# Celtic fans clash with Orange Order during VE Day anniversary parade in Glasgow



Tensions flared in Glasgow this past Saturday as Celtic fans clashed with supporters of the Orange Order during a significant anniversary parade. The confrontation occurred in George Square, where Celtic supporters were descending on Parkhead to celebrate their club's recent Scottish Premiership title, coinciding with the Orange Order's VE Day 80th anniversary procession.

Video footage captured the intensity of the altercation, showing bottles and cans being hurled between the rival factions. Celtic fans, resplendent in team colours, found themselves close to the Orange supporters who waved Union Jack flags as marching bands paraded by. Police were deployed to separate the two groups amid the chaos.

Authorities had anticipated tensions, prompting warnings from various fronts urging Celtic fans to stay away from unofficial celebrations. Historically, the area around the Trongate has been a hotbed for disorder following Celtic matches, leading to significant disruptions and public safety concerns. Last year's unofficial trophy celebrations resulted in 19 arrests, along with numerous incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, where fans set off pyrotechnics and damaged public property. Glasgow businesses and local officials have voiced their frustrations over this recurring issue, describing the damage as “unacceptable” and a drain on public resources.

In light of these concerns, Celtic Football Club issued a statement urging fans not to gather in large groups outside of the stadium. The club’s spokesperson emphasised the importance of celebrating safely and responsibly, highlighting that previous large gatherings had often led to issues for local residents and businesses. Community discussions have made it clear that while celebrations are welcome, they should not come at the cost of public safety and community well-being.

Police Scotland, for its part, assured the public that a comprehensive policing strategy was in place to manage the competing events. Assistant Chief Constable Mark Sutherland remarked on the importance of respecting the rights of all to assemble while underlining the responsibility everyone has to ensure that their behaviour does not disrupt others. Glasgow City Council echoed these sentiments, advocating for joyous celebrations that respect the local community.

These events reflect broader historical tensions surrounding the Orange Order’s parades in Glasgow. Previous incidences of violence, including incidents where participants have been charged for outright assault, add a layer of complexity to the situation. This backdrop has intensified public awareness around the potential for unrest, especially during football celebrations where emotions run high.

As Celtic fans gathered in the city centre, the potential for disorder looms large, raising questions about how best to balance public celebrations with safety. The historical context of football fan culture in Scotland, combined with the intersections of community identity and rivalry, continues to challenge both law enforcement and local governance. The stakes are clear: celebrating success should not endanger public peace or community harmony.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/celtic-fans-heated-clash-orange-35242604> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-50870727> - A man participating in an Orange Walk in Glasgow admitted to spitting on a woman as she crossed the procession route. Darren Thompson, 34, and William Carmichael, 45, both members of the Drumchapel Protestant Boys Flute Band, pleaded guilty to assault charges at Glasgow Sheriff Court. The incident occurred on 6 July, when the woman, Caitlin McCall, attempted to pass through the procession and was pushed and spat upon by the two men. The case highlights ongoing tensions surrounding Orange Walks in Glasgow.
3. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24330147.celtic-fans-street-celebrations-damage-branded-unacceptable/> - Following Celtic's Scottish Premiership title win, thousands of fans gathered in Glasgow's Merchant City, leading to significant disorder. Police Scotland reported 19 arrests and four officers injured during the celebrations. Fans engaged in anti-social behavior, including setting off pyrotechnic devices and vandalism, causing damage to bus stops and traffic lights. City officials condemned the actions, emphasizing the disruption caused to local businesses and residents, and called for greater responsibility from the club and supporters in future celebrations.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-65737798> - During Celtic's Scottish Premiership trophy celebrations, three individuals were seriously assaulted in Glasgow city center. A 31-year-old man remains in serious condition, while two others, aged 33 and 19, have been discharged from hospital. Police intervened to prevent further escalation, resulting in ten arrests for various offenses, including assault and public disorder. The incident underscores the challenges of managing large, unsanctioned gatherings and the associated risks to public safety.
5. <https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/video-celtic-and-rangers-fan-clash-in-street-brawl-1464172> - A violent altercation occurred between Celtic and Rangers fans outside Hampden Park ahead of a League Cup semi-final match. Video footage shows supporters shouting and engaging in physical confrontations near food stalls. Police were present to control the situation, but the incident highlights the persistent tensions between the two rival fanbases, even outside match venues.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czqqwp3xz55o> - Businesses in Glasgow's city center criticized the damage and disruption caused by football fans celebrating Celtic's title win. An estimated 25,000 fans gathered for an unofficial party, leading to early closures and safety concerns for local shops. The manager of Carriages and Castles, a children's clothing store, expressed frustration over the situation and called for the club to take responsibility for the damage caused by its supporters.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0kvm8pxn66o> - Violence erupted in Glasgow's city center as football fans clashed following Celtic's title celebrations. Shoppers sought refuge indoors as fans charged through Argyle Street and the Trongate, leading to injuries and property damage. Police used stop and search powers to manage the situation, and a 26-year-old man was hospitalized after a serious assault. The incident underscores the challenges of managing large, unsanctioned gatherings and the associated risks to public safety.