

## Debate Ammunition: Grievance Politics Is Running Out of...

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THE RICHARD J MURPHY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

DEBATE AMMUNITION

Grievance Politics Is Running Out of Road

Funding the Future | July 2026

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Topic

Why the grievance politics of Farage and Trump is now failing under its own weaknesses, and why a politics of care is the alternative waiting to replace it.

The video that this Debate Ammunition supports [is available here.](#)

The Core Argument

Grievance politics works by directing people's justified anger at the wrong targets, migrants and the less fortunate rather than the neoliberal system that has failed them.

Both Nigel Farage and Donald Trump built their movements on this exploitation of grievance, but recent events show that approach is running out of road, with Farage facing open questions from his own party and Trump resorting to changing electoral rules to shore up his position.

Naming a grievance is not the same as solving it, and because both men remain committed to neoliberal answers of lower tax, smaller government and market solutions, they cannot deliver the change their own supporters are waiting for, which is precisely the opening for a politics of care.

Key Statistics

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Statistic

Figure

Source

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Length of time Farage has been a successful politician within the UK

Since 1999

Stated in video

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Donald Trump's current age

80

Stated in video

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Recent by-elections in which Reform underperformed expectations

2

Stated in video

The Argument Structure

Step 1 — Grievance politics is visibly weakening:

The media has turned on Farage and even members of his own Reform party are questioning his future, while Trump is trying to change US electoral rules in his favour and drew small crowds to his own 4th July celebrations. Confident movements do not rewrite the rules of the game, and struggling ones do.

Step 2 — Both men are insiders posing as outsiders:

Farage has been a successful UK politician since 1999 and is a former City trader of obvious personal wealth, while Trump was born into a large fortune. Neither is the anti-establishment outsider each claims to be, and people are increasingly noticing the gap between the claim and the reality.

Step 3 — Naming a grievance is not the same as solving it:

Both men keep identifying new enemies, migrants for Farage, the Democrats recast as communists for Trump, without ever resolving the original grievances that got them elected. Their actual policy prescriptions of lower tax, smaller government and market solutions are the same neoliberal answers that caused the original problem.

Step 4 — The politics of care is the available alternative:

Healthcare, housing, education, social care and the climate crisis cannot be delivered through grievance; they require functioning public institutions and long-term planning. A politics of care starts by understanding people's grievances and then uses the state's real financial capacity to address them, rather than simply keeping people angry.

Their Argument → Your Rebuttal

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They Say

Your Response

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Farage and Reform are clearly popular and gaining ground, so grievance politics is obviously working for them.

Winning elections and delivering results are two different tests, and Reform has recently done badly in two by-elections when it was thought they had a real chance.

Grievance is effective at mobilising anger, but governing demands actual answers rather than a continuing list of complaints.

The test that matters now is whether Farage can turn support into delivery, and so far there is no evidence that he can.

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Trump has won the presidency twice, so clearly this style of politics delivers results for its supporters.

Winning power and being able to govern successfully with it are not the same thing, and Trump is now trying to change the electoral rules rather than run confidently on his record.

A politician who needs to rewrite the rules to stay in power is not demonstrating strength, whatever the history of his previous victories.

The small crowds at this year's 4th July events suggest the emotional force of his message is already fading.

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Every political movement is built around a leading personality to some extent, so this is not a special weakness of Farage or Trump.

The difference is degree, and there is no heir apparent to Farage in Reform, just as there was none in any of his previous parties, all of which failed once he moved on.

In the United States the field of potential Trump successors looks equally thin, without the charisma needed to hold the same coalition together.

A movement built entirely around one person's personality is fragile in a way that an institution or a set of shared ideas is not.

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The politics of care is just another label for the same old left-wing spending promises that have always been on offer.

The starting point is different, because it begins by recognising that a currency-issuing government has far greater financial capacity to act than neoliberal economics admits, so the constraint is real resources rather than money.

It is about using that capacity to deliver security, health, housing and opportunity rather than about spending for its own sake.

That is a different proposition from a conventional spending pledge, because it rests on an accurate account of how public money works.

The One-Liners

“Grievance can win an election, but it cannot build a hospital.”

“Farage and Trump are insiders posing as outsiders, and people are starting to notice.”

“Naming an enemy is not the same as having a solution.”

“A movement built on one personality has no succession plan, only a countdown.”

“The politics of care begins by understanding grievance, then actually does something about it.”

#### Questions to Ask

If grievance politics really worked, why do both Farage and Trump still have no concrete policy to fix the problems they keep complaining about?

What happens to a movement built entirely around one personality once that person eventually goes?

If markets are supposed to deliver security, why are more people concluding that markets have already failed to provide it?

What would it take for government to address people's real grievances directly, rather than just naming new people to blame for them?

#### Further Reading

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Post

Date

What it covers

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[What is it about Reform?](#)

26 May 2026

Sets out the politics of care, built on security, dignity, health, housing and opportunity, as the direct counter to the grievance politics that Reform depends upon.

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## [Is Farage a fascist strongman?](#)

31 Jan 2026

Examines why Farage's politics are grievance-driven rather than structured, and why that makes him corrosive to institutions even without the discipline of a genuine strongman.

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## [The stories that lead to the politics of care](#)

18 Jun 2026

Develops the core distinction underpinning this video, between a politics organised around competition and one organised around care.

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## [Post-peak Farage](#)

16 Feb 2026

Argues that Farage's electoral appeal has already peaked, directly supporting the video's claim that grievance politics is running out of road.

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## [Farage unravelled](#)

16 Jan 2026

Shows how a political project built around one man's self-promotion rather than shared purpose fractures under pressure, the succession problem raised in this video.

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## [Politics for People and the political economy of care: the core principles](#)

4 Feb 2026

Sets out the core principles of the political economy of care and links the UK situation

directly to the chaos of Trump's politics in the United States.