

Stand Up To Racism Trade Union Network

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Stand Up To Racism Trade Union Bulletin

Mass action halted the racist riots

We must build the anti racist, anti fascist movement and be prepared to do it again

Trade unionists have a critical role to play in building a strong and effective anti racist and anti fascist movement. We must counter the extremely urgent threat posed by a growing far right movement that is fuelled by the normalisation of racism. We must expose the fascists operating to build this movement and strengthen their toxic organisation in society by creating a shockwave on our streets.

Fascist Tommy Robinson mobilised some 15,000 to 20,000 on 27 July, and Stand Up To Racism with the backing of trade unions and others started a process by turning out 5,000 to oppose the far right.

This was just the beginning. Days after Robinson's demonstration we saw the shockwave across Britain as racist pogroms and riots inflicted racist violence in our communities, burning hotels housing refugees and attacking black people and migrants.

It was the swift and mass response by anti racists, led by Stand Up To Racism that managed to turn the tide in August, with inspiring mass mobilisations that outnumbered the racists and reclaimed our streets. But the threat is far from over, and we



cannot be complacent.

Fascist Robinson is mobilising even bigger numbers on 26 October—the trade union movement is critical to ensuring that the anti racist movement pulls out all the stops, lays on transport, and mass publicises the Stand Up To Racism counter mobilisation. It is a huge task and a big test, but we can outnumber and demoralise them.

The backdrop to a rising far right street movement is a dangerous one. Racist Reform UK party broke through in the general election and is growing at a worrying pace.

The foothold gained by its vile scapegoating and divisive politics was ushered in by years of nasty Tory racism. Policy after policy removing human rights for refugees, and a barrage of racist rhetoric demonising refugees, migrants and Muslims has opened the door for the racist and far right to benefit.

Calls to stop the boats must be countered with the demand for safe and legal routes to be implemented immediately. Working class people should not have to pay for the crisis caused by the rich—and we must reject the blame game of shifting the



















focus onto migrants and refugees who | to offer the real prospect of Trump did not cause and are not benefiting from the crisis. Reform UK, like the Tories, are another party representing the interests of the rich—and they are using racism to divide and distract us.

Fascists like Robinson and the far right in Britain have also been encouraged and bolstered by the gains of fascists and the far right internationally. Alarm continues to radiate from Europe - with the far right and fascist AfD in Germany taking 29 percent in the Brandenburg election.

This warning following the 33 percent they gained in Thuringia, coming first, and 31 percent in Saxony, followed by the fascist victory in the Austrian election. This latest horror follows a shockwave at the European elections, where in parts of Germany, in France, Italy and Austria, fascists gained around 30 percent of the vote.

While we rightly celebrated the failure of fascist Le Pen's Rassemblement Nationale (RN) to win the French election, the fascists consolidated huge gains going from 89 seats to 143. November continues back in the White House. This paints a frightening picture where fascists and the far right - who push a deeply racist, Islamophobic and antisemitic narrative - are managing to grow off the back of years of crisis coupled with racist borders policies and intensified Islamophobia.

But what the anti racist and anti fascist movement has shown this summer in Britain, as well as on the streets of Paris or Essen or Vienna this year, is that we can and must build a mass movement on the streets to stop the far right.

Far from sighing a sigh of relief and imagining that the threat is gone, instead we must take this lesson and use it to build broader in every area, to draw more and more of the anti racist majority into active organisation, and build deeper, into our unions and workplaces to establish a strong bulwark of unity and anti racism.

We call on all trade unionists and workers to join Stand Up To Racism, sign up to the trade union network to stop the far right, and get involved in supporting your local group.

Daniel Kebede, NEU General Secretary:

"Solidarity to Stand up to Racism for organising rallies and protests as a non-violent counter to the hatred that manifested on our streets this summer.

"Our children have the right to grow up without fear. It is time to stand together across our movement to stand up for human rights, social justice and using education to counter racism."

Sharon Graham, Unite the Union **General Secretary:**

"I call on all trade unionists to 'Stand up to Racism'. Without unity, the working class cannot make change. Division and blame are the bosses game."

Matt Wrack, Fire Brigades Union general secretary:

"The trade union movement has a proud history of mobilising against the farright. The FBU supports

Stand Up to Racism in campaigning against the rise in racist, Islamophobic violence and intimidation. Now, as ever, we must stand for the unity of all workers against a racist divide and rule agenda."

Maryam Eslamdoust, TSSA **General Secretary:**

"At a time when fascists are on the march, and some politicians prefer to scapegoat than offer real solutions, the work of Stand Up to Racism, organising against racism in our communities and the demonisation of already marginalised people, is vital."

Dr Patrick Roach, NASUWT **General Secretary:**

"Wherever and whenever racism exists, our trade union movement is ready to act and mobilise against the forces of racism and far right extremism. Building economic fairness, justice

and community cohesion is the best response to those who want to stoke fear and division in our communities. We will not let them win."

Mick Lynch, RMT General **Secretary:**

"The trade union movement cannot be complacent in combatting racism and fascism. It is vital we mobilise to confront the fascist threat wherever it appears and support the important work of Stand Up to Racism."

Mick Whelan, Aslef General Secretary:

"We have seen the regressive move to the right in the US and across Europe in the post Brexit and Covid world. It is our duty to to those who fought and gave lives against fascism to protect existing and future generations to deliver the world and communities we want and people deserve."

Sarah Woolley, BFAWU General Secretary:

"Racist and fascist behaviour stands in stark contrast to the values of solidarity, equality, and justice that our union movement holds dear. We stand in full support of migrants and refugees, who have the right to live in peace and dignity. The BFAWU recognises the *immense contributions* that migrants and refugees make to our industry, society and the labour movement and we are committed as a movement to defending their rights and promoting an inclusive and diverse community where everyone is respected and valued."

Fran Heathcote, PCS General Secretary:

"PCS is proud to support the work of Stand Up To Racism and it's vital that the whole trade union movement gets behind the fight against racism and fascism."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

On 26 October we need to see a turnout by trade unions the likes of which we haven't seen in a long time-that means passing motions in your branch, signing up work and union colleagues to come to London with your banner and join hundreds from your locality on the day.

Stewarding with the support of trade unions will be in place, and by coming out in mass numbers we are able to safely oppose the threat by the far right and outnumber, demoralise and break the organisation by the fascists.

From Cable Street to the Nazi National Front in the 1970s, to the Nazi BNP in the 1990s, to the **English Defence League in the** 2000s, to the defeat of fascist Tommy Robinson and his football lads movement in 2019—the trade union movement in Britain stands in a strong tradition of anti fascism.

We have a job to do once again and what we do matters. While the far right is looking to ride off its momentum and grow, it is also very weak and can be broken. All out for 26 October!

- Pass the model motion to send a delegation and fill transport to the 26 October demonstration to stop fascist Tommy Robinson, and affiliate your branch/region/executive to Stand Up To Racism
- Get linked up with your local **Stand Up To Racism group in** your area and see what trade unionists can do to support action
- Sign up to the Stand Up To Racism trade union network to stop the far right
- Register and bring a delegation to the 16 November international summit against racism and the far right

- Join Stand Up To Racism, and sign up to the national mailing list and follow our social media for how to get involved
- Register and bring a delegation to the 8 February **SUTR & TUC trade union** conference

For more details for all of these scan the OR code

