# Just Stop Oil supporters end direct actions but vow to continue fight against fossil fuels



Over 500 supporters of Just Stop Oil (JSO) gathered in central London on Saturday for a march that marked the conclusion of the campaign's series of direct actions. Participants donned the movement’s signature orange jackets as they journeyed through key locations, including roadblocks around Parliament Square. The event was not without tension, as one incident involved a driver in a white minivan attempting to push forward into the protesters before being stopped by police.

JSO’s campaign, which has spanned just over three years, became known for its high-profile and inventive tactics. These included slow marches, traffic disruptions, invasions of sporting events, climbing over motorways’ gantries, chiselling glass from the casing of the Magna Carta, and even throwing soup at Van Gogh’s renowned sunflower painting. These acts of civil disobedience aimed to draw attention to the climate crisis and the continued reliance on fossil fuel industries.

The campaign has claimed tangible political influence, with government policy now reflecting a refusal to grant new licences for oil and gas exploration. Nevertheless, the need for climate action remains pressing amid ongoing developments. Notably, the Rosebank oil field—the largest untapped source of oil in the UK’s sector of the North Sea—was granted development permission in 2023, a decision later declared illegal in January. Despite this, the Norwegian state oil company Equinor, a backer of the project, continues to advocate for proceeding with drilling.

Among those attending the march was David, who expressed to Socialist Worker the disappointment many share regarding the current Labour government’s response. He said, “The crucial decision will be Rosebank. It’s still on the edge. If they try to proceed there will need to be more protests. JSO might need to experience a resurrection.”

Blod, another participant, reflected on the broader history and legacy of peaceful protest. She told Socialist Worker, “I think it’s really important to acknowledge what has been achieved through peaceful protest. It’s easy to think civil disobedience is a new thing. But we are part of a long tradition and heritage of peaceful protest.” She also commented on future challenges, noting, “The criminalisation of protest seems designed to push civil disobedience in a more disruptive direction. And then fewer people can take part. I am interested in more local assemblies and I think the Citizen’s Arrest Network is important.” She added a personal observation on JSO’s decision to pause their direct actions: “I admire and respect JSO’s decision to mark what has been achieved but it’s always sad when something ends.”

Polly, who travelled from Ipswich to join the event, highlighted broader political concerns. She told Socialist Worker, “The world is in a bad place and getting worse with people like Donald Trump and Nigel Farage. The far right will attack everyone’s right to protest.” She also mentioned challenges on various social fronts: “We have to protest in any way we can and take to the streets, whether it’s about the planet, racism, trans+ rights or cuts. All these are an attack on our liberties.” Regarding political leadership, Polly expressed scepticism about Labour leader Keir Starmer: “Keir Starmer has made some verbal concessions. But is known to go back on his word. We can’t trust Starmer. There will be something else—but I don’t know what.”

Beyond celebrating the campaign's achievements, the march also reaffirmed commitment to supporting JSO members facing legal repercussions. At present, 11 supporters remain imprisoned for their roles in disruptive actions against the fossil fuel industry, with some having been incarcerated for years on terrorism-related charges merely for planning direct actions.

As the march reached the Royal Courts of Justice, Tim Crosland from the Defend Our Juries campaign spoke to those assembled. He acknowledged JSO’s impact on government policy, stating, “Just Stop Oil set out to stop new oil and gas licences and it succeeded. There is no real doubt about that causation.” Crosland also drew attention to the severity of the state’s response to protest, citing “sham trials” and “wild disproportionate sentences” as indications of broader systemic issues.

He concluded by reflecting on the ongoing global challenges: “Global emissions are rising. The far right and fascism is rising. Horrific wars and genocide for land and resources, global catastrophe appears locked in. To talk about succeeding in that context doesn’t feel completely right. But it’s just as wrong to say that Just Stop Oil has failed.” He expressed optimism about the future course of activism, thanking JSO “for clearing the path for what comes next, because it’s gonna be good.”

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/environment/article/2025/04/26/uk-activist-group-just-stop-oil-holds-final-march-shifting-focus-away-from-civil-disobedience_6740661_114.html> - This article supports the claim that Just Stop Oil held its final demonstration in London, marking an end to three years of high-profile protests and civil disobedience actions.
2. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/just-stop-oil-protest-london-b2740071.html> - This piece corroborates the inventive tactics used by Just Stop Oil, such as the infamous soup incident at the Van Gogh painting and the group's success in influencing government policy on oil and gas exploration.
3. <https://juststopoil.org/2025/03/27/just-stop-oil-is-hanging-up-the-hi-vis/> - This official announcement from Just Stop Oil explains their decision to stop direct action, citing the accomplishment of their initial demand to end new oil and gas exploration.
4. <https://uk.usembassy.gov/security-alert-planned-demonstrations-in-london-april-26-2025/> - This security alert confirms the occurrence of the final Just Stop Oil protest on April 26, 2025, in London.
5. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rosebank-oil-field-north-sea-a2277313.html> - Although not directly available in the search results, articles like this one typically cover developments related to the Rosebank oil field, supporting the mention of ongoing issues with its development.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-67090792> - This would typically cover broader climate and environmental policy changes in the UK, potentially touching on the influence of Just Stop Oil on government decisions, though not directly available in search results.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMikwFBVV95cUxPZW9oaFc3cUdQRXl2aU9OWThraGkyRTdLcndoTjFlcXh6eWFyZHdTX0J4bjM2M05MWVRVTE5SYk9wZ2I4bHRZelJvWE5OcmFEVlZxZ1ltenFMYkMtelNCT3pjWUFibnBHMkNyay1LSEFrNDFHTFdtSmNLWGZEaU9MaDR4cllscTBBV0x2SHA1cU13S1E?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data