



**NORTH WEST
COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT**

Extreme Right Wing symbols, numbers and acronyms

WARNING

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This document contains images of swastikas and other Nazi and Right Wing related Symbols, Acronyms, and Numbers.

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The Threat

The Extreme Right Wing (XRW) can be defined as activists who commit criminal activity motivated by a political or cultural view point which includes all of the following: Racism, Extreme Nationalism, Fascism and Neo Nazism. As such, members of the XRW would be considered to be domestic extremists. Domestic extremism mainly refers to individuals or groups that carry out criminal acts of direct action in pursuit of a campaign. They usually aim to prevent something from happening or to change legislation or domestic policy, but try to do so outside of the normal democratic process. As such, domestic extremists can also include individuals motivated by extreme animal rights, left wing ideology, militant single issues groups and even violent Scottish and Welsh nationalists.

The vast majority of people involved in animal rights, nationalist and political campaigns are peaceful. However, such causes have sometimes attracted extremists who have resorted to violence and intimidation. For the most part the actions of domestic extremists pose a threat to public order, but not to national security. They are normally investigated by the police, not the Security Service.

However, domestic extremists may seek to carry out solo acts of violence. In 1999, David Copeland, a neo-Nazi, carried out a series of bomb attacks against gay and ethnic minority targets in London. His attacks killed three people and injured 129 more.

It is therefore important that frontline personnel have the knowledge and skills to identify individuals who are linked to XRW activity.

Symbolism

A symbol is a visual image or sign representing an idea. Human cultures use symbols to express specific ideologies and social structures and to represent aspects of their culture. They have the ability to be extremely powerful as they can convey complex messages, ideologies and history in a compact, recognizable form. As such, relatively simple symbols can be hugely significant to different cultures around the world. One can see this in the reverence held for national flags or religious symbols. As such, the defamation of a particular symbol has the potential to be hugely insulting to entire communities or even entire countries.

Unfortunately, symbols can also convey negative connotations. Some symbols are designed to communicate ideologies that promote hate and anger or instill in others fear and insecurity. Members of the XRW use symbols to intimidate individuals and communities. Hate symbols are more than just "signs" demonstrating racist, anti-Semitic and anti-Christian attitudes and beliefs -- these symbols are meant to instil a sense of fear and insecurity within a particular community. These symbols can be found in graffiti, tattoos, flyers and literature, banners and flags or displayed as

jewellery or on clothing. These symbols give extremists a sense of power and belonging, and a quick way of identifying with others who share their ideology.

However, it is important to note that symbols carry different meanings depending upon one's cultural background. A symbol can have massively different interpretations, depending on the culture it originates from. For example, most people within Western Society view the Swastika as synonymous with the Nazi party, their extreme ideology and the crimes they committed. However, variations of the Swastika were used in many ancient cultures and they remain in use today, particularly within Indian culture and the religions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.



Different uses: Swastika at XRW demonstration and at a Hindu temple.

Similarly, the German Nazi Party glorified an idealized "Aryan/Norse" heritage. As a result, the XRW have appropriated many symbols from pre-Christian Europe for their own uses. They give such symbols a racist significance, even though the symbols did not originally have such meaning and are often used by non-racists today, especially practitioners of modern pagan religions

Other symbols within this paper may also be significant to groups or individuals, who are not extreme or racist. Where possible the information caption will describe the original meaning. However, it should be noted that the symbols may have multiple interpretations to different groups and it may not be possible to relay every single possible meaning of a particular symbol. For these reason, all of the symbols depicted here must be evaluated in the context in which they are used.

The following pages include a selection of numbers, symbols and acronyms (NSAs) that have been adopted by XRW individuals and groups. This list is not an exhaustive of all NSAs used by the XRW but rather a selection of those that have been seen in the United Kingdom and those of greatest significance to other XRW groups around the world. New or previously unknown NSAs are likely to appear in the future.



18

18: The first letter of the alphabet is A; the eighth letter of the alphabet is H. Thus, 1 plus 8, or 18, equals AH, an abbreviation for Adolf Hitler. Neo-Nazis use 18 in tattoos and symbols. The number is also used by Combat 18, a violent British neo-Nazi group that chose its name in honour of Adolf Hitler.



14

14: This numeral represents the phrase "14 words," the number of words in an expression that has become the battle cry and rallying slogan for the white supremacist movement:

"We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children."

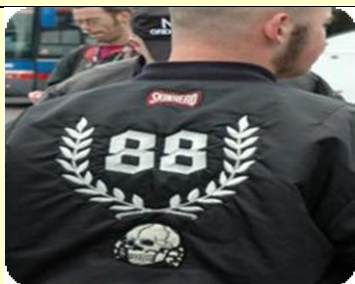
This expression was coined by white supremacist David Lane while in prison serving essentially a life sentence for his role in The Order, a 1980s white supremacist terrorist group that conducted armed robberies, bombings, and assassinations. Lane died in prison in 2007.



28

28: The number stands for the name "Blood & Honour" because B is the 2nd letter of the alphabet and H is the 8th letter.

Blood & Honour is an international neo-Nazi/racist skinhead group started by British white supremacist and singer Ian Stuart. It has chapters around the world.



88

88: The eighth letter of the alphabet is "H." Eight two times signifies "HH", shorthand for the Nazi greeting, "Heil Hitler." 88 is often found on hate group flyers, in both the greetings and closing comments of letters written by neo-Nazis, and in e-mail addresses.



1488

1488: Often, the two numbers are used in conjunction to indicate a belief both in the ideology of National Socialism and the validity of the "14 words." This symbol can often be found at the close of a letter.



100%

100%: This is an expression of an individual's pure Aryan or white roots. It is common among white supremacists. It is also a statement by white supremacists on the need for a pure, white race that is uncorrupted by interracial relationships

5

5: This numeral represents the expression, "5 words," which signifies, "I have nothing to say." Alex Curtis, a San Diego-based white supremacist who coined the phrase, believes that white racists in the United States should use the five words to demonstrate a "code of silence" and to help avoid prosecution by law enforcement.

4/20

4/20, 420, 4:20- The anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday is also used as a tattoo by racists and neo-Nazis, to affirm their belief in the ideals of National Socialism.



ZOG

ZOG: Stands for 'Zionist-Occupied Government'. These terms refer to the belief that the Jews occupy and control the government, as well as the media. The letters often appear in a circle with a slash over it. **JOG** for Jewish Occupied Government is a similar phrase also often used for the same purpose.

RaHoWa



RAHOWA stands for the expression "Racial Holy War." It signifies the battle that white supremacists believe will pit the white race against minorities and Jews and lead to Aryan rule over the world.

23

23: The 23rd letter of the alphabet is W. Therefore, white supremacists and racist skinheads use 23 in tattoos to represent "W," as an abbreviation for the word "white".

23



The swastika was adopted by Germany's Nazi Party. Prior to the Nazis co-opting this symbol, it was known as a good luck symbol and was used by various religious groups. Hitler made the Nazi swastika unique to his party by reversing the normal direction of the symbol so that it appeared to spin clockwise. Today, it is widely used, in various incarnations, by neo-Nazis, racist skinheads and other white supremacist groups.



Nazi symbol signifying the Schutzstaffel (SS), Heinrich Himmler's police forces, whose members ranged from agents of the Gestapo to soldiers of the Waffen SS to the guards at concentration and death camps.

The symbol is frequently seen in neo-Nazi tattoos and graffiti and characterizes the beliefs of neo-Nazis and racist skinheads – violence, anti-Semitism, white supremacy and fascism.



This is one of the most popular symbols for neo-Nazis and white supremacists. First popularized by the Ku Klux Klan, the symbol was later adopted by the National Front in England, the website [Stormfront](#) and the racist band Skrewdriver to represent international "white pride." It is also known as Odin's Cross. It is important to note that the Celtic Cross is used widely today in many mainstream and cultural contexts. No one should assume that a Celtic Cross, divorced from other trappings of extremism, automatically denotes use as a hate symbol.



Known as the "Death's Head" or *Totenkopf*. The "Death's Head" was the symbol of the SS-Totenkopfverbände whose purpose was to guard the concentration camps.

This symbol is often seen in tattoos.



The Aryan Fist symbol is a twist on the fist representing the Black power movement and the battle against racial oppression. The Aryan fist is a symbol of white power used by hate groups who promote their racist agenda as white pride activism.

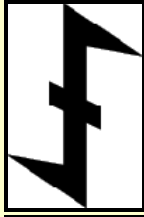


Known as the 'triskele' - essentially a variation on the swastika, and popular for that reason. The triskele was a symbol occasionally used by the Nazi regime, most notably as the insignia for a Waffen SS division composed of Belgian volunteers. After World War II, the "Three Sevens" version of the triskele was popularized by white supremacists in Europe and South Africa.



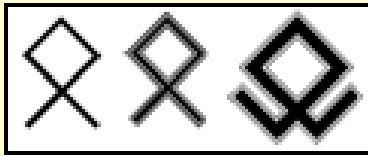
Skrewdriver was a white supremacy band that formed in Lancashire in the 1970s. Both the band and its now deceased leader, Ian Stuart (Donaldson) are legendary within the white supremacist and racist skinhead movements.

Although the band fell apart after Stuart's death in 1993, many white supremacists and racist skinheads pay tribute to Skrewdriver by sporting Skrewdriver tattoos and by wearing Skrewdriver pins, patches, or clothing.



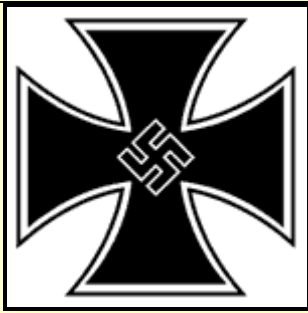
The symbol is called a Wolfsangel and was originally an ancient runic symbol that was believed to be able to ward off wolves

However, the Wolfsangel was adopted by the Waffen-SS during the Nazi era in Germany. As a result, it became a symbol of choice for neo-Nazis in Europe and the United States.



To the left are 3 different versions of the 'Rune'. Traditionally, the "Rune" expresses faith in the pagan religion of Odinism and was originally a symbol of the Vikings.

Whilst not originally a racist symbol, it was adopted by Nazi Party as it was seen to represent Aryan heritage and cultural pride.



Traditionally, 'The Iron Cross' (without the swastika) was a medal that originated during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1939, Adolf Hitler renewed use of the Iron Cross and superimposed the Nazi swastika in its centre.

Today, the symbol (with or without the swastika) is often displayed by neo-Nazi groups, especially as jewellery. It is sometimes used for shock effect as it conjures up images of Nazi Germany and its military without being explicitly Nazi itself.



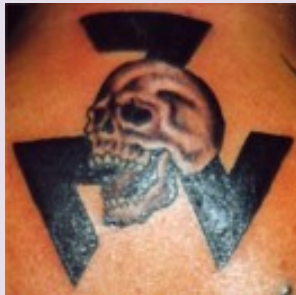
Originally an ancient European symbol with no racist connotations, it was adopted in the 1930s by the SS's Lebensborn project. The Lebensborn project encouraged SS troopers to have children out of wedlock with "Aryan" mothers and which kidnapped children of Aryan appearance from the countries of occupied Europe to raise as Germans.

Known as a 'Life Ruin' to the Nazis, today it signifies to extremists the future of the white race.



The Nazi Party began using this symbol in the 1930's to represent the power and strength of the party.

The following section will provide some examples of where the above symbols have been used by members of the XRW. One should note that symbols may not be drawn by XRW members in the exact same manner as displayed the above section. They may be slightly altered or include a combination of symbols.



Tattoo containing a variation of the Triskele behind a skull



Tradition Nazi party flag with a Triskele replacing the Swastika.



A tattoo '1488' with the numbers '14' (14 Words) and '88' (Heil Hitler) separated by a variation the swastika.



Graffiti of '1488' with the numbers '14' (14 Words) and '88' (Heil Hitler) separated by a traditional swastika.



Tattoos of the Schutzstaffel (SS Lightning bolts), 88 (Heil Hitler) and the Swastika.



Tattoo of the number 14 representing the 14 words. In addition, there is a variation of the Odin's cross.



National Front banner containing the 14 Words during a protest in Manchester City centre (April 2014).



Flag found during a police search of an address in Greater Manchester. It contains several XRW symbols including the Swastika, Schutzstaffel (SS Lightning bolts), Iron Cross and the Death Head.



Tattoo with the Nazi Eagle and Swastika Symbol. Variation may just include the eagle.



Tattoo of the Aryan Fist. In addition, there is the number '14' (14 words) tattooed on the back of the thumb.

Should you require further advice or information regarding the information contained within this document, please contact you Greater Manchester Police Prevent Team.

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