# Counter Terrorism Policing Proscribed and Extreme Groups Signs and Symbols: A Reference Guide.

## November 2023

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Please report sightings of any of the signs and symbols included within this document to:

ctpswfimu@avonandsomerset.police.uk fimu@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk fimu@dorset.pnn.police.uk fimu@wiltshire.police.uk CTPSW@gloucestershire.police.uk



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The threat of a terrorist attack in the UK is currently assessed as **SUBSTANTIAL**, meaning an attack is likely. This national assessment is set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC). It is based on available intelligence, and uses what is known about terrorist capability, intention and timescales.

Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP) were published for all five Police forces across the south west region in June and July 2023. These documents highlight key threats, risk and vulnerabilities from Islamist Extremist Terrorism, Extreme Right Wing Terrorism and Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single Issue Terrorism.

CTLPs form part of an information sharing process between Police and partners in support of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST). CTLPs also seek to identify knowledge gaps; making recommendations to fill the gaps and identify future partnership working.

One recommendation suggested a partner briefing document was produced detailing the symbology used by extreme groups, focusing on organisations which are proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. This document has been created in response to this recommendation.

The Home Secretary has proscribed 79 organisations under the Terrorism Act 2000<sup>1</sup>. 14 further organisations were proscribed in Northern Ireland under previous legislation. Not all proscribed terrorist organisations pose the same level of threat to UK national security.

Proscription of a group means that it is a criminal offence to:

- belong, or profess to belong, to a proscribed organisation in the UK or overseas;
- invite support for a proscribed organisation (include financial support, moral support and/or approval);
- express an opinion or belief that is supportive of a proscribed organisation;
- arrange, manage or assist in arranging a meeting in the knowledge that the meeting is to support or further the activities of a proscribed organisation;
- wear clothing or carry/display articles in public in such a way that arouses reasonable suspicion that the individual is a member or supporter of a
  proscribed organisation; or
- publish an image of an item of clothing or other article, such as a flag or logo.

The main symbols and flags of proscribed groups, which have featured in south west, are presented in this document; along with some additional symbols that relate to wider extreme right wing ideologies and groups, who are not currently proscribed.

We have also included additional proscribed groups, not yet seen within the south west, due to their prominence in current national / international security reporting and our need to monitor any emerging threat in the south west.



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- **Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT)** describes those involved in Extreme Right-Wing activity who use violence in furtherance of their ideology. Those engaged in this activity do not represent a cohesive body, rather a fragmented movement made up of groups and individuals with a range of ideologies.
- Islamist Extremist Terrorism (IET) can be described as terrorist violence motivated by a political ideology seeking the imposition of Sharia Law and the
  establishment of an Islamic Caliphate. While Islamist terrorism takes many forms, the principle threat to the UK comes from Salafi-Jihadists. His Majesty's
  Government (HMG) do not currently provide a definition for Islamist Terrorism.
- Left-Wing, Anarchist, Single Issue Terrorism (LASIT). Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism (LASIT) encompasses a wide range of ideologies. It includes those from the political left-wing as well as anarchists who seek to use violence to advance their cause in opposition to the capitalist system. It also includes those with single-issue grievances who seek to use violence in opposition to a specific policy or practice.
- Northern Ireland Related Terrorism (NIRT) Since the creation of Northern Ireland in 1921, the majority of its population has traditionally been regarded as unionist or loyalist, meaning that they wish to remain part of the United Kingdom. However, a significant minority of nationalists or republicans support a united Ireland. Paramilitary organisations on both sides have carried out campaigns of terrorism, most notably during the Troubles, the three decades of conflict from the late 1960s onwards that resulted in over 3,000 deaths.

Definitions for the ERWT, EIT and LASIT are taken from <u>Resources | ProtectUK</u> and for NIRT from <u>Northern Ireland | MI5 - The Security Service</u>.



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\*Proscribed Organisation\* National Action (NA) was proscribed in December 2016<sup>2</sup>. NA is a racist neo-Nazi group that was established in 2013 and has branches across the UK. NA expressed anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, anti-BAME and anti-LGBTQ+ grievance narratives whilst also targeting establishment figures such as Members of Parliament (MP) and police officers<sup>1</sup>.

In September 2017 NS131 (National Socialist Anti-Capitalist Action) and System Resistance Network (SRN) were included in the proscription as alternative names for NA<sup>3</sup>.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* Atomwaffen Division (AWD) was proscribed in April 2021<sup>1</sup>. AWD is predominately a US-based white supremacist group active between 2015 and 2020.

AWD celebrates a collection of essays which advocate the use of violence in order to bring about a fascist, white ethno-state by initiating the collapse of modern society by means of a 'race war'. This ideology has become known as 'accelerationism'.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) was proscribed February 2020<sup>1</sup>.

SKD is a white supremacist group established in March 2018 as a splinter group of System Resistance Network (an alias of the proscribed group National Action). Members of the group were convicted of encouraging terrorism and possession of documents useful to a terrorist in June 2019.



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The Base



\*Proscribed Organisation\* FKD was proscribed in July 2020<sup>1</sup>.

FKD is a white supremacist group founded in late 2018 that has an international footprint, with members across North America and Europe. The group celebrates the concepts promoted in a collection of essays which advocate the use of violence and mass murder in pursuit of an apocalyptic race war. In mid-2019 the group reportedly called for the deaths of a European Parliament politician and YouTube's chief executive officer.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* The Base was proscribed in July 2021<sup>1</sup>.

The Base is a predominantly US based militant white supremacist group which advocate the use of violence to initiate the collapse of modern society through a 'race war' and the subsequent creation of a white ethno-state. This ideology is known as 'accelerationism'. It seeks to provide terrorist training, guidance and networking.



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The **14 Words** is a reference to a popular white supremacist slogan, attributed to David Lane<sup>4</sup>:

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

David Lane died in 2007 while serving 190 years in prison in the USA<sup>5</sup>.

**88** is a white supremacist numerical code for 'Heil Hitler'. H is the eighth letter of the alphabet; therefore 88 represents HH for Heil Hitler<sup>4</sup>. One of the most common white supremacist symbols, 88 is used throughout the white supremacist movement.

**18** is a white supremacist alphanumeric code for Adolf Hitler (1=A and 8=H)<sup>4</sup>. It is often associated with the British white supremacist group Combat 18 or C18.

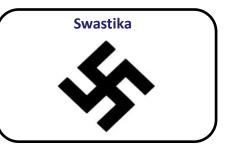
**28** is the white supremacist alphanumeric code for Blood & Honour (2=B and 8=H)<sup>4</sup>. The name is derived from '*Blut und Ehre*' a slogan used by Hitler Youth<sup>6</sup>.

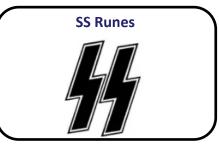
Blood & Honour is an international neo Nazi music promotion network and political group, founded in the UK by Ian Donaldson in 1987<sup>7</sup>.



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The Swastika was adopted by the Nazi Party in the 1930s.

The Swastika is an ancient symbol which was once a legitimate icon of cultural and religious significance, however, it has been appropriated and corrupted by National Socialists<sup>4</sup>.

It is widely used in various forms by white supremacist groups on imagery, merchandise and tattoos.

Nazi symbol signifying the Schutzstaffel (SS), Heinrich Himmler's police force<sup>4</sup>.

It is widely used in various forms by white supremacist groups on imagery, merchandise and tattoos.

**The Hundred Handers group (100H)** is known for printing white nationalist messages, posted around the UK and other countries<sup>8</sup>.

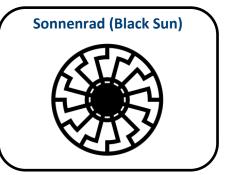
The stickers the group print often include offensive anti-immigration messages, aiming to be inflammatory and to spark heated discussions over their intended meaning.

**Pepe the Frog** is a popular internet cartoon character appropriated by the white supremacist movement and used in a variety of contexts; including in racist and antisemitic memes<sup>4</sup>.



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The **Sonnenrad** or black sun/sun wheel is another ancient European symbol which was appropriated by the Nazis and latterly neo-Nazis and other extreme right wing groups.

The Anti Defamation League<sup>4</sup> recommend that as the Sonnenrad imagery is used by many cultures around the world, a racist or white supremacy context should not be assumed, but the context in which the symbol appears should be analysed critically.

**Totenkopf** is German for 'death's head' and refers to a skull-and-crossbones image.

The Nazi Schutzstaffel (SS) adopted one particular Totenkopf image as a symbol. Following the war, neo-Nazis and other white supremacists resurrected the Totenkopf as a hate symbol because of its importance to the SS and it has been a common hate symbol since.

It is this particular image of a skull and crossbones that is considered a hate symbol, not any image of a skull and crossbones<sup>4</sup>.

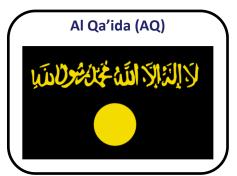
**'Day of the Rope'** is a white supremacist concept taken from The Turner Diaries - a book depicting a fictional white supremacist revolution written in 1978 by neo-Nazi leader William Pierce (using the pseudonym Andrew Macdonald).

The novel, depicts mass lynchings of purported 'race traitors' These murders, which take place on the same day, are referred to in the novel as the 'Day of the Rope'.<sup>4</sup>



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\*Proscribed Organisation\* Al Qa'ida (AQ) was proscribed in March 2001<sup>1</sup>. Originally inspired and led by Usama Bin Laden, its aims are the expulsion of Western forces from Saudi Arabia, the destruction of Israel and the end of Western influence in the Muslim world.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* Al Shabaab (AS) was proscribed in March 2010<sup>1,9</sup>. Organisation based in Somalia which has waged a violent campaign against the Somali Transitional Federal government and African Union peacekeeping forces since 2007, employing a range of terrorist tactics including suicide bombings, indiscriminate attacks and assassinations-With the principal aim of establishing of a fundamentalist Islamic state in Somalia.

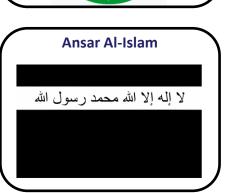
\*Proscribed Organisation\* ISIL was proscribed in June 2014<sup>1,10</sup>. ISIL is a brutal Sunni Islamist terrorist group active in Iraq and Syria. The group adheres to a global jihadist ideology, following an extreme interpretation of Islam, which is anti-Western and promotes sectarian violence. ISIL aims to establish an Islamic State governed by Sharia law in the region and impose their rule on people by using violence and extortion.



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\*Proscribed Organisation\* HAMAS was fully proscribed in November 2021<sup>1</sup>. Hamas is a militant Islamist movement that was established in 1987. Its main aims are to liberate Palestine from Israeli occupation, the establishment of an Islamic state under Sharia law and the destruction of Israel.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* Ansar Al-Islam (AI) was proscribed in October 2005<sup>1</sup>. AI is a radical Sunni Salafi group from northeast Iraq. The group is anti-Western and opposes the influence of the US in Iraqi Kurdistan.

\*Proscribed Organisation\*Hizballah was proscribed in March 2019<sup>1</sup>.

Hizballah is committed to armed resistance to the state of Israel and aims to seize all Palestinian territories and Jerusalem from Israel. Hizballah was established during the Lebanese civil war and in the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.



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Wagner Group



17 November Revolutionary Organisation (N17)



\*Proscribed Organisation\* The Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) was proscribed in March 2001<sup>1</sup>. Partiya Karkeren Kurdistani (PKK), which translates as the Kurdistan Worker's Party, is primarily a separatist movement that seeks an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey. The PKK changed its name to KADEK and then to Kongra Gele Kurdistan, although the PKK acronym is still used by parts of the movement.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* Wagner Group was proscribed in September 2023<sup>1</sup>. Wagner Group is a Russian private military company which has acted as a malign proxy military force on behalf of the Russian state. Founded in 2014, Wagner Group has operated in a range of theatres including Ukraine, Syria, the Central African Republic, Sudan, Libya, Mozambique, and Mali.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* N17 was proscribed in March 2001<sup>1</sup>. Aims to highlight and protest at what it deems to be imperialist and corrupt actions, using violence. Formed in 1974 to oppose the Greek military Junta, its stance was initially anti-Junta and anti-US, which it blamed for supporting the Junta.



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\*Proscribed Organisation\* IRA is proscribed under The Terrorism Act 2000<sup>1</sup>. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), also called Provisional Irish Republican Army, are a republican paramilitary organization seeking the establishment of a republic, the end of British rule in Northern Ireland, and the reunification of Ireland<sup>11</sup>. The IRA's purpose was to use armed force to render British rule in Ireland ineffective and thus to assist in achieving the broader objective of an independent republic, which was pursued at the political level by Sinn Féin, the Irish nationalist party<sup>12</sup>.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* CIRA is proscribed under The Terrorism Act 2000<sup>1</sup>. The Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) is a radical terrorist group dedicated to removing British forces from Northern Ireland and unifying Ireland that has opposed calls for an IRA cease-fire. The Continuity IRA was formed in 1986 in opposition to Sein Fein's decision to take part in elections in the Irish Free State and other British institutions in Northern Ireland<sup>13</sup>.



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Ulster Defence Association (UDA)





\*Proscribed Organisation\* LVF is proscribed under The Terrorism Act 2000<sup>1</sup>. The LVF is an Ulster loyalist paramilitary group in Northern Ireland. It was formed by Billy Wright in 1996 when his unit split from the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) after breaking its ceasefire<sup>14</sup>. In a two-year period from August 1996, the LVF waged a paramilitary campaign in opposition to Irish republicanism and the Northern Ireland peace process. During this time it killed at least 14 people in gun and bomb attacks, primarily Catholic civilians<sup>15</sup>.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* UDA is proscribed under The Terrorism Act 2000<sup>1</sup>. The UDA is a Loyalist organisation founded in Northern Ireland in 1971 to coordinate the efforts of local Protestant vigilante groups in the sectarian conflict in the province. Originally based in the Shankill Road area of Belfast, the UDA was responsible for political murders of Roman Catholics and prominent republicans, though it claimed responsibility for most killings under a pseudonym, the Ulster Freedom Fighters. The UDA was banned by the British government in 1992<sup>16</sup>.

\*Proscribed Organisation\* UVF is proscribed under The Terrorism Act 2000<sup>1</sup>.

The UVF is a protestant paramilitary organisation founded in 1966. It was affiliated with the Progressive Unionist Party and dedicated to upholding Northern Ireland's union with Britain. The UVF quickly announced its intention to kill members of the IRA it also murdered unaffiliated Roman Catholics, Protestants, and even members of its own and rival paramilitary groups<sup>17</sup>.



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- 14. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-11164817
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#### Further Reference:

ADL Hate on Display Printable 0.pdf

