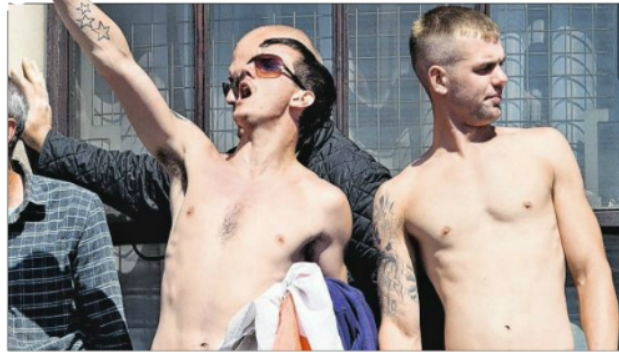


The EDL: violent racists and fascists



Nazi salutes at the cenotaph during EDL's bank holiday demonstration, May 2013

We don't want the English Defence League here because

● **THE EDL IS RACIST**, particularly targeting Muslims. The EDL has staged provocative demonstrations in towns and cities around the country, attempting to stir up anti-Muslim racism and hatred. They want to divide our communities.

They claim to oppose 'extremism' but EDL supporters have been filmed chanting 'Burn a mosque down'.

A series of arson and other physical attacks on mosques, community centres and the sites of proposed new mosques have taken place in areas where the EDL is active.

● **THE EDL IS RIDDLED WITH FASCISTS**. EDL leader 'Tommy Robinson' – real name Stephen Yaxley Lennon – is a former member of the fascist British National Party. Founder EDL member Chris Renton was also in the BNP, as were other leading figures including North East organiser Alan Spence.

Many more former members of the BNP, the Nazi National Front and other fascist organisations are also active in the EDL and its splinter groups.

EDL supporters have frequently been photographed giving Hitler's 'sieg heil' salute.

● **THE EDL IS VIOLENT**. Its core supporters are members of football hooligan firms who have joined forces to form a racist street army.

EDL demonstrations have regularly descended into violence.

EDL supporters have rampaged through town centres – such as Stoke-on-Trent and Dudley – attacking Asian and black people, smashing windows of homes, shops and cars and attacking mosques and, in one case, a Hindu temple.

Two Asian men were beaten up during a recent EDL demo in Dagenham, with one suffering four fractures to his face. In

Luton, Asian residents had their windows smashed and EDL graffiti daubed on their homes hours after an EDL demo.

● **THE EDL IS A DANGER TO US ALL**. It started by targeting the Muslim community. Now it is increasingly aiming its violence at other traditional targets of fascism, physically attacking trade union demos, antiracist and socialist meetings and anti-cuts protestors as well as black and Asian people.

EDL leader 'Tommy Robinson' has issued threats to school and college students protesting over tuition fees.

EDL thugs have even invaded a trade union and community bookshop, News from Nowhere, in Liverpool.

● **THE EDL LIES** when it claims it has the support of minority groups such as Hindus, Sikhs, Jewish and LGBT people. Its attempts to recruit from these groups have failed miserably.

Jewish, Sikh and Hindu organisations have all spoken out publicly to condemn the EDL and have refused to be used by the racists and fascists.

When EDL supporters tried to whip up Islamophobia under cover of a supposed LGBT 'pride' event in east London, local LGBT organisations refused to let the racists hijack the traditions of pride. The local LGBT groups made clear their opposition to both homophobia and Islamophobia and forced the cancellation of the EDL-linked event.

● **THE EDL IS TRYING TO CREATE A STREET MOVEMENT** to terrorise ethnic minority communities and attack socialist and trade union organisations.

They want to create hatred and division – **LET'S STOP THEM.**



Today, the racist violent English Defence League will hold demonstrations in towns and cities across the country, trying to spread their message of hate. By blaming all Muslims for the murder of Lee Rigby, the EDL will attempt to whip up a climate of fear and violence.

But the EDL will fail. They will fail because we, the vast majority, reject their ignorance, their fear, their hate.

We are the many.

We condemn the rising racist violence since Lee Rigby's killing - about 200 anti-Muslim incidents reported including petrol bombs thrown at buildings with people inside. The majority understand that it is unjust and irrational to lay the blame for the actions of a few on entire religious or racial groups.

We reject the EDL's message of hate, their warped view of what it means to be English, their intimidation of and violence towards those they perceive to be different.

They do not speak for us and they do not speak for Britain.

They are the few, and we are - and always will be - the many.



EDL told it's no help for heroes



In the last few days:

The leading military charity Help for Heroes rejected all donations linked to members of the EDL because it did not want to be associated with an extremist political organisation.

Lee Ridley's family released a statement via the MoD urging for people to show their respect in a peaceful manner and emphasising that "Lee would not want people to use his name as an excuse to carry out attacks against others."

Army HQ warned former soldiers that "Far-Right, extremist organisations (English Defence League in particular) will seize any opportunity to align veterans with their cause" and discouraged them from taking part, also making clear that serving soldiers were barred from participation.

Regimental Secretary of the Fusiliers Association, linked to Lee Rigby's regiment, wrote to members: "not to be associated with any organisations which seek to exploit the death of one of our Regimental family for a range of self-serving and unhelpful reasons."