



Exit is a Swedish organisation working nationally with helping individuals to leave White supremacy environments and to lay a foundation for a new social belonging. The project was launched in 1998 and has since operated successfully with rehabilitation and preventive work. We also coach relatives of active Neo- Nazis, give consultation and educate professionals who come in contact with these individuals (in schools, social services, police force etc) and method development in this area.

The rehabilitation is based on a long-term cognitive treatment. We provide a sense of participation and an environment where the individuals is given the opportunity to grow into an ordinary existence, make peace with the past, work through hatred and aggression, take responsibility for their actions, break the social solitude, train their collaboration skills and social abilities, learn how to cope with set-backs and trials, solve conflicts without violence and trust others.

The majority of the EXIT staff has background in the White supremacy environment. Additional employees; a welfare officer and a coordinator. A physician and a number of psychotherapists are also tied to the project.

During the years we have built an organisation with comprehensive knowledge of the white supremacy movement as a youth culture in Sweden and the problematic surrounding it. We possess competence as well as routines to manage individuals and relatives of activists. The goal is to continue this work but also to share our knowledge and reach more individuals drawn to or involved in these environments.

Social reasons for engagements

When individuals are drawn to extreme, destructive environments it's primary not because of ideology, but for social reasons. An engagement offers social advantages like status, identity, support and power. And the possibility to be some one on other premises than the ordinary society offers. Like aggression, fighting, devotion and engagement.

Out of our ten years of experience, we can see that the common factor for entering white power milieu are the experienced feeling of be out of it (ber unaccepted) and / or a experience of insult. The white power environment offers a feeling and experience of strength and agent. The individual leaves the feeling of being a victim.

Individual support

The process around the individual are strictly classified, a necessity since many need to seek shelter because of threats from former friends. Most part of those who leave become solitary, they often loose contact with relatives, siblings and non-political friends during their involvement.

The individual may need help with gathering their family network and be supported while re-establishing these contacts. During some time the contact from EXIT might

be the only person to turn to; this is why EXIT staff are available 24 hours a day during the first urgent period.

A majority of the drop out individuals has an extensive problematical background, a long time as an activist, criminality and/or individual difficulties. The climate in the white power environment is harsher today; the exposed are pursued both psychologically and physically. A individual has been a tormentor but also a victim of the white power movement organisations manipulation and suggestion, peer pressure and constraint.

The rehabilitation process is extensive. We have access to a youth psychiatric to which we can refer those who are in need of additional qualified care.

We have great confidence in the doctor who has insight in this problematic, and there for motivating the client to seek help becomes easier. Further more we have established contact with other psychotherapists that do not hesitate to work with individuals dropping out of these extreme and violent milieus.

This kind of involvement stir up a lot of difficult feelings and our society's not equipped to handle or support these youths, mainly because of the detestable nature of these organisations. We can aid by consulting and guiding these relations and methods.

Activities

Many dropouts need to break their social solitude, almost everyone are in need of training their collaboration and social skills and to learn how to manage set-backs and trials as well as trusting others. To be able to solve a conflict in a non-violent way is of great weight. A good way of training these abilities are through our activities. We regularly arrange short activities, both individual and in small groups. They can contain of having a coffee or talking over a dinner, attending a movie, work-out, bowling, indoors climbing or fishing. Clients from different parts of Sweden participate during Fryshuset¹ annual conference topping current theme concerning children and youths out of social perspective.

Safe- housing

Dropouts sometimes means leaving the home district because of threatening from former comrades.

We can provide a safe house for a period of time. In addition to earlier mentioned measures we also assist with re-establishing in a new district, finding somewhere to live, support when looking for a practice, a job, or education and social contacts.

Parent support

We take on parents with children drawn to or active in the white power environment. The youngest are around the age of 12. The goal is to stop the youth's career in the white power milieu by mobilising the parental force, which sometimes means supporting a re-establishment of the parenthood through consultation. Personnel with background may also meet with the youth for a consequence description of a engagement in the white power environment.

Parents often need help to work through what the family has experienced. We can aid by contacting others in networking, like schools or authorities. We offer to assemble school, social services and the district police for a meeting concerning active young

¹ Fryshuset is a youth centre in Stockholm that provides social support for youths as well as leisure activities. Fryshuset is the head organisation for EXIT Sweden.

individuals if the parents wish to.

In a few cases whole families has been threatened by a organisation that wants to keep their member, or member to be, and in these scenarios we have assisted in creating routines and intermediating police with special knowledge of these matters.

Education and counseling for professionals

We also arrange education and courses for teachers, social services, police and others that work in the field. The education is on how the neo-nazi movement in Sweden is organized, how to reach and influence individuals in extremists' environments. We also offer counseling in casework.

Conclusions

Since EXIT believe that young people are more motivated by emotional and social factors - identity, solidarity, belonging -- instead of some intellectual commitment to political ideologies, we believe that attending to their social environments - providing support, therapy, and safety -- will enable many of them to leave the movement.