# UKIP sparks outrage with threat to deport Belfast rappers to North Korea



The UK Independence Party (UKIP) has recently ignited controversy with its statement regarding Belfast rappers Kneecap, suggesting their deportation to "somewhere like North Korea" if the party were to gain power. This provocative claim, made through a social media post, branded the trio as a "hate group" and declared their intention to permanently remove them from the UK should UKIP be in government.

UKIP's rhetoric aligns with its historical stance on immigration and deportation policies, which have often sparked public debate. In April 2016, the party's Northern Ireland leader, David McNarry, suggested that foreign doctors could face deportation for minor infractions like parking violations. Although he later clarified that such measures would apply only to serious crimes, this incident showcased UKIP's hardline approach to immigration, particularly regarding individuals from outside the UK. Such statements have often painted the party as favouring a stringent and, at times, draconian immigration policy.

Critics have drawn parallels between UKIP’s proposals and the authoritarian practices observed in North Korea. An opinion piece from The Independent noted this concerning trend in November 2012, arguing that the party's isolationist policies risk turning Britain into a nation reminiscent of North Korea. The author warned of potential economic and diplomatic repercussions if the party's stringent measures were implemented.

Further highlighting the severity of the situation in North Korea, accounts from defectors reveal the oppressive nature of the regime, detailing human rights abuses and the challenges faced by those attempting to escape. These narratives not only shed light on the stark contrasts between democratic societies and oppressive regimes but also raise questions about the moral implications of using North Korea as a rhetorical device in domestic politics, especially when such provocations tend to trivialise the experiences of those suffering under such a regime.

UKIP representatives have, on occasion, attempted to distance the party from allegations of authoritarianism. Louise Bours, a former UKIP Member of the European Parliament, dismissed claims that the party operated in a manner akin to North Korea, emphasising its democratic structures. However, the rhetoric emerging from UKIP often contradicts these assurances, leading to ongoing debates about the true nature of the party’s policies and leadership style.

The implications of UKIP's statements are also complicated by the UK’s current deportation laws concerning North Korean asylum seekers. Reports indicate that the UK faces challenges in navigating the complex political landscape surrounding the treatment of North Korean defectors. The government is often caught between its international obligations to protect those fleeing oppressive regimes and its domestic policies on immigration control. This duality complicates the broader narrative around deportation and raises ethical questions about the use of such punitive measures, especially toward individuals from countries known for severe human rights violations.

As UKIP continues to assert its position in the political arena, its provocative statements reflect a larger trend within certain factions of British politics—where immigration policies are routinely weaponised in the battle for public support. The consequential fears and tensions surrounding national identity and social cohesion are likely to endure as long as such discourses persist, prompting crucial discussions on the moral responsibilities underpinning the enforcement of immigration laws in the UK.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ukip-says-kneecap-would-be-deported-to-somewhere-like-north-korea-if-it-came-to-power/a154772885.html), [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ukip-might-not-be-a-racist-party-but-they-do-appear-to-want-to-turn-britain-into-north-korea-do-you-8372036.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ukip-says-kneecap-would-be-deported-to-somewhere-like-north-korea-if-it-came-to-power/a154772885.html), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/11/foreign-doctors-should-be-deported-for-parking-offences-says-ukip), [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ukip-might-not-be-a-racist-party-but-they-do-appear-to-want-to-turn-britain-into-north-korea-do-you-8372036.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://news.sky.com/story/amp/north-korea-defector-tells-of-escape-and-reveals-what-life-is-really-like-in-secretive-state-12851920), [[6]](https://www.theconversation.com/why-does-the-uk-deport-north-korean-asylum-seekers-92129)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.thepinknews.com/2015/06/23/ukip-is-not-run-like-north-korea-mep-insists/), [[6]](https://www.theconversation.com/why-does-the-uk-deport-north-korean-asylum-seekers-92129)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/britain-backs-kicking-north-korean-workers-out-of-eu/846878/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ukip-says-kneecap-would-be-deported-to-somewhere-like-north-korea-if-it-came-to-power/a154772885.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/11/foreign-doctors-should-be-deported-for-parking-offences-says-ukip> - In April 2016, UKIP's Northern Ireland leader, David McNarry, suggested that foreign doctors should be deported for minor offences like parking violations. This statement sparked controversy, leading McNarry to clarify that deportation would only apply to serious crimes, not minor infractions. The incident highlighted UKIP's stringent stance on immigration and deportation policies, particularly concerning foreign nationals working in the UK.
3. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2015/06/23/ukip-is-not-run-like-north-korea-mep-insists/> - In June 2015, UKIP MEP Louise Bours responded to criticisms of party leader Nigel Farage by asserting that UKIP is not 'run like North Korea'. She dismissed media reports of internal feuds and emphasised the party's democratic processes, countering claims of authoritarian leadership within the party.
4. <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ukip-might-not-be-a-racist-party-but-they-do-appear-to-want-to-turn-britain-into-north-korea-do-you-8372036.html> - An opinion piece from November 2012 in The Independent critiques UKIP's immigration policies, drawing parallels between the party's proposed isolationist stance and the closed-off nature of North Korea. The author warns against adopting draconian policies that could harm the UK's economy and international relations.
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/amp/north-korea-defector-tells-of-escape-and-reveals-what-life-is-really-like-in-secretive-state-12851920> - A North Korean defector shares insights into the secretive state's oppressive regime, detailing the challenges faced by those attempting to escape and the harsh realities of life under Kim Jong-un's rule. The account sheds light on the severe restrictions and human rights abuses prevalent in North Korea.
6. <https://www.theconversation.com/why-does-the-uk-deport-north-korean-asylum-seekers-92129> - An article from The Conversation explores the UK's deportation policies concerning North Korean asylum seekers. It discusses the complexities and controversies surrounding the deportation process, including the challenges faced by North Korean defectors and the UK's obligations under international law.
7. <https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/britain-backs-kicking-north-korean-workers-out-of-eu/846878/> - In September 2017, Britain supported moves to expel North Korean workers from the European Union as part of fresh sanctions following Pyongyang's latest nuclear test. Foreign Minister Boris Johnson expressed a 'wide measure of agreement' among EU counterparts to increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear programme.