# Kneecap to headline Wide Awake festival despite past controversy



The Irish rap trio Kneecap is set to headline London’s Wide Awake festival, a performance that will proceed as planned despite a string of recent concert cancellations due to controversy surrounding their previous statements. Notably, a member of the group was captured in historical footage allegedly shouting “up Hamas, up Hezbollah,” while another clip purportedly showed a call for violence against Conservative MPs. These incidents have led to festival organisers cancelling some of their planned gigs, including a high-profile performance at the Eden Project in Cornwall.

Despite these setbacks, Kneecap’s upcoming headline slot at Wide Awake in 2025 showcases their resilience and continued popularity within the live music scene. Scheduled for May 23 at Brockwell Park, the festival promises an eclectic mix of over 70 artists, alongside features like street food and craft beer stalls, reflecting a celebration of independent music and counterculture. Alongside Kneecap, the lineup includes acts such as CMAT, English Teacher, and Daniel Avery.

Kneecap, celebrated for their unique blend of hip-hop and Irish-language lyrics, has made significant waves in the UK music industry. Their recent biopic, which documents their rise and has garnered critical acclaim, has reportedly been shortlisted for an Oscar in the International Feature Film category, underscoring their cultural impact beyond music. The group has seen a successful year with sold-out shows in Dublin and a notable headline tour across the UK.

Interestingly, the band has also taken a stand on political issues, as evidenced by their withdrawal from the 2024 South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival in solidarity with Palestine. Citing the festival's ties to military contractors and the implications of these relationships, they align their performances with their advocacy for political causes. This reflects a broader trend among artists seeking to intertwine their cultural output with political activism.

As they prepare for their headline set at Wide Awake, Kneecap continues to navigate both acclaim and controversy. While the fallout from historical clips and allegations remains a significant discussion point, their dedication to their craft and commitment to addressing pressing social issues resonates deeply with their fan base. Their presence at the 2025 festival not only affirms their status as a leading act but also positions them as a voice on contemporary issues, challenging both political and musical narratives.

With tickets now available, fans are eagerly anticipating a vibrant celebration of music that aims to foster engagement and connectivity among diverse audiences, marking Kneecap’s performance as one of the festival’s key highlights.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/kneecaps-wide-awake-headline-set-to-go-ahead-as-planned-after-cancellations/a1423302418.html)
* Paragraph 2: [[2]](https://www.nme.com/news/music/wide-awake-festival-2025-line-up-kneecap-to-headline-alongside-cmat-english-teacher-daniel-avery-and-more-buy-tickets-3809677), [[4]](https://wideawakelondon.co.uk/2024/11/wide-awake-2025-first-names-revealed/)
* Paragraph 3: [[5]](https://www.loudersound.com/news/kneecap-to-headline-wide-awake-festival-2025), [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kneecap_(band))
* Paragraph 4: [[6]](https://www.nme.com/news/kneecap-and-sprints-join-list-of-artists-boycotting-sxsw-2024-3599443)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/kneecaps-wide-awake-headline-set-to-go-ahead-as-planned-after-cancellations/a1423302418.html), [[6]](https://www.nme.com/news/kneecap-and-sprints-join-list-of-artists-boycotting-sxsw-2024-3599443)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/kneecaps-wide-awake-headline-set-to-go-ahead-as-planned-after-cancellations/a1423302418.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/wide-awake-festival-2025-line-up-kneecap-to-headline-alongside-cmat-english-teacher-daniel-avery-and-more-buy-tickets-3809677> - Wide Awake Festival has announced its 2025 line-up, featuring Kneecap as the headliner alongside CMAT, English Teacher, Daniel Avery, and more. The festival is set to take place at Brockwell Park in South London on May 23, 2025. Tickets are currently on sale, with general admission priced at £49.50 plus booking fees. The event promises seven live music stages, over 70 performing artists, an exclusive VIP area, street food, a craft beer fair, workshops, and talks. The 2024 edition was headlined by King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, with performances from Slowdive, Young Fathers, Alice Glass, and others. The 2025 line-up is expected to be equally diverse and exciting.
3. <https://www.radiox.co.uk/festivals/wide-awake/2025-headliners-line-up-tickets-stage-times/> - Wide Awake Festival 2025 is set to return to London's Brockwell Park on May 23, 2025, with Kneecap headlining the event. Other confirmed acts include CMAT, English Teacher, Daniel Avery, Mannequin Pussy, Psychedelic Porn Crumpets, and Sprints. Tickets are available for purchase, with general admission priced at £49.50 plus booking fees. VIP tickets start from £69.50 plus booking fees and offer additional perks such as fast-track entry, luxury toilets, bespoke bars, and main stage viewing platforms. The festival aims to showcase a diverse range of artists and provide an immersive experience for attendees.
4. <https://wideawakelondon.co.uk/2024/11/wide-awake-2025-first-names-revealed/> - Wide Awake Festival has announced its first wave of artists for the 2025 edition, with Kneecap set to headline. The festival, celebrating independent music and counterculture, will take place at Brockwell Park in London. Kneecap, known for their Irish-language rap, are joined by fellow headliners CMAT and English Teacher. The event promises a diverse lineup and is expected to be a significant cultural event in 2025.
5. <https://www.loudersound.com/news/kneecap-to-headline-wide-awake-festival-2025> - Kneecap, the West Belfast hip-hop trio, are set to headline Wide Awake Festival 2025 at Brockwell Park in London. This performance will be their largest UK headline show to date. The lineup also includes CMAT, English Teacher, Daniel Avery, Mannequin Pussy, Psychedelic Porn Crumpets, and more. Tickets are on sale now. Kneecap has had a successful 2024, with sold-out shows in Dublin and a UK headline tour. Their biopic 'Kneecap' has been shortlisted for an Oscars nomination, representing Ireland in the International Feature Film category at the upcoming 97th annual Academy Awards.
6. <https://www.nme.com/news/kneecap-and-sprints-join-list-of-artists-boycotting-sxsw-2024-3599443> - Kneecap and Sprints have announced their withdrawal from the 2024 South By Southwest (SXSW) Festival in Austin, Texas, in solidarity with Palestine. The artists cited the festival's association with the US army and defense contractor RTX Corporation, which has supplied weapons to Israel, as reasons for their decision. The annual music, culture, and arts showcase is scheduled to take place from March 12-14, 2024. Other artists, including Lambrini Girls, Scowl, Gel, Okay Shalom, and Squirrelflower, have also pulled out of the festival for similar reasons.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kneecap_(band)> - Kneecap is a hip-hop trio from West Belfast, Northern Ireland, known for their Irish-language rap. The group consists of Mo Chara, Móglaí Bap, and DJ Próvaí. They have been involved in various controversies, including a police investigation into alleged incitement to violence and support for Hamas and Hezbollah. The band has denied these allegations, stating that footage was taken out of context and that they have faced a coordinated smear campaign for speaking out about the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people. They have also apologized to the families of murdered MPs Jo Cox and David Amess.