

# FACT SHEET

## Extreme Right Wing Groups

The Extreme Right Wing movement in Britain involves both organised groups and loosely affiliated and self-initiated individuals who subscribe to extreme right wing ideologies. Membership is generally white and male, but a sizeable minority of women are involved too. Keeping track of groups is difficult because they often change their names to sidestep legislation proscribing them.

Extreme right-wing groups have regularly organised provocative street demonstrations seeking to inflame and exploit community tensions, particularly in the north of the UK (such as fear of grooming gangs). However, the movement has increasingly moved online.

Many groups employ Nazi ideology and imagery, and Hitler-worship.



Thomas Mair was convicted in 2016 of the murder of Jo Cox, MP, an attack inspired by extreme right wing ideology

### Right Wing Terrorist incidents in Britain

The extreme right wing in Britain has been implicated in a number of murders and terror plots, including:

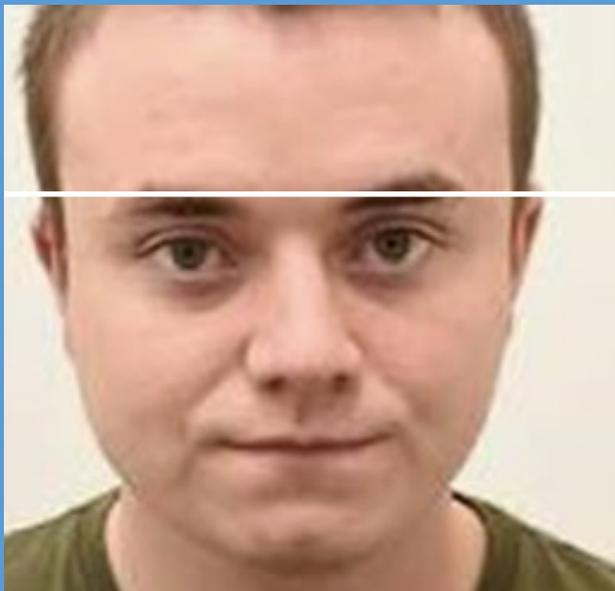
- Murder of Jo Cox, MP by Thomas Mair, who had attended EDL rallies
- In 2019, Jack Renshaw, a Member of National Action, was sentenced to life in prison for conspiring to murder Rosie Cooper, MP

*Keeping track of groups is difficult because they often change their names to sidestep legislation proscribing them.*

## Examples of proscribed Extreme Right-Wing Groups in Britain

**National Action** is a racist neo-Nazi group that was established in 2013. It has a number of branches across the UK. Its activities and propaganda materials are particularly aimed at recruiting young people. It conducts provocative street demonstrations aimed at intimidating local communities. A government order of September 2017 stated that **Scottish Dawn** and **NS131 (National Socialist Anti-Capitalist Action)** should be treated as alternative names for National Action. A further alias of the group is **System Resistance Network**. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.

**Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD)** is a white supremacist group that was established in March 2018 as a splinter group of the **System Resistance Network** (itself an alias of **National Action**). The group has encouraged and glorified acts of terrorism via its posts and images. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.



In June 2018, Jack Renshaw pleaded guilty to preparing an act of terrorism with the intention of killing the Labour MP Rose Cooper. He was a former spokesperson for the neo-Nazi organisation National Action.

## Examples of Extreme Right-Wing Groups in Britain which are not proscribed

**Britain First** is a far-right political organisation formed in 2011 by former members of the British National Party (BNP). Britain First campaigns primarily against multiculturalism and what it views as the Islamisation of the United Kingdom. In November 2017 it was statutorily deregistered as a party by the Electoral Commission. It is not a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.

**English Defence League** is a far-right, Islamophobic organisation in the United Kingdom. It employs street demonstrations as its main tactic. Both online and at events, EDL members have incited violence against Muslims. It is not a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.

## PROSCRIBED GROUPS

The UK government maintains a list of proscribed terrorist groups which can be viewed here: [Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations)

### The Alt Right Movement

Closely connected to the Extreme Right Wing movement is the so-called Alt Right Movement. This has its origins in the US but has spread to other countries including Britain.

The self-ascribed term 'alt-right' is widely seen as an attempt to present a more acceptable face to the public whilst maintaining the ideology of the extreme right.

The average demographic of the Alt Right movement is young, white, male, and well-educated (there is a large following amongst college students in the US).

The Alt Right is a loosely connected group of ideologies, with no hierarchy or central organisation. It includes elements of white supremacism, white separatism, anti-Semitism, and anti-government (Libertarianism) ideology.

The Alt-Right movement is predominantly based online. It has been incredibly successful at gaining an online foothold. Although initial contact is often made between members on open message boards, it then often moves onto encrypted platforms such as the messenger app Telegram.

The Alt Right movement makes heavy use of memes and irreverent humour, often with subtle or hidden messages which can be difficult to detect or stop.

It is difficult to determine how many followers the Alt Right movement has, in part because so many platforms it uses encourage anonymity amongst members.

The influence of the Alt Right movement is worldwide. In 2020, a Durham teenager was found guilty of planning a terror attack. He has been radicalized online. He used the website **Fascist Forge** which has since been taken down. This website was used by those in the far right to swap ideas, literature and imagery.



### Alt Right Imagery

The character of 'Pepe the Frog' appears regularly on alt-right web forums

## International terror incidents connected to the Alt Right Movement

- 11 people were killed in an attack on a Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018.
- 51 people killed in Christchurch, New Zealand in March 2019. Footage of the murder was promoted on the **Fascist Forge** website

## The Extreme Right Wing and Young People

There are concerns that extreme right wing groups are deliberately targeting young people online. People as young as 13, 14 and 15 have been detained by police investigating far-right terrorism-related offences.

Matt Jukes, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has warned that children are being lured into extreme rightwing terrorism with online content based on violent video games. In March 2022, a 15 year old boy in the United Kingdom was charged over terrorist material to do with bomb making, alleged to have been shared online.

*“We are at the beginning of a new wave of far right Extremism in our country”*

Sara Khan, Lead  
Commissioner for  
Countering Terrorism, 2018

## Glossary

**White Nationalism** seeks to develop and maintain a white racial and national identity. Immigration of non-whites, multiculturalism, and mixed-race relationships are in this context seen as a threat to white national identity.

**Cultural Nationalism** focusses on a national identity shaped by cultural traditions, but not on the concept of race.

**White Supremacism** is the belief that white people are superior to non-whites, taking ideas from social Darwinism and Nazism

**White Separatism** is the pursuit of a ‘white-only’ state

(Please Note: In some cases these ideologies can overlap and an individual can be inspired by more than one ideology).

*“I don’t think we’ve woken up to the threat [from right wing extremism] enough. The threat is significant and it’s growing”*

Sir Mark Rowley, former Head of  
Metropolitan Police’s Counter Terrorism  
Unit, 2018



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