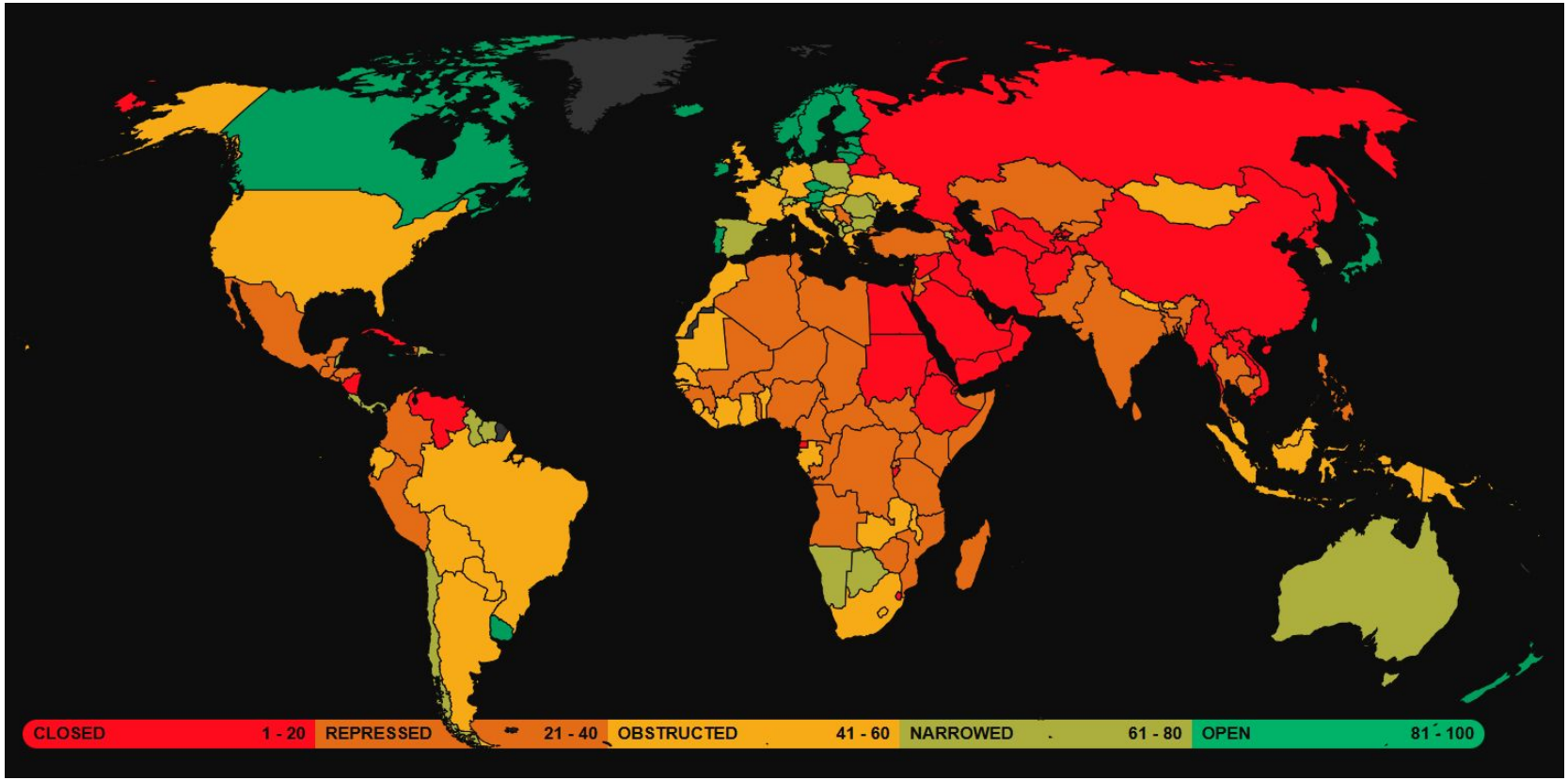
How we face rising authoritarianism

Lessons from the UK - Natasha Adams

CIVICUS Monitor - tracking civic space



What is the ‘far right’?

‘Far Right’

- opposed to liberal democracy
- authoritarian in *governance* (rejects plurality - e.g. minorities having a voice) & in *values* (social ills based on ‘degenerates’ who are othered)

made up of:

a) ***Radical* right** (e.g. Reform) wants to ‘reform’ democracy e.g. removing legal checks and balances; &

b) ***Extreme* far right** totally rejects democracy (e.g. literal Fascism)

Mainstreaming of the far right





‘Hitler Was Right’: Nigel Farage Faces Allegations of Racism at School

Reform UK rejects classmates’ accounts of ‘precociously racist teenager’.





Context in Canada

CBC

Poilievre says he'd pass a law that overrides a Charter right. That would be a first for a PM

No federal government has ever used the notwithstanding clause

DeSmog International

Trump Officials Discussed $500M Alberta Independence Loan, Separatist Claims

CBC

Canadians will no longer have access to news content on Facebook and Instagram, Meta says

A TYEE Series

Carney Under the Sway of the Broligarchs

Build Canada's advocates are wealthy, aggressively pro-tech and piling up wins in Ottawa. First in a series.







Context in Canada







Substantial negative effects on NGOs & communities:

- Impacts on safety, security & wellbeing
- Increasing racism & Islamophobia
- Rightward shift of discourse & policy
- Fallouts from the hostile media environment, especially online
- Space to participate in shaping society is shrinking

As a result of:

- Future prospects of a far-right, authoritarian government (e.g. Reform)
- Current influence permeating policy, discourse, & spaces for influence (including government UK wide, nationally & locally)

Meeting the moment call to action

The social change sector in the UK is not yet responding meaningfully to the threats posed to all the causes we care about & the space in which to agitate for change

Old strategies for change making are increasingly not working
-lobbying, policy work, emails to MPs etc

“It’s like bringing a knife to a gun fight”

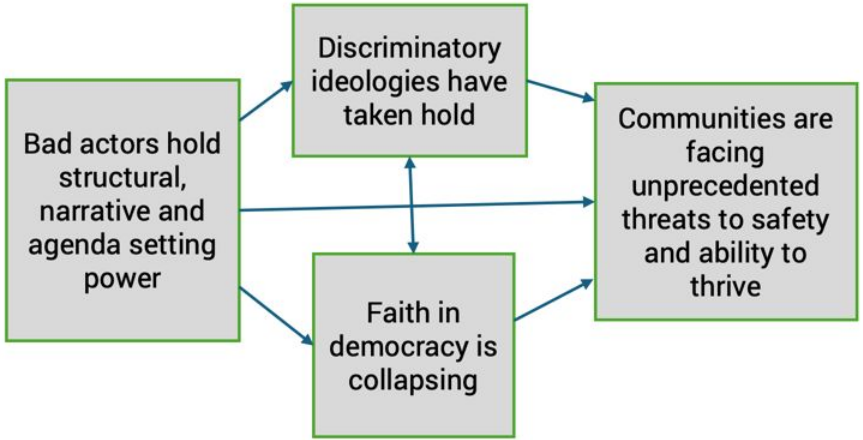
We need to respond urgently, radically & in a sustained way

problem

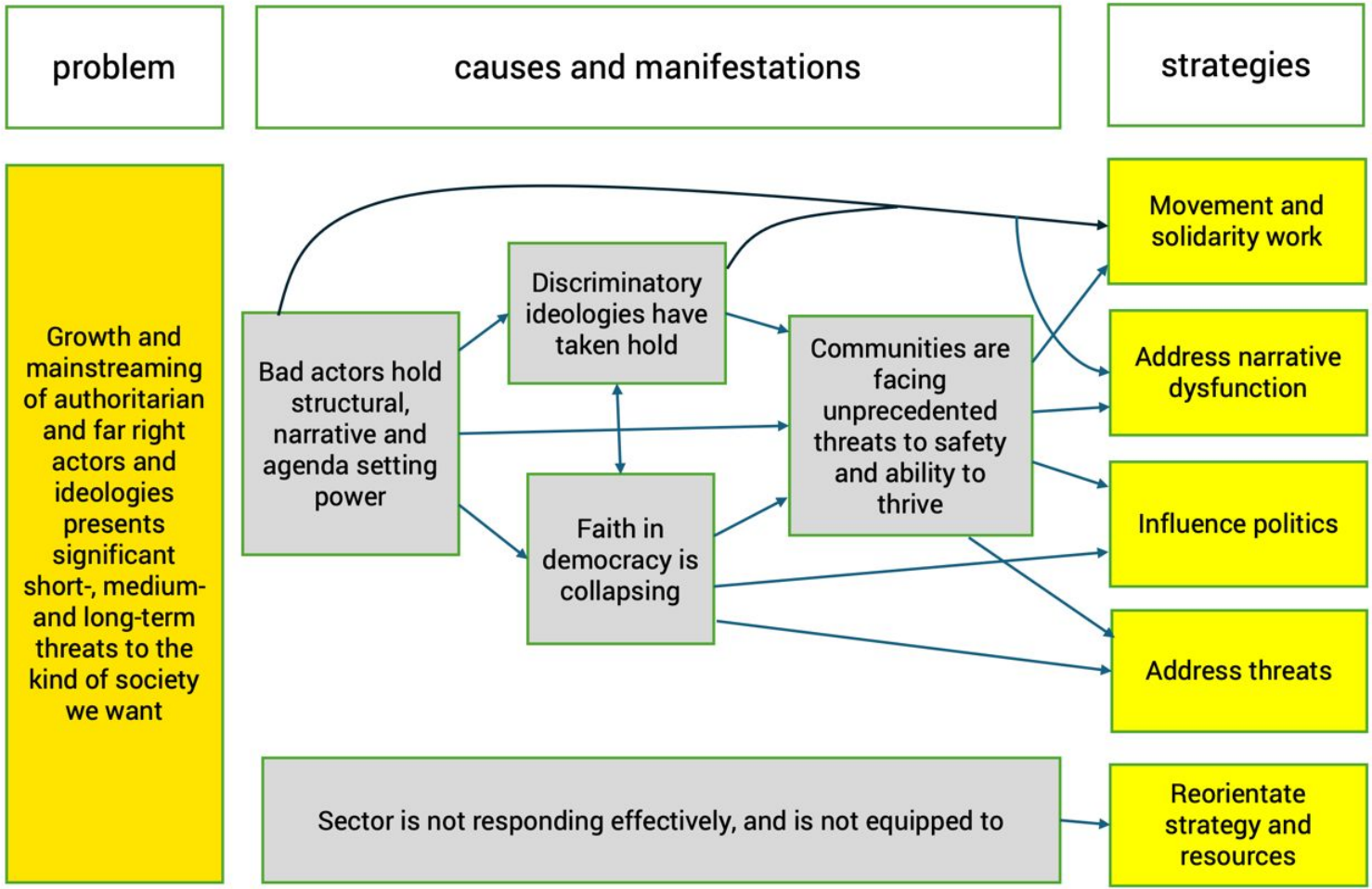
Growth and mainstreaming of authoritarian and far right actors and ideologies presents significant short-, medium- and long-term threats to the kind of society we want

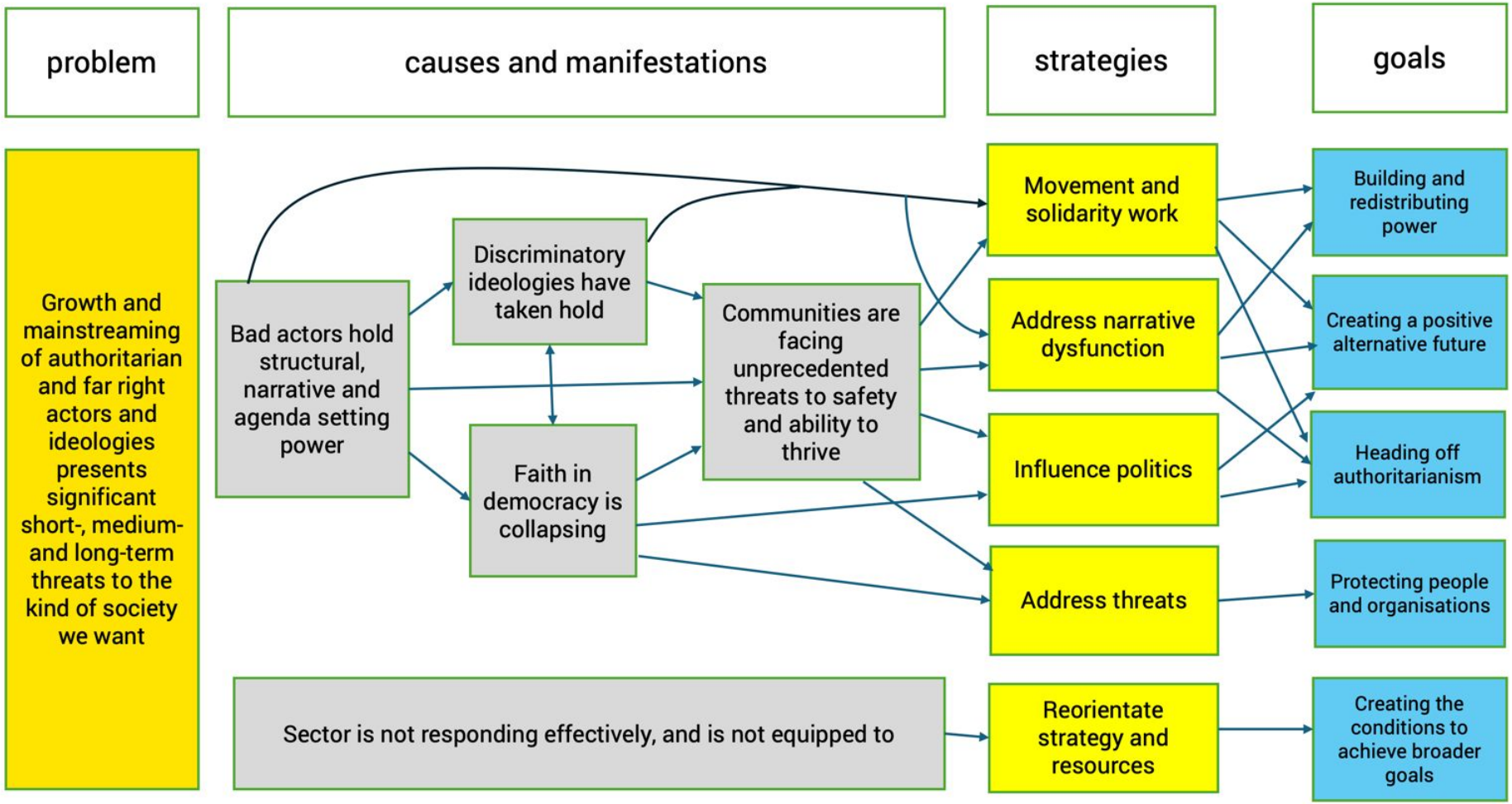
problem	causes and manifestations

Growth and mainstreaming of authoritarian and far right actors and ideologies presents significant short-, medium- and long-term threats to the kind of society we want



Sector is not responding effectively, and is not equipped to


problem
causes and manifestations
strategies
Growth and mainstreaming of authoritarian and far right actors and ideologies presents significant short-, medium- and long-term threats to the kind of society we want
Bad actors hold structural, narrative and agenda setting power
Discriminatory ideologies have taken hold
Faith in democracy is collapsing
Communities are facing unprecedented threats to safety and ability to thrive
Movement and solidarity work
Address narrative dysfunction
Influence politics
Address threats
Sector is not responding effectively, and is not equipped to
Reorientate strategy and resources


problem
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goals
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Movement and solidarity work
Address narrative dysfunction
Influence politics
Address threats
Building and redistributing power
Creating a positive alternative future
Heading off authoritarianism
Protecting people and organisations
Sector is not responding effectively, and is not equipped to
Reorientate strategy and resources
Creating the conditions to achieve broader goals


addressing threats
movement and solidarity work
strategies needed
influencing politics
sector strategy and resources
addressing narrative dysfunction


strategies needed
addressing threats
communities
organisations
civic space
resilient democratic institutions
safety and security
opposing fascists
movement and solidarity work
undermining power base of bad actors
buiding alternative leadership
social and racial justice solidarty networks
broad based pro democracy coalition
organising, solidarity and infrastructure
developing and building radical alternatives
influencing politics
influencing mainstream politics
doing electoral work
addressing narrative dysfunction
building narrative power
a fair media eco system
sector strategy and resources
sharing what works
funding
scenario planning and strategisation
international networking
connective infrastructure

Fighting back in Canada







HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Proudly Canadian Owne

'DomCon' met with protests at Burlington conference venue and Hamilton City Hall

Venue owner says he was misled into booking controversial Dominion Society event.

Aug. 30, 2026 | Updated at 2:05 p.m. | 3 min read | 98

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Indigenous resistance in Canada

CBC

9 Ontario First Nations ask for injunction against Bill 5, say law represents 'clear and present danger'





CBC

'We will not be intimidated,' Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc chief says of white nationalist gathering

B.C. politicians and leaders condemn gathering, calling it 'disgraceful' and 'hateful'

Capacity-building resources for community defense



Holistic Readiness Center —
Centre de résilience holistique

- Intel digest on far-right and populist-right organizing in Canada
- On-demand and customized trainings, workshops, skillshares
- Connection between communities defending from far-right attacks
- Support for organizing regional strategy sessions, community resource mapping, etc.
- Security and safety for progressive advocates and groups
- Secure digital platform and device support
- Legal, financial and psychosocial support
- Coaching and guidance on security culture


Building a collective response
Networking and collective strategising
Developing and sharing examples of good practice
Organisational strategy
Strategies beyond a single-issue focus
Interrogating the ‘responsibility to engage’
Setting long term goals
Organisations’ capabilities and preparedness
Having red lines in place
Safety and security protocols
Guidance for Boards
Strategic capacity
Robust accountability




SDLP
Céad Míle Fáilte
NOT
Céad Míle Fascaist
BELFAST
STANDS
AGAINST
RACISM
ANAKA

ARM - The Anti-Racist Movement we need to defeat the far right

What are we doing?

We are building a vast and interconnected network of anti-racist activists across the UK

We are a growing network of anti-racists, migrants, trade unionists, and community organisers. Our anti-racist movement is about our shared collective experience, historical and contemporary. We understand that to be anti-racist is to be against all forms of oppression, based on class, religion, race, sexuality, gender, or disability. Our strength is in our inter-locked struggles.





commongroundorg.co.uk

Things to do & how to stay in touch

- Follow Natasha's research: http://thinkingdoingchanging.com
- Read the D-Hub toolkit: https://antiauthoritarian.com
- Join 8th Fire Rising's mailing list: https://8thfirerising.ca
- Join BPN's mailing list: https://forms.gle/ALRrfnrik6u6AFPWA
- Fill out the HRC intake form: https://cryptpad.fr/pad/#/2/pad/view/kOW+isYEGlmQg2A-CCt8XXl8Zc3VsYW69NJTUFoldPU/