

MASSIVE RALLY CLOSES LONDON'S PARK LANE - FOOTBALL FANS PROTEST AGAINST TERROR EXTREMISM

THOUSANDS of football fans descended on London today to protest against extremism after a spate of terror attacks in the UK. Members of the anti-extremist group Football Lads Alliance (FLA) and fanbases from across the country gathered in droves on the bus Park Lane.



The five-lane carriageway was closed off to its usual throng of vehicles as the huge groups of fans formed long channels along the road.

Images from the protest show some wearing sports caps and carrying flowered wreaths to represent their local clubs.

The protest was organized by FLA founder John Meighan, who said the group hoped to demonstrate concern at the

"recent upsurge" of UK terror attacks in the wake of the Manchester and London bombings.

However the event has been criticized by anti-racism charity Stand Up To Racism, who claimed several speakers at a previous FLA march in June had ties to far-right organizations such as the English Defence League.

Shadow Home Secretary, Diane Abbott, was among those who added her name to a petition last week, expressing concern at alleged links to the groups.

But in his address to the crowd on Saturday, Mr Meighan insisted the crowd was made of "normal people" who wanted to unite against a common cause.

He said: "We're against all extremism, no matter what the press say. We're just normal people."

And in a direct message to Labour's shadow Home Secretary, Meighan added: "It's time for you and your motley crew to move over: the FLA are taking over now."

Mr Meighan also drew loud applause in his call for foreign terror suspects to be deported during any ongoing police investigations.

He said: "We want all terrorist suspects who are not British citizens, who pose a threat to society, to be permanently removed from this country.

"Why should they be allowed to do what they do? So what, they're suspects - get them out of here."