

Next Steps to Make a Difference Today



VIRGINIA
HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM

Educate

1. We need be learning about cultures and religions that are different than our own. Knowledge leads to understanding.
2. Make sure your information sources are accurate and credible. If you are looking for information on the internet, reliable websites usually end in, .gov, .edu and .org. Ask a librarian for book or publication recommendations.
3. Have a dialogue with someone you normally would not. Be respectful, listen to them.

Be an Ally

1. Speak out against injustice and discrimination. Hold people accountable for their words.
2. Volunteer your time with an organization that serves as a community advocate.
3. Create or participate in a community-wide dialogue at a forum or program.

Advocate

1. Bring about positive change through civic engagement. Vote, sign a petition, call or write your lawmakers. Be a part of the legislative dialogue.
2. Educate others on identifying discrimination or bias within your community. Work together to create solutions to combat the issue.



Photo: Anthony Crider

¹ Anti-Defamation League. "Charlottesville and Beyond." adl.org. <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk/charlottesville-and-beyond> (accessed August 2, 2018) Anti-Defamation League. "Charlottesville and Beyond." adl.org. <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk/charlottesville-and-beyond> (accessed August 2, 2018)

² Southern Poverty Law Center. "Neo-Nazi." splc.org. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/neo-nazi> (accessed August 2, 2018)

³ Anti-Defamation League. "Alt-Right: A Primer about the New White Supremacy." adl.org. <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/alt-right-a-primer-about-the-new-white-supremacy> (accessed August 2, 2018)

⁴ Southern Poverty Law Center. "Ku Klux Klan." splc.org. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/ku-klux-klan> (accessed August 2, 2018)



The Virginia Holocaust Museum
2000 East Cary Street Richmond, VA 23223
www.vaholocaust.org | 804-257-5400
Mon-Fri: 9A-5P Sat & Sun: 11A-5P

Charlottesville and Onward

A Discussion Guide

What happened in Charlottesville?



August 11th 2017: White supremacists (which include but are limited to, neo-Nazis, Traditional Worker's Party, Identity Evropa, alt-right and the Ku Klux Klan) gather at the University of Virginia to protest the removal of the statue of Confederate General, Robert E. Lee. During the rally, white supremacists march through the campus, with tiki torches in hand, chanting, "white lives matter," "Jews will not replace us," and "Blood and Soil." White supremacists soon meet face to face with counter-protesters and violence ensues.

August 12th 2017: White supremacist protesters gather at Emancipation Park (formally known as Lee Park). Again, they chant racist and antisemitic slogans and yell racial epithets. Some protesters are armed with weapons. Counter-protesters from the National Council of Churches, Black Lives Matter, Anti-Racist Action, the Democratic Socialists of America, Antifa, Worker's World Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, Refuse Fascism, Redneck Revolt were also present, some were armed as well. Violence ensues at this rally between protesters (white supremacists) and counter-protesters, with punching, kicking and the release of smoke bombs. A state of emergency was declared by both the Charlottesville City Mayor and Virginia's Governor. Later that afternoon, a self-proclaimed Neo-Nazi intentionally drives into a group of counter-protesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer. By the end of the day, the protests left dozens of people injured and three people dead.

The "Unite the Right Rally" demonstrated that racism, bigotry, and injustice still exist. A first step to dismantling bias and discrimination is through constructive dialogue and education.



Questions for Student Discussions

What communities have you learned about that have been treated unfairly? Are there communities today that are targets for prejudice?

Why do you think some people judge others before they get to know them?

Have you ever been mistreated by someone? Or have you ever seen someone being treated unfairly? Where did you see it? How did that make you feel?

What can you do the next time you see or hear someone being treated unfairly? How can your words or actions have an impact on others?

If a lesson of the Holocaust is to show us the importance of standing against antisemitism and bigotry, why does this hatred still exist?

Terminology

Alt-Right

Alt Right is short for "alternative right." This vague term actually encompasses a range of people on the extreme right who reject mainstream conservatism in favor of forms of conservatism that embrace implicit or explicit racism or white supremacy.⁴

Blood and Soil

A phrase popularized by the Third Reich to describe the connection between German people and their land.

Klu Klux Klan

The Ku Klux Klan, with its long history of violence, is the most infamous — and oldest — of American hate groups. Although black Americans have typically been the Klan's primary target, it also has attacked Jews, immigrants, gays and lesbians and, until recently, Catholics.⁶

Neo-Nazi

Individuals, groups, or organizations that share a hatred for Jews and a love for Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. While they also hate other minorities, gays and lesbians and even sometimes Christians, they perceive "the Jew" as their cardinal enemy.³

White Supremacy

A term used to characterize various belief systems central to which are one or more of the following fundamental tenets: 1) whites should have dominance over people of other backgrounds, especially where they may coexist; 2) whites should live by themselves in a whites-only society; 3) white people have their own "culture" that is superior to other cultures; 4) white people are genetically superior to other people.¹