

Notice of Motion

Motion to be moved by Councillor Bridges:

This Council is alarmed by the intentions of Operation Raise the Colours, a campaign rooted in far-right ideology which seeks to hijack national symbols, including the St. George's Cross, to legitimise intolerance and division. There have been St. George's flags put up in parts of Hull and even mini-roundabouts painted.

Hull is a welcoming and proud City so using St. George's Cross for pride in our country and/or a national team is not problematic at all, we all share that unifying pride in our city and country.

Council further notes that the English flag itself is of European origin, adopted from Genoa; used by English and French armies during the crusades, and linked to wider traditions across the continent. Far-right attempts to portray it as the property of a narrow, exclusionary nationalism are both historically false and socially damaging.

Council recognises that the true history of our national symbols is one of shared heritage, exchange, and openness to the wider world, values which are the very opposite of far-right ideology.

Council also recognises that silence from elected representatives, whether from fear of confrontation, political calculation, or misplaced belief that extremist groups will fade away if ignored, only emboldens those who peddle hate. To stay quiet is to create a vacuum in which far-right voices dominate the public debate, leaving vulnerable communities exposed and public trust undermined.

Council believes that politicians of all parties, and none, have a moral duty to speak out against far-right ideology and organised campaigns such as Operation Raise the Colours. Council also believes that local government has a key role in safeguarding community cohesion and making clear that far-right movements are not welcome here.

This Council resolves:

- To make a clear public statement condemning Operation Raise the Colours and reaffirming the Council's opposition to far-right extremism in all its forms.
- To encourage all elected representatives in this City, regardless of party, to speak out against far-right campaigns and not remain silent in the face of extremism.
- To work with local partners, including schools, community organisations, trade unions, and faith groups, to strengthen education, resilience, and solidarity against far-right organising.
- To call on national politicians, including local MPs and regional leaders, to take responsibility in challenging extremism by their words and deeds, and to stop granting legitimacy through silence or accommodation.

-

Sources:

'Operation Raise the Colours' Organised by Well-Known Far-Right Extremists – HOPE not hate

What is Operation Raise the Colours? - Politics UK

The questions about St George's and union jack flags lining English streets - BBC News

origin of the cross of st george - Google Search