

MIGRATION AND THE FAR RIGHT: BRIEFING 5

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

In recent months talk of 'record numbers' crossing the channel has been widely discussed across the news media and served for the government to take an ever-harder line. Unsurprisingly, cross-channel migration remains one of the most discussed issues within the UK far-right. Importantly, despite the new hardline immigration legislation and even harder rhetoric emanating from the Home Office, the far right remain extremely critical of the government and are keeping up the pressure for faster and more stringent action.

However, with the issue so widely discussed in the mainstream press the traditional far right has broadly been marginalised from the national debate. That hasn't stopped them obsessing over the issue and whipping up further anger and a sense of crisis within their movement.

Earlier in the year the far-right's attention was primarily focused on the accommodation housing migrants and asylum seekers. While this remains a talking point, the discussion is now dominated by boats and the number of arrivals. The landmark of 10,000 arrivals has been widely discussed and a keen eye is kept on the daily arrival count for 'new records'. While there are official records being announced by the Press Association and Home Office some are looking to far-right 'migrant hunters' who keep their own count of the number of arrivals



Nigel Farage

through their near-daily vigils at Dover. Most notably the migrant hunter known as 'TW' who [appeared on](#) the Mike Graham show on Talk Radio discussing arrival numbers.

Key far-right figures monitoring the situation and distributing content within the far right are [Steve Laws](#), [UK Unification](#), [TW](#), [Little Boats](#), [Chris Johnson](#) and [Nigel Marcham](#). Alan Leggett (Aka Active Patriot) has also returned to the scene after a period of absence.

In recent months they have become more adept at using ship tracking software so that they can more accurately trace French and British vessels engaged in policing and rescuing migrant boats. This has resulted in increased anger towards the French, who they claim are being given millions of pounds by the British government while escorting migrant boats into British waters.

Crossing between the far right and the mainstream is Nigel Farage who has used his newly acquired platform on GB News to talk about the issue on a near daily basis. On one occasion he hired a boat and sailed into the channel to find and film migrant vessels. In recent days he has begun predicting that cross channel arrivals could be as high as 30,000 people this year. He has received some pushback after unwisely criticising the RNLI, which became a national news story. However, within the far right it is worth noting that his criticisms are widely accepted and promoted. While he has been talking about this issue for the last few years he has made it his core concern in recent months and this will no doubt serve to increase the salience of it within right wing and conservative circles where he is still listened to.

FAR-RIGHT BOATS

One new development that should be noted by the migrant and refugee sector is the arrival of a number of far-right boats in the Channel.

Last summer the far-right group Britain First (BF) briefly had a boat out in the Channel. They claimed to be “the only political movement anywhere in the world with its own navy” when they launched, to widespread mockery, “HMS Alfred the Great”. In reality, it was a small yacht captained by one of the group’s leading activists Samuel Cochrane. However, there appears to have been some mechanical issues with the boat that took it out of action. While BF’s leader Paul Golding claimed the boat would be fixed and ready for action soon after, it has, as yet, not reappeared in Channel.

However, in 2021 a number of far-right individuals have now acquired vessels which will allow them to monitor and intercept boats while still at sea. While it remains unclear what exactly their plans are at present it seems that moving forward we are likely to see them intercept arriving vessels and filming them from the sea. Though they have not said they plan to do so, and it is unlikely, it is possible that they may seek to block arrivals from entering British waters or landing. Primarily however, they will be used to film arriving boats and French and British vessels engaged in search and rescue.

The two people who have acquired boats are Nigel Marcham and Jeremy Davis, the leader of Little Boats.

LITTLE BOATS

The first is Little Boats. They are 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



Little Boats Vessel: ‘Little Boat 3’

to film migrant crossings. The group has published videos and images of migrants in the Dover area.

According to them, the aim to use their boat to:

- Find the French Navy & Border Force mid channel exchanging migrants 24/7
- Dig up & reveal ignored landing sites around Britain
- Expose those ferrying in drugs, weapons & criminals
- Weed out Eastern Europeans skipping fishing boats flooding the Suffolk & Norfolk coasts with illegals.
- Prevent our government willfully adding more potential terrorists to the 750 newly arrived illegals who are already! on the terror watch list.

NIGEL MARCHAM (AKA THE LITTLE VETERAN)

Nigel Marcham was one of the principal organisers behind the series of anti-migrant demonstration in Dover over the last year. He has been less active over the last two months following a shoulder surgery. However, he is now active again and had acquired a boat. At present he has just said he aims to use it to film what is happening.



Nigel Marcham’s Vessel: The Truthseeker

- **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**