cities: The New Terrorism, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2015 <sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://www.lifeafterhate.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://www.splcenter.org/news/2020/01/15/splc-testifies-congress-financing-domestic-terrorism

After outlining the nature and magnitude of the current threat posed by the white nationalist movement in the United States – unfortunately energized and emboldened by the words and actions of President Trump – her testimony focused on ways in which technology companies, including social media sites and online pay portals, can disrupt the funding, organizing and recruiting efforts of hate groups and bad actors who seek to normalize racism, antisemitism, and anti-immigrant ideologies as well as sexism and anti-LGBTQ animus.

A few highlights from SPLC's testimony:

- hate group sites are funded by peer-to-peer interaction, not by large donors. Even a small amount of money can go a long way in spreading hate online. These groups and individuals are able to spread their toxic ideologies far and wide through ads and events that cost relatively little.
- Tech companies should create policies and terms of service to ensure that social media platforms, payment service providers, and other internet-based services do not provide platforms where hateful activities and extremism can grow and lead to domestic terrorism.
- Removing hate groups from online platforms by removing their funding sources will prevent their ideas from reaching a wider audience and disrupt their networks. To stem the rise of hate and domestic terrorism, we are encouraging tech companies to respect people over profits.
- Hate groups have clearly been damaged by the efforts of the SPLC and its allied organizations, but many extremists are finding new, though often obscure, internet platforms along with technology providers that don't mind providing them with services.
- Charities and donor-advised funds also have a role to play in fighting hate online by blocking donations to hate groups. Charitable gift funds – including the largest charity in the United States – are helping dozens of hate groups raise millions of dollars by allowing their donors not to reveal their identities.

#### Change the Terms

On Oct. 25, 2018, the Change the Terms<sup>13</sup> coalition – including the SPLC and a coalition of more than three dozen civil rights, human rights, technology policy, and consumer protection organizations released a suite of recommended policies for technology companies that would take away the online microphone that hate groups use to recruit members, raise funds and organize violence.<sup>14</sup> Because these tech platforms are largely owned and managed by the private sector, not the government, we believe these corporations must be part of the solution to address the promulgation of hateful activities online. Our coalition hopes the model policies provide a baseline from which to measure progress tech companies are making, as well as a benchmark for newer companies wrestling with some of these issues for the first time.

In response to Change the Terms' advocacy, several Silicon Valley leaders have made promising changes<sup>15</sup> that align with the coalition's vision for a safer online world. In March

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <u>https://www.changetheterms.org/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Change the Terms, *Recommended Internet Company Corporate Policies and Terms of Service to Reduce Hateful Activities* <u>https://assets.website-</u>

files.com/5bba6f4828dfc3686095bf6b/5bd0e36186e28d35874f0909 Recommended%20Internet%20C ompany%20Corporate%20Policies%20%20Terms%20of%20Service final-10-24.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://www.freepress.net/our-response/expert-analysis/explainers/change-terms-year-fighting-onlinehate

2019, Facebook banned<sup>16</sup> prominent white supremacists, published a report<sup>17</sup> on content removal and made changes to its Livestream feature while also accepting the coalition's recommendations on tracking URLs from extremist sites.

In August 2019, Internet-infrastructure firm Cloudflare cut its service to 8chan,<sup>18</sup> an infamous online forum. The move came nearly two days after the mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, in which the alleged gunman posted an anti-Latinx manifesto on 8chan 20 minutes before murdering 22 people.

In June 2019, YouTube announced a broadened hate speech policy,<sup>19</sup> in which "content that alleges a group is superior in order to justify discrimination on characteristics like age, race, caste, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status" would be prohibited.

#### Improve Hate Crime Training and Data Collection.

Data drives policy. We cannot address a problem if we are not effectively tracking and measuring it. The FBI has been tracking hate crimes and preparing an annual report on reports they receive from state and local law enforcement officials under the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA) since 1991. Like all FBI crime reporting, it is voluntary – and it is clearly incomplete. In 2018, the most current data are available, more than 1,500 federal and local police agencies *did not report any data to the FBI* – including eight cities with populations of more than 100,000. Another 77 cities with populations of more than 100,000 affirmatively reported zero (0) hate crimes to the FBI, a statistic that strains credibility. The FBI is scheduled to release their 2019 HCSA today.

At the federal level, because of the special impact of hate violence on communities, SPLC and a broad coalition of civil rights, religious, education, and civic groups are urging the incoming Biden Administration and Congress to make hate crime reporting mandatory. While working to make reporting mandatory, however, Congress should pass the **Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality (NO HATE) Act,** which would authorize grants to promote hate crime training, prevention, best practices, and data collection initiatives – and to develop state hate crime reporting hotlines to refer individuals to local law enforcement and support services.

#### Promote Anti-Bias Education Programs that Help Steer Individuals Away from Hate and

**Extremism.** The law is a blunt instrument to confront hate and extremism; it is much better to prevent these criminal acts in the first place. Since it is not possible to legislate, regulate, or tabulate racism or hatred out of existence, we need federal and state government leadership to promote anti-bias, anti-hate, and democracy-building education programs – such as SPLC's Teaching Tolerance resources – in our nation's schools. Especially in these divided and polarized times, every elementary and secondary school should promote an inclusive school climate and activities that celebrate our nation's diversity.

It is disappointing that the City Council did not renew funding for the Hate Violence Prevention Initiative (HVPI) as part of the FY 21 budget. HVPI had partnered with community-based organizations that direct services to vulnerable, targeted populations – building trust,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/27/business/facebook-white-nationalist-supremacist.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/15/technology/facebook-removal-posts-fake-accounts.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> https://www.wired.com/story/cloudflare-8chan-support-ddos/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> <u>https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/our-ongoing-work-to-tackle-hate</u>

educating about rights and access to victim services, and encouraging communities to report incidents of hate violence to law enforcement authorities. The City Council should renew funding for this important program.

#### Speak out against hate.

Finally, words matter. It is impossible to overstate the importance of civic and military leaders using their public platforms and bully pulpits to condemn hate and extremism. Failure to do so emboldens extremists. In words and deed, President Trump and his administration have fallen far short of what we have come to expect – what the nation actually needs – from our leaders. In fact, the President's divisive, polarizing rhetoric and executive actions have, too frequently, made things worse, elevating the urgent need for Governors, Mayors, police executives, and federal, state, and local legislators to speak out against hate and extremist acts



Rabbi Marvin Hier Founder and Dean

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#### New York City Council Committee on Civil and Human Rights

Testimony by Michael D. Cohen Eastern Director Simon Wiesenthal Center November 16, 2020

My name is Michael Cohen and I am the East Coast Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. With a constituency of over 400,000 families including approximately 150,000 in the tri-state area, the Wiesenthal Center stands as a global human rights organization confronting anti-Semitism, hate, bigotry and terrorism while promoting human rights and dignity for all.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for providing the Wiesenthal Center an opportunity to address the Committee on Civil and Human Rights on the critical issues of online hate and radicalization.

Firstly, I want to thank the many members of the council for their using portions of their digital inclusion initiative resources in this past budget cycle for exactly the purpose of this oversight hearing – ensuring that our next generation is aware of the online hate directly targeting them, and preparing them with the skills necessary to be active partners in combating online hate.

We are experiencing in real time how hate, marketed 24/7 on social media plays an outsized role in increasing both radicalization and in inspiring the increasing vile hate crimes on our streets. This impact is only amplified by the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As many of you are aware, the Wiesenthal Center's Digital Terrorism and Hate Project, which thanks to the foresight of the council, will now be conducting our nationally renowned workshops in New York City Public Middle and High Schools throughout the five boroughs. The SWC team will help empower our city's youth to identify and reject the surge of online bigotry and instead embrace our city's diversity and maxims of tolerance and mutual respect.

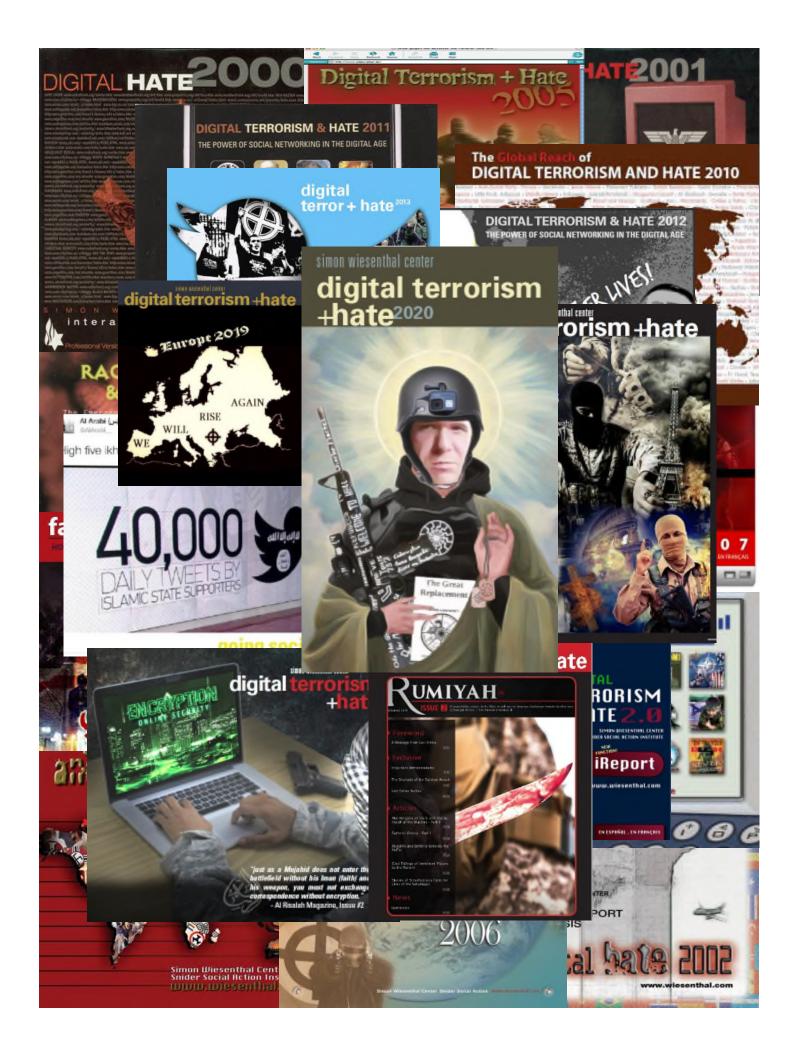
Our institution's senior researchers daily monitor trends in online hate and the SWC regularly meets with the social media giants to demand the removal of hate and haters from their powerful platforms. We have prepared a booklet which has been distributed digitally to all members of the council which displays for scope of online hate and radicalization targeting our children and communities.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center once again would like to thank the members of both the council and this committee for recognizing the importance of this issue and for partnering with us in an effort to provide our local communities with additional resources to directly join on the front lines in the fight against online hate.

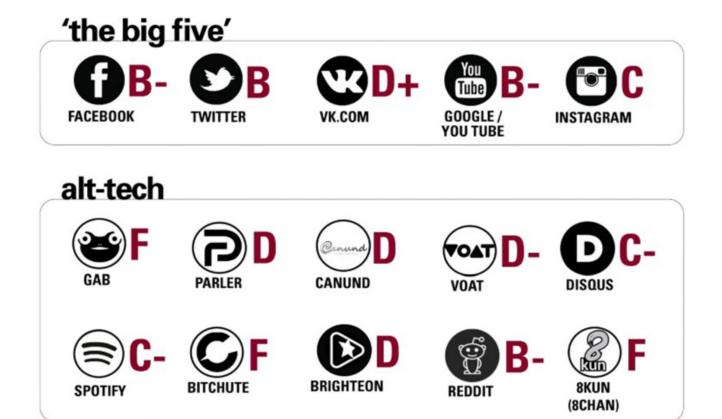
## Digital Terrorism and Hate 2020



## Simon Wiesenthal Center Michael Cohen Eastern Director











### Corona Virus 4chan

fpol/ /pol/ was right Anonymous 02/14/20(Fri)02:50:32 No.243692844 [Reply] is always right s://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHA5Nfg5sCl artment of Defense confirms coronavirus is a bioweapon leaked form BSL-4 lab in Wuhan Anonymous 02/14/20(Fri)08:28:22 No 243715392 le: jew terrorists jog (111 KB, 515-399) >>243692944 >>Department of Defense confirms coronavirus is a bioweapon leaked form BSL-4 lab in Wuhan I fucking HATE the low IQ sub-humans that mass migrated here from r/The\_Donald. I'm so sick of listening to you regurgitate whatever you heard on (((Reddit))) and (() me, which one of these makes sense? T D posters: reddit said it was bat-soupl >omfg fox news and reddit said it was snake-bat soup! 1 en-no it's not bat soup anymore, it's the lab in Wuhani That must be iti /pol/ is always right! Oldfag/patrician/high-IQ /ppl/. The Jews have engaged in non-stop biological warfare against govim for thousands of years and has been well documented throughout history (pic related).
Corona is a bioweapon that was engineered and this is easy to verify by looking at the science/data.
There are only two countries on Earth with the experience and technology to engineer such a bioweapon: (((America))) and Israel. >The (((CIA's))) Hong Kong coup failed miserably. >The (((CIA))) takes the Coronavirus to a lab in Canada and allows two Chinese patsies to take it back to China >Once the virus is safely in Chinese labs, CIA agents and Jews release the exact same virus near the lab where it's now being stores >Jews/CIAIsrael/Trump/Mossad/America, watch China's economy crash and burn allowing the rootless cosmopolitan global Jewry to maintain hegemony for another 30+ years at least. Fuck you people are so god damned stupid. No wonder whites always fall for the same ruses over and over. Wake the fuck up TLDR: IT WAS THE JEWS. IT'S ADVAYS THE JEWS "The Jews have engaged in biological warfare for thousands of years...IT'S ALWAYS THE JEWS" 8E4448-A4DF-48ED-814D-28E224F38EB2.jpg (11 KB, 192×144

We need Corona-Chan to still be kicking about at the end of July. This is when the Hajj begins and millions of Muslims will be packed into Mecca and it will just take a couple of sneezes and coughs to infect them all

Ipol/ Anonymous 02/09/20(Sun)08.52.51 No.243024278 [Reply]

Death Wish 02/09/20(Sun)12:14:15 No.243037801

×10241

"We need the Corona-Chan to still be kicking about at the end of July. That's when the Haj begins and million of Muslims will be packed into Mecca and it will only take a

They already have diseases stored on a shell to control when the other races get out of hand. Ebola for Nggers. ADS for Fags. Ovens for Jews. Corona was developed because there wasn't one that targeted Asians until now.

couple of sneezes and coughs to infect them all."

"They already have diseases stored on the shelf to control when the other races get out of hand. Ebola for Niggers. Aids for Fags. Ovens for Jews. Corona was developed because there wasn't one that targeted Asians until now."

### February 2020

### **Corona Virus - Telegram**

/pol/ news



#### /pol/ news



Sharing this GIF will grant you immunity to Corona virus and will feed Corona Chan with energy to kill off LGBT, niggers, poos, roaches, jews, jannies and roasties.

💿 9979 edited 1:09 PM

### **Corona Virus - Twitter**



Felix Carrasquillo Jr @Phylistic



Also a take-i There has to be an international arrest warrant issue against Bill Gates for Virus and vaccines crimes against humanity--- a lot of people are waking up to the fact that the coronavirus is a Jew organize crime created hoax intended to coverup Jew organize crime being carried out

ur

Some l corona hands

1:01

6:52 AM

Bill is walking in his father's footsteps, who was also tasked with depopulation while head of Planned Parenthood. A proud legacy of eugenicists.Guess who owns a patent for a coronavirus strain that can be used to develop a vaccine? The Pirbright Institute. And guess who partially owns them? Bill Gates!



### Alternative Platforms/Major Concerns

- VK.Com
- Gab
- Parler
- iFunny
- TikTok (Short Video)
- Bitchute (Video)
- Brighteon (Video)
- Spotify (Music Playlists)
- Riot (Messaging)
- TamTam

Gaming

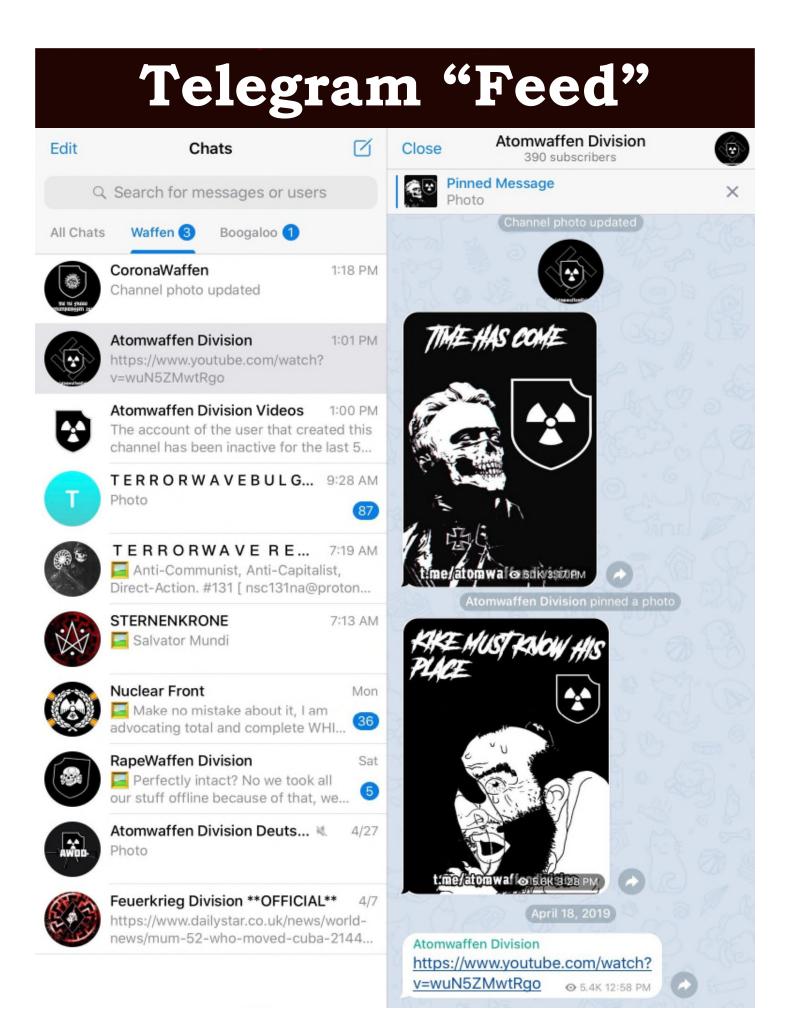
- Twitch
- Discord
- Steam

# Telegram

Telegram is one of the newer social media platforms which has become popular with neo-Nazis and white supremacists.

The site is based in Dubai and has few discernable rules governing content.

Atomwaffen Division and its successor the National Socialist Order have been extremely active on Telegram and have spawned other groups such as Coronawaffen and Rapewaffen. These groups openly promote violence against Jews, Muslims and other minorities.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET **COVID-19**

### Visit your local mosque!

Muslims have higher sanitary standards than the average person<sup>1</sup> and are far safer to be around during flu season.



## Visit your local synagogue!

The Jewish community has pledged to assist with the Covid-19 outbreak and will provide complimentary masks to anyone who attends synagogue as of March 3, 2020<sup>2</sup>.



## Spend time in diverse neighborhoods!

Increased exposure to diversity is clinically proven to provide short-term and long-term benefits to immune system function<sup>3</sup>.

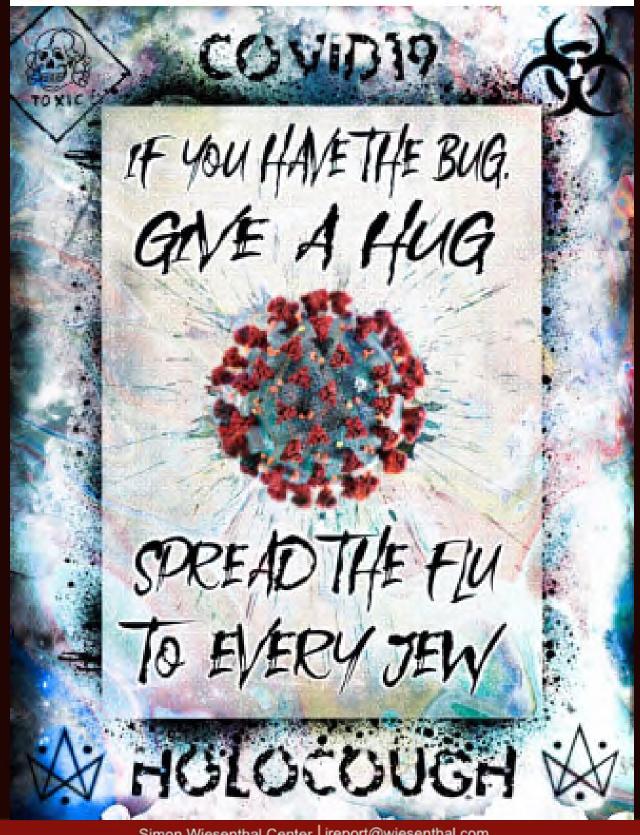
## Spend the day on public transport!

Modern public transport vehicles are made with antibacterial materials<sup>4</sup>, meaning they are safer to use and reduce risk of re-infection.



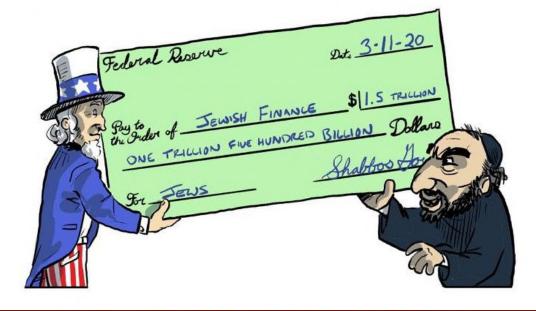


### TERROR WAVE REFINED Forwarded from Sternenkrone Division \*\*OFFICIAL\*\*









# Parler

Parler is one of the newest social media platforms, having been started in 2018. Parler became popular in 2020 as traditional social media companies began tightening their content rules.

Parler's user base grew from just 100,000 in 2019 to over 8 Million by November 2020.

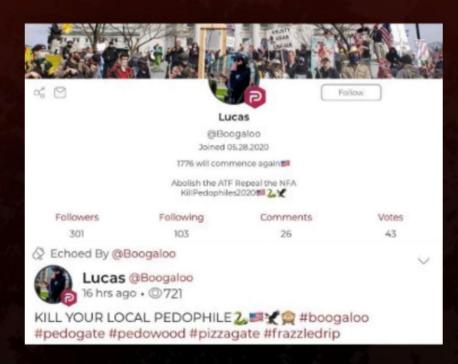
Qanon supporters, white supremacists, Holocaust deniers and Boogaloo adherents have all found a welcoming home on Parler.



BACK

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### LUCAS - @BOOGALOO



View PDF 1

Boogaloo is the *Parler* profile of Lucas an apparent teenager who promotes abolishing the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) and the murder of pedophiles.
Boogaloo is a movement that believes in a second American Civil War. It adheres to many of the conspiracy theories promoted by Qanon. Many Boogaloo and Qanon followers flocked to *Parler* in mid-2020 after being kicked off other mainstream platforms. Qanon theories accuse political rivals, without proof, of pedophilia including celebrities such as Tom Hanks and *Twitter* CEO Jack Dorsey.

digital terror+ hate

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#### #HITLERWASRIGHT



BACK

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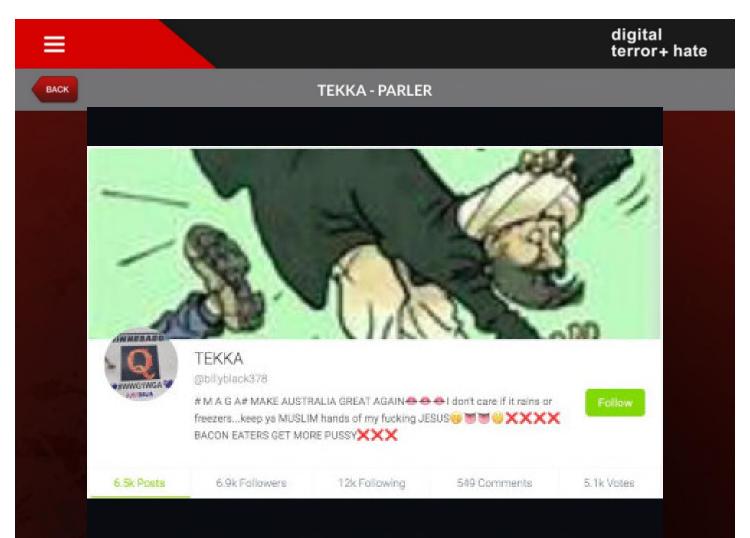
Hernie Panders @herniepanders 1 day ago • © 52

When do we get to beat the out of these antifas and negroes who are burning down cities? Some say day of the rope is coming soon. How soon is soon? #whitepride #hitlerwasright



View PDF 1

**#hitlerwasright** is one of the many white supremacist and neo-Nazi hashtags on *Parler*, a social networking platform that became popular with extremists in 2020. This posting by **Hernie Panders** references the day of the rope a fictional scenario from the white supremacist novel *The Turner Diaries*. In the book, white supremacists win a race war in the US and subsequently hang those considered race traitors. *Parler* is a Henderson, NV based platform that has an anything goes free speech policy.



the handle **@billyblack378**. The bio suggests they are based in Australia and contains several anti-Islamic references. The user has approximately 7,000 followers and has made over 6,500 posts. Their profile image references the popular conspiracy **Qanon**, and various posts promote anti-Islamic jokes and racist memes.

# TikTok

TikTok is one of the most popular new platforms with teens and young people and has struggled to keep extremist content at a minimum.

TikTok has played host to many conspiracy oriented videos including those claiming Covid-19 is a hoax and 9/11 was an inside job.

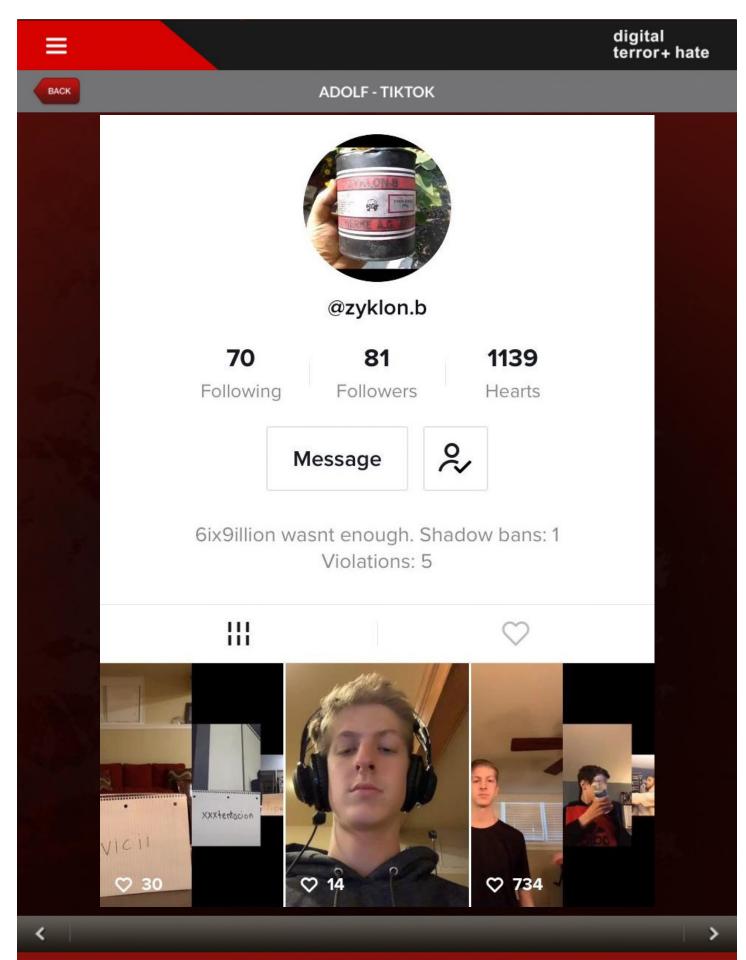
Some of the most disturbing videos include those invoking the names and images of Parkland shooter Nikolas Cruz and other mass murders such as Dylan Roof who killed 9 people and the AME church in Charleston, S.C.

>

### **DYLANN ROOF - TIKTOK**



BACK



# iFunny

iFunny is a Russia-based app on which users can create a profile page and post funny memes.

Beginning around 2016, white nationalists and other extremists began setting up profiles on iFunny to spread their message and recruit new followers.

In 2020 hundreds of iFunny profiles promoted white supremacy, anti-Semitism and anti-immigrant sentiments.

### **RAHOWA IFUNNY**



Gallowing 13m



### Only one with any balls in his response so far, HH comrade

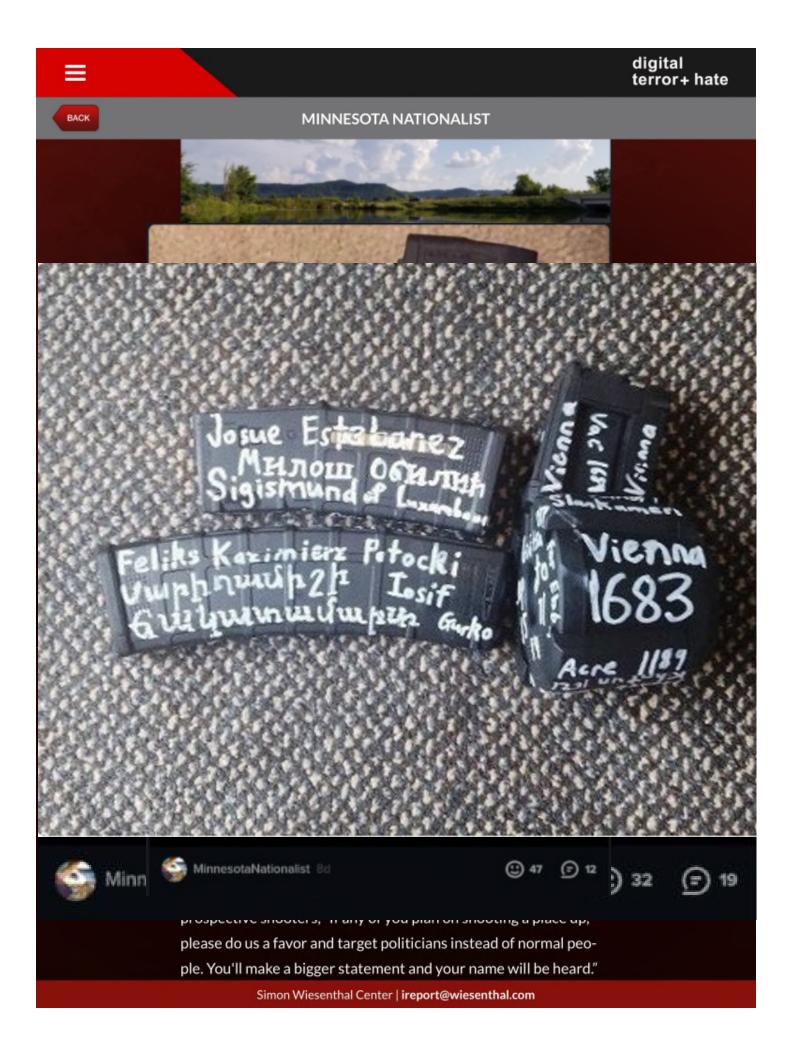
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BACK

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# Spotify

### digital terror+ hate

UPGRADE

### **"FAGGOT" PLAYLISTS - SPOTIFY**



BACK

OFORADE	
Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic The Police - Ghost In The Machine (Remastered 2003)	4:20
Father Figure - Remastered George Michael - Faith	5:36
You Can't Hurry Love - 2016 Remaster	2:55
Phil Collins • Hello, I Must Be Going! (Deluxe Edition)	
Heaven Is A Place On Earth Beilnda Carlisle - Heaven On Earth	4:07
Oh Sherrie Steve Perry - Street Talk (Expanded Edition)	3:49
Every Breath You Take The Police - Synchronicity (Remastered 2003)	4:13
I Melt With You - Rerecorded Modern English - Pillow Lips	3:55
The Boys Of Summer Don Henley - Building The Perfect Beast	4:48
Alone	3:38
Heart - Bad Animals A Little Respect	3:33
Erssure - The Innocents	
Everybody Wants To Rule The World Tesrs For Fears - Songs From The Big Chair (Super Deluxe Edition)	4:11
Shout Tears For Fears - Songs From The Big Chair	6:33
Take on Me a-ba - Hunting High and Low	3:45
Karma Chameleon Culture Club • At WorstThe Best Of Boy George And Culture Club	4:01
Time After Time Cyndi Lauper - The Essential Cyndi Lauper	4:01
Come on Eileen Save Ferris - It Means Everything	4:09
	3:54
	4:16
Don't You (Forget About Me)	4:23
Simple Minds - Once Upon A Time (Super Deluxe) 99 Red Balloons - Club Mix	4:41
Nona - Maxis & Mixos	2:33
Tainted Love Soft Cell - Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret	2100
Where Did Our Love Go? Soft Cell · The Singles – Keycheins & Snowstorms	3:14
We Built This City Starship - Knee Deep In The Hoopla	4:56
Danger Zone 80a Chartatarz, 80'a Pop, 80'a Pop Super Hita - 1980'a Beat Tunea	3:32
Listen to Your Heart 80s Chartstarz, 80's Pop, 80's Pop Super Hits - 1980's Best Tunes	5:39

## h ultrary te Playlist



♡ …

## VK.com

## VK.com is a Russian social media platform similar to Facebook. It has over 600 Million subscribers

• #20 Trafficked Site Worldwide

• Higher than:

• Instagram

• Twitter



### THE GREAT REPLACEMENT



View PDF 1

In March 2019, a *vk.com* user uploaded this ominous image of New Zealand Mosque shooter **Brenton Tarrant**. In the image Tarrant is holding a copy of his manifesto *The Great Replacement* and his Ar-15 rifle. The Ar-15, a civilian version of the military style M-16 rifle, was painted with the names of those who inspired him including **Charles Martel** the Frankish leader who defeated the Muslims at the Battle of Tours in 732, **Alexander Bissonnette** who murdered six people at a Canadian mosque in 2017 and **Anton Lundin Pettersson** who killed two migrant children in Sweden in 2015. The image also featured two symbols popular with white supremacists, the Sunwheel and the Celtic Cross.

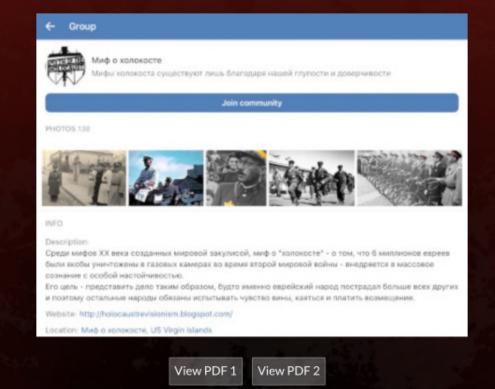
# BACK FAR-RIGHT SAINTS

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and crimes motivated by hate stemming from white supremacist and other extremist beliefs. They carried out attacks on houses of worship, political gatherings, and public venues. The user also links to part of the footage from **Tarrant's** attacks in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. The user shares hate propaganda, much like those that fueled these 6 murderous attackers.

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### THE MYTH OF THE HOLOCAUST - VK.COM



The Myth of the Holocaust is a Russian group on *vk.com*, with over 8,400 members. The group promotes anti-Semitic conspiracies about the Holocaust. They allege Jews invented the Holocaust for financial and political benefit. Conversation on its discussion board dates back as far as 2010, with the question "Why don't I believe in the Holocaust?" There are many documents and images available for free download from the group, purporting to "prove" that the Holocaust was a myth. The group also has a donation button, which accepts Russian rubles. It also links to a Holocaust revisionism blog on *BlogSpot*.

BACK

# Gaming

Gaming has become a fertile recruiting ground for hate groups. Young players can be contacted by extremists through "in-game chats" that are both anonymous and un-detectable.

Platforms such Discord and Steam have tens of millions of subscribers and offer users the ability to play games, join groups and communicate with other users.

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### **GREATER GERMAN EMPIRE - DISCORD**

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Greater German Empire is a server on Discord. It is an online chat simulation of the military of Nazi Germany with over 60 users. The server has a channel for each branch of the Nazi military that members "enlist" in. There are also channels for discussing Nazi ideology, propaganda, memes, and gaming. One channel is titled "daily-heil" encouraging users to post custom emoticons of a Nazi salute. The channel's description states "Furries, LGBTI, jews, weebs, communists and left-wingers" are not allowed to join. *Discord* is a popular gaming platform boasting over 250 million users.

### **SKREWDRIVER - STEAM**

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Skrewdriver is a profile on the popular gaming platform Steam. The user claims to be from Greece and the profile is named for the original white supremacist OY! band Skrewdriver. It is rife with white supremacist references including the Celtic Cross and the 14/88. 14 refers to the white supremacist mantra 14 Words, "we must secure the existence of our people and future for white children", and 8 represents the eight letter of the alphabet, "H" or Heil Hitler. The Celtic Cross is not exclusively a white supremacist symbol but is very popular among the movement's followers. Steam allows users to play games and allows extremist discussion forums. Some estimate that there are over 150 million Steamusers.

# Instagram

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### NATHAN CULLEN - INSTAGRAM

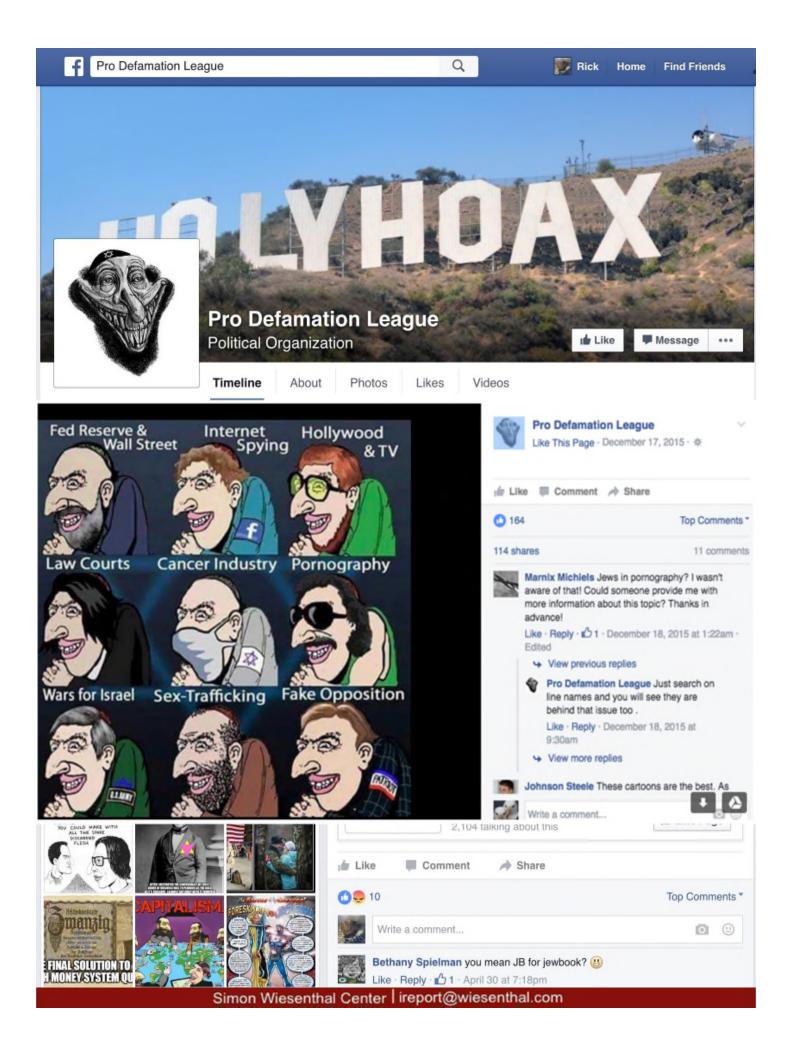


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Nathanisenglish\_14\_88 is the *Instagram* account of a young British man Nathan Cullen. Cullen has posted racist and anti-Semitic material to his page along with himself holding weapons. One image from the site features New Zealand mosque shooter **Brenton Tar**rant flashing a white supremacist hand signal at his first court appearance and another is of German Holocaust denier **Ursula Haverbeck**. Cullen's most disturbing image is a still photo made from Tarrant's livestream video as he entered one of the mosques to murder the occupants. To it, he added Robert Bowers now classic phrase "screw your optics". In October 2018, Bowers murdered 11 people and wounded 6 others at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA.

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# Facebook



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