

# Canada: Calgary Police Warn Parents Their Children May Belong to a Hate Group If They Act – Like Children

written by GEG | September 5, 2017



Police in Calgary released a pamphlet advising parents that if their children listen to “loud, heavy rock music with violent lyrics” they may be part of a hate group. Other danger signs included in the warning were lack of interest in school, staying out late, changing appearance, and other rather normal behavior patterns among teenagers. The list of danger signs contained four that related to racism and two that related to immigrants and people who may be considered as non-Canadian. –GEG

## Hate groups and organizations

The impact of hate and bias is far reaching and can cause severe stress for all members of the community. Hate groups are set of individuals who perpetuate this by targeting specific groups. Hate groups are sometimes responsible for **hate crimes and incidents**.

Hate groups often attempt to recruit young people of high school and college age. They use many forms of media in order to recruit others to their causes, including posting and distributing flyers at schools or on the street, and using the internet to provide access to their ideologies.

Hate groups are also increasingly using hate music bands to recruit. Some hate groups even try to appeal to younger children by including games and child friendly content on their websites.

Hate groups prey on lonely youth who are socially isolated by learning their weaknesses and drawing them into a group in which they feel accepted. Prime targets for recruitment are youth who are abused, angry, unemployed, dropouts or runaways. Groups befriend

students and invite them to meetings, making them feel wanted and important, providing membership cards, titles and a sense of belonging. Through rituals and impressive ceremonies, individual youth can be easily impressed and recruited, often due to their lack of identifiable future.

Members of racist groups provide a false camaraderie and friendship that is motivated by reasons that the target is unaware of. They intimate that their hate group is simply a social club, or a legitimate nationalist political party or movement interested in preserving Canadian culture. They always lie to new members, never telling them of their true agenda of hatred and violence before it is too late.

Examples of hate group propaganda symbols include:

- 88 – Represents the eighth letter ‘H’ hence HH – Heil Hitler.
- 311 – Represents the 11th letter ‘K’ hence KKK – Ku Klux Klan.
- 18 – Represents 1st and 8th letters ‘A’ ‘H’ – short for Adolf Hitler.

## Signs of a child being part of a hate group

If your child is involved in a hate group, these early warning signs may be a clue:

- Sudden lack of interest in school.
- Adopting new groups of friends and staying out late without any explanation.
- Violence or secretive behaviour.
- Overt hostility to parents and family, disobedience, rudeness.
- Racist graffiti, drawings and doodling.
- Playing loud, heavy music with violent lyrics.
- Stereotyping and scape-goating of certain groups; name calling, racial and religious slurs in conversation at all times.
- Making racist or bigoted comments about minorities, immigrants or foreigners.
- A marked repugnance to consider certain ethnic or religious groups as fully Canadian or even human.
- Wearing or displaying Nazi propaganda and symbols such as swastikas or the Iron Cross and/or military clothing and paraphernalia.
- Changing their appearance.

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