

PRESS KIT

WHAT IS #ANDISPOKEOUT?

#andispokeout is a non-violent protest against racial violence and white supremacy. It has

no owner and no sender, and nobody profits from it. **#andispokeout** is a tool at the hands of the people and organizations who wish to use it. Its sole objective is to serve as a reminder of what happens when we fail to act when society finds itself at a tipping point, and to make it possible to raise your voice and protest.

BACKGROUND

This initiative started in July 2017 in Sweden. The violently extremist and openly Nazi Swedish organization National Resistance Movement was permitted to attend and speak at Sweden's largest democratic event, Almedalen, in the name of freedom of expression. As a direct consequence, many organizations chose not to attend – out of principle, but also out of legitimate fear for their own safety. Equality foundation Make Equal couldn't stand to watch democratic voices be silenced in the name of freedom of expression, and decided to arrange a protest.

Central to the protest was to remind Swedish politicians of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination, ratified by the Swedish parliament in 1971 but never brought into legislation. A list of all 88 nations who have signed and ratified the convention can be found [here](#).

This was the birth of **#AndISpokeOut**, or in the original Swedish, **#ochjagprotesterade**, which has since been used and reused by a number of organizations and individuals across Sweden to advocate social justice and equality, and to resist white nationalism.

Sweden is a country of nine million inhabitants. In the first week of the protest, the hashtag was shared more than a 1,500 times, the reach in social and traditional media combined exceeded 31 million, and local installations have to date been made in at least 13 Swedish cities.

RESOURCES

Creative Commons photo: <http://photagram.org/media/BWV12Fhl4lp> #ccby
#creativecommons Photographer: Joakim Berndes

Film: (<https://i.imgur.com/INZAdmx.jpg>).

CONTACTS

This is a project without a sender. To hear the original thoughts behind the installation, please contact Equality Foundation Make Equal at info@makeequal.se