

Staying safe on far-right counter demos



It's important that we, as trade unionists, stand up against the far right wherever they are marching. But it's also important to be aware that **far right organisations do target trade unionists** and therefore that we don't put ourselves in dangerous situations. ■

If you witness any violent or intimidatory incidents by the far right, don't get involved. Notify a steward or legal observer, and make a note, as soon as possible, of what you saw.

Unite provides a 24 hour criminal legal helpline: 0800 587 7530. In the unlikely event that you get arrested on a far-right counter demonstration, our specialist criminal lawyers are there to provide you with free legal advice at the police station. **Save the number to your mobile phone so that you** always have it with you and keep the card in your purse or wallet.



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Here are a few tips on staying safe:

- Ahead of the demo, **don't use social media to advertise pick-up and drop-off points** for coaches, or any other meeting points.
- **Don't include names or contact details of any Unite officer or staff member in any social media post.**
- On arrival at the demonstration, **look out for the Unite flags and go straight to them.** This is the Unite block, which will be stewarded by experienced Unite stewards.
- If arriving on a Unite coach, listen to and follow the advice of coach stewards and **ensure you know where to meet the coach at the end of the day.**
- **Stay in the Unite block** throughout the demonstration.
- **Avoid displaying visible signs of anti-fascist credentials** such as badges, placards and slogans, either on your way to the demo or when you leave it.
- Before leaving the demo, **hand back placards, banners and Unite flags** to the Unite stewards. Don't carry them away with you.
- **Avoid leaving on your own.** Wait for friends and colleagues to come with you.
- Make sure you **know where your nearest means of public transport is** before leaving the demo, and head straight there. This is particularly important if you are unfamiliar with the area the demo is taking place in.
- **Stay on main roads** when you leave the demo. Don't take short-cuts. This is particularly important in unfamiliar or less busy areas.
- **Pubs and cafes close to the demo should be avoided.** If you want to go for a drink with friends afterwards, choose one well away from the demonstration, preferably a bus or train ride away.



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