

FOOTBALL FOR ALL

- Unity Not Division



The next Football Lads Alliance (FLA) protest is in London on 7 October.

The FLA say that they oppose all forms of extremist attacks. So why has Stand Up To Racism concerns over the demo?

We know many who plan to attend the demo are not racists, nor do we think most want anything to do with the far right.

But some of those who were on the FLA's June demonstration in London, far from being against 'extremism', are racist and Islamophobic. This is something that the FLA and anyone on the FLA demonstration must take seriously.

Toni Bugle, a former fascist candidate for the English Democrats (ex Nazi BNP) spoke on the June march. Bugle also heads up "Mothers Against Radical Islam and Sharia".

She welcomes support from the far right. In an online video she said, "I don't care if you're Britain First, English Defence League...National Front."

Another speaker in June was Mohan Singh, who has spoken alongside former EDL leader Tommy Robinson and the far-right Anne Marie Waters.

Ex EDL and Combat 18 thugs were on the march.

The FLA say there will be no racism and no violence in October. But what do some others, prominent on the FLA Facebook think about that?

For example, Frank Portinari is often on the FLA Facebook. Portinari, a convicted gun-runner, led the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) group in London.

The UDA were paramilitaries that carried out murders and were a proscribed terrorist group. Portinari led violent protests at Irish republican marches. In 1993 he was convicted in an arms smuggling operation. After prison, Portinari fell out with his former allies in Combat 18. He sided with Charlie Sergeant who was exposed in as a police informer.

John Meighan, the leading figure in the FLA, says, the FLA will not stand for racism; good: So let's see various figures kicked off the FLA social media.



Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) organised solidarity events in towns and cities across Britain following the terror attacks. We argued that **communities needed to stand in unity and not let the attacks divide us.**

We also organised events after the attack on Finsbury Park Mosque.

If the FLA wanted to be seen to be serious about opposing racism, far right, racist and fascist figures would be told they were not welcome at FLA events. Moreover, the FLA would ensure that Muslims aren't presented as the "enemy within", by many FLA supporters.

We have come a long way as fans over the years - campaigns like Show Racism The Red Card are a great example of this.

SUTR will take a positive anti-racist message to the FLA demo in October. If the FLA are straight up and racism isn't tolerated on the demo, there should not be a problem for the FLA with anti-racists being in London.

The FLA must recognise that the far right will try to use the October demo to recruit from. If the FLA are against all extremism they must stand against those who have links with/ are members of far right groups.