



HOPE

# SUMMER 2026

## Trends and patterns in the anti-migrant far right



*Sign up for our  
communities  
mailing list*

# Key trends and patterns



- Hyper-local organising and shifting rhetoric
- Uptick in interpersonal attacks
- Rise in vigilantism
- Targeting of 'HMOs'
- Increasingly confident 'auditors'

# Summer 2026 in figures



- 166 far-right protests 1 May-31 August -  
nearly 10 a week on average
- 55 related to asylum accommodation in the local area
- 43 were responses to local violent incidents
- 9 were specifically themed around women's safety, and 3 about children's safety
- 21 of the protests about a local violent incident featured violence, so approx 49%

# Key flashpoints of summer 2026



- Southampton, 2 June
- Belfast, 9-10 June
- Thetford, 4-7 August

# The radical right in Westminster and beyond



- At May local elections, Reform UK secured net total of 1050 seats in England - **largest net gain by a political party outside Labour and Conservatives in English history**
- Reform and Restore underperformed at key by-elections
- Locally, Reform has an outright majority in 23 councils across Great Britain, and is the largest party in 12
- Reform's actions in power have included: cutting funding for Pride events at the last minute; refusing to take down flags and spending council funds on Union Jacks; re-releasing the public register of HMOs, after this was taken down over security concerns; withdrawing from Borough of Sanctuary status; ending support for Show Racism the Red Card

# How the far right organises



# Generational issue

- Every generation has had to fight the far right - whether that's Oswald Mosley and the blackshirts in the 1920s and 30s, or the National Front in the 70s
- Now, we're facing a far right that is increasingly multinational, intersectional and deep-pocketed



# Post-organisational far right



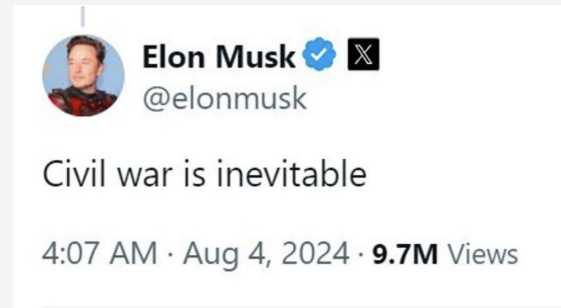
- Activity often **hard to trace back** to established group
- **Loosely affiliated** online groups
- **Broad network of actors** - established parties and organisations, local anti-migrant groups, influencers and auditors

# Key issues of focus

**Mobilising people onto the streets**



- Migration
- (Increasingly) race and race war
- Islamophobia (vs Christian nationalism)
- Grooming / gender-based violence
- Transphobia
- Local decline / British identity



# Other issues

**Culture war content**



- Homophobia
- Anti-Semitism
- 15-minute cities

# 'Local' vs 'organised'



- There is some **distinction** between local and organised groups - but the far right have to live somewhere! For example, a person who played a leading role the Epping protests was seen by many as a 'concerned local' as he lives not far away - but we knew him as a member of the fascist Homeland Party (an established, organised group)
- Often '**concerned locals**' who really drive forward protests - e.g. following a trigger event - have pre-existing links. For example, a local activist from an established far-right group living in an area that has a trigger event / migrant hotel may make an unbranded Facebook group to organise opposition, and hand out unbranded leaflets. But the actual event might be more branded / have more obvious propaganda from the group
- Or groups from organised far right **capitalise** on protests arranged in hotspot locations. Someone in the area with no affiliation to a particular group might lead a local anti-migrant group, in response to a trigger event / migrant hotel etc. People from more established groups will attend the demo / reach out to the person to co-lead the event, or may support the demo e.g. BF person speaks at local event.

# Politics between different groups



- Established groups have arguments at leadership level, but this **doesn't have much meaning** on the ground
- Smaller, local groups are often a **mixed bag** in terms of membership - for example, people active in the Kent Nationalist Movement will be members of lots of different more established groups and parties
- Small groups in the same region **support each other** - for example Portsmouth Patriots and Bournemouth Patriots repost each other's posts and attend each other's demos
- Auditors seem to have **less competition** with each other than established groups on the organised far right - e.g. group in Manchester create content together

# Choice of target location



- Convenience - e.g. Midlands is a good meeting point for activists coming by car
- Demographics - e.g. Britain First specifically target white working class areas
- Historical support - reviving networks, even from a long time ago, can give groups a foothold
- Opportunism - trigger event, asylum hotel or known asylum accommodation
- Requests! (Sometimes people comment on social media posts asking far-right groups to organise in their area)

# Common tactics / actions



- Demonstrations
- Leafleting
- Group activities e.g. litter picking
- 'Auditors' - content creators focusing on far-right issues
- Interpersonal attacks and hate crimes
- Graffiti and vandalism
- Vigilante patrol groups
- Online abuse and harassment

# Organising platforms



- Facebook - used most by local, unbranded groups
- Instagram - used frequently by local Patriot groups
- X - used for discourse, not organising
- TikTok - used by youth-skewed groups like White Vanguard, and for reactive, unbranded mobilisations
- Telegram, WhatsApp - more extreme groups solely organise on these platforms
- YouTube - used by all the auditors

# Funding



- Much organising is **self-funded** - including emails to members asking for donations
- Some groups have **wealthy members** who bankroll activities
- Auditors mostly **self-funded** - their content pays well
- Some influencers backed by **unknown wealthy donors** - e.g. Steve Laws is a paid full-time activist, but nobody knows where the money comes from