# Protests erupt outside Cornwall political conference as division grows



Masked protesters gathered outside the Carn Brea Leisure Centre in Redruth, Cornwall, on the afternoon of 3.30 PM to oppose a conference organized by a political party that has recently made significant strides in the political landscape. The protest was orchestrated by a coalition of local groups known as Cornwall Resists, whose aim appears to be suppressing dissenting voices they deem "far-right hatred."

Demonstrators waved flags and carried placards, vocally expressing their discontent as they attempted to drown out the conference proceedings. Footage from the scene captured protesters chanting derogatory phrases, such as "Nazi" and "shame on you," while one particularly agitated individual shouted, "you should be f**\***\* embarrassed." Many of the masked protesters clashed with police officers stationed to maintain order, resulting in the law enforcement body being forced to push back demonstrators and urge them to disperse.

Inside the leisure centre, however, the atmosphere was quite the opposite. The conference proceeded with high-profile figures like former MP Ann Widdecombe and chairman Zia Yusuf addressing a crowd that seemed keen to hear an alternative message, particularly amid the current political turmoil. Party leader Nigel Farage took to the stage, galvanizing the approximately 700 attendees who are rallying for a change away from the Labour Party government led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The conference also marked the defection of Newquay councillor Kevin Towill from the Conservative Party to this burgeoning movement, reflecting a growing recognition of the established parties' failures. Towill stated that the party offered a "clear way ahead," highlighting widespread discontent directed towards the Conservative leadership that has stumbled under the pressure of the recent election.

Of particular note is the rising support for this alternative political force, as recent polls indicate a worrying trend for traditional parties. This group has reportedly surpassed both Labour and the Conservatives in some surveys, with the latest YouGov poll showing it at a striking 27 per cent support—two points ahead of Labour and six ahead of the beleaguered Conservatives. These numbers are likely causing serious concern within the leadership of the mainstream political establishment.

Reacting to the protests, Starmer previously unleashed a scathing critique of this alternative political force, accusing it of aligning with dangerous right-wing ideologies and lambasting its policies on various issues. He claimed that the party's positioning was “alien to working people.” However, such accusations have been dismissed as desperate by Farage, who maintains that the new movement resonates with the genuine concerns of the public.

The demonstrations outside the conference epitomize the stark tensions and divisions in today’s political climate. Farage, addressing the protests and the police's response, conveyed his irritation with the disruptions, especially when considering other less contentious events hosted by his party in the past. The confrontations in Cornwall serve as a potent illustration of the growing polarization around governance and political representation as the electorate increasingly looks for alternatives to the status quo.

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

## References

* <https://www.thecanary.co/uk/news/2025/02/20/people-in-cornwall-are-trying-to-shut-down-a-reform-uk-conference/> - This article supports the claim that a coalition of local groups, known as Cornwall Resists, organized a protest against the Reform UK conference in Cornwall, labeling the party as 'far-right' and expressing concerns about its impact on the community.
* <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/keir-starmer-politics-news-reform-uk-protests-hard-left> - This article corroborates the protests against Reform UK's conference in Cornwall and mentions Keir Starmer's criticism of the party, aligning with the narrative of political tensions and divisions.
* <https://www.voicenewspapers.co.uk/news/protest-to-take-place-at-reforms-cornwall-conference-767498> - This article confirms the protest at Reform UK's Cornwall conference and highlights the involvement of local groups in opposing the event.
* <https://www.thecanary.co/uk/news/2025/02/20/people-in-cornwall-are-trying-to-shut-down-a-reform-uk-conference/> - Additionally, this article provides details about the protesters' actions and the reasons behind their opposition to Reform UK, including concerns about racism and elitism.
* <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/keir-starmer-politics-news-reform-uk-protests-hard-left> - This article also mentions the rising support for Reform UK and the political implications of such trends, reflecting the growing dissatisfaction with traditional parties.
* <https://www.voicenewspapers.co.uk/news/protest-to-take-place-at-reforms-cornwall-conference-767498> - This article further supports the narrative of political polarization by highlighting the confrontations between protesters and the police during the event.