

**Local Government & devolved assembly elections • Thursday 7 May**



**> STOP REFORM**

Reform UK offers nothing but racism and scapegoating for ordinary people

# Use your vote to stop Reform

**FARAGE MIGHT CLAIM** he and Reform are “on the side of working people” and “could be good friends” with the trade unions but he and his fellow MPs voted against the government’s Employment Rights Act, which includes provisions to ban zero-hour contracts and the firing and re-hiring of workers.

The Reform leader has claimed to support striking bin workers in Birmingham and steel workers threatened with job losses in Scunthorpe. Deputy Reform leader and multimillionaire Richard Tice even wore a steelworkers’ union badge in the House of Commons. But it’s lies, aimed at trying to win over union members disappointed with the Labour government.

Farage revealed his true aims when he hailed the Liz Truss government’s Budget in 2022 and its tax cuts for the rich as “the best Conservative Budget since 1986” – in the heyday of Margaret Thatcher and her attacks on the unions.

The Reform leader is as devoted to Donald Trump as he is to the legacy of Thatcher. He called for Britain to join the US and Israel’s war on Iran the moment it started, insisting: “We should do all we can to support the operation.” Farage then swung behind demands to control the price of petrol and toned down his warmongering, but Reform UK chief advisor on global affairs Alan Mendoza



**Reform = Tories Mark 2  
but more anti-union  
more anti-working class  
more anti-welfare & more racist**

admitted: “He’d have said yes on day one when America asked [to use Britain’s military bases].”

Farage spends more time in the US staying at Trump-owned hotels and the president’s Mar-a-Lago resort than he does in his Clacton constituency.

He backed Trump for President, appearing at multiple Trump ‘Make America Great Again’ (MAGA) rallies, and he and Tice pledged to slash spending by the councils Reform now controls by copying Trump’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

If Farage were to win a general election we could expect not just a DOGE purge of spending on welfare, health and education, and Trump-style tax cuts for the rich, but Reform UK’s own version of Trump’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) thugs to launch the violent round up and deportation of migrant workers which has led to the cold-blooded murder of people in the US.

The unions will be in Farage’s sights from the start. Former Tory MP Danny Kruger, who defected to Reform last September, has

threatened “a programme of change around civil service unions” and warned: “It will not be acceptable for unions to frustrate what ministers are doing.”

Matthew Goodwin, the party’s failed candidate in the Gorton & Denton byelection in February, has warned: “We’ll place public sector trade unions under review.”

Look at who else would form a Reform government. Robert Jenrick, who quit the Tories in January after failing to become party leader, is now ‘shadow chancellor’. Jenrick backed every

anti-welfare, anti-worker, anti-union policy of the May, Johnson, Truss and Sunak governments.

Ex-Tory home secretary Suella Braverman, another January recruit, would be responsible for education, skills and equalities and has already said she would scrap the Equality Act.

No trade unionist should vote for this lot.



**STAND UP TO RACISM**

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# Who funds Farage and Reform UK?

REFORM UK is a thoroughly pro-business, anti-union party backed by tax exile million and billionaires.

Its biggest donor is aviation, military technology and crypto investor Christopher Harborne, who lives in Thailand. Harborne donated £9 million to Reform late last year to fund the party's campaign in the May 2026 elections, the largest single political donation in British history.

A former financial backer of Boris Johnson, Harborne also covered all Farage's costs (at least £6 million) at the 2019 general election, when Farage led what was then the Brexit Party.

Farage has claimed Harborne "wants nothing" in return for his money but has pledged to remove capital gains tax from crypto investments if elected. Crypto investments are the basis of Harborne's obscene wealth but depend on being exchangeable with everyday currencies supported by central banks to have any real value.

In fact, a senior Tory described Harborne as "very demanding", telling the Observer newspaper: "He thought he could lead the party in a direction he couldn't."



**Money Men: Christopher Harborne, Nick Candy, Zia Yusuf and Bassim Haidar**

Harborne was exposed in the Panama Papers' leak of information on tax havens as having companies registered in the British Virgin Islands, Hong Kong and the US.

Prior to Harborne, Reform deputy leader and multimillionaire property owner Richard Tice was the party's biggest donor, gifting Farage £1.3 million.

It was reported by The Sunday Times in March that Tice, MP for Boston and Skegness, avoided almost £600,000 in corporation tax despite making multimillion-pound profits by channelling funds through shell companies

and a trust registered in the tax haven of Jersey.

Tice spends half his time in Dubai, or at least he did before the US and Israel's war on Iran, as his partner Isabel Oakeshott moved there in early 2025 blaming the Labour government's imposition of VAT on private school fees.

Oakeshott is a right-wing journalist, Reform member and ghost writer for Belize-based billionaire Lord Michael Ashcroft, who is a former Tory Party donor, treasurer and deputy chair.

Nick Candy, Reform UK treasurer and another billionaire property developer, stumped up £500,000 late last year after

previously donating to the Tories.

Zia Yusuf – who for a time chaired Reform UK before resigning abruptly over the racist remarks of party MP Sarah Pochin, then rejoined and is now 'shadow home secretary' – is also a multimillionaire donor to Farage's party.

A former Goldman Sachs banker, Yusuf made his fortune from a luxury concierge app for the ultra-wealthy which he sold for £230 million in 2023.

Yusuf, whose parents came from Sri Lanka in the 1980s, would be in charge of deporting the 650,000 people Reform claims should not be in Britain if Farage

won a general election.

Other financial backers include telecoms tycoon Bassim Haidar who donated £225,000; Viscountess Rothermere, whose family own the Daily Mail (£50,000); baroness's daughter Fiona Cottrell (£750,000); investor Oliver Evans (£240,000); and investment fund founder William Alan McIntosh (£100,000).

Reform would be nowhere without these multimillionaire backers, most of whom barely pay tax here.

Farage is no pauper himself. He is a millionaire owner of at least three properties – four if you count his Clacton constituency address bought in the name of his partner.

The Reform leader was paid more than £1.5 million on top of his £94,000 MP's salary between July 2024 and December 2025, including £626,000 for presenting on GB News and £415,000 as ambassador for a gold bullion firm.

In January he attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, hosted by Iranian-born billionaire Sasan Ghandehari, despite having previously dismissed the forum as an "annual jaunt" with "no space for the little man".

## Reforms leadership: a pile of Tory has-beens



**Robert Jenrick**



**Suella Braverman**



**Nadhim Zahawi**



**Nadine Dorries**

**REFORM UK DEPUTY LEADER Richard Tice would be business, energy and industry secretary if the party formed a government.**

Tice heads Reform's 'local government initiative' modelled on the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), formerly led by Elon Musk. He also leads Reform's campaign to suck up to business and the City of London.

He labelled public sector pensions "a major problem" and said they are "not sustainable" in an interview with the Financial Times.

Robert Jenrick, a leading Tory until mid-January and minister in four Tory governments, boasted of using hotels to house asylum seekers while immigration minister – the same hotels that Reform targeted in protests last summer. Farage labelled Jenrick "a fraud" last year only to welcome him with open arms.

Now shadow chancellor, Jenrick has pledged to strip welfare payments from hundreds of thousands of people claiming support for mental health conditions, saying: "We'll weed out those choosing a life on benefits."

Suella Braverman, the former Tory home secretary who described deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda as her "dream" and "obsession", has said that "on day one of a Reform government, we'll get rid of the equalities department" and scrap the Equality Act passed by Labour under Gordon Brown.

Matthew Goodwin, the failed Reform UK candidate in the Gorton & Denton by-election, a former academic and now a GB News presenter who heads the 'student wing' of Reform, has argued that being born in Britain "doesn't make you British".

He told a conference organised by a research centre linked to Hungary's far right prime minister Viktor Orban last December: "We [Reform] will place public sector trade unions under review."

Nadhim Zahawi is another millionaire ex-Tory who joined Reform in January having been a minister in the Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak governments.

He stood to be Tory leader following the fall of Johnson, then backed Truss, then reverted to Johnson when it looked like he may return

before switching to Sunak, only to be sacked as Tory Party chair for failing to disclose he was investigated for tax avoidance.

Zahawi admitted in 2015: "I would be frightened to live in a country run by Nigel Farage."

Reform's roster of Tories also includes Lee Anderson MP, former deputy-chair of the Conservatives, and Sarah Pochin MP, an ex-Tory councillor and mayor who won the Runcorn and Helsey by-election last May.

Pochin confirmed her far right credentials by demanding a ban on the Burqa in her first speech in Parliament, and declared last October: "It drives me mad when I see adverts full of black people, full of Asian people."

Former Tory MPs Nadine Dorries and Andrea Jenkins, now Reform mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, also joined the party last year making 28 former Tory MPs to date.

No wonder Tory magazine *The Spectator*, edited by long-time senior Conservative Michael Gove has reported discussions between Farage and leading Tories to set up a Reformed Conservative Party.

**TAX CUTS, private schools and healthcare for the rich, welfare cuts and attacks on workplace rights for the rest of us – those are the policies you can expect from a Farage government.**

Reform UK MPs opposed the government's Employment Rights Bill, and Farage has promised to make hiring and firing easier for employers.

He has called for NHS funding to be "re-examined" and for a switch to private health insurance.

Farage's pick for chancellor Robert Jenrick has vowed to re-impose the two-child benefit cap if Reform wins a general election. That drew cheers from a Reform party audience.

The Reform leader had previously pledged to remove the two-child cap – until the government did.

Jenrick also plans to strip benefits from hundreds of thousands of people with mental health conditions.

The party's deputy leader Richard Tice intends to cut public sector pensions, describing schemes in which pensioners are paid from the contributions of those in work – the idea behind the state pension and national insurance – as a "major problem".

That one Reform policy alone threatens nine million working and former state employees.

Reform has also said it will cut 68,500

# Reform policies: handouts for the rich, nothing for the rest

civil jobs, more than one in eight, and after the May 2025 local elections Farage warned public sector workers employed on diversity, net zero initiatives and working from home to "seek alternative careers very quickly".

At the same time, the party says it will allow wealthy 'non-domiciles' in Britain to avoid paying tax in return for a one-off payment – a saving that it is estimated would amount to £34 billion for the sort of people who fund Reform.

Farage has pledged to install "top business leaders" in government if he wins election. Senior Reform figure Zia Yusuf has said: "We want cabinet ministers for whom it's the lowest-paid job they'll ever have."

So, Reform promises a government of the wealthy acting on their own behalf.

The party has a dedicated 'thinktank', the Centre for a Better Britain, to draft policy and raise funds. It's run by City of London traders – like Farage once was – and its board, chaired by James Orr, a professor

of religions philosophy, a leading member of the National Conservative movement and advisor to US vice-president JD Vance.

The Centre for a Better Britain's plans, revealed in a document leaked to the Financial Times, include "reform of healthcare" and slashing state services; policies Orr has warned would mean a Reform government forcing "nasty medicine down the country's throat".

The document acknowledged the party would need a way to "reconcile" the "Thatcherite instincts" of its leaders with the concerns of most voters. It also set out plans to raise funds from allies of Donald Trump and "religious conservatives".

Of course, a Reform election manifesto can't be trusted to be open about its plans. The party's 2024 manifesto pledged "no NHS waiting lists", "affordable energy bills" and "good wages for a hard day's work".

However, the manifesto detail focused on handouts to the rich, attacks on welfare and blame for migrants. It proposed:

- ◆ A 10-point cut in corporation tax on large companies
- ◆ Abolition of all tax on the profits of small businesses
- ◆ Tax relief on private school fees and private healthcare
- ◆ Tax breaks for private landlords
- ◆ A 'two-strikes & you're out' rule for benefit claimants who decline a job offer.

The party pledged to change the definition of hate crime, introduce a "patriotic curriculum" in schools, and scrap the 2010 Equalities Act along with all Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) measures.

So, we can expect a Reform government to have scant regard for LGBTQ+ rights. Farage suggested last year that "the most stable relationships tend to be between men and women", and MP Danny Kruger – former political secretary to Boris Johnson – has described marriage between a man and a woman as "the only basis for a safe and successful society".

The party has also promised to scrap 'net zero' commitments, Clean Air Zones and low traffic neighbourhoods. It has denied the science behind climate change and Farage has echoed Trump by telling energy firms to be ready to "drill, baby, drill" if the party wins election.

Tice has said he would lift the ban on environmentally damaging fracking, in place since 2011, "immediately".

## Tweedledum & Tweedledumer

**FARAGE'S SUPPORT for Donald Trump is well known.**

The Reform leader has travelled repeatedly to the US over the past

decade, staying at Trump-owned hotels, speaking at Trump rallies and right-wing conferences, and appearing on Rupert Murdoch's Fox News. Farage flew out to Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in

Palm Beach, Florida, days after the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28.

The Reform leader called Keir Starmer "pathetic" for not immediately backing the war, insisting: "The gloves need to come off." He said: "We are part of this with the Americans and the Israelis."

But when polls showed a majority of the British public opposed joining the war, Farage made a U-turn saying: "Let's not get ourselves involved in another foreign war."

In between those conflicting statements Farage flew to Florida to try to meet the president, telling an event on March 5: "I'll be dining at Mar-a-Lago tomorrow night."

The meeting did not happen because Trump chose to stay elsewhere. But Reform maintains strong links to Trump's administration not least through the close relationship between Cambridge theologian and Reform head of policy James Orr and US vice-president JD Vance.



**THE TUC has launched a petition to stop Reform ripping up protections for people at work and those renting from private landlords, warning: "Reform UK has pledged to rip up legal protections for workers and renters."**

The party proposes a 'Great Repeal Bill' if elected to scrap rights only just secured in the Employment Rights Act and Renters Rights Act. Reform also plans to repeal the Equality Act, which protects people from discrimination at work, and scrap all net-zero targets. This would:

- ◆ Take sick pay, bereavement leave and pregnancy protections away from millions of workers
- ◆ Legalise fire-and-rehire tactics
- ◆ Weaken protections against discrimination at work
- ◆ Bring back 'no-fault' evictions and make it easier to raise rents.

The TUC notes: "Reform UK

wants to rig the economy in favour of their corporate backers, shifting power away from ordinary people and towards bad bosses, rogue landlords and climate denying corporations."

It says: "Politicians will be watching to see how the public responds. A huge petition sends a clear message: working people won't stand for this."

**Don't let Reform UK snatch your rights. Don't vote for Reform, and add your name to the petition to protect workers' rights:**

[www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-steal-protect-workers-rights](http://www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-steal-protect-workers-rights)





# Enoch Powell Farage's hero

**Nigel Farage has a long association with the far right and openly acknowledges racist Tory politician Enoch Powell as his political hero.**

Farage joined the Tory Party while at the exclusive public school Dulwich College in south London and he declared Powell “became my political hero” when he spoke at the school.

Powell became infamous when in 1968, as Tory MP for Wolverhampton and a member of the Conservative shadow cabinet, he delivered a viciously racist speech at a meeting of local Tories in the West Midlands to which he had invited journalists.

He intended to whip up a media storm over immigration in opposition to the Race Relations Bill then being debated in Parliament which aimed to outlaw racial discrimination in employment and housing.

In the speech, Powell claimed to quote an unnamed “ordinary working man” who said “in 15 or 20 years the black man will have the whip hand over the white man” in Britain.

Powell suggested “the existing population” of Britain had become “strangers in their own country”,

with “their wives unable to obtain hospital beds in childbirth, their children unable to obtain school places, their homes and neighbourhoods changed beyond recognition”.

He ridiculed the idea that “all citizens should be equal before the law” and demanded “encouragement of re-migration”, ending by warning of a ‘race war’ and of rivers “foaming with much blood”. His ‘Rivers of Blood’ speech triggered a wave of racist attacks and saw Powell dismissed from the shadow cabinet, but it made him a hero of the far right and fascist groups which subsequently coalesced into the National Front.

Long after that speech, Nigel Farage declared it “all very correct”. He admits to being a ‘Powellite’.

A former aide to Farage, Raheem Kassam, who is an associate of the US fascist and sometime advisor to President Trump Steve Bannon, published a book *Enoch was Right* in 2018 to mark the 50th anniversary of the speech. Farage wrote the introduction and, in an interview for the book, admitted Powell “was very influential on my thinking”.

The 1968 speech “taught me a lot”, he said, and recalled telling

Powell in the 1990s when he chauffeured him to a meeting: “Some of us completely believe in the things you fought for, and I will go on fighting for them.”

However, Farage also noted the overt appeal to racism in the speech led Powell to be “cast into the outer darkness of UK politics”. He therefore aimed “not to make the same mistake” by disguising his racist intentions.

Asked what he thought of the speech 50 years later, Farage insisted Powell “has basically been proven right”.

He noted Powell’s ideas inspired early supporters of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) which he helped build, saying that like himself, “These people were Powellites, hardcore Powellites.”

Discussing the role Powell’s views on immigration played in building UKIP, Farage said he “made a very conscious decision to put this front and centre . . . The Powell speech taught me a lot.”

Farage has focussed on immigration ever since.

In 2014, ahead of European elections, Farage complained of a rail journey from London’s Charing Cross saying: “It wasn’t until we got past Grove Park [eight

miles from Charing Cross] that I could hear English being spoken in the carriage.”

In 2015, he called for the repeal of race discrimination laws, argued for children of immigrants to be excluded from state schools and access to the NHS to be restricted to “our own people”.

In 2016, in the run-up to the Brexit Referendum, millionaire Ukip donor Aaran Banks described Farage’s strategy as to be “as provocative as required to keep immigration top of the agenda”.

In 2020, LBC radio dropped Farage as a presenter after he compared Black Lives Matter protesters to the Taliban. He was quickly picked up by the far-right GB News, owned by US billionaire and Trump supporter John Malone and millionaire hedge-fund manager Sir Paul Marshall.

Farage has based his entire political career on articulating Powellite views while denying his own or his supporters’ remarks are racist – a key lesson he drew from the reaction to Powell’s speech.

A former aide to the Reform leader told the journalist and biographer of Farage Michael Crick: “I’ve never known lying come so easily to someone.”

But racists are drawn to him despite the lying. Farage himself admitted Reform’s 2024 election campaign was “dominated by at best loopy and, at worst, extremely racist candidates”.

A survey of the views of 629 Reform UK members by the campaigning charity Hope Not Hope, published in February, found 91% think the estimated 1.6 million people in Britain who do not have settled status should be forcibly removed.

Half (49%) think non-white British citizens whose parents were born abroad should be forcibly removed. Another one in four (24%) think they should be “encouraged to leave”.

More than half (54%) think non-white British citizens born abroad should be forcibly removed or encouraged to leave, more than double the proportion who think white people born outside Britain should be removed.

One in five (22%) even think non-white British citizens whose parents were born here should be removed.

One third said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who “made negative comments about Muslims”.

# Keeping their friends at arms' length

THE NATIONAL FRONT was on the rise while Farage was at private school in south London in the late 1970s and Reform leader's biographer Michael Crick interviewed teachers and fellow pupils who recalled his "racist and neo-fascist views", fondness for "Nazi salutes", "Hitler youth songs", use of the terms "wog" and "Paki" and shouting "Send 'em home!"

Crick first published his findings in 2013. His biography of Farage, *One Party After Another*, appeared in 2022. The Guardian newspaper followed up by interviewing many of Farage's contemporaries last year and corroborated Crick's account.

Farage simply denied it, dismissing it all as "complete made-up fantasies". But where in the past he has threatened legal action when accused of racism – most notably against David Cameron when he was Tory leader – Crick's account remains uncontested.

Dulwich College was not the end of his association with racism or fascism. As a City of London trader in the late 1980s, Farage founded a lunch club for "sympathisers of the BNP" according to one ex-attende.

When he stood as a UKIP candidate in South Thanet in 2005, ex-NF member Martyn Heale chaired the local UKIP branch and Farage put him in charge of a fund-raising call centre.

However, Farage is smart enough to know fascism remains unacceptable, so he keeps fascists at arms' length. When Gerard Batten, a Ukip founder member whom Farage worked alongside for decades, appointed Tommy Robinson as an advisor, Farage made a public display of quitting.

He had had an aide, management consultant Catherine Blaiklock, set up an alternative group, the Brexit Party, which was subsequently renamed Reform. Yet far from representing a break, Blaiklock was exposed as



National Front demonstrations in the 1970's

retweeting the posts of Robinson and Mark Collett, founder of the nazi Patriotic Alternative.

Collett now urges supporters to join Reform. The BBC reported in

May 2025 on a 'Far-right leaders' attempt to hijack Reform', identifying Collett and fellow fascist David Clews as urging supporters to "become active

organisers and members of Reform and seek candidacy to become MPs, mayors, councillors, police commissioners, researchers, party staffers etc".

## Deportation tops the agenda

**FARAGE and the fascist former BNP member Tommy Robinson are united in demanding mass deportations, with Farage unveiling plans for the detention and deportation of "all illegal migrants", a figure he puts at up to 650,000.**

Both seek to demonise asylum seekers, branding them as sex offenders who pose a threat to British women – a familiar racist trope.

Deporting large numbers of people would inevitably require force to round them up and hold them in detention centres. We would witness the kind of violence we've seen in the US where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents imposed a military-style state of siege in Minnesota and elsewhere, seizing, detaining and deporting people at random and killing protestors.

No doubt the detention centres would be surrounded by barbed wire and security, turning them into prisons at best or concentration camps at worst.

Where would these hundreds of thousands of people go?

But 650,000 would likely be only

the start. What happens when the camps become full? Could parts of towns or cities be turned into holding areas or 'ghettoes'? If people attempted to leave these areas, then what?

This would take us back to the 1930s when the Nazis in Germany set out on the road to their 'Final Solution' and led the rest of the world, when it learned of the truth, to say 'Never again!'

We don't have to allow this. First off, don't vote Reform.

We can't allow a party to get into government that would embolden those like Robinson, regardless of the fact that Farage



Tommy Robinson, an avowed fascist

insists he abhors Robinson. Too many Reform members do not.

A survey of the views of more than 600 Reform UK members by the campaign group Hope Not Hope found almost two-thirds (63%) of them agreed "I support Tommy Robinson's 'Unite the Kingdom' movement".

Three out of five (61%) said they viewed Robinson "favourably" despite Farage's refusal to endorse him, although noticeably Farage did not distance himself from Robinson's endorsement of Matt Goodwin as the Reform candidate in the Gorton and Denton byelection. Just 11% said they 'dislike' Robinson.

Three-quarters of Reform members said they believe "globalist elites are encouraging immigration into Europe as part of a plot to weaken European identity", a claim at the core of Robinson's attempts to build a fascist movement.

The survey also found one in five Reform members (19%) believe "Jewish people have an unhealthy control over the banking system" and almost one in 10 believe the "official account of the Nazi Holocaust is a lie".

## Reform is not unbeatable



Hannah Spencer giving her maiden speech in Parliament

**THE GORTON AND DENTON byelection in February won by Green Party candidate Hannah Spencer, who beat Reform UK's Matthew Goodwin by 12 percentage points, shows Reform can be beaten despite the unpopularity of the Starmer government and the Tories.**

Reform immediately tried to discredit the result, mirroring Donald Trump's reaction when he loses an election, claiming it lost due to "sectarian" voting and people "were told how to vote".

But how could Muslim constituents voting for a feminist plumber representing a party led by a gay Jewish man be 'sectarian',

despite the claims of a group of self-appointed 'Democracy volunteers'. Poll workers, trained to spot signs of 'coercive voting', rejected the claims and queried why they were only raised after the event.

Goodwin has fashioned a far-right political career out of racist claims, such as that British-born Muslims citizens are not really British, saying: "It takes more than a piece of paper to make somebody 'British'."

However, the result also served as a warning. Half those eligible to vote did not and Reform attracted 10,000 votes in one of Labour's 'safest' seats.

# Stripping women of their rights

REFORM UK pose a serious risk to women's rights if they enter government.

Farage signalled women's reproductive rights are in his sights at a press conference to unveil former Tory minister Andrea Jenkyns as Reform UK candidate for mayor of Lincolnshire in November 2024, saying: "Is 24 weeks right for abortion given that we save babies at 22? That would be worthy of a debate in parliament."

It wasn't a one-off remark. Farage repeated his challenge to the law on abortion in May last year, saying: "It's ludicrous, utterly ludicrous that we allow abortion up to 24 weeks. Yet, if a child is born prematurely at 22 weeks, your local hospital will move heaven and earth and probably succeed in that child surviving. The law is totally out of date."

The pro-choice campaign group Abortion Rights warned last year of "a surge of ex-MPs with long records of opposing women's rights" joining Reform UK. It noted: "A party that calls itself 'pro-family' . . . is fast becoming the political refuge for anti-abortion hardliners."

Reform MP Danny Kruger has argued in Parliament that

women do not have "an absolute right to bodily autonomy" when it comes to abortion. He has also claimed that the UK has a "totally unregulated sexual economy", implying that he intends to regulate it.

Andrea Jenkyns, the party's major of Greater Lincolnshire, describes herself as "pro-life", opposes what she calls the "liberalisation" of abortion and voted against measures to ease abortion access when a Tory MP.

Party MP Sarah Pochin voted against decriminalising abortion when Parliament voted overwhelmingly in June last year to change abortion law to stop women in England and Wales being prosecuted for ending a pregnancy outside the existing legal framework. Pochin has called for the 24-week limit to be reduced.

Fellow MP Lee Anderson tabled an amendment to a bill in Parliament to scrap so-called "pills by post" access to early medical abortion.

Former Tory health minister Maria Caulfield, who joined Reform in September 2025, repeatedly voted to restrict abortion access and oppose the buffer zones around abortion



Women up and down the country are coming out against the far right's attempt to control them

clinics introduced in 2024 to stop women being intimidated by anti-abortion activists.

Caulfield has accused abortion providers of being "unethical, unsafe and unprofessional".

Nadine Dorries, another ex-Tory and fan of Boris Johnson who defected last September, spent years pushing in Parliament to lower abortion time limits and impose restrictions on access.

Former Tory minister Ann Widdecombe, who joined Reform in 2023, was a member of the pro-life group in Parliament which opposes abortion rights,

and Reform head of policy development James Orr is a long-time opponent of all abortion rights who has described Britain's abortion laws as "extreme".

Matt Goodwin, the party's candidate in the Gorton and Denton by-election in February, suggested in 2024 that "many women in Britain are having children much too late in life" and should be given a "biological reality check" to tackle what he called a "fertility crisis".

Goodwin has also called for a "reverse child benefit" which would see childless women pay

higher taxes.

Kerry Abel, chair of Abortion Rights, has rightly called it "deeply worrying", saying: "This is about stripping women of their rights. Abortion is healthcare, and the majority of people in this country support women's right to access it safely and without shame."

Labour MP Stella Creasy has pointed out: "90% of abortions in this country happen before 10 weeks. Those rare ones that happen later often involve conditions that mean children do not survive birth."

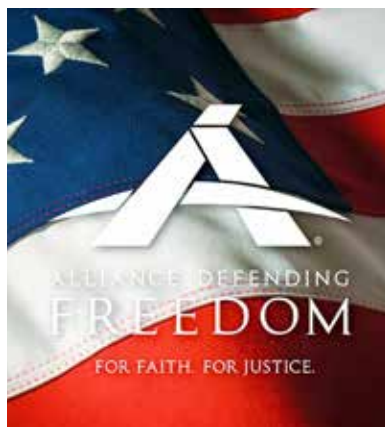
## Farage plugs US anti-abortion "hate group"

NIGEL FARAGE'S move to attacking abortion rights, a subject in which he has not previously shown interest, coincides with the increasing number of anti-abortionists in Reform UK's ranks and the activity of a US anti-abortion group, the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF).

The New York Times reported Farage was working with the ADF in October last year after the Reform leader appeared before the House Judiciary Committee of the US Congress in September.

It reported the ADF which "helped topple" the US Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* that the right to an abortion was protected by the US Constitution – a ruling overturned in 2024 – now has its "sights set on Britain".

The paper revealed Farage's appearance before the committee "was the result of a months-long



campaign" by the "influential conservative Christian group" which approached Farage to give 'evidence' on the supposed censorship of free speech in Britain and then passed on his interest to the Committee, which invited him.

It noted an ADF lawyer "testified alongside Farage" at the hearing and reported: "ADF officials brokered a secret

meeting between Farage and State Department officials in London and in private briefings supplied the Trump administration with attack lines that cast the British government as hostile to free speech."

An ADF spokesman said the group "engaged with every major political party in the UK". However, the New York Times reported the Labour Party said "there was no record of the ADF having any contact with the party".

The group is allied to US vice-president JD Vance and Republican speaker of the House Mike Johnson, who is a former ADF lawyer.

Vance highlighted the case of an ADF client, Adam Smith-Connor, convicted of breaching an abortion clinic buffer zone in Bournemouth when he spoke at a Security Conference in Munich in

February 2025, claiming "the basic liberties of religious Britons" were being violated.

'Safe access buffer zones' of 150-metre radius around abortion clinics came into effect from October 2024, in a move to safeguard women accessing the services.

Louise McCudden of contraception and abortion services charity MSI Reproductive Choices UK reported that before the zones were enforced, "clients had been shouted at, spat at, called murderers, filmed, redirected away from our clinic and handed false medical information".

Asked about his relationship with the ADF, Farage said Reform talks with "all sorts of groups". But at the party's conference last September, he referred to "the Judeo-Christian culture and heritage we have that underpins everything we are".

The New York Times pointed out anti-abortion activists in the US "challenged similar buffer-zone laws more than a decade ago as part of their strategy to roll back abortion rights" and that the ADF "used a similar argument" to Farage's on abortion time limits "to end the constitutional right to abortion".

The independent news outlet Byline Times reported Farage was "working with" the ADF in November 2024, noting it had "been central to Republican efforts to strip away abortion rights, as well as protections for LGBTQ+ people", and was branded "a hate group" by civil rights group the Southern Poverty Law Centre.

ADF International (UK) backed a National Conservatism event in Brussels at which Farage and Suella Braverman spoke in May 2024.

# From flagship to sinking ship?

REFORM UK HAS described Kent County Council, which the party won control of in the May 2025 elections, as its 'flagship' council.

It promised to sweep away waste and cut council tax. Reform UK's former chair Zia Yusuf claimed last summer that "waste and, in some cases, corruption is off the charts" in councils. He insisted "a reckoning is coming".

Yusuf claimed Kent County Council paid for excursions to bowling alleys and skate parks for asylum seekers when in fact the trips were organised for children in care.

This year, Reform councillors in Kent had to admit they had not found the waste they claimed was rife. Instead, councillors were quoted praising the Tories who formerly ran the council.

Paul Chamberlain, head of Reform UK's Department of Local Government Efficiency (DOLGE) in Kent, told the Financial Times: "We made assumptions that we would come in and find some of the craziness that [President Trump's] DOGE found in America. That was wrong. We didn't find any of that."



Having celebrated becoming Reform UK's 'flagship', Kent councillors are going down with their leader

Speaking at a Kent County Council event in January, Chamberlain admitted: "[There] just weren't big cuts to make because services had already been hacked away for years and years. I wish we could have found big savings, but we didn't."

A fellow Kent County Council

and Reform member, Matthew Fraser Moat, told the Financial Times: "We haven't cut frontline services other than what the Conservatives already planned."

The council announced a 3.99% rise in Council Tax for 2026-27 after promising a zero increase. Fraser Moat admitted the increase

would have been more if the Council had not received more money than expected from central government. Two days after the report appeared, Fraser Moat resigned, claiming his words had been "twisted".

Nigel Farage then claimed, "we've made savings of £100

million in Kent" and accused the Financial Times of being "plain wrong".

But the Financial Times noted the £100 million in cuts was "put forward by the previous Conservative administration".

The Reform leader also claimed Kent County Council "had to take all under-18 [asylum seekers] who come across the English Channel and put them up at their own cost". Yet a Reform councillor told the Financial Times the costs of accommodating asylum seekers "weren't in our budget at all".

Kent council leader Linden Kemkaran stood as a Tory candidate in the 2019 general election and was subsequently investigated by the party for "Islamophobic" social media posts.

She has written for the Tory magazine *The Spectator* and refused to fly the Pride flag from council buildings during the annual Pride celebrations last year.

It was Kemkaran who told Reform councillors, in a leaked recording of an online meeting to discuss cuts, to "just fucking suck it up". Nine Reform councillors subsequently resigned or were pushed out.



Reform's council leader Jo Monk is in a financial pickle

## The edge of receivership

REFORM-LED Worcestershire County Council approved a 9% hike in council tax and a freeze on recruiting for vacant jobs at the end of February despite the government providing £59 million in emergency funds.

The party's council leader Jo Monk blamed the previous Tory-led administration for the council's "financial crisis". Yet Monk was a Tory councillor before joining Reform in March 2025, two months before the May elections when the party became the largest group on Worcestershire County Council. Monk had been on the council

since 2021 and a Tory member since 2017.

Reform UK deputy leader Richard Tice joined Monk at a press conference in February to demand a government bailout saying: "Reform UK runs 12 councils across England. Regrettably this one is right on the edge of receivership."

When Monk joined Reform, she claimed: "Only Nigel Farage's party have the answers to the problems facing the country."

The council is due to vote on a Lib-Dem motion to remove her from office at its next full meeting in May.

## Council chaos across the country

FARAGE AND fellow Reform leader Zia Yusuf claim to have identified "wasteful" spending across councils and proposed a DOGE programme modelled on Elon Musk's chainsaw-wielding US Department of Government Efficiency in local authorities.

They ignored local council experts who pointed out most councils spend 60%-80% of their budget on child and adult social care.

Reform took over Lancashire County Council from the Tories in May 2025. Council leader Stephen Atkinson was a Tory councillor for Ribble Valley who switched to Reform in March 2025. Atkinson acknowledged he ran Ribble Valley council "on traditional Conservative principles" while denying Reform had become "a refuge for Tory rejects".

The council proposes to cut 200,000 working hours, or more than 100 full time jobs, and £24 million in contributions to staff pensions.

Reform runs Leicestershire County Council as a minority administration, led by another ex-Tory councillor, Dan Harrison, who defected to Reform in February 2025.

He hired external consultants to review "everything", saying, "We're demanding efficiencies", after criticising the Tory council for wasting millions doing the same. In February, Harrison was forced to apologise to parents after proposing to close four specialist nurseries for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Two Leicestershire Reform councillors posted support for US immigration officers who killed nurse Alex Pretti in Minneapolis in January. One, Joseph Boam, posted a picture on X saying "I Stand With ICE" and another, Michael Squires, cabinet member for health, congratulated ICE for its "heroic work".

A Financial Times analysis of local authorities in England in which Reform has overall or

minority control found proposed 'savings' or cuts totalling £365 million - much of it from reducing staff - although £70 million was the result of a Local Government Pension Scheme revaluation and nothing to do with Reform.

The same councils proposed an average rise in council tax bill of 4.3% from April. The Reform UK leader of Derbyshire County Council, Alan Graves, presented this increase as a "cut in tax" on the grounds that it is below the maximum 4.99% rise permitted without a local referendum.

Graves, a long-time member of UKIP, is unusual in having stood as a Reform candidate in the 2024 general election. Most Reform councillors were Tories at the time of the last election.

Farage wrote to all 1,352 Tory county councillors up for re-election in May 2025 urging them to defect - and Tories are what you will get if you vote Reform this May.

By Kevin Courtney

Former Joint General Secretary of the National Education Union

# A Tory agenda hidden by racism

**NIGEL FARAGE** doesn't like being called a racist and doesn't like Reform being called a racist party. But he really does protest too much.

A recent poll by Survation found that more than half of all Reform voters thought that all the Black people in Britain who weren't born here should be deported or encouraged to leave.

And 20% of them thought that black people who were born here should be deported as well. These figures are way outside the norm for the British population.

If Nigel Farage isn't racist, and



if his party isn't racist, why is it attracting all these racist voters? Perhaps it is because of his party's policies.

Political parties' policies are supposed to try and deal with

the major problems facing the country and its people. There are a lot of issues to deal with – from the crisis in housing and the NHS, the fear of loss of jobs from AI to the threat of the climate emergency for example.

But if you search for Reform's policies its top 5 are all about immigration and deportations. It lists them: 01 Stop the Boats; 02 Secure Our Borders; 03 Deport all Illegal Migrants; 04 Scrap Indefinite Leave to Remain; 05 Restore Britain's Sovereignty (which is all about ensuring they can do the first four).

Seriously if the NHS and housing don't make your first five and if your first five are all about black people maybe it's not a surprise people spot you as racist.

What you won't find anywhere in his party's policies is anything dealing with the gross inequality in our country – with the huge wealth amassed by the tiny few who then go on to fund Reform.

I believe this is all deliberate. Farage is trying to attract working class people who he thinks are racist, and by promoting his policies in this way he is trying to distract from his hard right

ultra-Thatcherite economic policies. He wants to wind back workers' rights, union rights and tenants' rights. He is flirting with a privatisation of our NHS. And he wants to scrap all moves towards net zero – boosting the profits of energy companies at the expense of our grandchildren's right to a healthy world.

But I hope and believe that working class people are going to see through the retreat ultra-Tories who make up Farage's Reform. We need to unite for positive change, not let Farage's millionaire backers divide us.

## Much more in common than divides us

By HASSAN MAHAMDALLIE, director of the Muslim Institute.

**THE FAR RIGHT** want you to blame British Muslims for all the ills of British society. Don't let them succeed in dividing us. Your Muslim neighbour, workmate, bus driver or GP, the woman in the hijab serving you behind the counter or the young man on his way to Friday prayers, is not your enemy.

Muslims and non-Muslims need to stand together against the threat of the far right because

we have much, much more in common than divides us. And we are stronger together.

If we are to fight against bigotry, discrimination and exploitation, and to improve society for the majority and secure a better future for ourselves and for our children, we need to link arms and face the common enemy – the far right and their rich backers who are sowing the seeds of hate.

It's not true that Muslims are hostile or alien to this country. The 2021 census showed that 94% of Muslims have a strong sense

of British identity. 99% speak English as their first language or speak it very well.

Muslim women are entering the workplace in record numbers, and the vast majority of British Muslims are part of the working class and hold working class values. Like everyone else they are struggling to make ends meet and look after their kids and the elderly.

We must not allow ourselves to be hoodwinked by the far right into thinking that those who have the least in society are somehow to blame for the problems created by the wealthiest.

Muslims live in some of the poorest parts of the country: 40% in the most deprived neighbourhoods. In fact, there are one million more British Muslims living in poor areas than there were 25 years ago. In those places, Muslims live side by side with their non-Muslim neighbours, not as competitors, but as common victims of political and economic abandonment.

Whenever the US, Britain and other western countries bomb and tear apart the countries of the Middle East to secure cheap and plentiful oil, it inevitably produces a refugee exodus as people try to escape the horror. Some of those people may reach our shores, but that is not a 'Muslim invasion' – they are innocent casualties of forces outside their control.

Muslims suffer discrimination on many fronts in the jobs market – from structural racism combined with Islamophobia and anti-Muslim prejudice. If



female, they will face sexism as well. Many young Muslims face barriers getting into jobs because employers see their name and turn them away.

The challenge for the trade unions is to ensure Muslims understand the importance of being in a union and feel the unions are sticking up for them against discrimination and prejudice. British Muslims are getting involved in local and national politics like never before of the issues they face.

Many Muslims have been galvanised by the genocide against Palestinians, marching alongside the many non-Muslims who oppose war in the Middle East. They have a right to hold their elected representative to account over the issue of Palestine, Iran and Lebanon. But it is a lie to say Muslims are primarily motivated by religious concerns in elections, that they vote according to some Islamic instruction.

Historically, Muslims have voted for the Tories, the Liberals and Labour, according to who they think will represent them best and improve their lives.

Young Muslims are getting

involved in the environmental movement – which is one reason why they are attracted to the Green Party. But like everyone else, they are also looking for parties that will reverse the flow of wealth from poor to the rich.

We're living in dangerous times. If a Reform government comes to power, they want to unleash ICE-style terror in our communities, in our workplaces and on our streets like in the US. People will be snatched and disappear into detention. Racism will engulf not just Muslims but other people of colour.

They will try to divide us – Black from white, Muslim from non-Muslim, neighbour from neighbour and workmate from workmate. They will persecute minorities like our trans brothers and sisters. We must not allow this to happen.

Muslims need to get involved in today's struggle against the far right. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines and hope that others will fight for us or that somehow the danger will pass.

We must all find ways to come together and stop the rise of the far right before it is too late.

Racism has no place here

# Stand Up

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) is one of the UK's leading anti-racist organisations, mobilising communities, trade unions, and campaigners to confront racism, fascism, and the rise of the far right – wherever it appears. From organising mass demonstrations to building local groups across the country, SUTR brings people together to defend migrants and refugees, challenge hate, and push back against racist political movements.

Right now, that work has never been more urgent. With far-right activity on the rise across Britain, SUTR needs your support:

- ◆ Join a local group and get active in your community
- ◆ Volunteer your time and skills on the front line
- ◆ Donate to keep campaigns, events, and resources running

Every contribution — big or small — helps build a movement that says clearly:



**Not in our name.**

[standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)

