



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CONFRONT THE KLAN?

One of the founding principles of the Anti Racist Action Network is “We go where they go”, meaning that when the Klan or other hate group hold public rallies, marches, etc, we will be there to confront them and let them know their hate will not be tolerated in our communities. “Confronting” can range from simply being there to counter their message with signs, banners, and literature to blocking their march route, or occupying their rally spot completely disrupting their agenda.

Their agenda? What is their agenda? Many critics of ARA claim that the way to deal with hate groups is to “ignore them and they’ll go away”. They claim that by showing up at their events we are only giving them more attention, thus furthering their impact. The police don’t want to be bothered, businesses don’t want shopping disrupted, religious leaders tell us that the best way to deal with problems is to pray. In reality, by counter demonstrating we show the rest of the community that we will not tolerate hate groups and we let the fascists know they are not welcome. When holding public actions, hate groups are testing the area for recruitment potential. If they march with no opposition that tells them that there may be potential to recruit new members. Without opposition hate groups feel the area is sympathetic to their cause or apathetic enough to allow them to spread their web of hate. Once it’s established that an area is “hate friendly”, they will return. Chances are that they will return in a low key fashion, in small groups, and target strategic locations. These locations can be anywhere from shopping malls to bars, from public parks to local youth hang outs. They will be friendly, talk to people, and generally blend in. While making small talk they will find and set up contact with people who agree with or maybe lean towards their brand of hate. Even if they don’t find people who agree with them right off, the seed of hate is planted in their minds and left to grow.

Hate groups always start small. To overlook them is to accept them. To ignore them is to allow them to come into our communities and recruit (especially younger people). **WE CAN NOT IGNORE THEM!** Hitler was ignored at first.....

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