# Gareth Southgate highlights social media's role in rising misogyny among young men



Sir Gareth Southgate, former manager of the England national football team, recently expressed concerns about the influence of social media on young men, particularly in the context of rising misogyny. His comments come in the wake of a tragic crime involving Kyle Clifford, who was convicted of murdering John Hunt, a BBC racing commentator, along with Hunt's wife, Carol, and their two daughters, Hannah and Louise. The court heard that Clifford had been inspired by the controversial influencer Andrew Tate, whose brand of "violent misogyny" has sparked significant debate and condemnation.

In a lecture delivered at the University of London, Southgate, 54, outlined the dangers posed by "manipulative and toxic influencers" who may exploit vulnerable young men. He stated that these individuals often lead boys to believe that success is determined by wealth and dominance, while perpetuating the notion that women are in opposition to them. Southgate noted, "As real-world communities and mentorship decline, young men end up withdrawing, reluctant to talk or express their emotions," highlighting a growing divide between young men and constructive role models.

Clifford's brutal actions have been linked to the ideological influence of Tate, who is currently facing allegations of human trafficking and rape alongside his brother Tristan in Romania, as well as related charges in the UK. The court proceedings have drawn attention to how Tate's online persona may contribute to radicalising young individuals. In his address, Southgate remarked on the troubling trend of young men turning to unhealthy outlets, including gaming, gambling, and pornography, when lacking proper guidance.

Southgate’s comments were timely, as UK authorities have increasingly recognised the need to tackle extreme misogyny. A spokesman for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak noted that Home Secretary Yvette Cooper is dedicated to addressing harmful ideologies, including those propagated by figures like Tate. The influence of such individuals has been echoed by law enforcement officials, including Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth, who specifically cited Tate’s role in radicalising young boys and the urgent need for action.

Tate has been open about his misogynistic views in previous interviews, controversially stating, "I'm absolutely a misogynist," and labelling women as "intrinsically lazy." His statements and behavior have led to his bans from various social media platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, with the latter expressly stating that "misogyny is a hateful ideology that is not tolerated."

As discussions continue about the pervasive effects of online abuse and the radicalisation of youth, the relevance of Southgate's lecture reflects a broader societal concern regarding the potential dangers posed by unregulated social media influences and the need for positive mentorship in the lives of young men.

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

## References

* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/uk/gareth-southgate-hits-out-at-toxic-influencers-harming-young-men-andrew-tate/> - This article supports Gareth Southgate's comments on the dangers of toxic influencers like Andrew Tate and their impact on young men. It highlights Southgate's speech at the University of London, where he discussed the need for positive role models.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/keir-starmer-gareth-southgate-adolescence-graham-b2717917.html> - This article corroborates Southgate's concerns about toxic misogyny and the need for better role models for young men. It also mentions Keir Starmer's support for addressing these issues.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20pBKc7ptLs> - This video features Gareth Southgate discussing the importance of men combating sexist hate, which aligns with his broader concerns about toxic influencers and their impact on young men.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65435093> - This article would provide context on Andrew Tate's legal issues and his influence on radicalizing young individuals, though it is not directly available in the search results.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/01/andrew-tate-banned-from-social-media-platforms> - This article would detail Andrew Tate's bans from social media platforms due to his misogynistic views, though it is not directly available in the search results.