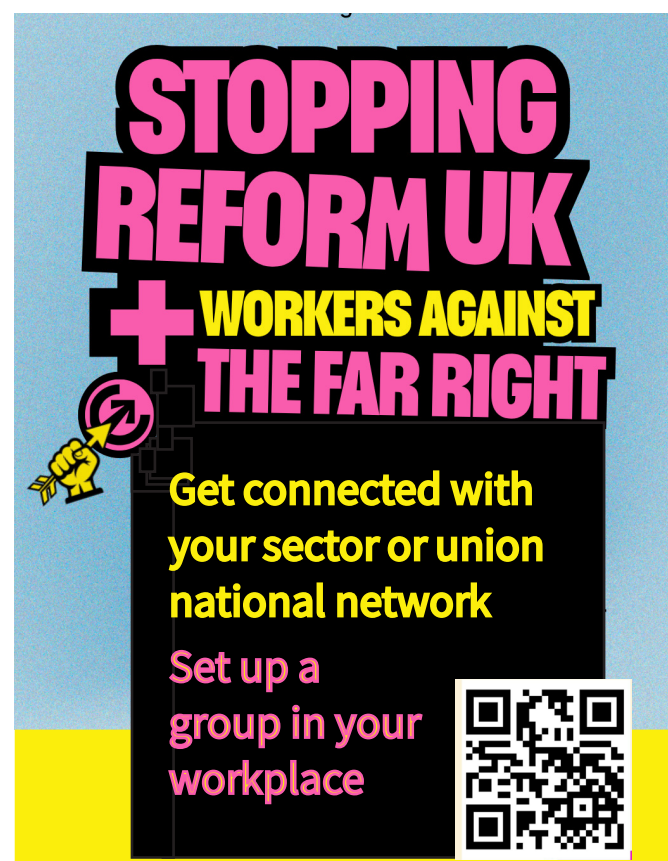




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Building a movement Workers Against the Far Right

Join Stand Up To Racism, join the Workers Against The Far Right network

On 28 March we made history when 500,000 marched on the *Together Against The Far Right* demonstration—the largest mobilisation against racism and fascism in Britain's history.

The trade union bloc over 15,000 was the biggest on any demonstration in decades. It shows the power our unions hold to be at the heart of a strategy to take on the far right.

It's critical that we go out to meet this challenge. A Times poll suggests 28 percent of public sector trade unionists prepared to vote for Reform UK—this is a massive concern to the whole movement.

The scenes from Belfast of racist pogroms and houses set alight, and the shocking racist attacks in Edinburgh are horrifying: a siren calling anti racists to action. In every workplace and community we need unity against the poison of racist hate and violence.

Choice

We face a choice. We can organise to break the momentum of this growing movement built on hate, or we can go under it. Through our unions, from roots in workplaces and communities, we can mobilise and build the confidence of that anti racist majority. That's a matter of urgency.

The magnificent display of working class unity on 28 March was an



After half a million demonstrated on 28 March, over 100,000 marched again on 16 May

organised response to the frightening scale of mobilisation on a fascist led march last September.

Fascist 'Tommy Robinson' (aka Stephen Yaxley-Lennon), backed by Elon Musk, brought 150,000 far right thugs onto the streets last autumn. It was the largest fascist led mobilisation in British history, and a gauntlet thrown to our movement.

In its wake, arguments emerged that it's not safe or effective to take to the streets to oppose the far right.

Together

Stand Up To Racism worked with unions, faith groups, and community campaigns in areas they tried to march, from Falkirk, to Newcastle, to Leeds and elsewhere. We built big, safe, and vibrant unity marches that outnumbered them.

Through the Together Alliance, we brought together a beautiful and unprecedented breadth of forces,

working together to put four to five times Robinson's numbers on the streets on 28 March.

We showed it's possible to build an effective movement by uniting and bringing confidence to the huge numbers who want to stop the far right growing, and who want to break the confidence of the racists to spread their violent hate.

On 16 May Robinson sought again to bring his far right movement and all its hate on to our streets, on the day of the Nakba 78 demonstration

Union

Stand Up To Racism joined in solidarity with the Palestine movement.

Over 100,000 marched, and so soon after 28 March! It was fantastic to see union support, as well as the impact we'd had on the far right mobilisation. Fascist Robinson's numbers were down dramatically to 35,000.



We must learn from history and the horror of the Holocaust—placard reads “Never Again”

But clearly we can't be complacent. The picture of the far right in Britain is one of a growing, developing movement posing an existential threat.

The far right cynically exploit the murder of student Henry Nowak, and the attack on Stephen Ogilvie, ignoring family pleas for these not to be used to create further division. We see how the far right cares nothing for the trauma and loss they exploit to spread hate.

Incitement

Nigel Farage's call for “pure cold rage” can be seen as incitement the day before the far right violence broke out on the streets of Southampton.

We're facing the aftershock of May's chilling results. Farage's far right Reform UK took 1,454 council seats in England and took control of 14 out of 136 contested councils, bringing its total to 24.

Reform UK won in two county councils, Essex and Suffolk, and 12 district councils, Thurrock, Walsall, Havering, Sandwell, Newcastle-under-Lyme, St Helen's, Calderdale, Wakefield, Barnsley, Sunderland, South Tyneside and Gateshead.

It won more votes than any other party in a further 12 councils: Birmingham, Bradford, Burnley, Cannock Chase, East Sussex, Havant, the Isle of Wight, Kirklees, Norfolk, North East Lincolnshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rochford.

It was the joint largest party in Hartlepool and West Sussex.

In the Senedd election in Wales Reform UK went from having virtually no presence to 34 out of the 96 seats, finishing second to Plaid Cymru which won 43. In the Holyrood election in

Scotland Reform UK gained 17 MSPs.

Taking on the threat it poses is a critical task for our unions.

Stand Up To Racism ran a major campaign nationally, through our 100+ local groups. Trade unionists were at the heart of activity to challenge the lies and scapegoating myths.

This is from a party that pledges to destroy the NHS as we know it, bring in cuts and attacks on workers' rights, and that represents the super rich in Britain.

We distributed a million tabloids and leaflets exposing Reform UK. The challenge we face is huge, with people in our workplaces voting Reform UK.

Some say organising to challenge the racism of Reform UK's agenda, or mobilising to oppose the far right on the streets, is ineffective.

But every time the far right has sought to grow in Britain, it's by exposing and opposing them that they've been defeated.

We must challenge their racism, and expose fascists at the head of the movement, and mobilise the majority who oppose them to outnumber them.

Organise

We must also organise to have the difficult conversations, the training and education and activity in our workplaces and communities.

The far right is gaining traction by feeding off the crisis, playing the blame game. We must challenge any echoes of arguments that blame and demonise refugees, migrants and Muslims.

We know from history the chilling places this leads. We must unite against racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism.



Daniel Kebede NEU general secretary:

“We are the anti-racist majority and we can stop the far right - but we need to get organised. Working class people have no interest in the racism, division and neoliberal politics of Farage.”

“We need to build unity against the far right.”

“Unions are proud to support Stand Up To Racism. Get involved.”



Sharon Graham Unite 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.”

Fran Heathcote PCS general secretary:

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



Andrea Egan Unison General Secretary:

“Let's build the biggest possible coalition this country has ever seen to push back against Farage and his nasty politics. No to racism, no to division - we stand proudly together as a united society”

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.”

“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.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO

In every workplace and union branch, we need to take on the arguments.

Stand Up To Racism provides model workplace training and can come and speak with your branch or workplace meeting.

You can order our toolkit and resources to support you and your colleagues to challenge the racism and division being pushed by a growing far right.

The *Workers Against The Far Right* network is seeing emerging initiatives at a national level in different unions and sectors, from *Educators Against The Far Right*, to *Council Workers*

Against The Far Right, as well as workplace based groups being set up, such as the brilliant example of *Homerton Hospital Workers Against The Far Right*.

Join *Workers Against the Far Right* and get involved in what is happening in your union and sector, and see how to set up a workplace group.

If your branch or region is not already affiliated to Stand Up To Racism, you can affiliate and link up with your local Stand Up To Racism group which will be organising locally to build a broad, united and active anti racist movement in your area.

Get involved! There is so much we can do, and what we do as trade unionists matters.

As firefighters, health workers, postal workers, teachers, council workers, lecturers, transport workers... we are in a strong rooted position to challenge the lies and racism of the far right and talk instead in our communities of unity, diversity, and uniting to fight for our rights.

This is a time working class people are facing profound attacks on living standards while the rich—who Farage represents—get richer.



Workers Against The Far Right ↑

From Cable Street to the Nazi National Front in the 1970s, 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—workers in Britain stand in a strong tradition of anti-fascism.

Unions must be at the heart of turning the tide, in workplaces now.



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