# Critics accuse Keir Starmer of ignoring grooming gang documentary while backing fictional drama in schools



The recent Channel 4 documentary "Groomed: A National Scandal," which aired on Wednesday, has drawn significant attention, particularly regarding its portrayal of the grooming gang crisis in the UK. The film showcases the harrowing experiences of five women who were victims of abuse, shedding light on their struggles and the systemic failures that allowed the injustices to persist. Among the revelations was the tragic account of a teenage girl who died after being injected with a lethal dose of heroin by her abuser.

The documentary has sparked a strong reaction from various political figures, particularly aimed at Sir Keir Starmer, the Leader of the Labour Party. Critics have condemned Starmer for declining an interview request for the documentary while simultaneously advocating for the inclusion of the Netflix series "Adolescence" in school curricula. Conservative Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp expressed concern over this apparent contradiction, stating, "Starmer thinks a fictional drama should be shown in every school. But he refused to appear in a documentary about actual rape gangs, covering the period he was DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions). He refuses a statutory national inquiry into the scandal. Why is he perpetuating the cover-up?"

This sentiment was echoed by Tory MP Katie Lam, who questioned Starmer's priorities by pointing out that he found time to meet with the writers of a fictional series but not to contribute to a documentary addressing real-life issues of mass child rape. Lam remarked, "Our Prime Minister has time to host a meeting in No 10 for the writers of a fictional drama. But apparently he’s too busy to contribute to a devastating documentary about mass child rape and the greatest failure of the British state in living memory. What the hell is going on?"

In addition, former Home Secretary Suella Braverman pondered whether Starmer had watched the documentary and if he planned to hold a summit with its creators, highlighting the need for the issues raised in the film to be discussed at the highest levels of government.

The emotional impact of the documentary resonated deeply with viewers, as many expressed their distress over the findings and personal testimonials presented. The film aims to expose the ongoing challenges faced by victims and the broader societal implications of the grooming gang crisis.

This latest development has reignited discussions surrounding the government's accountability and the importance of investigative inquiries into such sensitive matters. The Channel 4 documentary stands as a significant contribution to public discourse on these issues, compelling both political leaders and the public to confront uncomfortable truths.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/child-rape-scandal-dominating-uk-politics-after-musk-criticism-2025-01-06/> - Reuters reports on the resurgence of the UK child rape scandal, highlighting Elon Musk's criticism of Prime Minister Keir Starmer and the political debates it has sparked regarding the handling of grooming gangs.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/4ddd1d32-8eac-4e19-999c-298b158e3b7c> - The Financial Times covers the exchange between Keir Starmer and Elon Musk over historic sex abuse cases, with Starmer defending his record as the UK's former chief prosecutor and accusing Musk of spreading misinformation.
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7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2049308/keir-starmer-groomed-film-appearance> - Please view link - unable to able to access data