

Laser tattoo removal helps reformed former White Supremacist and ex-con shed Nazi tattoos

Here at the [Connecticut Skin Institute](#) in Stamford, Connecticut we celebrate diversity and believe that one of the things that makes America great is the wonderful melting pot we live in. It is hard to believe that in this day and age that there are still hate groups out there that discriminate against others solely because of their race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. Because the holidays are a great time for self-reflection, we felt compelled to share the heartwarming story of a patient we recently saw and how lasers are helping him complete his life transformation.

Dominic (not his real name) is a young man who grew up in poverty in urban Connecticut. He has spent the majority of his youth in and out of jail. As is the case with most inmates, Dominic was drawn to affiliate himself with a prison gang, in his case a white supremacist group. Over time, Dominic not only rose in the ranks of this misguided group but he covered his body with racist tattoos.

A pivotal point in Dominic's life came about when he was transferred to a federal security prison and forced to share a cell with a Hispanic man. At first, they were uneasy roommates but over time that hostile relationship turned lukewarm and soon enough the two cellmates became best of friends. It was at this point that Dominic began to question the racist values that he harbored for the past ten years. Unexpectedly, after the friendship blossomed, one of Dominic's gang members was transferred to his federal prison and immediately wanted to become roommates with Dominic. At this point, Dominic's had an epiphany and decided to leave his gang and reform himself. He became more involved with counselors in the prison and worked on shedding his racist past. Dominic interacted with prisoners of all races, and even after his release continued rehabilitating himself by attending support groups. He turned his life around and aspired to be a role model for his wife and children.

Unfortunately, while Dominic has reformed himself from the inside, his exterior still bore tattoos that proclaimed hate all over his body. While he attempted to cover as much of his body as possible, he still had exposed tattoos on his hands bearing some of the most odious symbols known to mankind. It was no surprise that with these tattoos Dominic was unable to keep an honest job. Dominic confided his frustration of his inability to provide for his family with honest work to his social worker who reached out to us. Fortunately, laser tattoo removal invented by my mentors at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School's Wellman Center for Photomedicine more than a decade ago, enables laser surgeons to remove unwanted tattoos with a series of treatments. Dominic's treatments are being done with a state of the art laser made by [Lutronic](#). While helping patients with lasers is gratifying to do, it is extra special when it helps a person get a second chance in life.