

28 October 2024

# Unions must challenge far-right, PCS tells anti-racist rally

PCS members came out in force at a counter-demonstration in London on Saturday (26) against a far-right march organised by far-right agitator Tommy Robinson.

In defiance of a march called by Tommy Robinson (real name Stephen Yaxley-Lennon), more than 20,000 anti-racists turned out in central London for a counter-demonstration organised by Stand Up to Racism.

The demonstration, whose speakers pledged to fight for working-class unity and to defend the refugees and communities under attack, was strongly supported by PCS.

PCS members – including our samba band – marched with their banners and flags alongside other trade unionists, peace and faith groups, and ordinary anti-racists and anti-fascists.

Speaking at the rally, PCS General Secretary Fran Heathcote said that the far-right “do not speak for the majority of working class people”.

“Trade unions know that any attempt to divide working class people weakens us all,” she said. “I see it as our responsibility — as a movement — to challenge those who demonise people on the basis of race, nationality or migration status.”

Fran called on the government to “repeal racist migration laws, dismantle the hostile environment and end no recourse to public funds”. It must also, she added, adopt our [Safe Passage policy](#) that would create a safe and legal route for refugees to come to the UK and here begin their asylum claim.

## **ARAF strategy**

At its meeting on 12 August, PCS’s national executive committee (NEC) reaffirmed our [Anti-Racist and Anti-Fascist \(ARAF\) strategy](#), which included the recommendation to continue to mobilise in regions and nations for counter-

demonstrations and to ensure liaison with regional TUCs and ARAF organisations, including Stand up to Racism and Show Racism the Red Card.

PCS will encourage members to join peaceful demonstrations against the far-right in future. The union wants to ensure that our members are able to do this as peacefully and safely as possible so those planning to attend counter-demonstrations should refresh themselves with the advice contained within the PCS ARAF Strategy.

As part of our renewed fight against racism, PCS members and branches supported Show Racism the Red Card's tenth annual Wear Red Day on 18 October.

You can read more about the [PCS anti-racism anti-fascism strategy](#) on PCS Knowledge, where you can also find many articles on combating racism in the workplace.