

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.

