

Farage's German allies are now officially classified as...

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The [Guardian carried this story](#) on Friday, and I think it is worth sharing in full, using their own summary box:

Germany's Alternative für Deutschland formally designated as extremist

Germany's **Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution**, the country's domestic intelligence agency, has just issued an update on its investigation into the far-right **Alternative für Deutschland**, classifying it as "confirmed right-wing extremist organisation."

As German media noted, previously only the AfD's state associations in certain parts of Germany were classified as such, but the national party was given a lower, "suspected" status.

Der Spiegel [explains](#) that the change in classification - underpinned by a 1,100-page report on the party - lowers the threshold for monitoring the party through intelligence means.

"The ethnicity- and ancestry-based conception of the people that predominates within the party is not compatible with the free democratic order," the domestic intelligence agency said in a statement, quoted by Reuters.

"It aims to exclude certain population groups from equal participation in society, to subject them to treatment that violates the constitution, and thereby assign them a legally subordinate status," Reuters quoted the statement.

The AfD does not consider German citizens of immigrant background from predominantly Muslim countries as equal members of the German people, it added.

Remember that we are talking about a party here that Farage aligns with.

This is the party that the Trump cohort, with whom Farage aligns, went out of their way to support before the recent German elections.

And this is the party that the far-right in France, with whom Farage has very clear sympathies, also supports.

This is a Reform adjacent party, and it has been ruled to be a far-right extremist organisation, as I also think Reform is.

You cannot run a party on the basis of hate, which vilifies those who care about others in their communities, and sets up ethnic minorities as objects of hate to be discriminated against, and which denies science, and which seeks to undermine intellectuals and the arts, whilst using faith as a basis for discrimination in a community, whilst all the time promoting radical nationalism, and not be far-right extremists, or fascists for short. These are what the symbols of the far-right are. These things are what Reform does.

These people are not the centre-right as they claim to be. That ground is occupied by Labour. Reform, and the Tories, who share many of these traits and who would share them all if and when Jenrick becomes their leader, are the far-right in the UK.

Remember that this VE Day weekend. These people share many of the opinions of the fascists that people fought and died - as one of my grandfathers did - to free Europe from. And now they are running ten councils in this country.

Please don't ask me to tolerate them, understand them, accommodate them, or sympathise with why they feel as they do. I won't. No one should. I live my life seeking to love my neighbour as myself, which I think is a pretty good way to approach the obligation to all others, whether a person follows a faith or does not. Reform and those who support it oppose that idea. They do, as a result, oppose the whole tradition of thinking that has supposedly underpinned our society for around fifteen centuries.

The desire to overthrow the essence and culture of a society to fundamentally change the norms of behaviour within it is what defines extremism. That is why the far-right is properly described as such. That is why Germany has got this right with regard to the AfD. That is why Reform should also be named as such here in the UK.