Immigration has always been a focus for the far right, the recent and explicit targeting of people who are migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and the organisations that support them has rightly triggered concern, and has brought to the fore the needs of the migration and refugee sector to better understand the threat and how to respond.

That’s why HOPE not hate charitable trust and Migration Exchange have developed the Response project, which aims to better equip the migration and refugee sector to understand the extent and nature of the threat posed by the far right, supporting them to apply that understanding through more appropriate responses in both the long and short term.

As part of this project, we will be sending these updates, to share what we are seeing through our monitoring and intel work, to offer you a clearer picture of the far-right threat around immigration and asylum.

RECENT ACTIVITY

The issue of cross channel migration continues to be a frequently talked about topic in the mainstream press as well as among the far right. We have increasingly seen a narrative pushed by the far-right that cross channel migration will hinder Britain’s Covid recovery due to migrants bringing in the disease.

This week, former UKIP leader Nigel Farage tweeted that on one small boat carrying migrants, every person onboard tested positive for COVID-19. This was false information that the Home Office’s official twitter account directly refuted. Farage pointing to migrants as bearers of the disease was also something he repeated in a YouTube video.

As the UK’s vaccination programme is comparatively faster than that of France and the EU as a whole, and the UK is on a path to reduce lockdown measures relatively soon, cross channel migration will likely continue to be painted as a threat to this recovery by the far right.

In addition to painting new migrants as harbingers of diseases (by no means a new tactic) we are also expecting higher levels of far-right activism on south coast beaches as the far right are getting ready for a possible uptick in the number of cross channel boats as the weather improves. Some far-right activists are already talking about numbers this year being higher than 2020.

Besides Farage, Alan Leggett (aka Active Patriot UK) is the far-right anti-migrant activist that has attracted the most attention in the last weeks. Alan Leggett is a long-term far-right activist and big supporter of Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (aka Tommy Robinson). However, in 2020 he became one of the most important far-right figures in the UK due to being at the forefront of the anti-migrant campaign that had gripped the movement.

Leggett has faced numerous legal issues in recent months, including breach of the peace and, according to himself, “racism” related charges. The charges came with bail conditions that limited his activism but these have now been dropped and he can continue unencumbered. However, he is also currently preoccupied with an internal far-right row with key supporters of Tommy Robinson attacking him due to his links to more extreme far-right groups such as Patriotic Alternative. While his legal problems and infighting will occupy much of his time, he is still amongst the most active far-right figures in this area and is likely to continue his anti-migrant activism in the coming weeks and months.

Some good news came recently when Welsh far-right YouTube channel Voice of Wales (profiled below), which live streamed from the barracks in Penally, while in use as contingency asylum accommodation in the autumn of last year, were deplatformed in February. The outlet has however already returned to YouTube under a new profile and streams video on an almost daily basis. While their audience has shrunk, the project is by no means inactive.
**Profiles of Far-right Anti-Migrant Groups**

**Voice of Wales**  
*Fronted by: Dan Morgan and Stan Robinson*  
Voice of Wales is a YouTube channel formerly known as Leavers of Swansea which produced far-right content attacking progressives and the Labour party in Wales and the UK.  
Dan Morgan is believed to have been involved in the For Britain Movement and the Democratic Football Lads’ Alliance in south Wales.  
In 2020 it gained notoriety for live streaming from the Penally barracks where migrants were housed in the latter part of the year. Since then, Voice of Wales has been part of the far-right that has mobilised against migrants in the UK. The group regularly interviews other important activists in this segment of the far right. Their main YouTube channel had nearly 9000 subscribers and had registered more than 350,000 views before it was removed in February 2021.

**Little Boats 2020**  
*Leader: Jeremy Davis*  
Little Boats 2020 is an anti-migrant vigilante group launched in August 2020. It is led by Jeremy Davis, a wedding disc jockey. Launched alongside an overall rise in the focus of migrants coming across the English Channel the group aims to film and confront migrants. The group has published videos and images of migrants in the Dover area. The group, which sometimes refers to itself as a “flotilla”, has bragged about having conducted two boat patrols at night in the Channel. The group is closely aligned to Steve Laws, another anti-migrant activist profiled in last month’s newsletter.  
In November 2020 the group was the subject of a BBC article which was widely criticised for being too uncritical of the group.

**For Britain**  
*Leader: Anne Marie Waters*  
For Britain is a far-right political lead by the anti-Muslim activist Anne Marie Waters.  
2020 was a hard year for the party with lockdown restrictions curtailing their activity significantly. However, they continue to be one of the few far-right parties in Britain that has a proper network of national branches. They are also one of the only parties to have elected councillors.  
A central plank of their campaigning was around the issue of cross channel migration. With much of the UK far-right focusing on the topic, Waters was keen to make political capital from it. Their Epping branch had been campaigning on the issue for some time. Notorious far-right activist Eddy Butler made several inflammatory videos about the Bell Hotel in the area which houses migrants during the summer. Joining him in one video was Julian Leppert, one of For Britain’s only elected councillors. In the video, published in July, they made incorrect claims that petty crime in the area had increased and that supplies for a local food bank were being diverted to feed the asylum seekers. The claims were refuted by the charity running the foodbank and the police. Leppert found himself in more trouble after The Guardian asked if he was advocating a whites-only enclave on the edge of London and he replied: “Ideally, yeah.” After numerous complaints to the council an investigation concluded that the council’s code of conduct had been breached.  
In August Waters held a poorly attended demonstration outside a hotel in Cheshire that was housing migrants and then a second event in Dover that saw roughly 20 people in attendance. She also attended a BBQ on Shoeburyness beach organised by their Southend Branch.

---

To receive updates, you can sign up to the project mailing list here: https://donate.hopenothate.org.uk/page/s/sign-up-to-receive-updates-MEX  
We’ve also created a form for sharing intel, so that we get a fuller picture of far right activity alongside our monitoring. You can submit anything you’re coming across on or offline: https://donate.hopenothate.org.uk/page/s/response-project-intel-submission  
And for anything more specific, or for any questions, please email: response@hopenothate.org.uk