

The Human Race

In the wake of the tragic murder of three young girls by 17-year-old Axel Rudakubana, the UK has witnessed a notable increase in far-right protests. The odious crime, which occurred just two weeks ago in Cardiff, has ignited widespread outrage far-right groups have exploited to advance their nationalist and anti-immigration agendas.

Rudakubana's attack, targeting children attending a Taylor Swift-themed dance class, was a ruinous blow to the community, indicating deep public mourning and shock. The far-right groups seized upon the tragedy, using it as a rallying point for their demonstrations. These protests, which have erupted across major cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester, and even in Ireland have been characterised by provocative rhetoric which has given rise to heightened tensions.

Despite this uprising of the far-right demonstrators, the response from anti-fascist and community groups has been swift, with counter-protests aimed at opposing extremist ideologies and advocating for unity and inclusivity.

Police have been heavily involved in managing these demonstrations, deploying additional security measures to prevent clashes between far-right protesters and counter-demonstrators. **Despite these efforts, the** protests have led to significant unrest and highlighted underlying social and political tensions within the UK.

The UK government has condemned the use of violence and extremism to exploit such tragedies, emphasising the importance of

addressing the root causes of far-right sentiments while promoting social cohesion and community support.

Extremism in its various fashions and modes has been part of the West for many years, decades, and centuries and has impacted societies and communities. The Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations Prof. Mark Leonard stated, "*The rise of far-right ideologies is not just a threat to the immediate safety of our communities but also a challenge to the very fabric of our society, eroding trust, inclusivity, and social cohesion.*"

Racism is birthed by fear and maintained by ignorance and this ignorance gives way to blindness. In John 2:11 it states, "*But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.*"

As beings made in the image of God, we are part of once single race called the human race and therefore let us stand opposed to racism and embrace each other as sons and daughters of a God who made us all in HIS image and likeness.
