# Rival protests in Manchester city centre highlight community tensions



Several hundred protesters and counter-protesters gathered in Manchester city centre on 25 April for two rival demonstrations addressing contentious issues within the community.

The event organised by a group calling themselves 'Patriots of Britain' took place in Piccadilly Gardens. The group staged their protest to express concerns over the handling of grooming gang cases. They urged people to "unite for the children" and called for accountability regarding the victims of these crimes. Demonstrators at the event waved Union flags, and one prominent sign read "Free Tommy Robinson." Among the speakers was UKIP leader Nick Tenconi, who addressed the crowd during the protest.

In response, a counter-protest was held at the same location under the title "Keep the fascists out of Manchester." The counter-protesters accused the 'Patriots of Britain' group of promoting "bigotry and hatred." Participants in this demonstration chanted slogans such as "Nazi scum off our streets" and "there are many more of us than you," reflecting their opposition to the messages of the rival group.

To prevent clashes between the two groups, police officers established two lines on either side of the Queen Victoria statue in Piccadilly Gardens, effectively separating the protesters and counter-protesters throughout the day.

A spokesperson for Greater Manchester Police (GMP) reported that the situation remained calm overall, with no major disorder recorded. During the event, two arrests were made: one individual was detained on suspicion of assault, and another on suspicion of racially aggravated public order offences.

This protest and counter-protest highlighted contrasting viewpoints on sensitive social issues, with authorities maintaining order to ensure public safety in the city centre.

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