

The only way to beat the far-right parasites is to redu...

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The news from Southport overnight was very depressing.

The tragedy of an attack on children in which three have lost their lives, and others are critically injured is bad enough for any community to bear. To have a vigil for the dead and injured, and all who support them, turned into a riot by the far-right on the basis of what the police say is misinformation about the identity of the alleged attacker is appalling.

The humanity of those who created this riot has to be questioned. They clearly do not care about a grieving community. Instead, they are seeking to use them. That has to be condemned, without hesitation.

But there is also a lesson in this because this is what the far-right does. It exploits suffering people to create division with the intention of gaining from the resulting tension. That the division might not exist, and that the tension may be exaggerated by their own claims is something about which they care only to the extent that they acknowledge that this is their modus operandi.

Far-right politics is parasitical. Its intention is to exploit the suffering of others.

There is a lesson in that, though. Whilst no-one can ultimately prevent crimes of the sort committed in Southport by those intent on doing them, a great deal of suffering in our society can be relieved. We need a government intent on doing that, with the explicit goal of reducing differences within our society. That is the only way to defeat the far-right.