

Tommy Robinson Oxford debate 'postponed' over security fears

I have been seeing this probability on X all morning, and all the 'Liberal' and Islamic commentators crowing with glee at the prospect. But I waited until I had the impeccable source of [local newspaper The Oxford Mail](#) to confirm, and on which I could hang a post.



Tommy Robinson's debate on Islam at the Oxford Union has been 'postponed' after speculation around security fears.

The controversial figure, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, was due to speak at the historical debating society on Thursday, May 28.

But his planned visit had sparked furious backlash, with politicians in Oxfordshire saying he is not welcome to the city.

The Oxford Union confirmed the event has been postponed to allow for extra time to plan the event after the complexities of security.

A statement from the Union said: “The Fifth Week debate has been postponed from 28 May to later this term to allow time for planning of the event. We are grateful to our local partners and stakeholders for their continued support and engagement. We expect to confirm the new date shortly, following discussions with our speakers.”

It comes as Oxford Union’s president Arwa Elrayess faces resignation calls, insider leaks and condemnation from her own committee after “secretly” inviting Yaxley-Lennon.

A source close to the Oxford Union said: “This is not a student politics story. It is a story about the normalisation of far-right figures in elite British institutions – and the fact that even traditionally left-wing spaces like Oxford University are no longer immune.

“The Overton window has not shifted. It has been kicked open.” Yay!

Last week, Bishop of Oxford Dr Steven Croft and Imam Monawar Hussain wrote a joint letter in which they say they are “disturbed and saddened” that the far-right leader was scheduled to appear at the debating society.

[Stand up to Racism are jubilant, naturally.](#)

Well done to antifascists & antiracists across the community in Oxford for putting pressure on the Oxford Union who say they will now ‘postpone’ the appearance of fascist Tommy Robinson. If the event is rescheduled we need the biggest possible campaign & protest in response.

[Roshan Salih the editor of 5 Pillars](#) remains beligerent.

Oxford Union debate back on apparently. No matter. Prepare for a massive protest and make the Oxford Union pay for it.

I like [this from author and lecturer](#) Adrian Hilton



Adrian Hilton ✓
@Adrian_Hilton



God has overruled the Bishop of Oxford.
The date is changing, but the Oxford Union will indeed debate the proposition: 'This House believes the West is right to be suspicious of Islam.'
Rejoice.



Adrian Hilton ✓ @Adrian_Hilton · 5h

The Bishop of Oxford called for the @OxfordUnion to rescind its invitation to @TRobinsonNewEra. The visit is "untimely and divisive", he says. If Jesus Himself were invited, the Rt Rev'd Steven Croft wouldn't want him there either. Too divisive, you see.
bbc.co.uk/news/articles/...



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Faith leaders criticise Oxford Union Robinson invite

We shall see.