

shooter did not identify as anti-fascist, the incident has been committed with the resistance to the anti-right, leading to assertions that it is anti-fascists who are inciting violence. [Evidence](#), however, suggests that only 2% of political violence originates on the left. In contrast, 74% of violent acts are committed by individuals espousing reactionary right-wing politics. [Documenting Hate](#) shows that, since March 2017, at least [1,400 hate crimes](#) have taken place in the United States, with at least 20% of these carried out in Donald Trump's name. Regardless, the [National Rifle Association](#) just released an ad portraying the anti-Trump resistance as a violent threat in need of neutralization by the police and gun-toting citizens. Furthermore, antifa has recently been designated a terrorist organization by the [New Jersey Office of Homeland Security](#).

It is a mistake to focus solely on masked anti-fascists when assessing these new conflicts. Alt-right rallies and speakers are challenged by a much broader coalition of progressive organizations and concerned individuals, including but certainly not limited to those who would identify primarily as antifa. Protests have brought together labor, immigrant, student, LGBTQ, and racial justice organizations, socialist groups, and a broad array of seasoned activists and people recently politicized by Trump's election. Groups like [Redneck Revolt](#) work to recruit poor and working class whites away from far right reactionary politics through dialogue, community defense, and survival assistance. **Finally, nonprofit organizations like the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), [Political Research Associates](#), and the [National Lawyers Guild](#) have important roles to play in research, analysis, and legal support for anti-fascist movements.**

### Role of Law Enforcement

For decades, protesters taking to the streets to confront corporate greed, government malfeasance, imperialist wars, environmental destruction, and the oppression of marginalized groups have been met with [police violence and overreaction](#). Crowd control techniques like [kettling](#) and the deployment of weapons such as tear gas, rubber bullets, batons, [water cannons](#), and [long range acoustic devices \(LRAD\)](#) have made protesters understandably wary of police. As a result, protests often became clashes between demonstrators asserting their right to dissent, and the punitive reactions of law enforcement.

Protest dynamics change when conflict arises between far-right groups and the counter-protesters who challenge them, leaving the police to adopt the role of ostensibly neutral mediators. However, reliance on police forces to curb the rise of fascist groups and hateful public

