

# Get out while you can -this is just the start, yelled protesters

#### Anti-immigrant riot in Coolock last week reflects the rapid growth of far-right extremism, says John Mooney

on the Malahide Road in foreboding was palpable.

who had spent the last few Hours later, the area was swarmed by face on camera." months camped outside the even more angry people, all responding former Crown Paints factory to the online appeals. The sense of who could be heard on TikTok but not stop the emergency services reaching the

Dublin to stop its redevelopment as a The protesters filmed themselves "Get out while you can. You have been shouting and hurling abuse at the warned. This is just the beginning." That ramshackle camp of small huts security staff. Workmen leaving the site An hour or so later, a mob attacked.

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In the midst of the shouting, one man traffic chaos, a strategic act designed to multicultural forces. seen, issued a threat of what was to come. scene as flames engulfed the machinery.

pened next was entirely predictable.

activists, feral teenagers and young men from across the city.

media as the protesters encouraged to come to the area. #CoolockSaysNo the online call to arms.

sultation by the statutory agencies.

At times, the gardai appeared to be immigration in response to it. overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the trouble, forcing them to use pepper spray to disperse the crowds as they moved from one housing estate to another. Local politicians such as Gavin Pepper arrived, broadcasting monologues across social media, blaming the government for escaating the disturbances. "In the city This is turning centre, they spend €100,000 to put up barriers to keep illegal male migrants out but they want to push them into commi nities that are deprived," Pepper told TikTok. "The rich areas never suffer, it's the working class that suffers. What do **Consultation With** you think is going to happen when you ignore working-class communities? I blame you, Helen McEntee, and everybody in the Dail. Look at the end result," shouted Pepper, recently elected to Dublin city council.

ike a fuse wire, civil disturbances usually burn out quickly before causing an explosion, but the violence that engulfed Coolock continued unabated well into the evening. Gardai and their vehicles were attacked by gangs of young men who pelted officers with broken masonry. The disturbances intensified at about 6pm when more anti-immigrant activists arrived, before it eventually subsided late on Monday, though that did not mark the end of the violence but the beginning of more. The former paint factory was firebombed last Thursday and again on Friday evening as more than 1,000 people marched on Coolock garda station. As

before, the violence was watched by tens of thousands on X and TikTok. It is hard for anyone to understand the violence that engulfed the sprawling working-class estate as it was both random and opportunistic rather than coherent. But it had some striking features: it involved both locals and people from outside Dublin, middle-aged men and women as well as teenagers. It also demonstrated the ability of anti-immigrant campaigners to get hundreds of

he violence started with a had been dismantled, much to his fury. were physically accosted and harassed. One of them hit a security guard on the people on the streets to confront the response has been misguided, with min-TikTok posted at 3.41am last A little over an hour later, another "Back down the road with yis. I can't head with a steel bar, causing him to authorities, yet again reflecting the isters, their advisers and political ana-Monday. "The camp is gone," protester uploaded a video to TikTok. It afford bread and milk for me kids over collapse. A digger was set on fire while stratospheric growth of political extrem- lysts failing to recognise it as a violent read one post under an online showed protesters verbally abusing the you," one woman screamed at four the protesters dismantled steel fencing, ism in the form of the alt-right, the political movement. pseudonym used by one of security guards at the site. "Get out of the workmen as they left that morning. which the developers had erected to right-wing movement composed of the anti-immigrant protesters country. You're not Irish," shouted one. "We'll see you, don't worry. We have your keep intruders out. This was used to individuals and groups whose core belief protests as the outworkings of poor comblock off the Malahide Road and cause is that white identity is under attack by munications by state agencies tasked

> What was once a tiny internet-based gees in socially deprived areas, forgetting phenomenon in the United States has that arson attacks are occurring in rural The few gardai at the scene were grown exponentially thanks to its communities too quickly overwhelmed. They were connection with the Trump administrapushed, threatened, abused and intimition. Its ideology of anti-immigration, recognise how the movement has been dated. One TikTok showed a garda being anti-woke, anti-climate change and antitaunted and jeered by a young man, who government values has since spread presidency, the language he used to waved his hands in the air as he jumped across the globe and found an unlikely describe migrants and his tolerance of around, goading the officer. What hap- home in Ireland, where it has adopted political violence. the guise of ultra-nationalism, utilising

chaos, prompting Garda Headquarters to flag alongside the Fenian flag at antideploy public order units to contain the immigration protests. Their slogans violence, which drew crowds of far-right include "Éirinn go brách", meaning "Ireland until the end of time". It is now considered a security threat presence across the country and they are

The rioting was partly born on social as its adherents are inspiring people to getting more popular by the day. The take direct action: threaten politicians, Irish government is completely lacking in others to travel to Coolock to take a stand. defy the law, mount blockades around any kind of response. It lacks clear TikTok, Instagram, Telegram and Twit- asylum-seeker accommodation centres communication and policies around ter/X were flooded with calls for people and burn them down. More than 20 promigration and has no strategy to counter posed refugee accommodation centres the ongoing rise of the far right. began to trend. Hundreds responded to have been torched to date. Elements of the disparate movement have also plot-The far-right agitators encouraging the ted to kill politicians. In political terms, it tors and further spur them on," said Horviolence were indistinguishable from is tiny, but it is changing politics by gan, who noted how Trump at his nomithe concerned locals, who had joined the spreading ideas and setting the political nation speech described immigrants as protest complaining about a lack of conagenda. Populist parties like Sinn Fein murderers and rapists, and warned they have already hardened their stance on So far, experts say the government's

into class war. There is no real the local people



Drew Harris, the garda commissioner, condemned the violence in Coolock



when we do they won't talk to us even other objects and set fire to cars though we are elected representatives The state tells us we have no mandate and set fire to cars and buses as the gardai and to get involved in politics, when struggled to keep control. Much of the we get the mandate, they react like this,"

who was pepper-sprayed by gardai while

trying to quell the violence.

right are making claims that are becom- Gardai used pepper spray in an

protests and arson attacks bear strik- in parts of France. ing similarities to those carried out by

Like the alt-right, they saw themselves ers of the oppressed and protectors of land from migrants are being made on open cases from 2013 to 2021.

Daniel HoSang, a professor of ethnic- us with threats from multiple ideologies ity, race and migration at Yale University, against multiple targets. We are now at an said the violence spreading across Ire- elevated threat level," Jacob Ware, an land was far more intense than what expert on extremism at the Council on unfolded in the early days of Trumpism Foreign Relations in Washington, said. in the United States.

He pointed to the riots which broke going to get worse. "AI is going to accelerout in Dublin last November after a man ate this problem and lead to the even of Algerian origin stabbed children and a greater spread of radical material and carer outside a play school. Dublin city lead to further problems," he said. centre was engulfed by unprecedented scenes of violence as mobs looted shops Gary Murphy, page 15

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ing a reality at this stage," said Steenson, effort to quell the violence in the working-class suburb of Coolock, as far-right agitators, feral teenagers "We don't want violence. The state and young men from across the city wants us to get involved in politics but pelted officers with masonry and

violence was instigated and organised on Telegram and X, according to the security services and military. But it was reland is uniquely vulnerable to amplified by American accounts and political violence. The anti-migrant some Irish voices, inspiring similar riots

What is likely to happen now? While the Whiteboys, the name given to Ireland is not about to be overrun by secretive and violent groups which extremists, the new far right presents a sought to redress local grievances in big challenge. If the government fails to 18th-century Ireland. What began as local confront extremism, the movement will vigilantism in Co Limerick in 1760, White-continue to toxify politics, disenfranboyism quickly spread across the island chise a large share of voters and continue to pose a serious security threat. Inaction will inevitably spurn more

as champions of economic justice, aveng- political violence similar to what is happening in the US, which has now become those who defied the authority of the an exporter of domestic terrorism, par state and were officially regarded as crimticularly the violent far right. The facts inals. There are now grave concerns a speak for themselves. In the US, the numnew paramilitary-style organisation may ber of domestic terrorist investigations yet emerge from the alt-right's Irish more than doubled between 2020 and ranks. Calls for a new IRA to protect Ire- 2021, with a 357 per cent growth rate in "The alarms are flashing red all around

And the problem, he believes, is only

### Ukrainian refugees 'frustrated' to be moved after integrating into communities

evicted and moved across the country to new government accommodation has said she is "frustrated" that she and her son must now integrate into another community

As the Department of

Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth continues its drive to consolidate the supply of accommodation for Ukrainian refugees and international protection applicants by winding up a number of contracts with existing providers, high volumes of residents are being relocated to new centres or left facing eviction.

Olena Vozheva and her 13-vear-old son, Kyrylo, had lived in a hotel in Westport in Co Mayo since arriving two vears ago after fleeing the Lugansk region of Ukraine. However, they recently received a government letter informing them that they would be moved to a new facility in the village of Carne in Co Wexford. Vozheva said she was given no information except an Eircode and a time

rent in the private sector as a | with the regulations. They're | facilities to overcharging by pick up her and Kyrylo. "I am refugee and single mother. absolutely frustrated at the moment. [I am] very upset "Not every landlord and worried about my son wants to go with ARP because it took him a while to [accommodation recognition adjust to a new country, learn payment]," she said. John Lannon, chief

language and find friends in

the school. Now we have to

Westport. She had attended

English classes and planned

to begin a full-time course.

"We live in a beautiful

place near the sea in Carne

Management of the hotel is

helpful but still I have lots of

Carne is a small village. There

is a problem with transport,

She said the move had

been disorientating and had

created uncertainty for her

uniform? How to find new

friends, and will I be moved

again soon? My son and I are

thankful to the support which

Ireland gives us, but so often I

Vozheva added that she

A protest at the gates has

Bridgerton

Watch now

school for my son, how to get

and her son. "Where is a

there? Where to find the

feel helpless," she said.

was not optimistic about

when the bus would arrive to | finding an affordable place to

lack of jobs," she said.

questions with no answers.

She added that it had taken

start from the beginning,"

time to adapt to life in

Vozheva said.

executive of Doras, a human rights and migrant support group, said that being moved from one community to another after an extended period of integration was "distressing" for refugees. "The [Department of

Integration] unit responsible for the Ukraine accommodation is going through a process of ensuring

The Department of ntegration said it was reducing the number of Olena Vozheva and Kyrylo

and trying to reduce the number of contracts that they have," Lannon said. Olga Iamtsun, who is

fleeing the war with Russia.

also looking at consolidation

reducing the number of contracts, to return volved with Wexford Local accommodation to the Development, said families private sector where possibl had been uprooted from the and ensure value for money communities in which they had been welcomed and become embedded since arriving in Ireland after

"There are some families with children - children have to change school. It's stressful. We are trying to integrate people here [in Wexford to make them feel comfortable but your life is not something you can pack up in a suitcase and bring to another place," she said.

> contracts for accommodation for Ukrainian refugees for reasons including compliance concerns. These arise when a provider is not meeting the equired, contracted standards of service, and include everything from the health, safety and wellbeing of beneficiaries of temporary

and greater oversight. This will result in people being moved to other locations," spokesman said. To date this year, 2,522 relocations of Ukrainians have taken place. The department acknowledged that it is "not easy" for people being moved but that state funded accommodation is subiect to change. "Given the number of

providers for the use of their

"The department is also

accommodation.

moves that will take place over the next few months. it is unlikely that this accommodation will be in the same area. People affected who wish to stay in the area are welcome to make including through pledged accommodation. Due to the scale involved, the only factors that can be considered when allocating follow-on accommodation are HSE assessed medical needs," the

#### Our asylum seeker campaign will be peaceful, villagers vow

#### Patrick O'Donoghue

Locals protesting at the proposed accommodation of asylum seekers in a village in Tipperary have said their campaign will be peaceful. A sign beside the road into Dundrum makes clear the protesters' feelings. It reads: "Dundrum don't need or

want IPAs [international

support: stand at Dundrum hotel gates." The village has a

protection applicants]. Show

been in place for 52 days was used by the integration department to house 277 the clock.

refugees from Ukraine. Many Ukrainians have since left but their places may be taken by asylum seekers. The hotel has not accepted guests since its ballroom was damaged by fire in 2015. Before then it was regarded as the economic heart of the village. The grounds are still a golf course but locals had hoped the building would be

renovated and used to population of 220 but in 2022 reiuvenate Dundrum Dundrum House hotel, an

and locals are there around

Anthony Feery, a tradesman, was adamant that outside agitators. "I think they would not resort to violence, as protesters in Coolock did last week. "You will not have something like that from the people of Dundrum. We got together as a community. We want the hotel back, we want the facilities back. That was the promise," Feery told The Sunday Times

He said lack of engagement

from the integration

alone," Feery said. He added that the events in Coolock had made him and others feel scared. Helen Lonergan, who lives opposite the golf course, also said she could not envisage any "aggro" from protesters. Golden Vale house, a

distrust but the village

any political agenda or

since they [outside actors]

community, we've been left

realised what it meant to the

protest was not influenced by

once drew in visitors for concerts by singers such as Meatloaf and Johnny Cash. The premises are a symbol of how the village feels neglected. Nora O'Dwyer, a business owner, said the uncertainty had divided locals: "It's such a lovely village [but this] has split the community already. The integration department said talks about the hotel were taking place. It said it would tell village leaders and the media of any

confirmed changes.

and which is now derelict



were already stealing American jobs. "Trump presents complex issues in very simple ways. He explains to people just who exactly is to blame for their grievances, frustrations and failures. He's a master of scapegoating. This simple talk makes ordinary people feel emboldened and valued. It makes them feel smart.

"Trump's re-election, if it happens,

will only validate Ireland's far-right agita-

Instead the government views such

with providing accommodation to refu-

The authorities have also failed to

inspired by Donald Trump's first

"We can't say we didn't see this com

"Analysts have warned the Irish gov

ernment about this for several years, and

were dismissed as cranks or fear-

mongers. Now the far right has a growing

"These same strategies, so effective for Trump, are widely used now by Irish farright influencers. They see opportunities to exploit, and when they see just how much support is there for them, they thrive. People live online. I think most governments still struggle to understand that," Horgan added.

arry Ward, a Fine Gael senator, readily accepts the government needs to take more action but highlighted how difficult opening new refugee accommodation centres had become.

"The community in Coolock was offered countless meetings to explain what was happening at the site. People are entitled to oppose something but they cannot engage in criminal activity to stop it. It's all very worrying," he said.

This assertion is rejected by some of the anti-immigrant campaigners such as Malachy Steenson, recently elected to Dublin city council having campaigned against open borders. "There is no real consultation with the local people. Once you deploy a riot squad in a working-class area it causes tensions. It creates a flashpoint," Steenson said.

"This is turning into class war. There are vacant hotels in south Dublin, why not fill them with refugees? You cannot dump 1,000 people into a working-class community, or any community. People are worried about this and they have a right to speak out against it," he said. Steenson said he did not believe that many people who took to the streets in

Coolock held far-right views, though he

accepted some might "You have to separate the online world from the real world. Though some of the people who might be described as far



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