

TURN OFF THE LIGHT: THE CONSPIRACIST NEWSPAPER PROMOTING THE FAR RIGHT

***The Light* is a conspiracy theory magazine that denies the existence of COVID-19 and climate change, while promoting antisemitism and far-right politics.**

Founded in 2020 by the “flat earther” Darren Nesbitt, *The Light* is designed to mimic a traditional newspaper. Every month, thousands of copies are handed out on street stalls or left alongside mainstream publications in newsagents to be taken free of charge.

However, the publication peddles dangerous and divisive conspiracy theories that are designed to stoke anger, undermine public trust and target minoritised communities. It has also platformed and promoted some of the UK’s best-known far-right figures, potentially introducing them to new audiences.

Below is an overview of hateful and divisive content found within *The Light*’s pages.

ANTISEMITISM AND HOLOCAUST DENIAL

- *The Light* has printed articles by the Holocaust denier John Hamer, including one that compares Colonel Gaddafi’s dictatorship favourably to our “very tightly Zionist-controlled, indirect form of democracy”. The magazine has also recommended Hamer’s highly antisemitic book in its “Recommended Reading” feature.
- *The Light* has featured a friendly interview with David Icke, the notorious conspiracy theorist with a long history of antisemitism. It has also repeatedly promoted Icke’s website and books.
- The publication has printed an article by the Nazi blogger “Lasha Darkmoon” that suggested that people had been brainwashed against questioning the Holocaust.
- It has also described the white supremacist Eustace Mullins as a “renowned author” and



recommended his work. Titles penned by Mullins include *The Biological Jew* and *Adolf Hitler: An Appreciation*.

- An article in the July 2023 issue cited a book by Nesta Webster, an influential and highly antisemitic British conspiracy theorist who was involved in British fascist groups in the interwar period.
- In November 2021, *The Light* defended the extreme Jew-hater Graham Hart who was convicted in August 2021 of eight counts of producing a programme with intent to stir up racial hatred. According to *The Light*, Hart had “questioned significant events throughout history and shared his research findings”, asking: “How does it harm anybody else for him to have a different view of history?” However, Hart had described Jewish people as “filth”, “like rats” and deserved to be “wiped out”. He also stated:

“If you’re listening Mr Jew we’re coming to get you. Let’s get rid of the Jews, it’s time for them to go. After Christmas I’m going to work, going on the attack because I’ve had enough. I don’t want bloodshed but if that’s what it takes to get it done.”
- *The Light* has repeatedly referenced the “Cultural Marxism” conspiracy theory that claims that left-wingers in academic, cultural and political institutions are subversively working to destroy traditional values and undermine the West. Many variants of the theory are strongly antisemitic.
- Online, *The Light*’s official channel on Telegram has promoted the notorious Holocaust denial documentary *Europa: The Last Battle*, using the hashtag

“#GraspingTheBiggerPicture”. The documentary claims that both world wars were part of a Jewish plot and exonerates the Nazi regime.

THE FAR RIGHT

- Articles in *The Light* have supported far-right and repressive leaders across the world, such as Giorgia Meloni’s Brothers of Italy party, Viktor Orban in Hungary and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil.
- Online, *The Light* has repeatedly promoted material from Mark Collett, one of the UK’s best-known Nazis and leader of the fascist group Patriotic Alternative (PA), including a post railing against “replacement migration”. Collett is a key promoter of the “White Genocide” conspiracy theory, claiming that Jews are trying to replace white Brits by encouraging immigration.
- The June 2023 issue contained a softball interview with Katie Hopkins, the disgraced social media figure who has labelled migrants “cockroaches” and “a plague of feral humans”, among numerous other racist and inflammatory statements. In 2017, Hopkins attempted to spend a week reporting from aboard the vessel of “Defend Europe”, a mission by far-right activists to impede refugee search-and-rescue missions in the Mediterranean.
- The publication has also printed a friendly interview with Anne Marie Waters, then leader of the now-defunct anti-Muslim party For Britain, who has described Islam as “evil” and a “killing machine”. Waters also co-led the anti-Muslim street group Pegida UK alongside the extremist and serial criminal Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (AKA Tommy Robinson). One of her articles for *The Light* suggests that Islam is motivating gang rapes across Europe.
- *The Light* has run articles by Robin Tilbrook, the leader of the English Democrats, a far-right party known for its English nationalist, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim politics. The paper has also contained adverts for the Workers of England, a “union” closely tied to the English Democrats.
- Niall McCrae is one of *The Light*’s most regular authors. McCrae is involved in an anti-migrant campaign against the housing of asylum seekers in Sussex, labelling cross-Channel migration “an orchestrated invasion”. McCrae is also a representative for the Workers of England “union”.

- The paper has repeatedly interviewed David Kurten, the former leading UKIP member who currently fronts the anti-vaccine Heritage Party. It has also printed a full-page advert for his political party. Kurten has been a keen proponent of the Cultural Marxism theory for years.
- Graham Moore (AKA Daddy Dragon), the QAnon-promoter, also penned an article outlining a supposed plot to “destroy and remove England as a country” and promoting his English Constitution Party (ECP). The ECP also ran an advert encouraging people to vote for it in the Southend West by-election.

VIOLENT AND DIVISIVE

- Central to the worldview pushed by *The Light*’s is the notion that politicians, the media, healthcare officials and others are plotting to usher in a totalitarian state and subdue the population. The tone is highly alarmist and occasionally violent.
- For example, an article in the June 2022 issue stated that “under the 1947 Nuremberg Code, MPs, doctors and nurses can be hanged if found guilty of medical experimentation”. Elsewhere, the magazine has called for a “Second Nuremberg Trials”, referring to the execution of leading Nazis in November 1945.
- An article titled “We are already fighting WWII” claims:
“[...] our foes are those who govern us. The more this becomes widely known, the more the resistance will gain traction. It is just a matter of time before the worst perpetrators of these war crimes are facing trial. It will undoubtedly happen, just as it did in November 1945.”

**For more information please
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