

Stand Up to Racism: Leadership, Funding, and Strategic Influence

Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) is a UK-based campaign group that positions itself as a grassroots coalition against racism, fascism, and far-right extremism. While its public messaging centres on solidarity and anti-discrimination, its operational structure and funding sources reveal a more complex network of political affiliations, union partnerships, and ideological mobilisation.

Leadership and Governance

SUTR does not operate as a registered charity or company in its own name. Instead, it functions as a campaign initiative supported by individuals and organisations across the political left. Key figures include:

- Sabby Dhalu – Co-convenor of SUTR and long-time activist affiliated with Unite Against Fascism and the Socialist Workers Party (SWP).
- Weyman Bennett – Another co-convenor, also linked to SWP and known for organising counter-demonstrations against far-right groups.
- Diane Abbott MP and Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP – Regular speakers at SUTR events, indicating parliamentary-level support from sections of the Labour left.
- Trade Union Officers – SUTR's Trade Union Network includes representatives from the NEU, PCS, UNISON, and the TUC, often acting as regional organisers or endorsers.

SUTR's website and event materials do not list a formal board of trustees or directors, reinforcing its status as a coalition campaign rather than a legal entity with fiduciary oversight.

Certainly, Andrew. Here's a detailed profile of **Sabby Dhalu**, drawn from publicly available sources and framed with investigative clarity:

Sabby Dhalu: Profile of a Political Organiser

Sabby Dhalu is a prominent British anti-racism campaigner known for her leadership roles in Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism (UAF). Her activism

spans over two decades, with a focus on countering far-right movements, institutional racism, and discriminatory government policies.

Affiliations and Roles

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Role/Connection</i>
Stand Up to Racism	Co-Convenor
Unite Against Fascism	Joint Secretary
Socialist Workers Party	Frequently linked through shared campaigns and events
Morning Star	Regular contributor on anti-racism and political issues
HuffPost UK	Published opinion pieces on racism, immigration, and protest strategy

She has played a central role in organising protests against the BNP, EDL, Reform UK.

Public Positions and Commentary

Sabby Dhalu's published work and speeches consistently argue that:

- Government policies weaponise racism to distract from economic hardship and social inequality.
 - Clause 9 of the Nationality and Borders Act is "racist" and risks creating second-class citizenship.
 - Refugee rights are central to broader struggles for racial and gender justice.
 - Far-right figures like Tommy Robinson and Steve Bannon should be actively opposed through mass mobilisation.
-

Ideological Orientation

While not formally listed as a member, Dhalu is widely associated with left-wing and socialist networks, including the Socialist Workers Party, which has historically supported SUTR and UAF initiatives. Her rhetoric aligns with anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, and intersectional feminist perspectives.

Notable Campaigns and Events

- Anti-Trump protests during his UK visits.
- Counter-demonstrations against far-right marches and rallies.
- Annual UN Anti-Racism Day events in London, Glasgow, and Cardiff.
- Opposition to deportation flights and detention centres, often in collaboration with refugee rights groups.

Here's a detailed profile of **Weyman Bennett**, Andrew—another central figure in the UK's anti-fascist movement, with a long history of activism and political organising:

Weyman Bennett: Profile of a Campaign Strategist

Weyman Bennett is a British political activist and organiser, best known for his leadership roles in Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism (UAF). His activism dates back to the 1980s and is rooted in anti-racist, socialist, and trade unionist traditions.

Affiliations and Roles

	Role/Connection
Organisation	Co-Convenor
Unite Against Fascism	Joint Secretary
Socialist Workers Party	Long-standing member and organiser
London Socialist Alliance	Former parliamentary candidate (Tottenham, 2000)

He has been a visible organiser of counter-demonstrations against the BNP, EDL, and Reform UK, and has coordinated mass protests across the UK.

Public Positions and Commentary

Bennett's public commentary—especially in outlets like the *Morning Star*—focuses on:

- Opposing far-right mobilisation and what he calls “divide-and-rule” politics by the government.
 - Defending refugee rights and resisting deportation policies.
 - Critiquing mainstream parties, including Labour under Keir Starmer, for failing to challenge racism robustly.
 - Mobilising trade unions as a bulwark against fascism and xenophobia.
-

Legal and Protest History

Bennett has been involved in high-profile demonstrations, some of which led to arrests:

- In 2010, he was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit violent disorder during a protest in Bolton against the EDL. All charges were later dropped.
- He has publicly criticised police handling of anti-fascist protests, alleging bias against anti-racist demonstrators.

These incidents have made him a controversial figure in some circles, but also a symbol of uncompromising resistance in others.

Ideological Orientation

Bennett’s politics are firmly socialist and anti-capitalist, shaped by decades of organising within the Socialist Workers Party. His rhetoric often links racism to broader systems of inequality and exploitation.

He has also spoken about his personal experiences growing up with racism in Britain, framing his activism as a response to both institutional and street-level discrimination.

Notable Campaigns and Events

- Anti-BNP and EDL protests across the UK.

- UN Anti-Racism Day mobilisations.
- Opposition to the Illegal Migration Act and deportation flights.
- Solidarity actions with refugee and migrant communities.

Funding Sources

SUTR's funding appears to be drawn from a mix of donations, union support, and affiliated campaigns:

Source	Description
Public Donations	Via GoFundMe and direct appeals on their website.
Trade Union Contributions	Financial and logistical backing from the NEU, PCS, Unite, and TUC.
Event Sponsorships	Conferences and rallies often co-hosted with unions or left-wing NGOs.
Affiliated Campaigns	Collaborations with Care4Calais, Black Lives Matter UK, and refugee rights groups.
No Corporate or Government Grants	No evidence of corporate sponsorship or public sector funding.

There is no public evidence that SUTR pays individuals but that doesn't mean they aren't so we must keep digging. Their model relies on volunteer mobilisation, ideological alignment, and coordinated action through union and activist networks.

Strategic Objectives and Activities

SUTR's stated goals include:

- Opposing far-right parties such as Reform UK and figures like Tommy Robinson.
- Campaigning against the Illegal Migration Act and deportation policies.
- Organising counter-demonstrations at events perceived as racist or xenophobic.
- Promoting educational trips (e.g. Holocaust memorial visits) and anti-racist training for union members.

Their activities are often framed as defensive mobilisations against perceived threats to minority communities, but critics argue that their tactics—especially loud counter-protests—can escalate tensions at public events.

Legal and Investigative Considerations

- FOI Requests to local councils or police forces regarding event permits, complaints, or public order incidents.
 - Union Disclosures – Some unions publish financial reports that may list campaign contributions.
 - Social Media Mapping – Track recurring individuals, hashtags, and affiliations to identify coordination patterns.
 - Event Surveillance – Document behaviour at rallies to distinguish lawful protest from potential misconduct.
-

Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) appears to produce many of its placards, posters, flyers, and badges in-house, using downloadable artwork hosted on its [Resources page](#). These include:

- A3 placards opposing Reform UK and Trump
- Button badge artwork (e.g. “Say No to Reform UK”) with a print contact listed as *Carl Trowbridge* at betterbadges@gmail.com
- Flyers and posters for national demos, trade union actions, and educational events

The presence of Carl Trowbridge’s imprint suggests that Better Badges, a UK-based activist merchandise producer, may be involved in printing some of SUTR’s physical materials.

For larger-scale or custom placards, groups like Carrick Signs offer professional protest placard printing with fast UK delivery and eco-friendly options but I cannot confirm conclusively they have a contract.

In local chapters (like Eastbourne), placards and banners are often handmade by volunteers or printed by affiliated groups such as trade unions, Greenpeace, or local activist networks.