



# Monitoring offensive and discriminatory signs in European football

## Introduction

Football should be a game that can be enjoyed by everyone, without the fear of abuse and discrimination. Unfortunately at many matches and stadiums across Europe, this is not always the case and fans and players can face abuse because of the colour of their skin or their religion, or can feel victimised because they are gay or have a disability.

The FARE Network is working with partners across the game, including European football's governing body, UEFA and NGO's such as the Never Again Association to try to make the game a welcoming and safe environment for all football fans and to ensure that the use of racist and homophobic language and the displaying of offensive banners is eradicated from all football stadiums.

The aim of this booklet is to help football fans identify racist, neo-Nazi, homophobic and abusive images towards disabled people, in an easy to carry pocket size guide. The booklet illustrates different signs and symbols, with an explanation to what they mean and where they can be found along with

photographs of banners in football stadiums. As well as signs and symbols common across the whole of Europe, there are also specific sections that relate to different European countries.

It is hoped that this guide will help encourage everyone involved with the game to make a stand against racism and discrimination and to help make football a welcoming and safe environment for fans and players across the whole of Europe.

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# 1 Commonly displayed far-right signs and symbols



## Swastika:

The Swastika was the official emblem of the National Socialist Party of Germany (NSDAP) and can be displayed in a number of different ways.



## Celtic Cross

The Celtic Cross is a worldwide symbol for 'the supremacy of the white race' and is one of the main neo-Nazi and racist symbols. In some parts of Europe it is widely displayed within football stadiums, and can appear on banners, signs, scarves and in flyers. The Celtic Cross is often used as a replacement for the letter 'O'.



## KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

Racist and neo-Nazi fans may use different symbols of militant organisations in other countries, such as the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the USA. The KKK logo consists of a white cross within a red circle, and a drop of blood in the centre.



## White Power/White Pride

The slogans 'White power' and 'White pride' are used as a term to denote the supremacy of the white human race.

It is not uncommon for many far-right signs and symbols to be combined, as is the case with these images that have associations with White Power and the Klu Klux Klan. The first image is also anti-Semitic as it has the Star of David crossed out.



## Cogwheel

The cogwheel may sometimes be used by racist and neo-Nazi groups because it was the symbol of the "Reichsarbeitsdienst", a paramilitary institution in German National Socialism. The cogwheel can contain a number of different signs in the centre and combined with the Swastika, it is the symbol of the German Working Front ("Reichsarbeitsdienst").



### Triskele

The Triskele has got an angular design, similar to the Swastika. It is also the symbol of the "Blood & Honour" movement (see below) and can also be used with a circular design.

**Blood & Honour**



### Blood & Honour

The 'Blood & Honour' (B&H) is a network of neo-Nazi-skinheads, founded by Skrewdriver-frontman Ian Stuart Donaldson (see also: Skrewdriver). It operates on an international scale and sections of B&H can be found in almost all European countries. 'Blood & Honour' was the slogan of the Hitler Youth, which was engraved on their knives. B&H uses the Triskele as one of their main symbols.



### Hammer & Sword

The crossed Hammer & Sword is a symbol of "national community" of soldiers and workers used by the Hitler Youth. It is becoming more and more popular among racists and neo-Nazis across Europe.



### Hammerskins

Hammerskins is a paramilitary network of neo-Nazi-skinheads operating in many countries. The symbol of the Hammerskins is two crossed hammers which represents the "white working man".



### SS-Skull

The SS Skull was once a symbol of special SS groups ("SS-Totenkopfverbände"). It is now used by groups such as Combat 18, an international neo-Nazi terrorist organisation.



### Symbol of 'Slavic Union' ("Славянский Союз") and Symbol of 'Soprotivlenie' ("Сопротивление")

These two symbols are being increasingly used by the Russian neo-Nazi movement, and are popular amongst football hooligans.



**Reichskriegsflagge  
(Warflag of the German Empire)**

The war flag of the German Empire, used between 1867-1921, symbolises the wish to return to the old and pre-democratic times. It is now used in different variations, and football fans often replace the original colours by the colours of their club. The club badge can sometimes replace the eagle in the centre of the symbol.



**Reichsadler (Eagle of the Nazis)**

The Reichsadler was a traditional emblem used by Nazis on uniforms and notepaper and was often combined with a Swastika or other symbol in the circle to symbolise different divisions and groups. Nowadays, the Hakenkreuz, below the eagle, is often replaced by a Celtic Cross or similar symbol. Football fans also use the former Reichsadler in combination with their football club badge.



**Black Sun**

The Black Sun looks like a Swastika with twelve arms or a wheel made of twelve Sig-Runes. It was used by the "SS" (the security squadron of the Nazis) as a Nordic-pagan symbol of religion.



**SA-Badge**

The badge of the SA is a combination of the Sig-Rune and the letter A.



**Good Night Left Side**

This symbol openly promotes neo-Nazi and skinhead violence against imagined opponents.



**Casapound**

Casapound was originally an Italian fascist organisation which is attracting more and more young people who can often be identified through an "autonomist nationalist" style, eg black jacket and baggy trousers. This symbol has become more popular in other countries in recent years, and can often be seen displayed by Ultras in Spain.



Runes are old Nordic/  
Germanic symbols used  
by the German National  
Socialists. Many of them are  
still used by neo-Nazis and  
racist fans.

The main difference between  
the rune system and most  
other alphabets is that  
every letter (or rune) has  
got an established symbolic  
meaning.



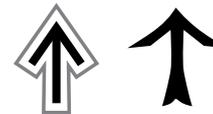
#### Sig-Rune/SS-Emblem

As well as the "SS-skull", the two Sig-runes became the emblem of the "Waffen-SS" ("security squadron). A single Sig-rune was used as an emblem of the Hitler Youth. Many football fans use Sig-runes on their banners or in graffiti instead of using the letter "S".



#### Wolfs-Rod/Gibor-Rune

This was used by Nazis as the emblem of the "Werewolf Organisation" which was an undercover section of the Waffen-SS in World War II (see also clothing brands and prints: Werwolf). The Werewolf Organisation contained guerrilla fighters to continue the fight against the invading Allies at places where Germany's Wehrmacht was already defeated and German territory was occupied.



#### Arrow- or Fight-Rune/Tyr-Rune

The Tyr-rune has been used as a fascist symbol for many years. It was the badge of the "Sturmabteilung" (SA) training schools, the "Reichsführerschulen" in Nazi Germany. It was also used amongst Hitler Youth and the SS.



### Odal-Rune

The Odal Rune is a symbol of "Blood and Soil". In Nazi-Germany it was used as the emblem of the Hitler Youth. After World War II, it was used by the forbidden German neo-Nazi youth organisation "Wiking Youth".



### Life-Rune/Man-Rune

This symbol stands for the "life power of the nation" and symbolises a human being who is stretching his arms to the Gods (signified life, creation, birth, rebirth and renewal). The Life or Man Rune is a universal symbol of nationalist movements and used by various neo-Nazi organisations, such as the American National Alliance.



### Death-Rune/Yr-Rune

This is the opposite to the Life or Man-Rune. The Death Rune was used on Waffen-SS graves along with the "Life Rune", adopted by National Alliance and other neo-Nazi organisations.

## 2 Letter & number codes

In many countries, some organisations of right-wing extremists have been forbidden by the government. Therefore, these extremist groups and individuals use letter and number codes in order to prevent punishment.

This can often be seen within football stadiums where fans wear shirts printed with such codes. The numbers often stand for the corresponding letters in the alphabet. The following are some examples for letter and number codes often used by racists and neo-Nazis.



### 14

14 is the code for the famous "14 words" by American neo-Nazi David Lane ("We must secure the existence of our people and the future for our white children"). The "14 words" are one of the main phrases of today's neo-Nazi ideology. It is often combined with 88, i.e as greeting 14/88.



### 18 (and Combat 18)

18 stands for the first and eighth letter of the alphabet = AH = Adolf Hitler. It can be found in the name of the now International neo-Nazi group Combat 18.



### 28

28 is the code for the Nazi-skinhead Network, "Blood and Honour" (see also **Blood & Honour**).



### 88

88 stands for "Heil Hitler". It's widespread on football fan shirts and as part of the name of neo-Nazi supporters groups.



### KKK (Ku-Klux-Klan)

Racists and neo-Nazis use different symbols of the militant US-American racist organisation **Ku Klux Klan** (KKK).

### B&H

Is the abbreviation of "Blood and Honour" (see **Blood & Honour**).

### HH

Abbreviation of "Heil Hitler".

### NS

Abbreviation of **National Socialism** or **National Socialist**.

### WP

Abbreviation of "White Power".

## 3 Clothing Brands & Prints

There are lots of neo-Nazi clothing brands and clothes with racist slogans and signs printed on them. The following examples are brands and prints which are mainly sold through right-wing companies and networks.



### Consdaple

The clothing brand **CoNSDAPLe** is popular among racists and neo-Nazis as it contains the initials of the National Socialist Party of Germany (NSDAP). The word itself derived from "constable". The writing type is similar to the non-neo-Nazi clothing brand **LONSDALE**.



### Hatecrime

In the English language, a hatecrime is defined as "a criminal offence committed against a person, property or society, which is motivated, fully or partly, by race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin". It's also a US-neo-Nazi clothing brand sold in Europe.



### Masterrace Europe

Clothes with the label "Masterrace" are sold all over Europe.



### Thor Steinar

Clothing brand with a symbol made out of a wolfsrod and a Tyr-rune. After it was forbidden in some German counties, Thor Steinar changed their logo.



### Walhall

Walhall is a myth of a pagan Viking religion where God Odin sends dead Nordic/Germanic, "arian" ("aryan") warriors. Racists and neo-Nazis use this pagan symbol to show their hate for the "ruling" ("ruling") Christian religion.



### Werwolf (Werewolf)

German neo-Nazi clothing brand (see also Runes:Wolfs-Rod).



### Skrewdriver

In some countries, some neo-Nazi symbols are forbidden, so it's common among racists and neo-Nazis to wear shirts with the logo of their favourite racist and neo-Nazi bands. Skrewdriver (written with a "k" instead of a "c") is a famous example. There are hundreds of such bands across Europe. Another famous example is Landser.

## 4 Country Specific Symbols



### Croatian Symbols

#### Flag of the Ustaša

The Ustaše (also known as "Ustashes" or "Ustashi") was a Croatian nationalist far-right movement. It was involved in terrorist activities before World War II and ruled a part of Yugoslavia, protected by the Nazis.



### English Symbols

#### British National Front

The British National Front (commonly called the National Front, and often known as the NF) was a British right-wing party whose major political activities were between the 1970s and 1980s.



#### British National Party (BNP)

The British National Party (BNP) is a right-wing political party in the United Kingdom.



## German Symbols

### NPD

The “National Democratic Party of Germany” (Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands) is a German right-wing political party.

## Greek Symbols

### Chrysi Avyi

Chrysi Avyi is a far right, neo-Nazi party in Greece.



## Italian Symbols

### Logo of Tricolour Flame

The “Tricolour Flame Social Movement” or “Tricolour Flame” (Movimento Sociale Fiamma Tricolore, MS-FT) is a hardline Italian neo-fascist party.



### Flag of Benito Mussolini

Common among Italian right-wing fans.



### Logo of Forza Nuova

FN is an Italian nationalist and neo-fascist movement connected to some Italian ultra groups.

## Polish Acronyms

### NOP

Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski – “National Rebirth of Poland” – a well known racist extremist organisation.

### ONR

Obóz Narodowo-Radykalny – “National Radical Camp”, an extreme-nationalist organisation which was forbidden before WW II but is currently active again.

## Polish Symbols

### Falanga or ‘Hand and Sword’

This was the symbol of ONR ‘Falanga’, a fascist organisation which existed before World War II. Nowadays, it is used by “National Rebirth of Poland” (Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski), an extremist racist organisation. The symbol is sometimes displayed at Polish stadiums.



### Mieczyk Chrobrego (Chrobry Sword) or Szczerbiec

Symbol of extreme-nationalist “Camp of Greater Poland” (Obóz Wielkiej Polski – OWP), an organisation forbidden before WW II.



### Toporzeln

The symbol of the fascist and neo-pagan organisation called Zadruza, which is used by nationalist neo-pagan organisations.



## Russian Symbols

### Flag of National Unity of Russia

The "National Unity of Russia" was the main neo-Nazi organisation in Russia.



## Spanish Symbols

### Alianza Nacional

The AN was founded in 2005 and is a national socialist party.



### Blue Division / División Azul / 250

This illustrates the infantry division. The División Azul was a unit of Spanish volunteers which served in the German Army on the Eastern Front of World War II.



## Several Falange Symbols

This organization, also known as the National Movement (Movimiento Nacional) continued until Franco's death in 1975. Since 1975, Phalangists have diversified into several different political movements which still exist in the 21st Century.



## Ukrainian Symbols

### Flag of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists

The flag of the Organization of the Ukrainian Nationalists is used by some far right and nationalist political organisations in Ukraine.



### Galizien

This is the symbol of the Nazi SS Division 'SS Galizien' operating in Ukraine at the beginning during WW2.



### Portraits of Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych

Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych were leaders of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists.



### Wolfsangel

This symbol used by the Nazis during WW II, and in particular was the emblem of SS Panzer Division 'Das Reich'. In Ukraine, this is often interpreted as the 'Idea of a Nation' and used as a symbol of the neo-Nazi organization 'Patriot of Ukraine'.



## 5 Other racist flags and images



### References to Auschwitz

Many far-right groups and football hooligans use references to Auschwitz and the holocaust as a means of causing offence. The anti-Semitic image on the left means 'Auschwitz is your home country and the ovens are your homes' referencing the gas ovens that the Nazis used to kill Jews. Banners like this can often be accompanied by hissing noises from fans, also mimicking the gas chambers.

### Anti-Semitic banners



Many far right groups display signs and flags that will be offensive to the Jewish community. This example is a caricature of a Jewish man, wearing a hat with a Star of David on it which has a cross through the middle of it.



The image to the left, displaying the banner 'Jihad' was first displayed at a match in Poland. Whilst the term 'Jihad' is not racist in itself as it means striving to live a moral life, in this context it is being used to refer to the religious struggle of Muslims against Jews and can be seen as being anti-Semitic.

## 6 Other areas of discrimination

Other signs and banners are often displayed at football stadiums that relate to homophobia, the abuse of people with a disability and women.



This sign is often used by extreme far right groups in Poland and other Eastern European countries as a form of homophobia.



The use of terms such as 'poof' and 'fag' on banners and flags is also homophobic and offensive. The first banner was displayed at a ground in England, whilst the second banner was displayed in France.



A similar sign is also used as a form of abuse about people with a disability.



A number of banners and signs use images which are sexist and degrading to women, such as the image to the left which portrays women as sexual objects.



As with far-right flags and signs, abusive slogans can often be combined to cause maximum offence. The image to the left is both homophobic and offensive to women.

network  
**fare**

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