# Crowd estimates clash as Tommy Robinson's 'Unite the Kingdom' rally becomes one of UK's largest protests



Tommy Robinson’s “Unite the Kingdom” rally, held in central London on 13 September 2025, has sparked fierce debate over its size, nature, and implications amid a backdrop of escalating tensions around free speech, immigration, and nationalism in the UK. Robinson, a former BNP member and founder of the English Defence League, claims that the event drew three million participants, dubbing it the largest protest in British history. Yet the Metropolitan Police and various media outlets provide far lower estimates, ranging from approximately 110,000 to 150,000 attendees.

The Metropolitan Police employed CCTV and helicopter footage to gauge crowd size, arriving at an estimate of about 110,000 protesters supporting Robinson’s event, while around 5,000 attended a counter-protest organised by “Stand Up to Racism.” Expert analysis by crowd safety professionals concurs that the figure in the millions is implausible; for instance, aerial footage of key gathering points suggests roughly 70,000 to 76,000 attendees at peak moments, making Robinson’s claims appear highly exaggerated. The size of the crowd nonetheless places the rally among the largest right-wing protests in recent UK history, demonstrating significant mobilisation by nationalist and anti-immigration supporters.

Logistically, Robinson’s protest saw thousands assembling near Waterloo Station before crossing Westminster Bridge to Whitehall. It featured symbols like Union and St. George’s flags, with some participants brandishing American and Israeli flags or wearing MAGA hats, underscoring the broader global resonance of nationalist movements. Speakers included controversial figures such as actor-turned-commentator Laurence Fox, far-right European politicians, and even Elon Musk, who delivered a virtual address calling for radical political change and warning of impending violence. The event’s cultural programme mixed patriotic music with more contentious moments, such as a preacher advocating for bans on non-Christian places of worship and halal food, and nationalist slogans linking immigration with crime.

Violence marred parts of the day despite calls from organisers for peaceful conduct. According to police reports, clashes erupted when some supporters attempted to breach the barrier separating Robinson’s march from counter-protesters, resulting in projectiles thrown at officers and physical assaults. The Metropolitan Police recorded four serious injuries among their ranks, including an officer losing teeth and another suffering a head injury, with 24 arrests made. However, when placed in context, these figures suggest a relatively restrained level of violence compared with other large events like the Notting Hill Carnival. The number of arrests per attendee was significantly lower than that event, indicating that while violence occurred, it was not on a scale unprecedented for public gatherings.

The question of racism remains contentious. Supporters portray the march as a patriotic assertion of British values, with some minority figures, such as Sir Trevor Phillips, describing the crowd as diverse and largely composed of everyday people rather than extremists. Critics, including Labour MP Diane Abbott and London Mayor Sadiq Khan, have decried the atmosphere as steeped in racism and reminiscent of far-right marches from previous decades, highlighting the predominance of men waving nationalistic flags and instances of aggression towards police and counter-protesters. The event also generated multiple conspiracy theories online, with fabricated videos and misleading edits spreading rapidly on social media, further polarising public perceptions.

Prominent political figures reacted strongly, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemning the event’s far-right rhetoric and violence, affirming the need to uphold tolerance and unity while reproaching attempts to intimidate minorities. Starmer also criticised Elon Musk’s incendiary video address to the crowd as “dangerous,” although the UK government stopped short of imposing sanctions or restricting Tesla’s involvement in public contracts despite calls from opposition leaders.

Overall, while the “Unite the Kingdom” protest highlighted simmering divisions within British society over immigration, identity, and free speech, the factual record challenges some of Robinson's more grandiose claims. Attendance figures, police reports, and independent crowd analysis indicate a large but not unprecedented turnout, with incidents of violence that, while serious, were proportionally fewer than at some other major UK events. The rally’s mix of patriotic symbolism, controversial rhetoric, and moments of confrontation reflects a complex and deeply fraught socio-political landscape that continues to test Britain’s commitments to free expression and social cohesion.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15104909/Tommy-Robinsons-Unite-Kingdom-march-Truth-revealed-GUY-ADAMS.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/scuffles-with-police-100000-anti-immigration-protesters-march-london-2025-09-13/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/police-protesters-scuffle-110000-join-anti-migrant-london-protest-2025-09-13/), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/e4c7bfd7d7fda25b3c4ef8ef7e0a2f53)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15104909/Tommy-Robinsons-Unite-Kingdom-march-Truth-revealed-GUY-ADAMS.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/scuffles-with-police-100000-anti-immigration-protesters-march-london-2025-09-13/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/police-protesters-scuffle-110000-join-anti-migrant-london-protest-2025-09-13/), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/e4c7bfd7d7fda25b3c4ef8ef7e0a2f53)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15104909/Tommy-Robinsons-Unite-Kingdom-march-Truth-revealed-GUY-ADAMS.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/scuffles-with-police-100000-anti-immigration-protesters-march-london-2025-09-13/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/police-protesters-scuffle-110000-join-anti-migrant-london-protest-2025-09-13/), [[6]](https://www.elpais.com/internacional/2025-09-13/la-extrema-derecha-exhibe-musculo-en-londres-con-una-marcha-de-110000-manifestantes.html)
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* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15104909/Tommy-Robinsons-Unite-Kingdom-march-Truth-revealed-GUY-ADAMS.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/e4c7bfd7d7fda25b3c4ef8ef7e0a2f53), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/de9e83df-33bc-47f1-a833-f25fa66fba27), [[6]](https://www.elpais.com/internacional/2025-09-13/la-extrema-derecha-exhibe-musculo-en-londres-con-una-marcha-de-110000-manifestantes.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15104909/Tommy-Robinsons-Unite-Kingdom-march-Truth-revealed-GUY-ADAMS.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/e4c7bfd7d7fda25b3c4ef8ef7e0a2f53), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/de9e83df-33bc-47f1-a833-f25fa66fba27), [[7]](https://apnews.com/article/b1f272511ff0c5bc6a8d7bf308063343)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15104909/Tommy-Robinsons-Unite-Kingdom-march-Truth-revealed-GUY-ADAMS.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/scuffles-with-police-100000-anti-immigration-protesters-march-london-2025-09-13/> - On 13 September 2025, over 100,000 anti-immigration protesters marched through central London in what was described as one of the largest right-wing demonstrations in UK history. Organized by activist Tommy Robinson under the banner 'Unite the Kingdom,' the rally drew around 110,000 participants who carried Union and St. George’s flags, with some waving American and Israeli flags and wearing MAGA hats. A smaller counter-protest organized by 'Stand Up to Racism' attracted around 5,000 attendees. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/scuffles-with-police-100000-anti-immigration-protesters-march-london-2025-09-13/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/police-protesters-scuffle-110000-join-anti-migrant-london-protest-2025-09-13/> - On September 13, 2025, over 110,000 people joined the 'Unite the Kingdom' anti-migrant protest in central London, making it one of the largest right-wing demonstrations in recent UK history. Organized by controversial activist Tommy Robinson, the rally featured Union Jack and St. George's flags, chants against Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and placards with anti-immigration messages. Some attendees wore MAGA hats and brought American and Israeli flags. A rival counter-protest by 'Stand Up to Racism' drew about 5,000 people. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/police-protesters-scuffle-110000-join-anti-migrant-london-protest-2025-09-13/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://apnews.com/article/e4c7bfd7d7fda25b3c4ef8ef7e0a2f53> - A major protest organized by far-right activist Tommy Robinson in London, titled 'Unite the Kingdom,' drew between 110,000 and 150,000 attendees, significantly exceeding expectations. The march, held under the premise of free speech, prominently featured anti-migrant rhetoric and nationalist themes. The event turned violent when some participants clashed with police, resulting in 26 injured officers—four seriously—and 25 arrests for offenses like violent disorder and assault. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/e4c7bfd7d7fda25b3c4ef8ef7e0a2f53?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/de9e83df-33bc-47f1-a833-f25fa66fba27> - Sir Keir Starmer has strongly condemned the recent far-right 'Unite the Kingdom' rally in London, which drew between 110,000 and 150,000 participants and ended in violence, injuring 26 police officers and resulting in 24 arrests. Emphasizing the importance of tolerance and unity, Starmer asserted that Britain must 'never surrender' its national flag to extremists who use it to spread fear and division. He affirmed the right to peaceful protest but denounced assaults on police and the intimidation of minorities. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/de9e83df-33bc-47f1-a833-f25fa66fba27?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.elpais.com/internacional/2025-09-13/la-extrema-derecha-exhibe-musculo-en-londres-con-una-marcha-de-110000-manifestantes.html> - On 13 September 2025, the British far-right held a massive demonstration in central London under the slogan 'Unite the Kingdom,' organized by activist Tommy Robinson. The march gathered approximately 110,000 people according to the Metropolitan Police. Although there were moments of tension, clashes with the police and throwing of objects, there were no major disturbances, and nine arrests were made. The police deployed 1,000 officers and mobilized an additional 500 from other regions, establishing a 'neutral area' to prevent clashes with the approximately 5,000 anti-racist counter-protesters from the platform Stand Up Against Racism. ([elpais.com](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-09-13/la-extrema-derecha-exhibe-musculo-en-londres-con-una-marcha-de-110000-manifestantes.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://apnews.com/article/b1f272511ff0c5bc6a8d7bf308063343> - British Prime Minister Keir Starmer strongly condemned Elon Musk's comments at a far-right, anti-immigration rally in London, labeling them 'dangerous' and inflammatory. Musk, speaking via video to over 100,000 demonstrators at the 'Unite the Kingdom' event organized by Tommy Robinson, warned of impending violence in Britain and urged action against Starmer’s government. Although Starmer distanced himself from Musk's rhetoric, the UK government declined to consider sanctions or block Tesla from receiving public contracts, despite pressure from Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/b1f272511ff0c5bc6a8d7bf308063343?utm_source=openai))