# Far-right Great British National Strike rally met with large anti-racism counter-protest in Glasgow



In a tense display of opposing ideologies, a far-right group identified as The Great British National Strike staged a rally in Glasgow, coinciding with a substantial anti-racism demonstration. The event unfolded on the steps of Buchanan Street, where police forces were deployed in significant numbers to maintain order and separate the rival factions.

The demonstration organised by The Great British National Strike was part of a larger series of events taking place across several Scottish cities, including Aberdeen, Dumfries, and Edinburgh. This coalition, led by Richard Donaldson, espouses a range of controversial views, including opposition to illegal immigration and criticisms of net zero policies. As stated at the rally, some participants carried banners proclaiming “Free Tommy Robinson,” highlighting the rally's alignment with the anti-immigration narrative championed by the far-right activist.

The atmosphere was charged, with attendees of the far-right rally heard chanting “refugees not welcome here.” In stark contrast, a large contingent of anti-racism demonstrators rallied nearby, supported by numerous organisations such as the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Stand Up to Racism. Their voices echoed through the city centre, as they chanted slogans promoting inclusivity, proclaiming “Refugees welcome here” and “Stop the far right.” As police formed a buffer between the two groups, tensions escalated, but officers successfully prevented direct clashes.

The confrontation in Glasgow reflects a broader trend seen across the UK, where far-right rhetoric has increasingly sparked sizeable anti-racist responses. For instance, in a previous incident, thousands of anti-racism activists gathered to oppose a similar gathering backed by Tommy Robinson, where they vastly outnumbered the far-right participants. The trend of significant counter-protests demonstrates mounting concern over rising far-right sentiment and its implications for social cohesion.

According to reports, the far-right group acknowledged multiple arrests having been made during rallies elsewhere in the UK, although it remains unclear whether any incidents necessitated police action in Glasgow. The public's response to such events emphasises the persistent vigilance against the erosion of inclusivity and solidarity, values many in Scotland are determined to uphold.

Looking ahead, similar demonstrations are already on the horizon. In anticipation of upcoming protests, anti-racism campaigners, including the STUC and Stand Up to Racism Scotland, have announced plans for counter-demonstrations. These efforts aim to forge a united front against the perceived threat of far-right ideologies, reiterating a commitment to welcoming refugees and fostering a diverse, inclusive society.

As Scotland continues to navigate these contentious issues, the recent rally and subsequent protests underline the continuing societal divisions and the imperative for ongoing dialogue to foster understanding and unity amidst mounting tensions.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/far-right-group-met-glasgow-35281874), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/tommy-robinson-refugees-glasgow-activists-donald-trump-b1180686.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/far-right-group-met-glasgow-35281874), [[4]](https://www.thenational.scot/news/24569776.police-step-prevent-violence-glasgow-far-right-rally/), [[6]](https://standuptoracism.org.uk/press-release-trade-unions-politicians-cultural-figures-campaigners-to-stand-up-to-racism-glasgow-sat-7-sep/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/aug/23/stand-up-to-racism-plans-counter-protest-to-glasgow-anti-immigrant-rally), [[5]](https://www.stuc.org.uk/st-andrews-day-2024/), [[7]](https://revolutionarycommunist.org/branches/scotland-branch/glasgow-stands-against-racist-scapegoating/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/far-right-group-met-glasgow-35281874), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/tommy-robinson-refugees-glasgow-activists-donald-trump-b1180686.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://standuptoracism.org.uk/press-release-trade-unions-politicians-cultural-figures-campaigners-to-stand-up-to-racism-glasgow-sat-7-sep/), [[7]](https://revolutionarycommunist.org/branches/scotland-branch/glasgow-stands-against-racist-scapegoating/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/far-right-group-met-glasgow-35281874> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/tommy-robinson-refugees-glasgow-activists-donald-trump-b1180686.html> - Thousands of anti-racism activists gathered in Glasgow's George Square to oppose a rally backed by far-right campaigner Tommy Robinson. The counter-protesters vastly outnumbered the few hundred far-right activists present, with a significant police presence ensuring the groups remained separate. Some protesters displayed flags and placards with anti-immigration messages, while the counter-demonstrators chanted slogans promoting inclusivity and solidarity.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/aug/23/stand-up-to-racism-plans-counter-protest-to-glasgow-anti-immigrant-rally> - Anti-racism campaigners, including Stand Up to Racism Scotland, announced plans for a major counter-demonstration in Glasgow's George Square on 7 September 2024. This was in response to an anti-immigration rally organized by the Glasgow Cabbie Facebook page, which had been promoted by Tommy Robinson. The counter-protest aimed to unite against racism and fascism, emphasizing that refugees are welcome in Glasgow.
4. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/24569776.police-step-prevent-violence-glasgow-far-right-rally/> - Police Scotland intervened to prevent violent clashes between far-right and anti-racist protesters in Glasgow's George Square. The far-right rally, attended by approximately 200 people, was met by a counter-protest of around 2,500 individuals organized by Stand Up to Racism. Police established a 'sterile zone' to keep the groups apart, and both demonstrations featured speeches and chants opposing racism and fascism.
5. <https://www.stuc.org.uk/st-andrews-day-2024/> - The Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) organized an Anti-Racism and Anti-Fascism march in Glasgow on St Andrew's Day, 30 November 2024. This event marked the 40th anniversary of Scotland's first major anti-racist counter-protest in 1983. The march aimed to highlight Scotland's commitment to inclusivity, solidarity with refugees, and the rejection of far-right ideologies, bringing together trade unions, community groups, activists, and individuals from across the country.
6. <https://standuptoracism.org.uk/press-release-trade-unions-politicians-cultural-figures-campaigners-to-stand-up-to-racism-glasgow-sat-7-sep/> - A coalition of nine trade unions, politicians, cultural figures, and leading campaigners, including the STUC and Stand Up to Racism, announced a major counter-demonstration in Glasgow's George Square on 7 September 2024. This was in response to an anti-immigration rally organized by the Glasgow Cabbie Facebook page, which had been promoted by Tommy Robinson. The counter-protest aimed to unite against racism and fascism, emphasizing that refugees are welcome in Glasgow.
7. <https://revolutionarycommunist.org/branches/scotland-branch/glasgow-stands-against-racist-scapegoating/> - On 7 September 2024, supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Group joined over two thousand people in George Square, Glasgow, to oppose an 'Enough is enough' protest against 'mass and illegal immigration'. The 'Pro UK' rally, which attracted around 300 attendees, was called by an individual known as 'Glasgow cabbie' Stef Shaw and promoted by Tommy Robinson. The counter-protest aimed to show that people remain vigilant against far-right ideologies in Scotland.