4 Steps to Help Kids Push Back Against White Nationalism

By Nora Flanagan and Christian Picciolini

White nationalism is insidious, multifaceted, and aggressive. Parents and youth workers need to stay vigilant, because the imagery and language of this movement change often and quickly. Whether parents worry that their child might be a target for recruitment or they worry that their child encounters white nationalist sentiment at school or online, information and conversation are crucial to breaking hate. Here’s how we suggest you dig in. (Also check out the video of our related conversation with EmbraceRace.)

Understand the issue. Learn the terms, groups, and issues at the center of the recent surge of white nationalist activity.

- Facing History and Ourselves recently published a brief, clear explanation of white nationalism
- The Anti-Defamation League maintains a thorough database of hate symbols
- The Southern Poverty Law Center provides a range of resources, including Hatewatch, a blog that monitors hate group activity and helps place it in the context of national issues.
- Here’s a recent Atlantic interview with Christian that does a great job of explaining the issue and why we need to be concerned.
Christian’s book, White American Youth, explains how a kid from a good family can get sucked into racist hate, as well as how he got out.

Here’s a New York Times piece that cites two additional books about the recent resurgence of white nationalism, how young people get recruited, and how they can get out.

Deep dive: here’s an extensive reading list from Bustle about racism, white nationalism, and more.