

# The White Supremacist Indoctrination Rubric (WSIR)

The WSIR was developed by Drs. Brian Van Brunt and Lisa Pescara-Kovach as a research-based, reliable and easy to use approach to assessing the subject's level of white supremacist indoctrination. This is useful in violence risk assessment and developing treatments and interventions.

**D·PREP**

The WSIR rates five areas of indoctrination on a scale of 1 to 5: appearance, affiliation, absorption of knowledge, acquisition of weapons, and appointment to mission.



## APPEARANCE

LEVEL	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
1	None	Here there are no indications of tattoos, clothing, hair styles or symbolism related to the white supremacist movement.
2	Passing Interest	They show interest in tattoos, symbols, clothing or imagery associated with the movement. They may reference or wear tentatively some small affectation.
3	Casual Collection	They have some items of clothes that include symbols from the white supremacist movement. They wear these occasionally. They may have tattoos related to the movement, but they are small and in easily concealable locations.
4	Conscious Display	They have many items of clothing with white supremacist symbols, logos, or phrases. They may also have multiple tattoos that are visible and difficult to conceal. They may shift clothing or conceal tattoos to fit into a work setting or social setting, but often they can be found communicating a clear message through their clothes (e.g., Identity Evropa triangle, blood drop cross symbol).
5	Consistent Style	They are regularly found in clothing with white supremacist logos, phrasing or images and/or have visible tattoos, often on the neck or forearm, that are not easily concealed and convey their connection to the movement. They have adopted a hair style and other mannerisms connected to the white supremacist movement. They encourage others to wear and display white supremacist symbols.

## AFFILIATION

LEVEL	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
1	None	They have no affiliation (online or in -person) with any group that expresses extremist, white supremacist, or hate-based ideologies.
2	Passing Interest	They have looked at some groups online but have not requested more information or joined any newsletter or membership. Their online exploration exists on mainstream sites. They maybe have considered attending a local meeting, protest, or convention, but have not done so in person.
3	Casual Exploration	They have downloaded some online materials and are actively learning about the movement. They may have a local connection, group, or organization they have begun talking to and have attended a meeting, protest, or convention to learn more about the movement.
4	Active Membership	They have connections to several online resources with white supremacist content, many on "dark web" sites and forums, and have attended meetings, protests, or other group activities. They may have multiple accounts to hide their identity and follow those who hold white supremacist beliefs and/or active hate content directed to targeted groups (e.g., Blacks, Jews, LGBTQI+).
5	Leadership/ Recruitment	They maintain active membership to groups both online, especially on "dark web" sites and forums, and in-person where they have administrator, moderator, or other leadership status. They have acquired written materials, pamphlets or flyers and share these with others. They have an active social media presence that expresses white supremacist beliefs and/or active hate content to targeted groups (e.g., blacks, Jews, LGBTQI+). Their profile photo is a hate symbol or personal photo with their hate group.

### ABSORPTION OF KNOWLEDGE

LEVEL	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
1	None	They know very little about the white supremacist movement and may suggest that it was over with the German Nazi Party.
2	Passing Interest	They have reviewed some material, perhaps read a book or manifesto, related to the movement. This is done more out of passive curiosity rather than direct pursuit.
3	Casual Exploration	They have acquired some knowledge about the movement and are looking to learn more. This may be through conversations with local members in-person or through joining online chat groups or membership websites. They may have some materials, images or documents saved, but these are limited to just a handful.
4	Focused Learning	They have a good amount of knowledge about the movement and have read several key texts. They have saved images, documents, and manifestos regarding white supremacy and hate to better defend their points. They share and talk with others about their study.
5	Historian/Marketer	Their knowledge of the movement, ideologies and beliefs is detailed and well-researched. They make use of a catalog or classification system to store information and are always looking to acquire more. They have sophisticated counterarguments to those they debate and adopt a creative and manipulative use of social media. They publish and/or sell materials, logos, patches, stickers, and insignias to others.

### AQUISITION OF WEAPONS

LEVEL	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
1	None	They have no interest and little knowledge related to weapons or dangerous materials. They have not previously fired a gun.
2	Passing Interest	They own no they weapons but have used a firearm on occasion at a range or while hunting. They have a basic knowledge of weapons.
3	Casual Exploration	They own or have easy access to firearms. They have the firearm for personal protection or hunting. They have taken basic firearm safety courses or have the equivalent knowledge. They show interest in other dangerous materials. They may have begun to acquire a few secondary items such tactical gear..
4	Soldier	They own multiple firearms or other weapons and have acquired them out of concern to use the weapons to be prepared for the coming conflicts. They have studied tactics and have taken combat firearm courses. They have multiple weapon systems. They practice with others and stockpile ammunition and/or do their own re-loading. They belong with a group or militia to support their training and work as a collective.
5	Specialist/Officer	They have acquired deep knowledge of firearms and have stockpiled dozens of weapons. They may have a narrow area of expertise. They teach/support others in their acquisition of weapons skills. They train frequently and have specific plans detailing how weapons and gear will be used against specific groups. They study previous attacks to learn how to be more effective in their killing.

### APPOINTMENT TO MISSION

LEVEL	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
1	None	There is no mission considered and no commitment to any type of action against any group.
2	Passing Interest	They have a partial understanding and perhaps even agree with some of the white supremacist group's ideology, but have not joined a group, attended a protest or are considering action.
3	Casual Exploration	They have researched various groups, protests, and rallies and have expressed interest in attending. They either have attended event(s) or have plans to attend one soon. They feel aligned with the group's goals and mission yet are hesitant to become fully immersed or committed to action.
4	Active Directive	They are connected to a group and looking for ways to assist the group's mission forward. They align with the group's ideology, and they may have engaged in protests, rallies, harassing behavior or pseudo-militaristic tactics and training. They target other groups or protests to counter their messaging and look for ways to harm and disenfranchise those who they stand against.
5	Pathway to Violence	They are connected to a group or sub-group committed to violent action against those they hate. They have acquired weapons and engage in training and tactics to carry out a mission. The time, location and date may not be chosen yet, but they are certain it will occur and may be actively involved in recruiting and/or training of others to engage in violence to bring their vision of how the world should be to fruition.