



# Ten things you need to know about the fascist Tommy Robinson

**T**ommy Robinson, real name Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, is a fascist who plays a key role in trying to build racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism.

It was no accident that the wave of far right attempts in the summer of 2024 to hunt down refugees and black people, tear apart mosques and incinerate refugees came soon after his 27 July march in London. Many of those convicted after the far right assaults have previously attended events headed by Robinson.

From his £400 a night luxury hotels in Spain and Cyprus, Robinson sent out advice to his supporters rampaging on the streets.

Robinson is the British version of the would-be dictators who pollute other countries. He wants to see fascists advance as they have done in Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Austria and elsewhere.

He stands in the tradition of those who would wipe out all democratic rights, take away our freedoms, roll back gains won against sexism and racism and eliminate trade unions. The people he admires across the world want to savage abortion rights and crush LGBT+ freedoms.

Fascism isn't like other political beliefs. It wants to destroy its enemies completely. If Robinson won power he



Robinson with some of his EDL mates

would outlaw protests, strikers' picket lines, Palestine solidarity marches and anything that opposed him. We can and must stop him.

## Robinson has a Nazi past

**1** Robinson was a member of the Nazi British National Party (BNP) from 2004-5. The BNP emerged out of the fascist National Front.

At its height, it had two members of the European Parliament and over 50 councillors. Robinson was photographed at a BNP meeting alongside Holocaust denier Richard Edmonds.

The Nazi terror group Combat 18 was

the BNP's security team. It carried out attacks on students, Jews and the left.

The BNP's headquarters was based in Welling, close to the spot where Stephen Lawrence was murdered. Three other racist murders occurred in the area while the HQ was based there.

## Robinson and the English Defence League

**2** Robinson co-founded the violent, racist, English Defence League (EDL). Although it was launched in 2009 as a "non-political" organisation, it quickly turned to a violent campaign targeting trade union demos, anti-racist and socialist meetings and anti-cuts

protesters—as well as Muslims.

The EDL attempted to march in areas where many Muslims live. But Unite Against Fascism and other anti-racists beat them back. Relentless campaigning by anti-fascists, trade unions and other groups led to the EDL's collapse.

### Robinson inspired mass murderer Anders Breivik

**3** The fascist mass murderer Anders Breivik looked to the EDL as “an example”. Breivik killed 77 people on 22 July 2011 in Oslo and at a summer camp of the Norwegian Labour Party's youth wing. Robinson praised Breivik's blogs as “full of facts”. Breivik mentioned the EDL over 80 times in the manifesto he wrote about his actions.

### Robinson is keen to forge links with Farage

**4** Robinson's thuggish street army links up with Nigel Farage's Reform UK. On Robinson's 27 July march, he asked his supporters who had voted for Reform UK. Almost all raised their hands.

Farage and Robinson sometimes clash, but they build one another. Robinson also has a long friendship with the “king of toxic masculinity” Andrew Tate. Robinson called the rapist and sex-trafficker Tate a “voice against the Matrix”.

### Robinson is a vicious Islamophobe

**5** Robinson once described Muslim babies as “time bombs”. He threatened that “The Islamic community will feel the full force of the EDL if we see any of our British citizens killed, maimed, or hurt on British soil ever again.”

### Robinson is a violent thug with a criminal record

**6** Robinson was convicted in April 2005 for assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He had assaulted an off-duty woman police officer who had intervened to stop a domestic confrontation between him and his partner.

In 2010 Robinson issued threats to students protesting over tuition fees. In November 2013 he was convicted of mortgage fraud and sentenced in 2014 to 18 months imprisonment. In 2017 he



was filmed assaulting a man at a horse race event at Ascot.

### Robinson inspires violence

**7** Following a violent street protest by his supporters in 2018, a Gurdwara (Sikh temple) and a Mosque were firebombed.

His supporters assaulted trade unionists following a “free Tommy” protest in London in July 2018.

In 2010, two murderers of a vulnerable Lincoln man had links to the EDL. Darren Osborne, who attacked Finsbury Park mosque, said Robinson had influenced him.

### Who funds Robinson?

**8** Robinson has always had rich backers. Alan Lake (real name Alan Ayling) is a City banker who helped to fund the EDL with his wealthy friends.

Robinson then took cash a right-wing US group, the Middle East Forum. The founder of the far right InfoWars website, Alex Jones, also donated £20,000 to Robinson.

More recently Robinson was funded by multi-millionaire and Donald Trump ally, Patrick Michael Byrne. In August 2024, Byrne lied on Twitter that “2.5 percent of the British population (Muslim men) commits 90 percent of rapes.”

Another of Robinson's backers is a far right Danish politician Morten Messerschmidt who is close friends with Reform UK leader Nigel Farage.

Messerschmidt has a long history of racism and Islamophobic vitriol.

Robinson also stashes away his money through accountancy manoeuvres. The Sunday Times newspaper reported recently that Robinson and

his associates have created a web of secretive companies.

These have made profits of more than £1.6 million—without paying tax—before filing for bankruptcy.

He also fleeces his own supporters who hand him money for his boozing and snorting.

### Robinson doesn't care about the victims of grooming gangs

**9** A “senior member” of the EDL, Leigh McMillan, was jailed in February 2018 for sexually abusing a schoolgirl.

Richard Price, the ex EDL Midlands leader, admitted four counts of making indecent images of children in 2011. The EDL launched a campaign to free him!

Robinson never commented on their cases or condemned their actions, even as he claimed to be exposing “Muslim grooming gangs”.

### We can beat Robinson

**10** We can beat Robinson. In August 2024 the magnificent mobilisations by anti-racists broke the momentum of the far right assaults and hurled them back.

Anti-fascist campaigning smashed the NF, BNP, EDL and other vile racist forces. But we can't be complacent. The fascists are growing again in an even more powerful way from the chaos and bitterness in society.

It's up to everyone who hates fascism and racism to be an active part of defeating Robinson and his racist friends.

### Get in touch

Stand Up To Racism has groups around Britain. To become involved with our campaigns please get in touch, and follow us on social media:

- standuptoracism.org.uk
- standuptoracismuk
- Stand Up To Racism
- @AntiRacismDay



### Join us today

Stand Up to Racism is campaigning against the far right up and down the country. Scan this QR code or go to: [tinyurl.com/JoinSUTR](https://tinyurl.com/JoinSUTR)

