Did you know about the origin of this famous antifascist and antiracist logo?

On May 9, 1998 the KKK decided to hold a rally in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Ann Arbor city council obliged them, spending $137,000 to accommodate their hatefest in the middle of town.

The community mounted their own defense. Harlon Jones, an Ann Arbor antiracist, introduced his foot to a racist wearing a "White Pride" shirt. The rest is history.

(Much thanks to Antifa International for writing up this event and interviewing Jones.)
What is fascism, anyway?

There are various definitions of "fascist", and this is a heavily debated topic! Often, fascist groups simply admit to being fascist, which makes our job easier. Still, a definition is necessary. Roger Griffin's two-word definition of fascism as "palingenetic ultranationalism" is what we'll take as a starting point.

"Ultranationalism" is an extreme form of nationalism, and this is a premise on the belief that one's nation is superior and that the nation is like an organic, living being. Fascists believe that their favorite nation is like a living being which can decline and die as parts become sick, or in their terminology, "degenerate", but can also be reborn and made "healthy" if the "degenerate" elements are cut out. As a consequence of this belief system, fascism inevitably leads to violence against those portrayed as national enemies, immigrants, labor and leftist movements, LGBTQ+, and so on.

Fascist movements are part of the far right, but the far right is a broader category than just fascists. For example, the US military's history and relationship with fascism is complicated. Antifascists often document and discuss the movement's history and relationship with fascism because it's important to understand the overall ecosystem that fascists are a part of, and because they also empower communities and develop opposition on that basis. Contrary to the caricature that antifascists call everyone they dislike "fascist", we use the term quite narrowly and carefully.

As individuals, we are usually active in other political groups and movements that are benefited by (and benefit from) anti-fascism. In one way or another, fascists have vanished and the ideology of fascism disappeared. This group would work toward a free, just, and ecologically sustainable society in other ways.

Did antifa do the BLM riots/George Floyd uprising/any other autonomous action Fox News claims we did?

No. Antifascists don't take credit for the autonomous actions of affected communities. Movements against police murder and institutional racism are deeply necessary, and of course we support them. However, our day-to-day focus remains specific. As an organization, Atlanta Antifascists support the George Floyd uprising by monitoring and exposing far right activists and militias seeking to harass protesters. Antifa is not antifa.

How do I send tips to Atlanta Antifascists?

Email is most secure, we also have a phone line for voice messages. Don't send sensitive info via social media.

I am not in or near Atlanta but I want to do this work.

There are many ways to engage in everyday, street-legal antifascism. You can also start your own antifascist crew. We link to a guide on how to do this at our website.

How does somebody join antifa?

Anybody can be an antifascist by standing up to fascists. There is no "joining" process. Organizing as a specific group, however, can sometimes be more effective.

What can I do?

There are many ways to engage in everyday, street-legal antifascism. You can also start your own antifascist crew. We link to a guide on how to do this at our website.

This QR code will send you to the FAQ on our website at atlantaantifa.org, where there are links to more resources mentioned here.
What does Atlanta Antifascists do?

Whatever it takes to fight fascism and keep our communities safe. Our work typically falls into four different areas:

1. Street-based: removing fascist propaganda, opposing any attempts by fascists to assert street-level control or to claim territory as "theirs"
2. Research-based: monitoring fascists to find out who they are, what they're doing, what tactics and campaigns they are prioritizing, and how we can stop them.
3. Coalition-based: helping organize community resistance to fascist events
4. Educational: providing information on fascist organizers to communities who are dealing with them, and promoting a culture of antifascism. Helping left and anti-authoritarian movements challenge fascist ideology by articulating real answers to social problems, instead of fascist scapegoating and bullshit.

What is the composition of Atlanta Antifascists? Are you all white kids?

We are a multiracial and multi-generational group. Often, white people are the most visible antifascists because they face the lowest risk of repression from the state and lowest risk of violence from fascists. We welcome participation by individuals from a variety of backgrounds, but it's important that our group is centered in working class communities and working class struggles.

Is Atlanta Antifascists violent?

The vast majority of what we do could be called nonviolent. However, we refuse to disavow violence when it comes to community defense against fascists, racists, and antisemites. When fascists attempt to control the streets, they must be driven off--the alternative would be to allow much greater violence.

What does "no platform" mean?

Originally, it meant literally knocking fascist speakers off the physical platform they were standing on to address a crowd. Today it can still mean that, but also means shutting down fascist speaking events and getting fascists kicked off online platforms. When fascists organize openly, this historically leads to upsurges in racist, homophobic, and anti-left attacks. We believe that fascists should never have any safe spaces anywhere.

Why do you think antifascism should be the left's focus when all these other issues are going on?

We don't. Antifascism is necessary to any struggle for liberation, but is not sufficient on its own. Antifascists are a critical defensive rearguard for broader leftist and autonomous movements. Therefore, any political tendency that discounts antifascism as a defense mechanism is in danger of being destroyed or coopted by fascism, or simply becoming irrelevant.

What does Atlanta Antifascists form?

Our group formed in October 2016 but has a longer prehistory in informal antifascist networks. Our website began as a blog which predates the organized group. At the time we started, we were involved in documenting and opposing the "Alt-Right" that was then growing, as well as challenging neo-Nazi, Klan, and other white supremacist organizing in our state. Since then, we have maintained a continuous chain of activism, monitoring, research, and organizing against fascist mobilizations.

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What are Atlanta Antifascists’ politics?

Our group functions as a broad tent on the left against fascism. We are unified through the Torch Network Points of Unity:

1. We disrupt fascist and far right organizing and activity.
2. We don’t rely on the cops or courts to do our work for us.
3. We oppose all forms of oppression.
4. We hold ourselves accountable personally and collectively to live up to our ideals and values.
5. We not only support each other within the network, but we also support people outside the network who have similar aims or principles.

So does that mean Atlanta Antifascists are all anarchists?

Groups like ours are influenced by anarchist models and principles, but our membership comes from a wide variety of political backgrounds and currents and contains many non-anarchists. As stated above, we are a broad tent. If you want a simple introduction to anarchism, Malatesta’s “Anarchy” is a good place to start.

Who funds Atlanta Antifascists?

We are cut off from most funding sources, and contrary to right-wing myths, we don’t get paid for any of this. Most of our work is done on a small budget. Our members have a variety of full-time jobs, side gigs, hustles, families, and we work on a surprisingly small budget. Our members have been targeted, attacked, and killed by fascists.

Anonymous?

Some people claim they are a part of Atlanta Antifascists, is that true?

Just common sense, but we do and we do keep our identities private to protect our safety and those we work with.

Why does Atlanta Antifascists cover their faces and stay anonymous?

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Does Atlanta Antifascists ever work with police or federal law enforcement?

Never. If fascists are threatening an event or are planning harm to people, such as a church or synagogue or NGO, we will alert those who are being targeted and they can decide what to do. The vast majority of what we do is legal, but we do not believe in obeying unjust laws or policies we don’t agree with. The worst forms of oppression and exploitation of which we are aware are planning.

What is the Torch Network you mentioned?

The Torch Network is a network of named antifascist crews. The Torch Network, and our group, traces its history back through the original Anti-Racist Action Network and its descendant, the Torch Network. The Torch Network was born out of the Anti-Racist Action Network in 1980.

The Torch Network was founded on October 19, 1980. From organizing in the USA that began in the 1980s. From history back through the original Anti-Racist Action Network. The Torch Network is a network of named antifascists.

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