# Conor McGregor adopting American far-right rhetoric stirs concerns



Conor McGregor has attracted attention for adopting rhetoric aligned with American far-right messaging, particularly expressed through anti-immigration views, according to Wendy Via, co-founder and president of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism (Gpahe). Ms Via, speaking to BreakingNews.ie, highlighted concerns over the influence the Irish mixed martial artist and public figure is beginning to exert through his recent political and media engagements.

Gpahe is an organisation focused on countering threats from far-right extremism while promoting human rights and progressive values. Ms Via emphasised that political leaders should not dismiss McGregor's influence merely because his bid for political office appears unlikely at present. She referred to an interview McGregor gave to former Fox News broadcaster Tucker Carlson, a figure known for promoting far-right views, where McGregor adopted a number of talking points typical of that movement.

During the interview, McGregor advanced themes often seen in far-right discourse, including religious overtones, portraying himself as a protector of family and nation, and dehumanising migrants. “I don’t know if it’s permanent, but during that interview he seemed to be moderating a little bit saying ‘I’m the good guy, I just want to protect my family and my country… I want to be led by God’,” Ms Via noted. She added, “It seems to me that he is completely adopting the American far-right messaging. It’s ‘this is what’s right and what’s good for our people’. He’s setting himself up to be a bit of a hero, which is what a lot of far-right figures do, especially political figures.”

Despite McGregor lacking formal political power currently, Ms Via stressed the capacity of those espousing far-right ideas to exploit economic and safety concerns, often through inaccurate claims about immigration. An example cited was McGregor’s assertion that hotels in County Wexford were fully converted to international protection accommodation, a statement contradicted by official data showing over 100 hotels remain operational in that area.

Ms Via outlined how McGregor’s platform allows him to become a “mouthpiece” for far-right ideologies. This dynamic was observable when McGregor hosted Tucker Carlson at his Black Forge Inn pub in Crumlin, an event attended by various right-wing figures. “He is able to influence voters. He’s also able to influence the discourse. He can’t pull the conversation to the right alone but he has a huge following on X and he tries to use that,” she explained. “Presenting himself as the de facto far-right leader, whether he gets in office or not, he is influencing the conversation, and in a way that does not solve a problem. It just creates fear.”

Ms Via criticised the spread of falsehoods around migration in such narratives, pointing out how Carlson’s platform propagates similar disinformation to predominantly American and some Russian audiences. She elaborated, “When Conor McGregor gets on there and says things like the hotels are gone, or conversely the migrants are staying in the nicest hotels or they’re getting the best apartments, that kind of thing, then the viewers or listeners just say ‘OK, well, it’s becoming global’.”

The progression of McGregor’s messaging was contextualised within a broader political landscape where even established politicians use far-right talking points. Ms Via remarked on the enduring influence of figures like former US President Donald Trump and warned against conflating far-right extremism with mainstream conservative policies.

“When you have Trump not once, but twice, and all of the Republican Party behind it… What Conor McGregor says is out there then, even if it’s not true. The more controversial the content, the faster it spreads,” she said. Ms Via further cautioned that dismissing McGregor’s remarks outright risks ignoring potentially significant shifts in public discourse. “What we should not do is say to a person who has questions that ‘you’re being hysterical, worried over nothing’. Or to claim a government policy on migration is perfect, instead point to where you want to improve it.”

Although McGregor’s exact political ambitions remain uncertain, Ms Via observed that personalities with similar rhetoric have succeeded in gaining power, implying that such developments could happen with McGregor in the future. She underlined that Carlson’s mission to amplify far-right policies and Christian themes complements McGregor’s appeal, particularly among male and younger audiences.

The conversation underscores how figures like McGregor, through media and public appearances, are becoming important broadcasters of far-right ideas beyond traditional political circles, influencing debates on immigration and national identity within Ireland and beyond.

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

## Bibliography

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7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiuwFBVV95cUxNTXkxU19ZT2NtT2lZUTE3QkpNdG43SXp6Vko0bFV6TVFCelVWeEZQanloNjg2c0VEaUVsRDNuN1ZObjRfbVpvWmltWWNEQVNvVEIwY1pQT3hLU1c3c3VhQUlsVXlhOS10M0JGeHZaNjZWb2tqQU9HeVY2MGdJdkxON0hMNUFkS29ENEo3YWktM3AwTENIVTdoVmhWZVNSVnltaFNpSkg0TXdlQk1nZC1yYWcxZzUtWFBQZUdN?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data