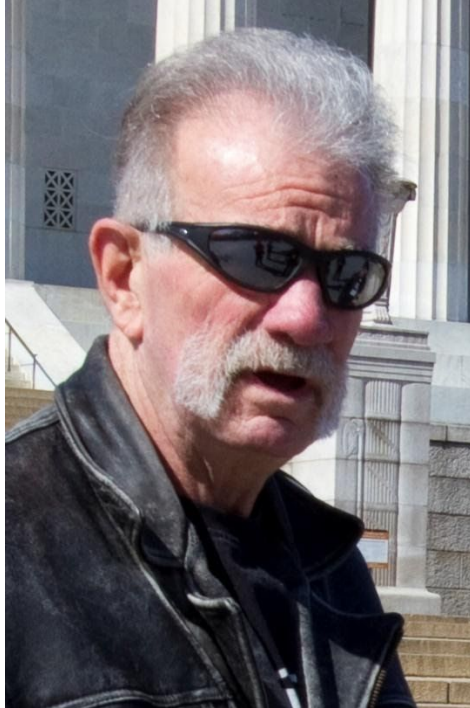


ORGANIZING AGAINST HATE IN SCHOOLS



**Does he have the right to burn the Koran
in front of my school?**

Hate incidents --- motivated by intense hostility against an entire group on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender, sexual identity or other group membership --- abound in schools.

Hate can include hate speech, hurting someone physically, taunting or hurtful teasing, leaving someone out or saying bad things so others will think less of them, or using online and mobile technology to harm someone emotionally and socially.

While most people associate hate incidents with extremist groups like the Ku Klux Klan or White Supremacists, it occurs in everyday life, such as verbal abuse or insults, slurs or ridicule, bullying or cyberbullying, or racist graffiti on the walls.

It often takes the form of beliefs in the superiority of one group over another, such as racism, sexism, nativism, homophobia, anti-Semitism Islamophobia, or other beliefs that become “normalized” unless people challenge them.

Hate often originates in insecurity or fear that other groups will overtake them, such as when white supremacists marched with torches chanting “the Jews will not replace us.” They had a right to freedom of speech under the law, but then were arrested for punching, kicking and choking anti-racism protesters at white nationalist rallies in Virginia and California.

Immediately after the last presidential election in which one of the candidates labeled white supremacists as “good people,” and expressed racist views against Mexicans --- “send them back” ---- and Arabs and Arab-Americans --- “burn their mosques” --- reported a surge of racist language, racial slurs, and the harassment of minority children. There was an increase in incidents involving swastikas, Nazi salutes and Confederate flags. White boys in a wealthy white suburb of Detroit made a video of themselves with swastikas on their chests.

Hate affects those who are bullied, those who bully, and those who hear about bullying in the schools. Students who are bullied are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy. Their academic achievement --- GPA and test scores fall, and they are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school. Meanwhile, bullies are likely to engage in violent adult behavior, abuse their family members, and cause psychological damage to their children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **What does hate mean to you? Have you ever experienced, observed, or heard about acts of hate --- such as verbal abuse or insults, slurs or ridicule, bullying or cyberbullying, or racist graffiti on the walls --- in your school? What were the causes? How did you respond? How did your school respond?**
- **Who has responsibility to do something about hate in the schools? Principal? Teachers? Students? You?**
- **Should a school support the victims of hate, start a conversation among students and teachers, or use a hate incident as a vehicle for learning, say by putting together a day in which the entire schools have discussions?**
- **If students wanted to join together, discuss the causes and consequences of hate in school, and strategize for social action, what would it be? Should students or teachers join together, and strategize for taking action. What should students do? What should teachers do?**
- **What are some examples of bullying in your school? Who are the people that bully others? Why do they bully? What should be done?**

- Hate should never have the last word, but who has responsibility to do something about it?

ACTIVISTS SPEAKING OUT:

- Students Speak Up: What Bias Means to Them: <https://youtu.be/mx-1VPumeD0>
- Boston Teens Speak Out About Racism: <https://youtu.be/0ROBCSSyTW4>
- Fighting Racism In School | Bioneers: <https://youtu.be/Gnfkm5nPWCY>

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS:

- Southern Poverty Law Center: [Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide](#)
- Teaching Tolerance: [Responding to Hate at school](#)
- Teaching While White: [Students Organizing Against Racism](#)
- United Against Hate: [20 Ideas for Action](#)
- Learning First Alliance: [Resources addressing hate and harassment in schools](#)
- Edweek: [Hate in Schools](#)
- Teaching Tolerance: [Countering Online Hate Speech](#)
- National Education Association: [How to respond to incidents of racism, bullying and hate in schools](#)
- Advocates for Youth: [Youth Activist Toolkit](#)