

## ‘NATIONAL CULTURISTS’ ORGANISATION A STUDENT RIGHTS BRIEFING

Student Rights’ commitment to challenging extremism on university campuses extends across the political spectrum. Recent research has revealed attempts by a new Far-Right organisation to recruit students.

<http://www.studentrights.org.uk>

### WHAT IS THE ‘NATIONAL CULTURISTS’?

Founded by a student at the University of Liverpool, the ‘[National Culturists](#)’ (NC) claims to be “Britain’s foremost culturist movement, making anti-egalitarian and socially conservative politics accessible for younger people for the first time”.<sup>1</sup>

Focusing on the ideas of an American called John Press, the group adheres to his ideology of ‘Culturism’, which focuses on the rejection of multiculturalism and the promotion of cultural preservation.<sup>2</sup>

The NC has been in contact with Press, and he has written for the group’s website,<sup>3</sup> as well as providing a video greeting for an inaugural event on 14 September 2012.<sup>4</sup>

Based in the North-West of England, the National Culturists was founded by Jack Buckby, a politics student at the University of Liverpool.

Buckby has met with the BNP’s Nick Griffin on a number of occasions and has called him his “favourite British politician of all time”.<sup>5</sup> He is described as the organisation’s chairman and appears to work alongside a small number of like-minded students.

Matthew Penny, announced as the organisation’s treasurer on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012, also wrote a [piece](#) for the NC website about ‘biased teaching’ in which he openly declares that he supports the BNP.<sup>6</sup>

Another member, Craig Cooke, is described as the group’s ‘North West Regional Organiser’ in an [article](#) dated 8 August 2012.<sup>7</sup> Cooke [claims](#) that he rethought his left-wing political beliefs “when the English Defence League arose from the pit of forced silence I never knew existed, standing tall against an evil I was told didn’t exist”.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Culturists, ‘Who are we?’ Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/about/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.culturism.us/>

<sup>3</sup> National Culturists, ‘Culturism 101 with Dr John Press’, 23 September 2012, available at

<http://nationalculturists.org/2012/09/23/culturism-101/> (Accessed 24/09/2012)

<sup>4</sup> National Culturists, ‘National Culturists hold successful inaugural event’, 14 September 2012, available at

<http://nationalculturists.org/2012/09/14/national-culturists-hold-successful-inaugural-event/> (Accessed 17/09/2012)

<sup>5</sup> Screenshots archived by Student Rights

<sup>6</sup> Penny, M, ‘A messed up system: My encounters with political bias in teaching’, 5 August 2012, Available at

<http://nationalculturists.org/2012/08/05/a-messed-up-system-my-encounters-with-political-bias-in-teaching/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>7</sup> National Culturists, ‘Craig Cooke appointed as North West regional organiser’, 8 August 2012, Available at

<http://nationalculturists.org/2012/08/08/craig-cooke-appointed-as-north-west-regional-organiser/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>8</sup> Cooke, C, ‘From Left to Right: The testimony of a former Liberal fascist’, 15 July 2012, Available at

<http://nationalculturists.org/2012/07/15/from-left-to-right-the-testimony-of-a-former-liberal-fascist/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

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He is also mentioned in Penny's [article](#), in which it is claimed that Cooke "left college due to political bias against his support of the English Defence League".<sup>9</sup>

Cooke likes Facebook pages including '[British Freedom](#)', '[English Defence League](#)', '[British Friends of Golden Dawn](#)' and '[Imperial Fascist League](#)' and has said that his favored voting system is a "dictatorship".<sup>10</sup> Most concerning is his like of a page called '[Against White Genocide](#)', a page which promotes racial hatred and includes Nazi imagery.

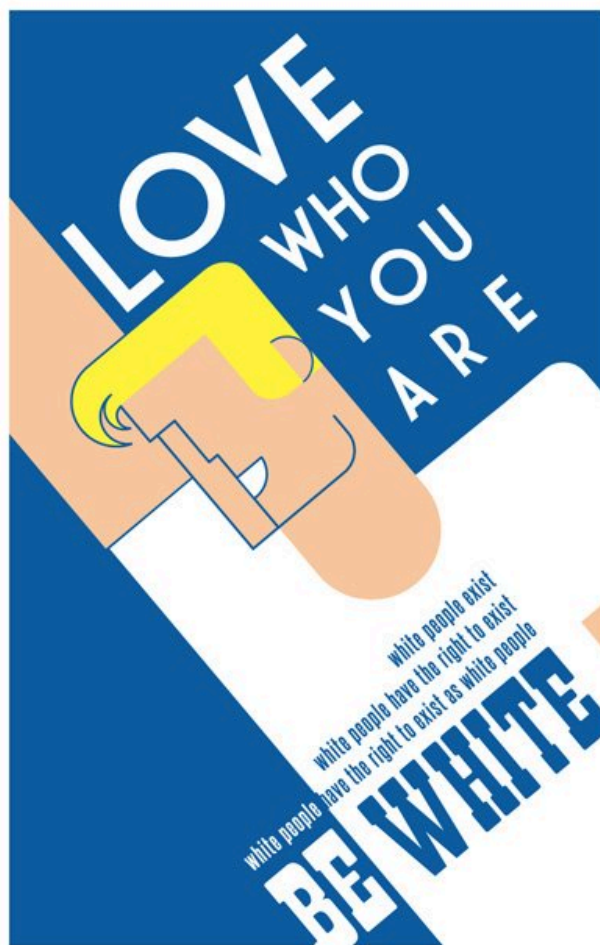
It also appears that the group has a presence outside of Liverpool, with a student and [BNP activist](#)<sup>11</sup> called Emmerson Collier at the University of Birmingham being [announced](#) as the group's Director of Communications on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012.<sup>12</sup>

Collier likes Facebook pages including 'British Resistance', as well as 'Northwest Front', a US white-supremacist movement which states that "a political organization of Aryan men and women who recognize that an independent and sovereign White nation in the Pacific Northwest is the only possibility for the survival of the White race"<sup>13</sup> in North America.

The NC is now actively promoting its organisation to students and [claims](#) that it is growing "exponentially".<sup>14</sup> Following a failed attempt by Liverpool Anti-Fascists to prevent it from operating on campus, the NC attended the university Fresher's Fayre and distributed leaflets to students.<sup>15</sup>

## WHAT DOES THE 'NATIONAL CULTURISTS' BELIEVE?

The organisation claims to stand for equality and diversity, as well as highlighting the preservation of national identity. Its [statement of ideology](#) says that "every single group of people...on this



<sup>9</sup> Penny, M, 'A messed up system: My encounters with political bias in teaching', 5 August 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/08/05/a-messed-up-system-my-encounters-with-political-bias-in-teaching/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>10</sup> Screenshots archived by Student Rights

<sup>11</sup> Collier, E, 'New activists keen to get involved in Salisbury', Available at <http://www.bnp.org.uk/news/new-activists-keen-get-involved-salisbury> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>12</sup> Collier, E, 'Emmerson Collier appointed Director of Communications', 10 August 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/08/10/emmerson-collier-appointed-director-of-communications/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>13</sup> Screenshots archived by Student Rights

<sup>14</sup> YouTube, 'Update 11<sup>th</sup> July – National Culturists moving forward', Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q46q8v1OH4> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>15</sup> National Culturists, "Antifa claims debunked: Successful leaflet drop in Liverpool", 24 September 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/09/24/antifa-claims-debunked-successful-leaflet-drop-in-liverpool/>

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planet deserves equality”<sup>16</sup> and that its aim is to promote “love and a desire to preserve culture”.<sup>17</sup>

The NC explicitly rejects claims of racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia and addresses these questions on its website, [stating](#) that it is “totally against racism and race hate”<sup>18</sup> and that its wish to preserve culture is “for the sake of global diversity and equality for all”.<sup>19</sup>

Using populist tactics including campaigning for lower tuition fees and cheaper alcohol the group positions itself as one which stands up for students’ rights to celebrate their culture and express their views freely on campus.<sup>20</sup>

Despite this rhetoric the group has [stated](#) on its Facebook page, “Islam is racist, Islam is sexist, Islam is homophobic – we must oppose these ideals in our country...to ensure that our culture does not become contaminated”.<sup>21</sup>

In an [article](#) on its website called ‘Dealing with the Problem of Islam in Britain’ it has also declared, “The National Culturists will campaign for the banning of mosques, halal meat and the covering of the face”.<sup>22</sup>

In this article the group also “propose the complete and immediate de-islamisation of Great Britain”,<sup>23</sup> and demand that “regular checks on Islamic families should be performed by social services”<sup>24</sup> and that “any Islamic institutions in Britain should immediately be shut down – and this includes Islamic courts and banks”.<sup>25</sup>

The organisation has also stated very specifically that “any Muslim found guilty of an honour killing should immediately be hung [sic]”,<sup>26</sup> alongside “Muslim paedophiles”.<sup>27</sup>

The NC’s [Facebook](#) page includes a picture linked to a story about Asian men found guilty of rape which contains the words “Muslim Peado [sic] Scum”,<sup>28</sup> as well as a more worrying [cartoon](#) image of a white man raising his arm with the phrase “White people have the right to exist as white people. Be White”.<sup>29</sup>

Whilst claiming to be pro-LGBT rights the NC founder also [claims](#) that gay marriage is “undemocratic”<sup>30</sup> and an “attack on democracy”.<sup>31</sup>

The group also opposes a perceived discrimination against British culture on the UK’s university campuses.

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<sup>16</sup> National Culturists, ‘Ideology’, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/ideology/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> National Culturists, ‘About’, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/about/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> See National Culturists leaflet, available at <http://nationalculturists.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/screen-shot-2012-08-30-at-16-53-08.png>

<sup>21</sup> Screenshots archived by Student Rights

<sup>22</sup> Buckby, J, ‘Dealing with the problem of Islam in Britain – What do the National Culturists propose?’, 26 June 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/06/26/dealing-with-the-problem-of-islam-in-britain-what-do-the-national-culturists-propose/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Screenshot archived by Student Rights

<sup>29</sup> Screenshot archived by Student Rights, Available at <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=400270606685323&set=a.400270600018657.86436.398509630194754&type=3&theater> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>30</sup> YouTube, ‘How gay marriage is undemocratic and infringing the rights of Britain and the religious’, Available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znNipsAJcaQ> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

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On Thursday, 23 August 2012, the NC released a short [document](#) called 'Modern Racism, Discrimination and Fascism – The University problem'.<sup>32</sup>

The document is highly critical of the National Union of Students (NUS) Black Students Campaign, which it claims is “demonizing the white community”,<sup>33</sup> and the lack of a 'British Society' at the University of Liverpool.

The NC report also takes issue with the NUS 'No-Platform' policy ban on societies representing the British National Party (BNP) and the British Freedom Party (BFP)<sup>34</sup>, and claims that the refusal of the university to provide a platform for mayoral candidates from the BNP<sup>35</sup> is an example of fascism on UK university campuses.

## WHAT IS ITS STRATEGY?

The NC's main aim appears to be making nationalist politics appealing to young people. It makes clear that it plans to do this by targeting students for recruitment.

The group's website includes an [article](#) in which this is made obvious, stating “the National Culturists hopes to start establishing a membership base within universities across the UK”<sup>36</sup> and asks “Are you a student? Are you going to university in September? Then get in touch”.<sup>37</sup>

It also [features](#) a video message from Jack Buckby in which he states that “what we want to do is make this a group that sets up university societies across the country”.<sup>38</sup>

As well as this, the NC's Facebook page includes a number of messages directed at students, including one [saying](#) “The National Culturists are looking for students to set up their own National Culturist University Society from September 2012!”<sup>39</sup>

Since then, the NC has changed tactics, deciding not to set up a society and instead concentrate on remaining a more flexible campus and community movement.

This involves leafleting and campaigning on the campus, as well as spreading the group's message via social media.

In an [article](#) written by Emmerson Collier on 7 September 2012 the reasoning behind the targeting of students was made clearer. Collier attacked the “filthy leftist deluge which is modern Western society” and



<sup>32</sup> National Culturists, 'Modern Racism, Discrimination and Fascism – The University Problem', August 2012, Available at [http://issuu.com/nationalculturists/docs/university\\_of\\_liverpool\\_a\\_hub\\_for\\_racists#download](http://issuu.com/nationalculturists/docs/university_of_liverpool_a_hub_for_racists#download) (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, pg 7

<sup>34</sup> HM Government, Prevent Strategy, 2011, pg 74

<sup>35</sup> 'University of Liverpool cancels mayoral debate', BBC, 18 April 2012

<sup>36</sup> National Culturists, 'National Culturists prepare for action in September', 2 July 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/07/02/national-culturists-prepare-for-action-in-september/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> National Culturists, 'Chairman's message – Welcome to the National Culturists', 30 June 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/06/30/chairmans-message-welcome-to-the-national-culturists-video/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>39</sup> Screenshot archived by Student Rights

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described the NC as “the only patriotic group around that seeks to wage a cultural war on University campuses to counter Social Marxist infiltration”.<sup>40</sup>

Further to this, in a [video](#) available on YouTube, Jack Buckby also openly admits that the organisation is designed to entice young people into nationalist politics, telling an assembly of Far-Right politicians in July 2012:

“I thought, if we could utilise a word like this [culturalism], an ideology which is so important to nationalism anyway, then there’s perhaps a better chance that we can get young people involved with movements like the British National Party”.<sup>41</sup>

He also tells attendees that “as long as we keep the ideology it doesn’t really matter what kind of word we use; it’s obviously all about spin”<sup>42</sup> and that students “will be able to use the knowledge they have earned to find a party that suits them, and I hope that will be the British National Party”.<sup>43</sup>

In a recent [article](#) for the right-wing blog ‘Civil Liberty’ Buckby also wrote that “it is my intention to bring the nationalist position to the forefront of student politics” and that this would be done by “turn[ing] universities back into institutions for education and not indoctrination”.<sup>44</sup>



On the 17 September 2012 the group began its first campaign, distributing leaflets on the campus of the University of Liverpool.<sup>45</sup> This was followed by a further day of activity on the 23 September, when the group claims it was “attacked by a gang of thugs from Liverpool antifascists” and threatened with gun violence.<sup>46</sup> However, despite these attentions, the NC claims to have used activists to distribute large numbers of leaflets on campus whilst antifascist groups were focusing on intimidating Buckby and Cooke.<sup>47</sup>

## LINKS TO FAR-RIGHT POLITICS

The group can also be linked to a number of extreme political figures, including those banned from operating on UK campuses by the NUS ‘No-Platform’ policy.

<sup>40</sup> National Culturists, ‘National Culturists praised at meeting of patriots in London’, 7 September 2012, available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/09/07/national-culturists-praised-at-meeting-of-patriots-in-london/> (Accessed 10/09/2012)

<sup>41</sup> YouTube, ‘Jack Buckby at Alliance of European National Movements Conference’, Available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8bEo6XYzTM> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Buckby, J, ‘Patriotic Liverpool University students get organised’, 6 September 2012, Available at <http://www.civilliberty.org.uk/newsdetail.php?newsid=1544> (Accessed 10/09/2012)

<sup>45</sup> National Culturists, ‘Culturist campaign kicks off in Liverpool’, 17 September 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/09/17/culturist-campaign-kicks-off-in-liverpool/> (Accessed 17/09/2012)

<sup>46</sup> National Culturists, ‘Antifa claims debunked: Successful leaflet drop in Liverpool’, 24 September 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/09/24/antifa-claims-debunked-successful-leaflet-drop-in-liverpool/>

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. See also Liverpool Antifascists, ‘Antifascists escort National Culturists of University of Liverpool campus, 24 September 2012, Available at <http://liveraf.wordpress.com/2012/09/24/antifascists-escort-national-culturists-off-university-of-liverpool-campus/>

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The connections between founder Jack Buckby and Nick Griffin, the leader of the British National Party, are barely disguised, with pictures of the two together found on the internet, and Facebook comments made by Buckby [describing](#) meetings between the two as “constructive”.<sup>48</sup>

In a [video](#) posted on the group’s Facebook page, Jack Buckby and Craig Cooke also discuss the support the NC have received from established Far-Right political parties, with Cooke stating that “we have received support from numerous political parties; not just the British National Party of course, but the British Freedom Party”.<sup>49</sup>

This support appears to extend to direct contact with the BNP, with one of the key-note speakers at the first NC event on 10 September 2012 described as “Richard Brodowski from the British National Party”.<sup>50</sup>

Members of the group also [attended](#) a meeting in Chester of the Alliance of European National Movements (AENM) in July 2012. The AENM is an organisation headed by Bruno Gollnisch, a [senior member](#) of the French [Front Nationale](#).

In 2007, Gollnisch was found [guilty](#) of “disputing a crime against humanity”<sup>51</sup> after suggesting that the number of those killed during the Holocaust had been exaggerated and that there was no consensus on the existence of gas chambers.

Founding members of the Alliance of European National Movements also include the [anti-Semitic](#) Hungarian party Jobbik, which has been [accused](#) of forming a paramilitary wing, Marine Le Pen’s Front Nationale and the Italian Far-Right party Fiamma Tricolore, which in 2008 [offered](#) money to couples who would name their children after the former Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

As well as this, the National Culturists has also used its Facebook page to defend the English Defence League (EDL), calling a female member of the organisation a “patriot”,<sup>52</sup> repeatedly defending the position that the organisation is not racist, as well as stating that supporters of the EDL should join the NC movement.<sup>53</sup>

Its website also [includes](#) the EDL description of itself as “a human rights organisation”<sup>54</sup> in an article asking “which party’s for you?”<sup>55</sup> This article also suggests the British Freedom Party to readers, which on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012 made EDL leaders Stephen Lennon and Kevin Carroll joint party vice chairmen, [marking](#) “the growing cooperation between British Freedom and the English Defence League”.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Screenshot archived by Student Rights

<sup>49</sup> YouTube, ‘Jack Buckby and Craig Cooke update’, Available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvEFi0fhYd8> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>50</sup> National Culturists, ‘National Culturists hold successful inaugural event’, 14 September 2012, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/2012/09/14/national-culturists-hold-successful-inaugural-event/> (Accessed 14/09/2012)

<sup>51</sup> ADL, ‘Identity, Tradition and Sovereignty: A Who’s Who’, Available at [http://www.adl.org/NR/exeres/842CF081-8DC3-484C-A148-095450E281E1\\_8C8C250F-DA79-405F-B716-D4409CAB5396.frameless.htm](http://www.adl.org/NR/exeres/842CF081-8DC3-484C-A148-095450E281E1_8C8C250F-DA79-405F-B716-D4409CAB5396.frameless.htm) (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>52</sup> Screenshot archived by Student Rights

<sup>53</sup> Screenshot archived by Student Rights

<sup>54</sup> National Culturists, ‘Which party’s for you?’, Available at <http://nationalculturists.org/which-partys-for-you/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> British Freedom Party, ‘Stephen Lennon and Kevin Carroll join British Freedom!’, 5 May 2012, Available at <http://britishfreedom.org/tommy-robinson-joins-british-freedom/> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

## CONCLUSION

Following the BNP's ill-fated 'BNP Crusaders' campaign, which attempted to draw more young people into Far-Right politics in 2010 and its subsequent rebranding as 'Resistance',<sup>57</sup> it seems as if another attempt is being made by activists to include more young people in nationalist politics.

The fact that this group does not openly affiliate with the BNP, and its admission that it aims to rebrand nationalist ideology in an attempt to draw young people closer to the party makes this organisation more worrying, as it represents an evolution in strategy.

This is compounded by the overt targeting of university campuses, a tactic so far neglected by the Far-Right due to a lack of interest and the swiftness of student unions in banning Far-Right groups. In 2001, it was reported that far-right activists had infiltrated campuses at Leeds, Leicester, Derby and Nottingham using fronts such as the Patriotic Students' Association, Students for Britain and the National Student Front.<sup>58</sup> They set up a student society called 'The Free Speech Society' at Leeds University which challenged the 'No Platform Policy', but appear to be no longer present at these universities.

Whilst this group is unlikely to be especially successful in recruiting students, it will, in our assessment, fuel a negative and confrontational atmosphere on university campuses. The intimidation from antifascist groups that the National Culturist members have complained of is only the first symptom of this. More concerning is the fact that Buckby and Cooke were accompanied by a 'minder' wearing an 'infidel' badge when campaigning on campus on the 23 September 2012.<sup>59</sup>

In much the same way that universities and students would not, and should not tolerate extreme Islamist societies, the National Culturists should be rejected wherever democratically possible.



<sup>57</sup> British National Party, 'British National Party's Youth Section announces name change', Available at <http://www.bnp.org.uk/news/british-national-party%E2%80%99s-youth-section-announces-name-change-0> (Accessed 23/08/2012)

<sup>58</sup> Times Higher Education, 'Far Right Gains a Hold on Campus', 6<sup>th</sup> April 2001

<sup>59</sup> See Liverpool Antifascists photograph, available at <http://liveraf.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/13484088275561.jpg>

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## NOTES:

[Jack Buckby](#) (was 19 in July, unable to find if he has had a birthday since), a student at the University of Liverpool is the Chairman of the organisation. Originally from Skelmersdale, Buckby is studying politics. His views can be found on his [YouTube](#) Channel and on a [blog](#) called 'What you always thought' where he details his support for the BNP. His Facebook [likes](#) include numerous BNP and EDL-linked pages.

[Craig Cooke](#) (20), doesn't appear to be a current student and attended Gateacre Community Comprehensive School in Liverpool until 2008 which suggests he is from the area. He likes Facebook pages including '[British Freedom](#)', '[English Defence League](#)', '[British Friends of Golden Dawn](#)' and '[Imperial Fascist League](#)'. Most concerning is his like of a page called '[Against White Genocide](#)', a page which promotes racial hatred and includes Nazi imagery.

The group's website can be found at <http://nationalculturists.org/> and their Facebook and Twitter pages are:

<https://www.facebook.com/nationalculturists>

<https://twitter.com/ntnlculturists>