

Stand together after the Parsons Green attack

The next Football Lads Alliance (FLA) 'march against extremism' is being held on Saturday 7 October.

So why after the terror attacks at Parsons Green and elsewhere should anybody be worried about football supporters mobilising against extremism?

Stand Up To Racism and many football supporters do have worries about the 7 October march.

While we don't believe that the majority of those who plan to attend the march have racist ideas – let alone support the far right – we do believe that some of those involved are trying to exploit the outrage people feel about the terror attacks to further their own political agenda. They want to stir up division, racism and Islamophobia.

March

The FLA mobilised around 6,000 people on a march through central London on Saturday 24 June following the London Bridge attack.

But some at the centre of the protest, far from opposing extremism, are supporters of the far right and spread racist and Islamophobic ideas.

So far the FLA simply has not explained how this was allowed to happen.

Toni Bugle spoke on 24 June. She was a candidate for the far right English Democrats (an organisation full of former BNP members) and heads up "Mothers Against Radical Islam and Sharia".

She welcomes the support of the fascist far right for her campaigns. In an online video quoted by the *Daily Mirror* she said "I don't care if you're Britain First, English Defence League... National Front".

Manchester

Another speaker on the 24 June march was Mohan Singh. Singh spoke on a recent demo in Manchester with Tommy Robinson, former leader of the English Defence League. Robinson's record of racism and Islamophobia is notorious.

On the demo a pig's head was thrown at anti-racists who had gathered to oppose Robinson.

The FLA has stated that there will be no racism, violence or chanting on 7 October. The problem is that anybody who has gone onto the FLA facebook page in recent days can see dozens of posts that attack Muslims and even some posts calling for civil war!

The 7 October demo will see some people clearly using it to push their own agenda.

Instead of answering genuine questions about the involvement of the likes of Toni Bugle and the more extreme rants on the FLA facebook page, the FLA's leading figure John Meighan has lashed out at anti-racists for raising the issues.

Unity

Stand Up To Racism has been at the heart of trying to create a united response to the terror attacks across Britain, organising dozens of events to offer solidarity to the victims and to call for unity.

The latest event was organised at Parsons Green involving tube workers who had dealt with the attack and local Muslim and Christian leaders.

The terror attacks, whether by supporters of ISIS or by right wing extremists like the murder of Labour MP Jo Cox, are all about dividing us.

But some of those involved with the FLA are keen to stir up this kind of division. They want to see all Muslims blamed for the attacks.

The FLA needs to come out now and state clearly that it will have no truck with any individual who tries to stir up racism and Islamophobia, whether at FLA events or online.

